



JEO
JAPAN
Environment
Quarterly

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Japanese Pattern
Seigaiha





循環型社会 – Efforts towards Establishing

The 3Rs stands for “Reduce”, “Reuse”, and “Recycle”.

“Reduce” is to decrease the generation of waste by using materials efficiently and wisely.

“Reuse” is to use the same items repeatedly as long as they are usable.

“Recycle”, refers to material recycling, is to use of non-reusable items as raw materials.

And if material recycling is not feasible, thermal recycling will be undertaken as much as possible.

Eventually, proper disposal is required if it has been left with no other option.

In order to reduce the environmental load to the extent possible, it is effective to put importance on Reduce first, then Reuse, followed by Recycle, thermal recycling, and proper disposal in this order. This priority order is supposed to be a basic principle; but it is not necessarily applied in case the latter way in this order reduces the environmental load more effectively.

Today we have built a society where economic and social activities based on mass-production and mass-consumption generate a great deal of waste, which damages environmental conservation and sound material cycles. This is closely related to various environmental issues including climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions, the depletion of natural resources, and environmental destruction due to large-scale resource extraction. The Japanese government has, therefore, formulated the Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society in accordance with the Basic Act for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society (formulated in 2000), promoting necessary measures in a comprehensive and strategic manner, with a view to

establishing a “sound material-cycle society” in which the consumption of natural resources will be conserved and the environmental load will be reduced to the greatest extent possible. Consequently significant reduction has been achieved in the volume of final disposal, thanks to efforts to promote the 3Rs, development of the legal framework (including individual Recycling Acts) and its relevant measures, as well as public awareness. Recently, the Third Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society was approved by the Cabinet on 31 May 2013. The Third Plan does not only advance the existing measures focusing on the volume of waste such as decrease in final disposal amount, but also pay attention to the quality of material cycles, setting up the following new policy pillars: (i) reinforcement of efforts for Reduce and Reuse, which have far less progressed as compared to those for Recycle, (ii) recovery of useful metals, (iii) enhancement of efforts to ensure safety and security, and (iv) promotion of international cooperation in the field of 3Rs.

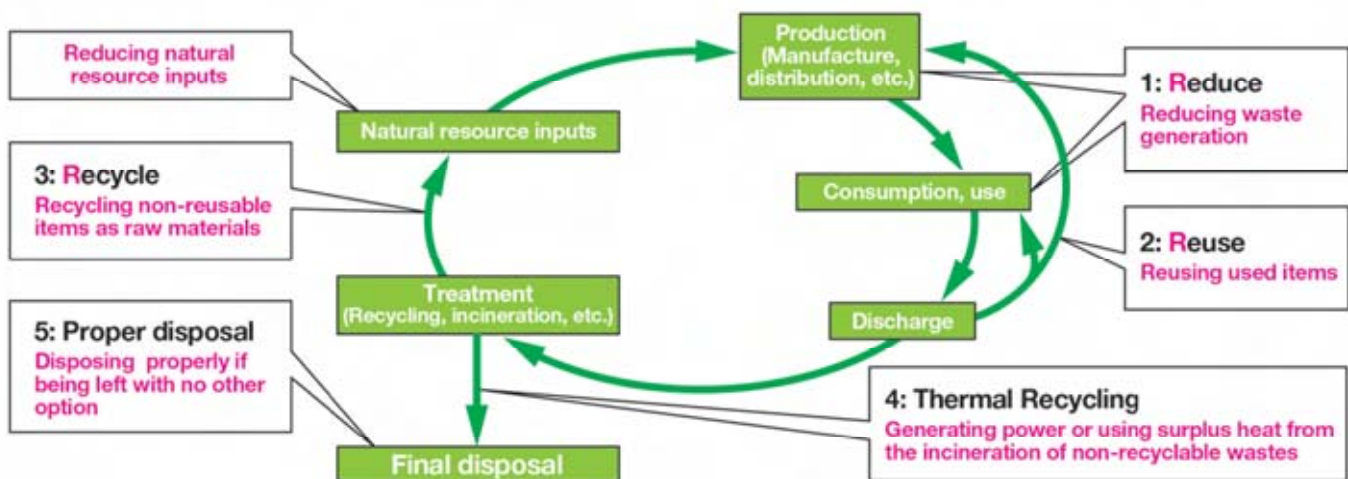
While promoting the aforementioned innovative mea-



