Japan Environmental Sanitation Center

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Toward the Introduction of Separated Waste Collection in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

JESC is implementing the JICA technical cooperation project that aims to assist development of a Solid Waste Management Master Plan for Greater Abidjan, the largest city of Côte d'Ivoire, with a target year of 2040. In Japan, municipalities are responsible for waste collection and disposal, and these services are operated directly by them. In Côte d'Ivoire, however, the National Waste Management Agency bears sole responsibility and contracts with private companies in each city to carry out the work-an approach that is the exact opposite of Japan's.

Garbage collection in Abidjan

Training in Japan: Waste Sorting

Training in Japan: Waste Collection

Private companies' collection trucks collect waste daily. The simplicity of throwing everything together and having it collected as a single mixed load has led to a vicious cycle: the amount of waste generated by households continues to rise, payments from the Waste Management Agency to private companies increase, and the volume of waste sent to landfills keeps growing. Recognizing that this situation was unsustainable, the government initiated the development of the Master Plan under a policy aimed at promoting waste separation and recycling to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills at all costs.

However, while separating household waste is commonplace in Japan, implementing this practice in Abidjan has proven to be extremely challenging. No matter how much trial and error is involved, people's daily habits do not change easily. To address this issue, we invited five counterparts to visit Japan last August. They visited environmental education facilities to learn about the importance of public awareness campaigns and experienced household waste sorting at the Nerima Cleaning Office. We hope the waste sorting methods they learned will take root in Abidjan through the implementation of the Master Plan.

In 2021, Côte d'Ivoire introduced a concession system for its waste management sector. While government agencies contract private companies to handle waste collection and transportation, they also hire separate firms to monitor the contractors' operations and utilize IT tools for centralized oversight to ensure proper service provision. These innovative approaches, which are not found in Japan, are very instructive. However, it seems that citizens' complaints and requests are directed to city hall-which has no direct connection to the contractors-leaving city officials at a loss. We will incorporate improvements to address these issues into the Master Plan. **(Katsuyoshi SUDO)**

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JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program
“Solid Waste Management"

This training program combines lectures and practical exercises in Sapporo with on-site visits in Fukuoka to provide practical waste management learning designed to meet the needs of Latin American countries.

In Sapporo, participants learn about waste administration, 3R initiatives, medical waste, and environmental education, and gain hands-on experience through the highly regarded “time and motion study” of garbage collection operations.

Time-and-Motion Analysis

Site Visit to the Otaru Final Disposal Site

Field visits include the Otaru Final Disposal Site, where trainees observe landfill processes—such as backfilling and leachate treatment—and the Itomuka Mining Facility, where they learn about Japan’s unique mercury recycling technology.

The program also addresses food waste through visits to methane fermentation and composting facilities, along with practical training in cardboard composting.

In Fukuoka, participants study the “Fukuoka Method,” a sanitary landfill technique that uses locally available materials and is easily adaptable to improving final disposal sites in Latin America.

Alongside these technical components, the program emphasizes that sustainable waste management requires not only appropriate technologies but also public awareness and environmental education. By introducing Japanese approaches that connect education with practical action, the program aims to give participants “insights” that can support problem solving in their home countries.

Hands-On Training on the Fukuoka Method

Now in my fourth year with JICA’s training course, I draw on diverse resources, and my experience with online training during COVID 19 has also helped me. I will continue working to create programs that satisfy both the participants and our partner organizations. **(Masako MORINO)**

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JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program "Development of Recycling Policy"

As part of JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program, a course entitled "Development of Recycling Policy" was conducted from February 5th to February 26th, 2026.

The training program aimed to enable participants to develop policies and systems to promote recycling in their own countries by learning in Japan. Participants gained an understanding of the fundamental concepts of recycling policies and systems to apply them to policymaking in their own countries.

This year, 12 participants from 10 countries —Egypt, Tunisia, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Brazil, and Mongolia—participated, representing a diverse range of regions and institutional backgrounds.

During the three-week program, participants learned about Japan's recycling laws and regulations and visited various recycling systems to observe their implementation and tour recycling sites, learning about Japan's latest initiatives. Some participants expressed interest in adopting similar systems in their own countries at the sites visited, suggesting that this training could contribute to the development of recycling systems in various countries. As well as the Kanto region, the program included Nagoya, where participants experienced Japanese culture such as visiting Nagoya Castle. On the final day, participants attended the 'JICA Clean City Initiative (JCCI) International Seminar 2026', at which participants from Thailand and Sri Lanka gave presentations.

It snowed during the first week. While some participants were excited to see snow for the first time, others quietly admired the scenery, saying that they were used to seeing snow. This made me realize how diverse the participants' backgrounds were.

Throughout the training period, we observed participants sharing information about the situations in their respective countries and participants from the same culture helping each other with language-related issues. It was very encouraging to see how a multinational network naturally formed through the training in Japan. We hope to continue supporting the formation and maintenance of such networks in the future.

