

# JESC NEWS

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## G8 Environmental Conference Held in Japan

The G8 Environmental Conference was held at Kobe under Japanese chairmanship on May 24-26 this year. The Conference enabled G8 Ministers of the Environment and EU Committee Members to exchange opinions on environmental matters. The participating G8 countries are Japan, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. In addition, 9 other countries attended: Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Korea and South Africa. The agenda covers Climate Change, Biological Diversity and the 3Rs Initiative.

At the second 3Rs Conference held in Bonn, Germany, in October 2007, Japanese officials stated that Japan would put forward a 3Rs Action Plan at the 2008 G8 Environmental Conference. It was intended that each G8 country would take action to create economies based on sound

material recycling and low carbon usage. This encouraged the better use of materials and eventually lead to the creation of a sustainable world economy.

The aim was that the 3Rs Action Plan would provide a framework that could be used to enhance and define measures taken by governments and international organizations.

Three aspects of the 3Rs Action Plan are currently being prepared for inclusion in the Conference agenda. The first is concerned with implementing 3Rs-related policy and improving the efficiency of resource use; the second is about the formation of a sound material recycle economy worldwide, and the third covers the promotion of mutual cooperation between countries, international organizations and their staff, as well as capacity building in developing countries.

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## The Container and Packaging Recycling Law, Revised

The Japanese government enacted the Container and Packaging Recycling Law in 1995 in order to promote recycling of containers and packaging waste, which accounts for 60 % (by volume) of household waste. This law is

intended to reduce the generation of household waste and to make effective use of resources.

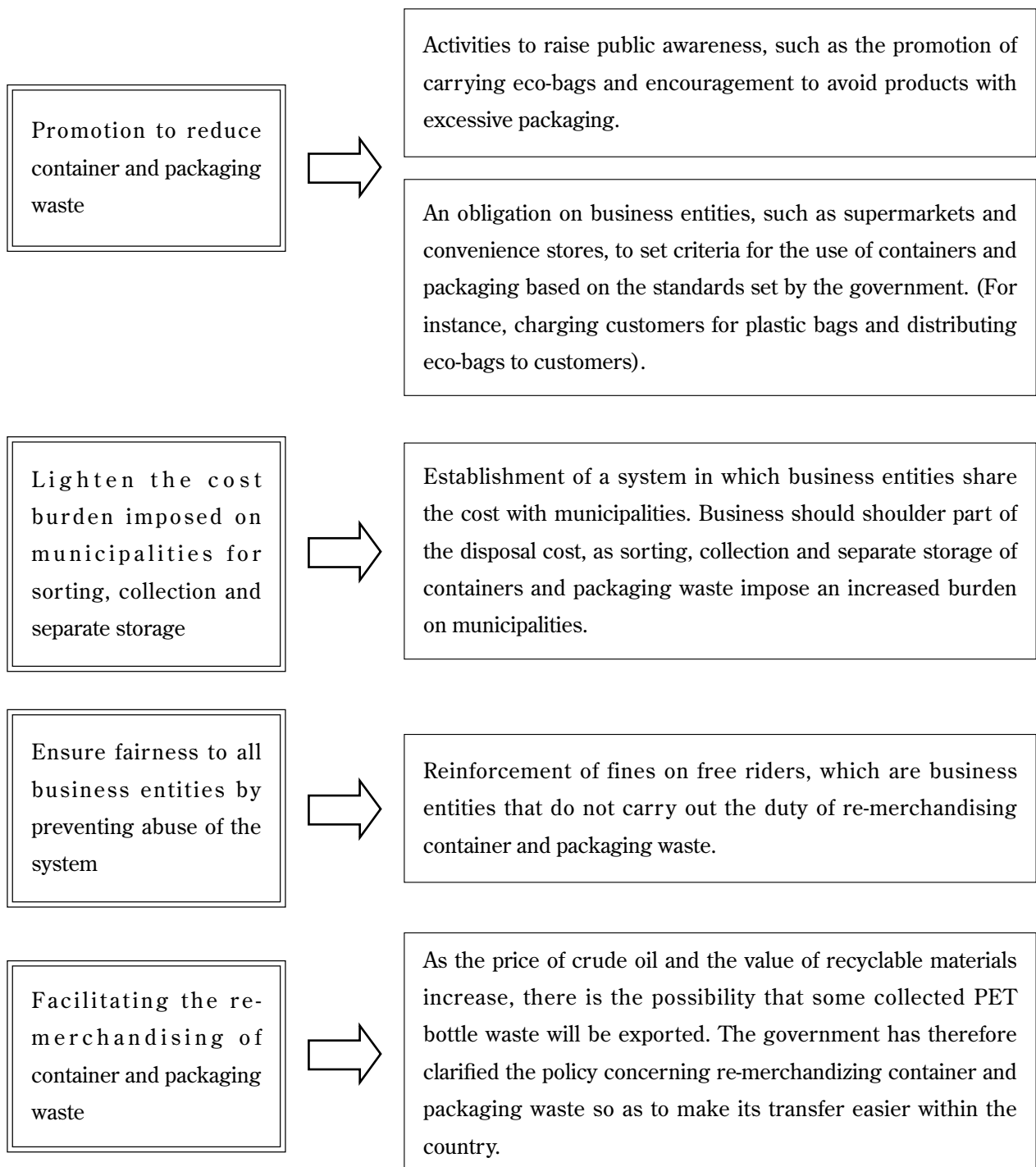
Although the law has been in existence for 10 years, the amount of household waste has