形成 a Sound Material-Cycle Society

a Sound Material-Cycle Society

"a society in which the consumption of natural resources will be conserved and the environmental load will be reduced to the greatest extent possible, by preventing or reducing the generation of wastes from products by promoting proper cyclical use of products when these products have become circulative resources, and by ensuring proper disposal of circulative resources not put into cyclical use" [Article 2, The Basic Act for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society (promulgated in June 2000, fully in force since January 2001)]



asures domestically, Japan has made significant contribution towards establishment of a sound material-cycle society internationally. At the G-8 Summit held at Sea Island, the United States, in June 2004, Japan made a proposal for launching the "3R Initiative" to promote the 3Rs internationally, which was agreed by the G-8 leaders. Since then efforts for the 3Rs have been made worldwide, for example, the "Kobe 3R Action Plan" agreed at the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting in Kobe in May 2008 and the OECD's report "Resource Productivity in the G8 and the OECD" published in May 2011 with specific reference to the Kobe 3R Action Plan.

Proposed by Japan, "the Regional 3R Forum in Asia" was established in 2009. This forum serves as a basis for promoting partnership by multiple stakeholders such as national governments, international organizations, and donor agencies towards establishing a sound material-cycle society by appropriate waste management and 3R promotion in Asian developing countries, facilitating high-level policy dialogues through regular intergovernmental meetings and the support provided by international organizations to implement 3R projects in each country. While the second meeting was held in Malaysia in 2010, the third in Singapore in 2011 respectively, the fourth meeting in Ha Noi, Vietnam, in March 2013,



adopted the "Ha Noi 3R Declaration – Sustainable 3R Goals for Asia and the Pacific for 2013-2023". The fifth meeting will be held in Indonesia in 2014.

Moreover, we have worked on bilateral cooperation on the 3Rs with Asian countries: for instance, eco-town cooperation with China, development of a national strategic plan for food waste management in Malaysia, and development of a national program on the 3Rs in Viet Nam.

Japan continuously strives to promote the 3Rs nationally and internationally, actively contributing to establishing a sound material-cycle society.

Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures Amended



Shuichiro NIIHARA

Low-carbon Society Promotion Office, Global Environment Bureau

In order to promote measures to tackle global warming in a comprehensive and systematic manner and to achieve targets for GHGs emission reductions and removals beyond 2012, pursuant to the Cancun Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, this amendment is intended to promote the formulation of a "plan for measures to tackle global warming" including policies to be implemented at the national and municipal levels, and to take measures to add nitrogen trifluoride (NF3) to the list of targeted gases.

Outline of Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures

Need for amendments

- Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures formerly stipulated that the Kyoto Protocol Target Achievement Plan shall be formulated in accordance with the reduction commitment under the Kyoto Protocol. However, the efforts taken under the said plan was to end at the end of FY 2012, following the expiry of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol at the end of 2012.
- Japan continues to tackle global warming even after FY 2013 pursuant to the Cancun Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, despite its position not to participate in the Kyoto Protocol's second commitment period (2013-2020).
- Accordingly, for the purpose of comprehensive and systematic promotion of measures to tackle global warming, rules needed to be set out for necessary steps such as the formulation of a plan for measures to tackle global warming.

Amendments

- Expansion of the list of GHGs**
Nitrogen trifluoride (NF3) was added.
- Formulation of a plan for measures to tackle global warming**
In order to promote measures to tackle global warming, the government shall formulate a plan for measures to tackle global warming that stipulates targets for GHG emission reductions and removals, details of actions to be taken by businesses and the people of Japan, and measures to be taken by the central and municipal governments to meet the targets. (The plan will be reviewed at least every three years and modified as required.)
- Modifications to the affairs under the jurisdiction of the Global Warming Prevention Headquarters**
The draft plan for measures to tackle global warming is to be developed by the Global Warming Prevention Headquarters.
From a long-term perspective, and based on internationally recognized knowledge, legislative and other necessary measures are to be taken by 2015 based on the review of the plan's enforcement status.