Plastic Recycling Facility

Ozenji Eco-Gurashi Kankyo Kan

Group Photo

This course covers a very wide range of items and situations in participating countries. Not only learning about the situation in Japan, sharing information begins by asking, "What's it the situation in your country?" I hope all the participants will cherish the bonds they've forged in this program! **(Kana NAKAMURA)**

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The 23rd Korea-China-Japan Tripartite Joint Environmental Training Program (TJET23)

In November 2025, the 23rd Korea-China-Japan Tripartite Joint Environmental Training Program (TJET23) was held in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, bringing together environmental officials from Japan, China, and Korea.

The program aimed to strengthen international cooperation toward carbon neutrality through the sharing of environmental policies and resource circulation initiatives.

Discussion

Group Photo

Under the theme “Strategies to Propel Resource Circulation for Promoting Carbon Neutrality,” participants exchanged policy developments and practical approaches related to the circular economy and waste management.

Korea introduced its Circular Resources Recognition System and Seoul’s resource circulation policies, China presented its “Zero-Waste City” initiative, and Japan shared efforts on decarbonized waste management, including 3R promotion, waste-to-energy systems, CCUS utilization, and community-based recycling practices.

Participants also visited waste management facilities in Jeju to learn about advanced technologies such as food waste biogas production and waste-to-energy systems.

Group discussions covered topics including lithium-ion battery safety, food waste recycling, marine plastic pollution, and green finance, providing a valuable opportunity to strengthen mutual understanding and regional cooperation on shared environmental challenges.

Food Waste Management Facility in Jeju

I supported on-site coordination and participant assistance for the Japanese delegation. The program provided a valuable opportunity for environmental officials from the three countries to exchange knowledge on resource circulation and carbon neutrality. I hope to continue contributing to international environmental cooperation through such programs. **(Mitsuyo SUGIMOTO)**

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Making Invisible Air Visible Through Policy: Clean Air Week 2025 Report

From November 24 to 28, 2025, Clean Air Week 2025 was held at The Sukosol Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. This conference, one of the largest international meetings on air quality in the Asia–Pacific region, was organized by Clean Air Asia (CAA) in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), among others.

The conference was conducted in a hybrid format, combining in-person and online participation, and brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers, international organizations, private-sector representatives, and civil society actors.

The Asia–Pacific region continues to face serious air pollution challenges, particularly related to fine particulate matter (PM2.5), which result in significant health impacts and economic losses. In response to these challenges, Clean Air Week 2025 focused on strengthening regional cooperation, promoting evidence-based policy development, and advancing cross-sectoral clean air measures as its main themes.

In particular, the importance of addressing transboundary air pollution—including in East Asia—as well as enhancing data sharing and policy coordination, was repeatedly emphasized.

In sessions dedicated to science–policy linkages, discussions highlighted the need to strengthen the scientific foundations of national clean air action plans, improve emission inventories and source apportionment analyses, and enhance quantitative evaluation of policy effectiveness.

In the urban, transport, and energy sectors, participants shared examples of cross-cutting clean air measures, such as the promotion of clean transport, the transition to renewable energy, and improvements in waste management systems. Furthermore, case studies were presented on the application of emerging technologies—such as low-cost sensors, measures targeting short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), and satellite-based monitoring—in air quality management.

These discussions underscored the importance of technological innovation in enhancing the effectiveness and implementation of air quality policies.

Session 2: Next-Generation Air Quality Monitoring: Technologies, Communities, and Governance for Clean Air

Speakers at Clean Air Week 2025

Under the title “Building a Sustainable Future for Air Quality Monitoring: EANET’s Strategic Directions 2026–2030,” the author delivered a presentation outlining the future strategic directions of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET). The presentation emphasized the importance of integrated use of diverse monitoring technologies, enhanced utilization of data, deepened regional cooperation, and capacity building. Through these elements, the author highlighted the critical role of EANET in advancing sustainable air quality monitoring systems across the Asia region. **(Meihua ZHU)**

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Solid Waste Management Study Tour, FY2025, organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan

JESC implemented a series of “Solid Waste Management Study Tours” funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) for the fiscal year 2025.

The program aims to share Japan’s advanced waste management systems and technologies with countries facing waste management challenges, thereby reducing global environmental impact and fostering the overseas expansion of Japan’s circular economy industry.

Three in-person training courses in Japan and two online training sessions were held from July to March, with a total of 84 participants from 13 countries in Asia and Africa.

The in-person training courses focused on promoting the adoption of waste-to-energy (WtE) systems. The courses provided lectures on Japan’s legal framework and the economic viability of WtE projects, site visits to public waste treatment facilities and private recycling plants, and discussions with project proponents.