not reduced and the ratio of container and packaging waste still remains high. The law was due for reassessment in 2005, 10 years after its original enactment. The reassessment process started in 2005 and the revision of the Container

and Packaging Recycling Law was approved in June 2007. The law has been partly enforced since December 2007 and fully enforced since April 2008. The major items that have been revised are as follows.

<Points of Revision>

<Concrete Measures>



## Changes in Waste Management for the Tokyo Metropolis

There are 23 cities in the Tokyo Metropolis. The waste management in this area was changed significantly in April 2008.

Tokyo Metropolis is a huge city, the population of which exceeds 11 million during the day. The annual amount of domestic waste generated within the area is approximately 3.4 million tons. Each resident is required to separate waste into combustibles and incombustibles so that it can be treated efficiently. Whole combustible waste is incinerated in order to minimize the volume that is landfilled. Incombustible waste is pulverized and valuable materials such as ferrous metals and aluminum recovered. Only the residue is landfilled.

The plastics discharged as waste have been classified as incombustible waste for the last 35 years, mostly for environmental reasons. However, in January 2006, the city governments ordered that plastic waste should be burned in incineration plants.

The rules concerning the discharge of waste have had a long history, so were very familiar to citizens, well-established and therefore difficult to change. To smooth the introduction of the new system, each city government held a series of town meetings in which they explained the process of recycling plastics and the new rules concerning the collection of waste at the

curbside. Pilot projects were also conducted.

Although some residents were against the new system, saying that recycling plastics was not enough and incinerating plastics discouraged recycling, most understood the significance. Generally, citizens have cooperated with government to allow the successful introduction of the new system, which has now been running since April 1.



Final disposal site of Tokyo Metropolis (July 2007)  
Plastic waste occupied the largest part of the waste landfilled.

The governmental authority in charge reported that the new system would reduce the current annual expense of ¥63 billion by ¥5.2 billion, in addition to reducing the amount of waste by 60%. Other benefits were an increase in the quantity of electricity generated and lower landfill costs.

## 4th Expert Meeting to be Held in Yokohama in 2008

The need for environmentally-sound solid waste management has increased as the quantity and variety of solid waste has grown. As a consequence, the promotion of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) Initiative in Asia and the Pacific Islands region is becoming increasingly important, as is the formation of a network of solid waste management experts in the area.

The need for this was recognized by the 1st Expert Meeting held in Tokyo in 2005. In the 2nd Expert Meeting in Kitakyushu in 2006, it was agreed to set up the Society of Solid Waste Management Experts in Asia & Pacific Islands (SWAPI) as a network of experts. In the 3rd Expert Meeting in Okayama in 2007, the rules and mode of operation of SWAPI were formulated.