Outline of the Law for Partial Amendments to Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures

Japan's Revision of Fluorocarbons Legislation



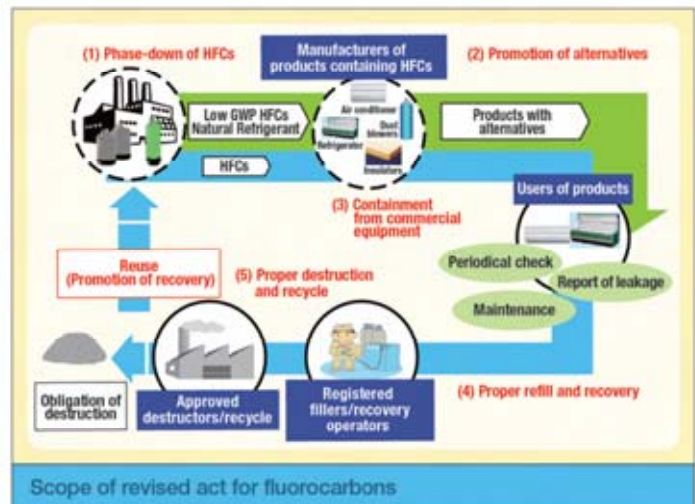
Hitomi KIMURA

Office of Fluorocarbons Control Policy,
Global Environment Bureau

Japan has recently decided to revise the act for fluorocarbons control to fight the rapid increase of HFCs emissions. After the amendment, the act will cover the whole life cycle from production to destruction/ recycle of fluorocarbons. It stipulates the following points:

- Phase-down of fluorinated gases
- Promotion of equipment and products with alternative or low GWP gases
- Containment from commercial equipment in use
- Introduction of a registration system of fillers/recovery operators of fluorocarbons by the local government
- Introduction of approval system of destructors/recyclers of fluorocarbons by the national government

The revised act shall come into force within 2 years of its promulgation. Japan is willing to share its experience of conducting these policies and measures with other countries.



Act on Promotion of Recycling of Small Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment came into force



Kayo ABE

Office for Recycling Promotion,
Waste Management and Recycling Department



(1) Outline of the Law

In April 2013, the "Act on Promotion of Recycling of Small Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment" was enforced, which stipulates the responsibilities of consumers, municipalities, and businesses with a view to effectively using resources contained in small home appliances such as mobile phones and digital cameras, and preventing environmental pollution.

(2) Recycling flow

The Law covers more than 100 items of electricity- or battery-powered home appliances, from which each municipality may choose the items they collect. Collected small home appliances will be dismantled and crushed by government-certified business operators, which will then be sorted out by resource type and finally recycled as metal resources.

(3) Enforcement of the Law

Each municipality will begin to collect used small home appliances as soon as they are ready for collection.

Sanriku Fukko (reconstruction) National Park Newly Established

On 24 May 2013, the Sanriku Fukko National Park was newly established, by incorporating the Rikuchu Kaigan National Park as well as national parks newly designated on the day, including Tanesashi Coast in Hachinohe, Aomori. A commemoration ceremony was held in Hachinohe to celebrate its designation as a national park, which the Environment Minister Mr. Ishihara attended.



**Sanriku Fukko (reconstruction)
National Park promotion team**

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has been



engaged in the reconstruction of the affected areas through the Green Reconstruction Project focused on establishing the Sanriku Fukko National Park.

On 24 May 2013, the Sanriku Fukko National Park was established, by incorporating Tanesashi Coast in Hachinohe and Mt. Hashikami in Hashikami, both Aomori, into the former Rikuchu Kaigan National Park. A commemoration ceremony was held in Hachinohe to celebrate its designation as a national park, which the Environment Minister Mr. Ishihara attended. Now that the Sanriku Fukko National Park has been launched, we aim to incorporate the Minami Sanriku Kinkasan Quasi-National Park therein by the end of 2014.

As for the development of the "Michinoku Sea Breeze Trail" (a long-distance nature trail) as part of the Green Reconstruction Project, we are currently considering its route with the local people. We are aiming for its partial opening by this autumn. Its entire opening will thereafter be determined by FY 2015.

Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

Japan is promoting the establishment and implementation of the "Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)" in which Japan facilitates the diffusion of advanced low carbon technologies, products, systems, services, and infrastructure as well as implementation of mitigation actions, and contributes to sustainable development of developing countries.

Yuji MIZUNO
Office of Market Mechanisms,
Climate Change Policy Division,
Global Environment Bureau



Japan is embarking on the full-scale operation of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) in which Japan facilitates the diffusion of advanced low carbon technologies, products, systems, services, and infrastructures as well as mitigation actions in developing countries. Following an appropriate evaluation of the contribution to GHGs emission reductions or removals in developing countries, Japan will use the generated credits to achieve its emission reduction target.

Japan has signed bilateral documents for the JCM with

Mongolia, Bangladesh*, Ethiopia, Kenya, Maldives, Viet Nam, Lao PDR and Indonesia. Participating countries in the JCM are expected to increase as consultations with other developing countries are still underway. (*With Bangladesh, BOCM (Bilateral Offset Credit Mechanism) is used as the name for this mechanism.)

