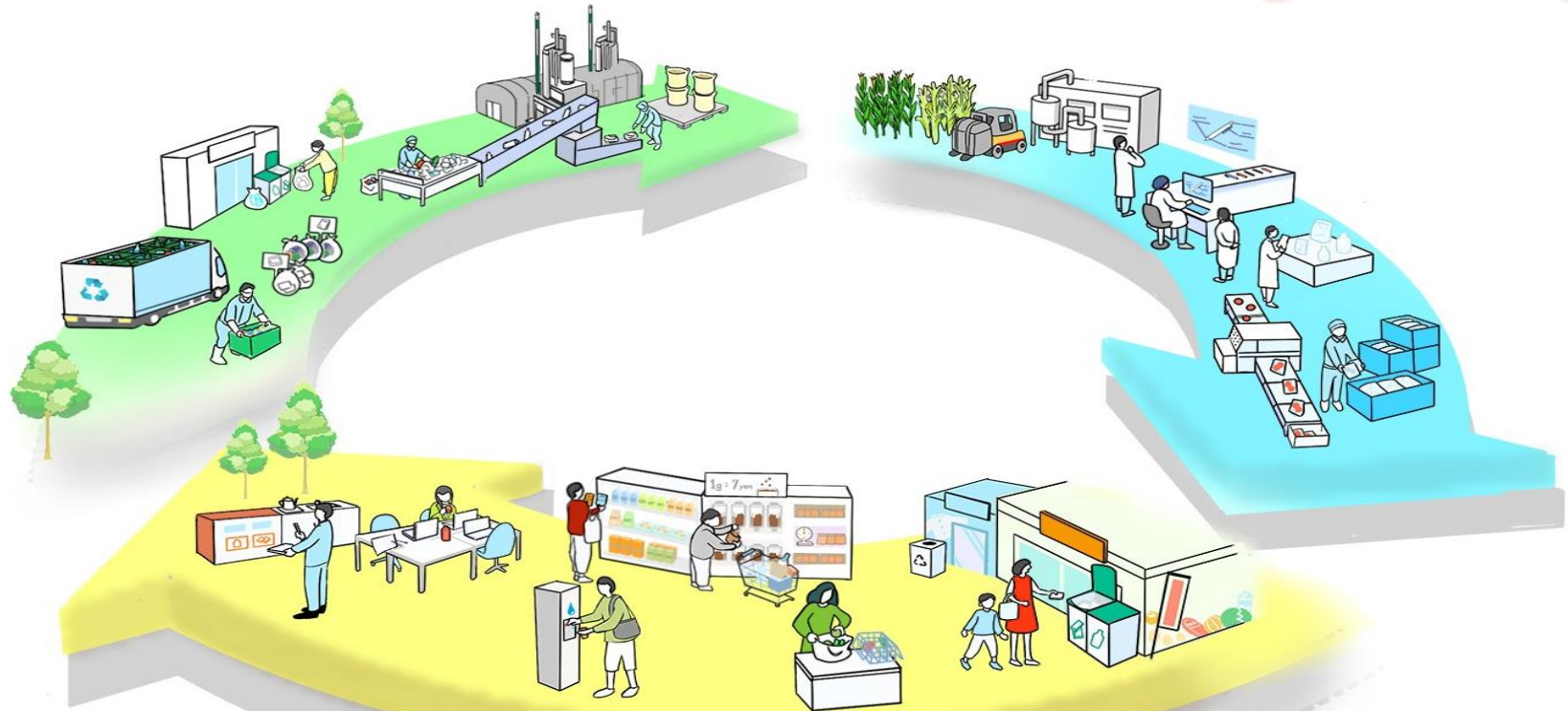


Japan's Action towards a Plastic-Free and Circular Economy Society



2023.9.8, Jeju, ROK

Hiroshi Ono

Senior Advisor to the Minister
Ministry of the Environment, Japan

Environmental Impacts of Plastic Pollution

Beach litter along the coastline



Tobishima, Sakata, Yamagata



Tsushima, Nagasaki

*Samples of drifted wastes



Plastic container



Fishing gear



Detergent container

Negative impacts

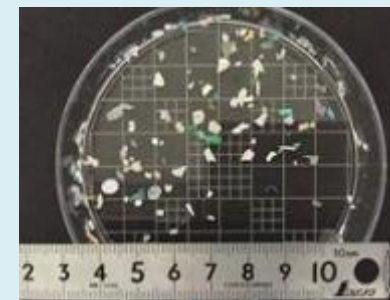
- Concerns regarding marine life
- Obstruction for ship sailing
- Impacts on tourism and fishery
- Impacts on the residential environment along the coast