The 4th Expert Meeting will be held in Yokohama on July 16-18 in 2008. The objectives of the Meeting are to discuss specific activity, to share knowledge on solid waste management, to discuss how to raise the level of solid waste management in Asia and Pacific Islands, and to promote international research cooperation.



The 3rd Expert Meeting was held on Dec. 7-9 in Okayama in 2007.

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## JICA Training on the Comprehensive Waste Management: Follow-up Project

### – Improvement in the Santiago Landfill Site –

#### 1. Background to the Follow-up Project

Mr. Edward M. Moreta, the technical adviser of the Santiago Public Cleansing Public Co. Dominican Republic (CASA), was a participant in the Comprehensive Waste Management Seminar held by Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA, in FY 2006. He developed the action plan for the improvement in the Raffey

landfill site. This required the construction of a new landfill site based on the Fukuoka approach. The action plan was selected by JICA as a follow-up project. It was put into operation in FY 2007.

Follow-up projects are the new JICA initiative to make the results of training visible.

The city of Santiago is located almost in the center of the Dominican Republic. It has a population of approximately 900 thousand people. The city thrives primarily on agriculture and manufacturing. The whole waste generated in the city is carried to the Raffey landfill site, which has an area of approximately 14.5 ha. Truck scales are available at the site. The amount of waste carried daily is 800 to 850 tons and the site has been in operation for 27 years. 300 to 400 pickers recover valuable materials from the rubbish, including cardboard, bottles, cans, ferrous metals, PET bottles and plastic wares. The materials recovered from the landfill site are taken and sold to dealers.

The landfill site uses open dumping, without a leachate treatment system or gas exhaust pipes. Fires, smoke, flies, and river contamination by the leachate are common. Neighbours complain and reports appear in the mass media about the nuisance. The situation is recognized as a social problem.

## 2. Objectives and Outline of the Project

The action plan developed by Mr. Moreta comprised 2.5 years of planning, from June 2006 to December 2008, and a budget of US\$ 9.34 million, financed by national subsidy and bank loans, together with the involvement of CASA as the implementing body.

The follow-up project had two objectives. One was to provide direct technical support for the construction of a new landfill site and the closure of the existing one, in accordance with

Mr. Moreta's action plan. The other was to act as the technical advisor in an open seminar held by the Santiago city authorities to promote communication between their staff and the JICA participants, and to provide a better understanding to citizens. The follow-up project actually included (1) technical support for the action plan (2) technical advice presented at the open seminar, and (3) the formation of a network among the JICA participants on the environmental issues.

## 3. Schedule and Staff

The JICA delegation visited twice. In the first visit, from August 18 to 27, 2007, the team was Masumi Furusawa, Takashi Miyagawa and Ken-ich Yokota. In the second visit, from January 5 to 14, 2008, the team was Prof. Yasushi Matsufuji, Yukihiro Yoshimura and Masumi Furusawa.



The 2nd delegation team members & JICA ex-participants

## 4. Result of the Follow-up Works

When the first delegation team visited, some parts of the action plan had been implemented by the participants who had returned about a



Smoke problem almost perfectly solved (January 2008)



Serious smoke problem before improvement (December 2003)

year earlier. Work to extinguish the fires by covering the area with soil was proceeding and 70-80% complete. Excavation work on a new landfill site was complete and on schedule. The overall state of the work referred to in the action plan was checked, team members and local staff exchanged questions and answers on the plan's implementation, and training on the installation of the gas exhaust pipes was carried out onsite. Additional technical assistance on landfill was provided in the subsequent open seminar.

A further visit to the site was recommended

by the first team. During the second visit, the management plan on the Raffey landfill site was revised so that the site area to be closed could be reused. Trees were planted in residential areas and the landfill work finished. In the open dumping site, further work to extinguish fires was carried out. Almost all of the area was covered with soil and smoke was scarcely visible. In the area covered by soil, grass and tomato plants had started to grow. In the new landfill site area, a terrace to prevent the ingress of rainwater had been built. Work on the installation of the leachate collection pipe had been halted until the arrival of the delegation team. Local staff reported that the construction of the access road had been delayed by a storm.

