State of Discharge and Treatment of Municipal Solid Waste in FY2008

The study of Japan's municipal solid waste discharge and treatment (waste and excrement) for FY 2008 was conducted and the findings were compiled for publication. The summary is as follows (figures in parenthesis are all for FY2007):

1. Waste discharge and treatment

(1) Waste discharge: The volume of waste discharge decreased both in total and on a per-day per-capita basis.

- Total volume of waste discharge 48.11 million tons (50.82 million tons) (5.3% down)
- Daily waste discharge per-capita 1,033 grams (1,089 grams) (5.1% down)

(2) Waste treatment: The amount of final disposal decreased by 12.9% over the previous year. The recycling rate remains unchanged.

- Amount of final disposal 5.53 million tons (6.35 million tons) (12.9%down)
- Rate of reduction by treatment 98.2% (97.5%)
- Direct landfill rate 1.8% (2.5%)
- Total volume of recycled waste 9.78 million tons (10.3 million tons) (5.0% down)
- Recycling rate 20.3% (20.3%) (Unchanged)

2. Incineration facilities

- The number of incineration facilities decreased.
- Treatment capacity per site slightly increased.
- Incineration facilities equipped with power generating plant accounted for 23.6% of the total number of the facilities. The total power generation capacity increased.

(As of the end of FY2008)

- Number of facilities 1,269 (1,285) (1.2% down)
- Treatment capacity 187,303 tons/day (189,144 tons/day)
- Treatment capacity per site 148 tons/day (147 tons/day)
- Number of facilities that utilize waste heat 849 (856)
- Number of facilities equipped with power generating plant 300 (298) (23.6% of the total facilities)
- Total power generation capacity 1,615MW (1,604MW) (0.7% up)

3. Final disposal sites

Remaining capacity of final disposal sites has been decreasing for 10 consecutive years since FY 1998. The number of final disposal sites has been on a declining trend with some fluctuations, however, it still remains difficult to secure the capacity of final disposal sites.

- Reduced volume of final disposal resulted in extended life for these facilities.
- Due to the lack of final disposal capacity, the wastes from some regions such as Kanto and Chubu were transported out of the regions and thus resulted in extending the geographical scope of final disposal.

(As of the end of 2008)

- Remaining capacity of final disposal sites 121.84 million cubic meters (122.02 million cubic meters) (0.1% down)
- Remaining life of final disposal sites 18.0 years (15.7 years)

4. Total costs for municipal solid waste treatment

The total costs declined.

- Total costs 1,816.9 billion yen (1,859.9 billion yen)

  Of which:

  - Construction and improvement of facilities 179.7 billion yen (212.6 billion yen)
  - Treatment and maintenance/operation 1,530.1 billion yen (1,536.2 billion yen)