Photograph by Saeed Rashid



*A whale has died after swallowing more than 80 plastic bags
Source: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand*



*Small plastic fragments
Source: Isobe lab, Kyusyu university*

Development of Plastic Pollution Treaty

- UNEA 5.2(2022.3) resolution 5/14 decided to **convene an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment**, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024.
- G7 Hiroshima Summit (2023.5), adopted the communique which state **"We are committed to end plastic pollution, with the ambition to reduce additional plastic pollution to zero by 2040."**

INC schedule

2022

INC1 : 11/28~12/2@Punta del Este, Uruguay

2023

INC2 : 5/29~6/2@Paris, France

- Discussion on potential options for the main elements of the treaty
- INC decided that the chair will prepare a zero draft by the next INC3.

INC3 : 11/13~11/19@Nairobi, Kenya

2024

UNEA6 : 2/26-31 @Nairobi, Kenya (INC status report)

INC4 : April@Ottawa, Canada

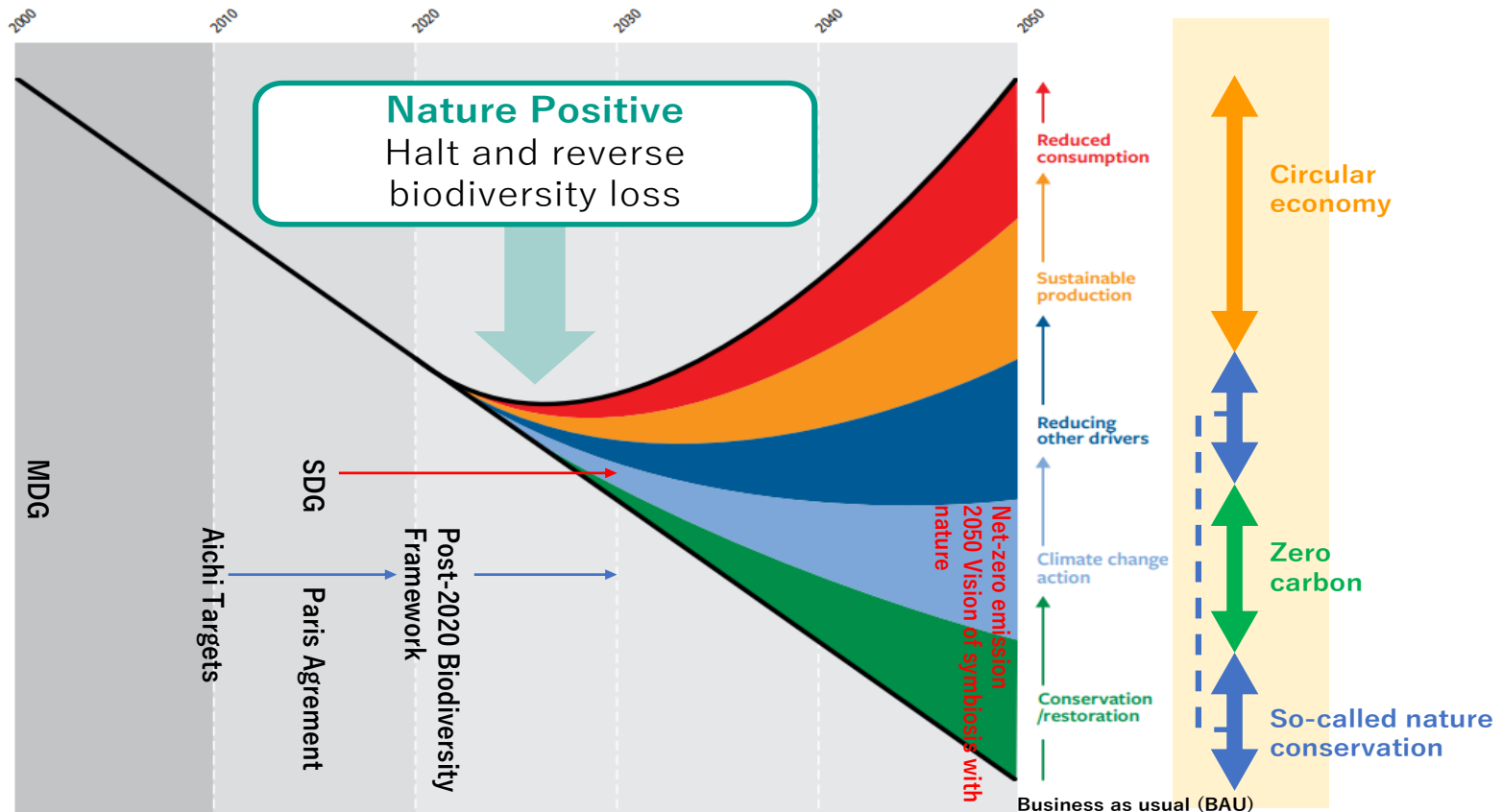
INC5 : October or November @Seoul, Republic of Korea (Aiming to reach an agreement on the content of the instrument)

2025

Diplomatic conference (adoption of treaty, start of signatures by each country)

Integrated Approach for Global Triple Crisis

Addressing global triple crisis (climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss) requires a transformation towards carbon neutral, circular and nature positive economies.