At the COP18 in Doha, Qatar, it was decided to elaborate a "framework" for the implementation of various approaches including the JCM. While continuing its contribution to such institution-building efforts through international negotiations, Japan strives to ensure robust methodologies, transparency, and the environmental integrity in the institutional design of the JCM, and to establish a simple and practical system in line with relevant rules and guidelines.

The JCM is intended to contribute to the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC by facilitating global actions for GHGs emission reductions or removals, complementing the CDM.



Signing ceremony of the bilateral document with Mongolia, the first signatory country (Ulaanbaatar, 8 January 2013)

MORE Information

New Mechanism Information Platform :
<http://www.mmechanisms.org/e/index.html>

A Workshop of Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Held



Junichiro KUJI
Global Biodiversity Strategy Office,
Nature Conservation Bureau

An expert workshop on the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge systems to IPBES was held at the United Nations University, Tokyo, on 9-11 June 2013. This was the first workshop hosted by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP). In its opening ceremony, Kazunori Tanaka, the Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister of the Environment, gave an opening address.



Active discussions were had at three separate working groups.

MORE Information
<http://www.ipbes.net/>

Green Fund Launched to Accelerate Low-Carbon Investments

The fund to promote local low-carbon investment (i.e. the Green Fund) has started its operation since July 2013, which is a pillar of the "Financial Initiative to Build a Low-Carbon Society" announced by the Environment Minister Mr. Ishihara in January 2013. The fund will overcome the challenges of low-carbon investments and accelerate the realization of low-carbon projects.



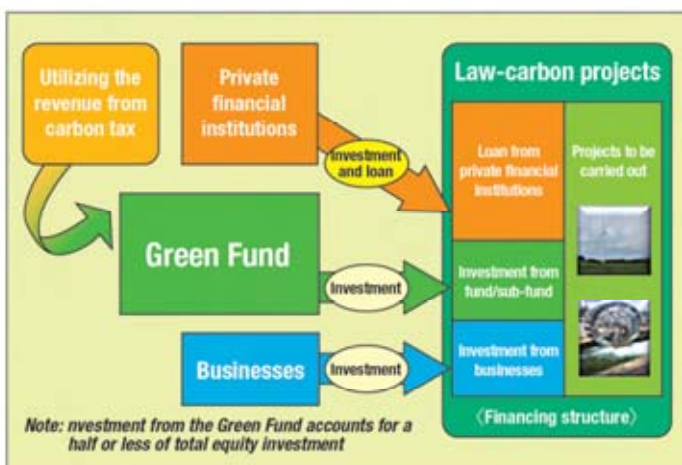
Ai KAIBU

Environment and Economy Division,
Environmental Policy Bureau

In order to achieve a low-carbon society, a huge additional investment is required in the fields of renewal energy and energy saving, and therefore utilization of private capital is essential. In January 2013, the Environment Minister Mr. Ishihara announced the "Finance Initiative to Build a Low-Carbon Society" aimed at utilizing private capital for measures to tackle global warming.

However, local initiatives tend to face the limitations of their funding abilities because low-carbon investments require a large amount of initial investment in project-development and construction. Wind power and geothermal generation projects are also not without problems because they carry great risks in their development phases due to their long lead time for survey and adjustment. Thus, it has been difficult to secure sufficient inflow of private capital in such fields. Despite evolving efforts in terms of large-scale solar power projects, many local initiatives have faced funding shortages at their start-ups.

In this regard, the fund to promote local low-carbon investment (the Green Fund) launched in July 2013 aims to solidify low-carbon projects as a business model, by bolstering its own capital through "equity investment" by attracting private capital including investments and loans from local financial institutions. The fund is planned to focus on projects that contribute not only to reducing CO₂ emission but also to activating local communities, such as wind, small scale hydro, and solar power generation projects invested by local companies. Also, the fund will support the project start-up by making investments in its development phases in which no business income is generated. This will overcome the challenges of low-carbon investments and accelerate the realization of low-carbon projects.



The 15th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Japan, China and Korea (TEMM15) Held in Kitakyushu on 5-6 May.

Attendees were: Nobuteru Ishihara, the Minister of the Environment, and Kozo Akino, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Environment (Japan); Seongkyu Yoon, the Minister of the Environment (Korea); and Ganje Li, the Vice Minister of Environmental Protection (China). A Joint Communiqué was adopted as an outcome of the meeting, following the exchange of views on the developments in environmental policy in each country, the global and regional environmental issues, and the progress in the Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation.



