

Fourth Regional 3R Forum in Asia

“3Rs in the Context of Rio+20 Outcomes – The Future We Want”

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Country Analysis Paper

(Draft)

<Japan>

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Country Analysis Paper

In Japan, it has passed more than a decade to promote 3Rs intensively since year 2000 which is called “First Year of Sound Material-Cycle Society” and the Fundamental Law for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society (Law No. 110/2000, hereinafter referred to as “the Fundamental Law for a Sound Material-Cycle Society”) was enacted in that year. “Sound Material-Cycle Society” here refers to “a society in which the consumption of natural resources is conserved and the environmental load is reduced to the greatest extent possible, by preventing or reducing the generation of wastes, etc. from products, etc. by promoting the proper cyclical use of products, etc. to become circulative resources, and by ensuring the proper disposal of circulative resources not put into cyclical use” (Article 2, Item 1 of the Fundamental Law for a Sound Material-Cycle Society). In other words, “a Sound Material-Cycle Society” is defined as having: 1) generation control of waste – “Reduce”; 2) recycled, thermal collection where recyclable materials are generated – “Reuse”, 3) measures taken to ensure appropriate disposal of waste materials that cannot be recycled, and as a result, 1) the consumption of natural resources is curtailed; and 2) the burden on the environment is reduced to the greatest extent possible. This paper is going to highlight major policy initiatives and achievements of our country in the promotion of the 3Rs.

Major initiatives and achievements in the areas of 3R policies, programmes, and institutional measures

Figure 1. overviews a system of policy measures to promote establishing a sound material-cycle society.

(1) Fundamental Law for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society

It was promulgated in July 2000 and enforced in January 2001, with the aim of securing a material cycle in society by revising the present state of our mass-production, mass-consumption, and mass-disposal society and the lifestyles of people, to thereby establish a sound material-cycle society. The Sound Material-Cycle Society Fundamental Law promotes two concepts as the base of its policies: the responsibility of waste generator and extended producer responsibility. The Fundamental Law for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society provides that the Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society should be formulated as a fundamental plan related to the