The technical support provided by the second team included an assessment of progress against the plan, the answering of questions on detailed technical matters, onsite survey training, an onsite demonstration of the economical operation of the leachate treatment facility, and participation in the presentations and forum at the open seminar.

## 5. Conclusion

This follow-up project, in which the technical teams visited the site twice a year, was the first trial of the JESC training course provided for JICA. It is difficult to transfer detailed technical information and knowledge using only training in Japan. The need for the follow-up project and the benefit it gave to participants were recognized by many of the staff members.

It was impressive to see the improvements achieved by participants using the knowledge and skills they had learned in the training. I would be grateful if readers of this newsletter

would like a similar follow-up project, and make contact with the JICA office or JESC.

by Masumi Furusawa

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## 3Rs East Asia Local Government Network Conference\*

International relationships are being deepened by sister city tie-ups with Japanese municipalities. To foster such tie-ups, the JESC is planning to hold an East Asian Intermunicipality Network Conference to promote 3Rs activity in the region. The conference will be held at Saitama on October 28 this year.

The Japanese Ministry of the Environment uses the inter-government conferences to promote 3Rs policies and the 3Rs forums to achieve a better understanding of the Initiative. The support provided by the Ministry is shifting from assistance on policy development to assistance on policy implementation, So this conference is intended to initiate the exchange between municipalities in East Asia of information on the implementation of the 3Rs

Initiative.

The cities that participated in the symposium “The Challenge of Asian Region Toward 3Rs”, which was one of the programs in the Japanese Environmental Sanitation Meeting, are the most likely to attend.

Shanghai city in China, Busan city in Korea, Hanoi in Vietnam, Phitsanuloke city in Thailand and Japanese cities such as Yokohama, Sapporo, Kawasaki and Saitama are all planning to participate and to exchange information and comment. The conference this year is the first of a series. It will be held annually with increasing numbers of participants.

\* tentatively entitled

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### Editor's Comment

The Newsletter has not been published for 3 years. Although a sudden letter often brings a bad news, we hope this is not the case here. The break has certainly not been caused by a lack of hard work in the secretariat. The increasing

concern about global warming has made people realize that drastic action on environmental issues is now necessary. The years after 2016 are not covered by the Kyoto Protocol and are therefore expected to become politically

important. The increased use of bio-fuels and shortages in the food supply are of concern worldwide. Environmental issues are becoming delicate. I am sorry that I cannot say otherwise in this letter. I hope that the letter gives you, the

JESC graduates, some information on the latest situation in Japan. Please let me have any news or opinions that might be of interest to others. I shall be pleased to support your work by providing publicity through this letter.

## Afterword

The JICA training gave me the opportunity to take part in the lectures and study tours with the JICA training participants. It provided me with an up-to-date picture of the current situation in Japan. The participants showed much enthusiasm, asked many questions during the lectures and showed much self-motivation and interest. It was a privilege for me to be able to share laughter and to interact with the participants in friendly and informal way. Masaru Tanaka, a Professor Emeritus at Okayama University, told us that, with the help of JESC, he hoped to visit the participants' countries in 3 years' time to see how the action plans prepared in the training course had eventually been implemented. The participants were pleased at this. As a news staff of the ICO(International Cooperation Office), I shall endeavor to try and meet their expectations.

by Hiroko Hoshi



ICO Staff at JESC ( April 2008 )

Photograph taken in front of the Old Building, JESC, on 16th April 2008. ICO Staff: From the left: Mr. Hayami, Technical Advisor; Mr. Miyagawa, Division Head; Mr. Furusawa, Manager; Dr. Fujiyoshi, Executive Director; Ms. Plourde, Assistance Chief (former name: Kobayashi); Ms. Hoshi, Ms. Sasazaki

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