Hana OTSUKA

International Cooperation Office, International Strategy Division,
Global Environment Bureau

Main outcome of the meeting

The three ministers expressed their concern over the health impacts caused by air pollution, specifically by PM 2.5 that has drawn a lot of attention even in Japan since the beginning of this year, and agreed to launch the Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution. The three countries will strengthen collaboration through this policy dialogue for further tripartite cooperation. The ministers also agreed to promote measures to tackle dust and sandstorms (DSS) and market mechanisms for climate change mitigation.

Side events etc.

In advance of the plenary meeting, Japan held bilateral talks with each of Korea and China. As side events, we also held the Business Forum where business representatives from the three countries gathered to discuss "expanding environmental market" and the Youth Forum where young people actively exchanged their views on "environmentally sustainable cities." Moreover, the award ceremony by the three ministers was for the first time held to commend individuals who contributed to environmental cooperation among the three countries. From Japan, Dr. Hajime Akimoto of Japan Environmental Sanitation Center was presented the award this year.

In addition, the amount of GHGs emitted by this Ministerial meeting has been offset by the J-VER (offset credits) scheme that was born out of the efforts to tackle global warming in Miyagi Prefecture, the disaster-affected area.

Future schedule

Next TEMM16 is planned to be held in Korea in 2014.



From left, Seongkyu YOON, Minister of the Environment (Korea); Nobuteru ISHIHARA, Minister of the Environment (Japan); Ganje LI, Vice Minister of Environmental Protection (China)

MORE Information
<http://www.temm.org/>

Participation in the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit and Organization of the WEPA Technical Workshop

The 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 19-20 May, 2013. On 17th May, the Ministry of Environment (MOE) of Japan organized the WEPA Technical Workshop as one of the pre-events.



Masahiro YASUDA

Water Environment Division,
Environmental Management Bureau,
Ministry of the Environment



The 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit and the Chiang Mai Declaration

On 19-20th May, the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, under the main theme of "Water Security and Water-related Disaster Challenges: Leadership and Commitment," attended by summit- and ministerial-level participants from Asia-Pacific countries, and representatives of international organizations.

The "Chiang Mai Declaration," as adopted at the closing ceremony of the meeting: recognized the importance of water and sanitation as global challenges; referred to natural disaster preparedness, water resources security, and water pollution reduction; and declared to encourage appropriate consideration of water issues in the discussion of the United Nations Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Participation of Japanese delegation in the Summit and Organization of the WEPA Technical Workshop

Mr. Yoshiro Mori, President of Asia-Pacific Water Forum (Former Prime Minister of Japan) participated in the summit as the organizer, and various concerned government officials and others participated in the summit including the pre-events. On 17th May, MOE of Japan organized a technical workshop under the name of WEPA (Water Environment Partnership in Asia, a partnership aiming to improve water environment governance in cooperation with 13 Asian countries). In the workshop under the heading of "Voice from Asia for Better Water Quality – for Discussion toward Post-2015 Development Goals on Water", the importance of further cooperation among the countries concerned towards improving water environment of Asian region was recognized through the discussions among the participants.



Panel discussion at WEPA Technical Workshop

MORE Information

- Summary of WEPA Technical Workshop:
<http://apws2013.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/ews12.pdf>
- The 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit: <http://info.apwatersummit2.org/>
- WEPA (Water Environment Partnership in Asia):
<http://www.wepa-db.net/index.htm>

JICA Technical Cooperation Project in China Promotion of Recycling for Municipal Solid Waste in China



Ichiro KONO

Manager, Urban Environment Division, Overseas Operations Department,
Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd. (OECC Member)

Rapid Industrialization and Urbanization in many of Chinese cities have caused a rapid increase of Municipal Solid Wastes (MSW) generation. Under such circumstances, formulation of recycling system of MSW is essential to achieve sustainable development in harmony with environment.

Chinese government had requested to Japanese Government in 2011 to implement technical cooperation project for the purpose of promoting recycling system of MSW especially

targeted at food waste from business entities, packaging waste and waste tires. The National Development and Reform Commission is the Counter Part of the Project.

It is a 4-year project, where by existing system of handling MSW will be investigated, and future recycling system of MSW is now being studied by both Japanese and Chinese researchers.