Domestic Context

G20 Osaka Blue Ocean Vision

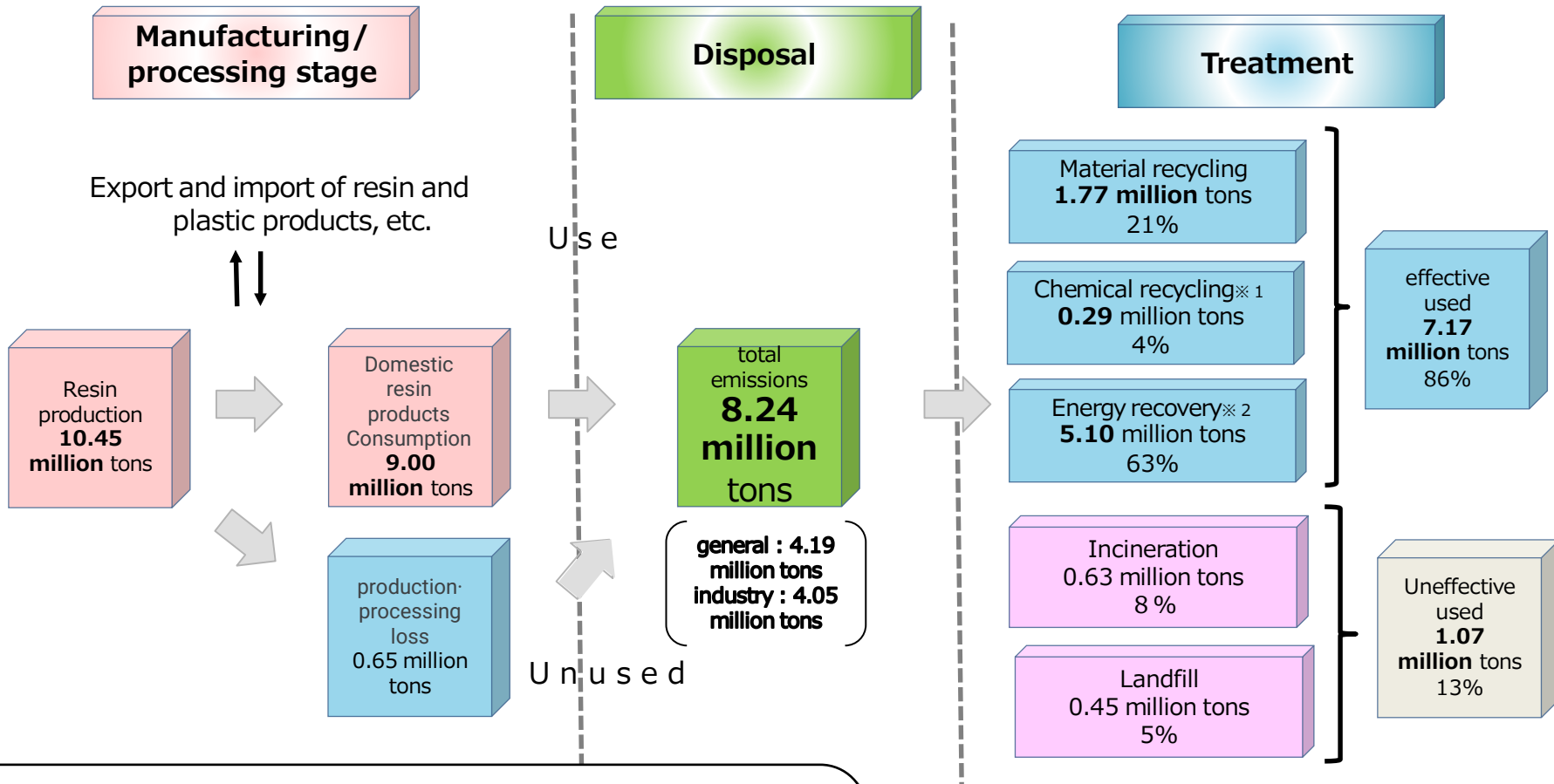
- G20 leaders shared [the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision](#) as a common global vision in June 2019
- They also called on other members of the international community to also share this vision for protecting the world's oceans
- As of **May 2020, 86 countries & regions** share this vision

Trade restrictions on plastic waste under Basel Convention

Policy shift toward carbon-neutral (decarbonized society)

- **2050 Carbon Neutral Declaration** (October 2020)
Prime Minister Suga announced carbon neutrality by 2050.
- **46% reduction target for fiscal 2030** (April 2021)
Prime Minister Suga announced 46% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2013 levels by 2030 and continuous effort to achieve a 50% reduction.