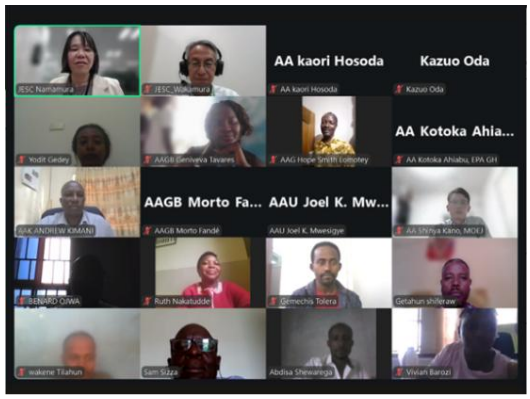
Through the courses, the participants learned about the role of private companies, the need to prepare for a regulatory framework to incentivize investment while balancing the regulation. Participants included representatives from central and local governments, as well as organizations responsible for financing and the selection of project proponents, such as the Ministry of Finance and public financial institutions.

The online training sessions focused on improving final disposal sites using the Fukuoka Method for African countries and on E-waste for the Southeast Asian countries. Feedback from the participants indicated that they were satisfied with sharing their challenges in common and learning from each other.

Despite the short duration of a maximum of five days, they learned a considerable amount of knowledge.

Study Program for Indonesian Participants

Study Tour at Nerima Incineration Plant



Online Training

This project was started in 2011 and has been implemented by JESC since then. This was my first time managing it, and many questions raised by the participants during the study show their enthusiasm to apply the knowledge gained from the training in their home countries. This training is scheduled in fiscal year 2026 as well. We aim to continue building a network for the development of the circular economy through this training and to contribute to strengthening capacity building for waste management in the participants’ countries. **(Takashi WAKAMURA)**

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JESC Project Fellows

Public Awareness Campaigns for Plastic Reduction in Cambodia

Rapid urbanization, population growth, and changing consumption patterns have contributed to a significant increase in municipal solid waste generation in Cambodia, particularly in major urban areas. Most municipal waste is currently disposed of in landfills or open dumping sites, many of which are facing capacity limitations and environmental management challenges. Limited waste separation at the source and inadequate treatment technologies further worsen the situation, resulting in environmental pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and potential risks to public health.

To respond to these growing environmental concerns, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), through the Ministry of Environment (MoE), has strengthened national efforts on waste management and plastic reduction. In accordance with the Political Program of the 7th Legislature of the National Assembly and the Pentagonal Strategy Phase I (2023–2028), the MoE launched the Circular Strategy on Environment 2023–2028. The strategy highlights the government's commitment to environmental protection under three key pillars: "Clean," "Green," and "Sustainability."

Minister of Environment Joins Citizens and Students to Promote Plastic Waste Reduction

Community and Roadside Clean-up Activities

Under the "Clean" pillar, the Ministry of Environment has implemented nationwide public awareness campaigns and clean-up activities aimed at reducing plastic pollution and encouraging responsible environmental behavior. Campaigns such as "Today, I Do Not Use Plastic Bags," "Clean Cambodia, Khmer Can Do," and "National Roads Without Plastic" have mobilized millions of participants across the country, including students, teachers, local communities, civil servants, and factory workers.

These campaigns have played an important role in promoting behavioral change, increasing public participation, and strengthening awareness of the environmental impacts caused by plastic waste. Through continuous cooperation among government institutions, educational sectors, private stakeholders, and communities, Cambodia is moving toward a cleaner and more sustainable future.

Participating in the JESC training program in Japan was a valuable experience that enhanced my understanding of sustainable waste management, including Japanese environmental policies, advanced recycling systems, waste treatment practices, and public awareness approaches, through study visits and discussions with experts. This experience inspired me to contribute more actively to environmental protection initiatives in Cambodia. (YIM Chansreynuch)

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Editorial Note

In recent years, rising tensions involving Israel, the United States, and Iran have heightened geopolitical risks across various regions of the world, leading to growing concerns over the stable supply of energy and mineral resources. Such international instability has once again highlighted the reality that our daily lives and industries remain heavily dependent on overseas resources.

I had the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. the other day. Being in the heart of politics and international relations, I strongly felt how deeply society, the economy, and the environment are interconnected, and how events occurring in one region can have significant impacts on the entire world. In this era of increasing uncertainty, issues surrounding resources and energy are no longer merely environmental concerns, but have also become critically important from the perspective of economic security.

Against this backdrop, the importance of the circular economy (CE), which promotes the reuse of waste as a valuable resource, is becoming greater than ever. Establishing systems that enable resource circulation is essential not only for environmental protection, but also for reducing dependence on overseas resources and supporting a sustainable and resilient society. Going forward, I believe it is increasingly necessary to further advance the CE from both environmental and economic security perspectives.— Mitsuyo Sugimoto

The United States Capitol, Washington, D.C.

Recycling & Collection Boxes at Supermarkets, Maryland

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