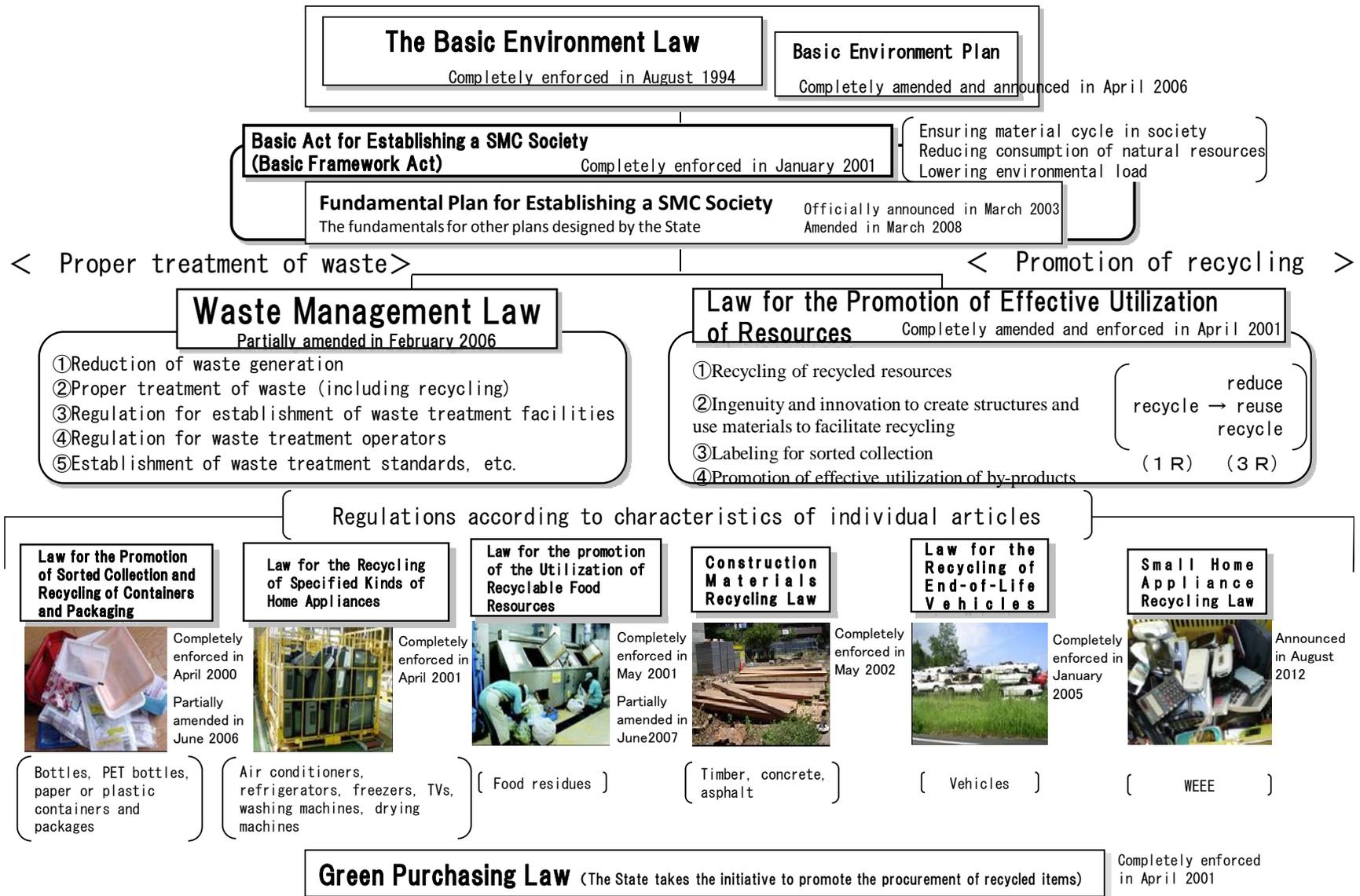


Figure 1. A system of policy measures to promote establishing a sound material-cycle society

establishment of a sound material-cycle society. The second Sound Material-Cycle Society Fundamental Plan decided upon by the Cabinet in March 2008, provides that all actors, including ordinary citizens, business operators, NPOs, NGOs, universities, local public bodies, and the national government should cooperate with one another to take actions for the establishment of a sound material-cycle society.

(2) Law for the Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources (Resources Effective Utilization Law)

The Resources Effective Utilization Law enforced in April 2001 specifies the following business categories: 1) business that should control the generation of or recycle by-products, 2) business that should use recycled resources and recycled parts, 3) products for which raw materials, etc. should be made rational use of, 4) products for the use of recycled resources or recycled parts should be promoted, 5) products that should have labels for promoting sorted collection, 6) products that should be collected and recycled by their manufacturers, 7) by-products the use of which is promoted as recycled resources, and the law imposes certain obligations on business operators engaged in each business mentioned above and promotes their voluntary efforts to make effective use of resources.

(3) The Law for the Promotion of Sorted Collection and Recycling of Containers and Packaging (Containers and Packaging Recycling Law)

In April 2008, the revised Containers and Packing Recycling Law was enforced completely, and a system was implemented in which business operators provided money to municipalities that contributed to rational recycling of containers and packages. With this system, the quality of sorted collection was improved and, therefore, the efficiency of the whole social system was improved.

- Production of glass bottles is on the decrease from year to year; our target is to increase the recycling rate of cullet from glass containers to 97% by FY2015
- The recycling rate of PET bottles is 72.4%, and the municipalities that implement sorted collection of PET bottles account for 97.8% (FY2010)
- The municipalities that implement sorted collection of plastic container wrapping account for 74.5% (FY2010)
- The recycling rate of steel cans is 89.4% (FY2010)

- The recycling rate of aluminum cans is 92.6% (FY2010)
- Sorted collection of cartons amounted to 15,600 tons, and the municipalities that implemented the sorted collection totaled 1,357 (FY2010).
- The recycling rate of cardboard is as high as 99.3% (FY2010).
- The effective use rate of plastics increased to 77% (FY2010)

(4) Law for the Recycling of Specified Kinds of Home Appliances (Home Appliance Recycling Law)

Currently, there are 379 designated collection sites where manufacturers of four types of waste home appliances (household air-conditioners, televisions, refrigerators and freezers, washing machines and clothes dryers) subject to the Home Appliance Recycling Law collect them, and recycling plants for the four types of collected waste home appliances are operating in 49 locations across the country. In FY2009, the Ministry of the Environment added liquid crystal and plasma televisions and laundry driers to the home appliances subject to the Law. Also, legal recycling ratios were raised and cooperative projects among concerned parties started to prevent illegal dumping.