Japanese researchers at 4th policy discussion on MSW recycling

Research, Policy Advocacy, Information Dissemination and Human Resource Development towards a Fair and Sustainable Society



Jiro ADACHI

Japan Center for a Sustainable,
Environment and Society (JACSES)

Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) established in 1993 in response to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in 1992. It is an advocacy NGO aiming to build a fair and sustainable society and is in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

JACSES has conducted policy advocacy to the governments and international organizations and engaged in public awareness activities, based on researches in Japan and other countries. JACSES has contributed to facilitating the enforcement of the Tax for Climate Change Mitigation introduced in October 2012, and improving the policies and projects (by promoting environmental and social consideration) of international development organizations (World Bank, Asian Development Bank, etc.) in cooperation with overseas NGOs.

In addition, with its experience in participating in international negotiations on climate change and the Rio process, JACSES is planning to contribute to the development of a post-2020 international framework on climate change and the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Making use of experience and knowhow accumulated through its activities so far, JACSES will strive to build the capacity not only of those in charge of policy making or international organizations but also of consumers and those in businesses or NGOs who can contribute to building a fair and sustainable society.



Invited Diet members, government officials, companies and NGO staffs, researchers, and overseas guests at the international seminar on climate change

MORE Information

JACSES WEB SITE : www.jacses.org/en/index.html

National Parks of Japan

In June 2013, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe Mt. Fuji on the World Heritage List under the title "Mt. Fuji: Object of Worship, Wellspring of Art." Many of its assets are located within the national park that is considered as one of the main preservation measures for "Mt. Fuji."

More than 300 thousand people take the trail to the peak during two months in summer. In this season, trail inspections are regularly conducted up to the peak. However, there are persistent concerns because the trail around the top is always busy, causing long queues for public toilets, and particularly because the number of climbers is expected to show a further increase this year following

the mountain's inscription on the World Heritage List.

In cooperation with relevant governmental organizations and private entities running mountain lodges, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has carried out the following tasks: private car restriction, trail clean-up, public-toilet operation and management, formulation of trail sign guide-



lines, and operation of the Mt. Fuji climbing information website. We will continue to improve the environment for the appropriate use of Mt. Fuji.



Photo: All copyrights are reserved by MOE.
"Goraiko: many people climb Mt. Fuji to view Goraiko (i.e. the sunrise) from the summit."

Official Web Site for Mt. Fuji Climbing
<http://www.fujisan-climb.jp/>



Tomomi YANAGAWA

Numazu Park Ranger Office,
Kanto Regional Environment Office,
Ministry of the Environment



Voice of Moe's Staff in foreign country



Logo of DC Greening Embassies Forum

DC Greening Embassies Forum

There is a unique environmental project here in Washington D.C. called 'D.C. Greening Embassies Forum', which has been led by the Department of State since 2010.

The Forum is a partnership between the Department of State and the D.C. diplomatic community, launched by the then-Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton on Earth Day 2010, and meets quarterly to share best practices, challenges and experiences on greening facility renovations and sustainable business operations.

In 2011, our Japanese Embassy also accepted a request to participate in the Forum and pledged to have more environmentally conscious operations, collect recycling products, change light bulbs throughout the Embassy to LED light bulbs and utilize temperature control through a computer-controlled heating system, etc.

The Forum aims to expand this circle of partnership to other country's embassies all over the world in the future, and we will continue the efforts as a member of the Forum.



Pledge Signing Ceremony



Katsunori YANO
Second Secretary (Environment),
Embassy of Japan in the
United States of America

Schedule

Diplomatic Conference for the Minamata Convention on Mercury

In order to prevent global environmental pollution and health damage caused by mercury, a new convention named "Minamata Convention on Mercury" will be adopted and open for signature at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (Diplomatic Conference) to be held in October 9-11 in Kumamoto and Minamata, Japan.

<http://www.env.go.jp/en/chemi/mercury/mcm.html>

INQUIRIES

Environmental Health and Safety Division,
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The 19th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 9th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP19/CMP9)

The COP/CMP is an annual meeting of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)/Kyoto Protocol at which important climate change issues are discussed.

This year, the conference will be held on Nov.11-22 in Warsaw, Poland.

INQUIRIES

Office of International Strategy on Climate Change,
International Strategy Division, Global Environment Bureau
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Information

The official Website of the Ministry of the Environment

MOEJ's English materials are available in our English homepage. Various downloadable documents such as Japan's Initiatives, Action plans, and presentation slides at international conferences can be searched from one dedicated collection of links (InFocus). We are continuously uploading more materials. Do please visit our website.



<http://www.env.go.jp/en/>



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