The manufacturers are required to achieve a fixed recycling rate of such products, respectively: over 70% for home air-conditioners, over 55% for TVs (tube), over 50% for TVs (LC/plasma), over 60% for refrigerators/freezers, over 65% for washing machines. Actual results show 88%, 85%, 79%, 76% and 86%, respectively, exceeding legal target rates.

(5) Law Concerning Recycling of Materials for Construction Works (Construction Materials Recycling Law)

In April 2008 or five years after the complete enforcement of the Construction Materials Recycling Law, “Plan 2008 for Promoting the Construction Waste Recycling” was formulated to promote construction recycling, and measures based on this plan are being taken. In fiscal 2008, the recycling rate of concrete mass and that of asphalt and concrete mass was 97.3% and 98.4% respectively. The recycling rate of lumber disposed at construction sites is 80.3% and the rate with reduction included is 89.4%, showing steady recycling.

(6) Law for the Promotion of the Utilization of Recyclable Food Resources (Food

Recycling Law)

According to the law that revised part of the Law for the Promotion of the Utilization of Recyclable Food Resources, the Ministry of the Environment is making efforts to achieve the target implementation rate of the recycling, etc. of recyclable food resources by food-related business operators. The rate of recycling, etc. of recyclable food resources in fiscal 2007 was 54% for the whole food industry. Concerning the recycling rate of each business category, 81% for the food manufacturing industry, 62% for the food wholesaling industry, 35% for the food retailing industry, and 22% for the food service industry, showing differences among the industries.

(7) Law for the Recycling of End-of-Life Vehicles (End-of-Life Vehicle recycling Law)

Since the Vehicle Recycling Law was enforced completely in January 2005, approximately 77,600 vehicle collecting companies, 17,600 fluorocarbons collecting companies, 6,700 vehicle dismantling companies and 1,300 vehicle crushing companies have been registered and approved by the 47 prefectures. Costs needed for recycling of fluorocarbons, air bags, and shredder dusts are set and announced officially by automobile manufacturers, etc. The Japan Automobile Recycling Promotion Center, officially announces the costs needed for managing recycling charges and costs needed for managing the information on end-of-life vehicles. The total number of vehicles charged a fee for recycling in the period from January 2005 to March 2009 was 92.77 million, and the total amount of charged fees was 912.1 billion yen

(8) The Act on the Promotion of Recycling of Used Small Electronic Devices (Small Electronic Appliances Recycling draft act) was announced in August 2012. It will be enforced in April 2013. It is a system that encourages people to participate in the world of recycling rather than imposing an obligation.

(9) The Ministry of the Environment has been implementing the project for supporting the incubation of firms and promoting the spread of Japanese waste management and recycling technologies overseas in order to enhance circulatory use of resources and reduce the environmental loads on a global scale, as well as to revitalize Japan's economy. Figure 2 overviews the framework of the project.

Incubation and Overseas Promotion of Waste Management and Recycling Industry

◆ Promotion of Japanese waste disposal/recycling systems and technologies in Asia

▶ Reduction of environmental loads in the world

Overseas
promotion
of 3Rs

Overseas promotion of Japan's waste management and recycling systems as package deal

- ① Feasibility studies on concrete overseas business operations
- ② Joint workshops by partners and stakeholders to establish a framework for operations in host countries
- ③ Training programs for responsible personnel from host countries to promote better understanding of Japan's waste management and recycling systems
- ④ Dissemination of information on Japanese waste management and recycling technologies (for Asian countries to pursue business matching opportunities)



Conclusion

The paper presents major initiatives and achievements in 3R policies, programmes, and institutional measures. It also highlights initiatives promoting 3R technologies and infrastructure development, dealing with new emerging waste streams, promoting the 3Rs in industry and business sectors as well as agricultural sector.