Material Flow of Plastics in Japan



Total emissions of plastic waste: 8.24 million tons (2021)

⇒ Effective used: 86% (**Recycled 25%**, **Energy recovery 63%**) / Uneffective used (landfilled · incinerated) 13%

※1 chemical recycling : Raw materials for blast furnaces and coke ovens, gasification, etc.
 ※2 energy recovery : Solid fuel, cement raw material and fuel, power generation incineration, thermal incineration

出典) プラスチック循環利用協会データ

Charge for Plastic Bags (from 2020.7)

Scope

Target

- A plastic shopping bag with handles used by consumers to carry purchased goods.



Exemption

- 50µm or more in thickness
- 100% Containing rate of marine biodegradable plastic
- 25% or more in mixing rate of biomass plastic



Achievement

Percentage of consumers not using plastic shopping bags for a week

| Before (2020.3) | After (2020.11) |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 30.4% | 71.9% |

Refusal rate

| | Before | After |
|----------------------|---------|----------------|
| At convenience store | Ap. 23% | Ap. 75% |
| At supermarket | Ap. 57% | Ap. 80% |

Number of used

| | Before | After | Difference |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| At drugstore | Ap. 3.3 billion | Ap. 0.5 billion | Ap. 84% decrease |

Domestic distribution amount

| Before (2019) | After (2021) |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Ap. 0.20 million tons | Ap. 0.10 million tons |

Plastic Resource Circulation Act

Plastic Resource Circulation Act is to promote “**3R+Renewables**” in **each stage of the lifecycle of plastic products** from product design to waste disposal **for transition to circular economy.**

① Design & Manufacturing

Government certificates

Products designed for the Environment

② Sales & Supply

Reduction of Single-use Plastics

③ Discharge, Collection & Recycling

Promote

Efficient Collection and Recycling of all plastic waste

Design for Environment

Reduction of amount, Simplification of packaging



replacement bottle
Source) 花王 HP



Cut excess packaging
Source) 日本ハム HP



Kikyo Shingen Mochi, Japanese sweets, wrapped in monaka, rice crispy, instead of a plastic container

Source) 桔梗屋 HP

Reduction of amount



No plastic straws paper pack
Source) 日本製紙 HP

Use of recycled plastics



PET bottle of 100% recycled material

Alternatives to materials other than plastic



Replace outer bag with paper material
Source) ネスレ日本株式会社 HP

Reduction of Single-use Plastics

At retail store, restaurant



Pierced

Source) ファミリー
マート HP



Wooden

Source) ロー
ソン HP



Biomass plastic

Source) セブン-イレ
ブン HP



Paper straw
(FSC certified paper)

Source) スターバックスコーヒージャパ
ン HP



(Ref.) reduce the lid (cold drink)



Biomass plastic spoon,
Charge for Chinese plastic spoon
source) 餃子の王将 HP

At hotel



Bamboo・wooden amenities

Source) 帝国ホテル
ニュースリリース



Abolishing the installation of amenities in
guest rooms, providing only the necessary amount
in the front lobby

Source) スーパーホテル HP

At cleaning store



白洋舎のリサイクル活動に
ご協力ください

Collect, reuse, recycle of hanger

Source) 白洋舎 HP



エコポイントのしくみ
ハンガーリサイクル
5本
につき
エコポイント
1ポイント 獲得!



エコポイントに応じて
濃縮液体洗剤、又は
オリジナルバッグを
プレゼント!

Source) 全国クリーニング生活衛生同業
組合連合会/一般社団法人クリーンライ
フ協会 HP



Thinner clothing cover

Promotion of Alternative Materials Use

Japan is supporting the development of innovative substitute material technologies including by providing a subsidy for R/D of alternative products and materials.

Marine Biodegradable Plastics



Bioplastics



Cellulose



Paper



Stakeholder Involvement

“Plastic Smart” is a platform that encourages a wide range of stakeholders, including individuals, local governments, NGOs, companies, and research institutes, to collaborate and work together to solve the global marine plastic problem.

Total number of registered initiatives: 3,264 (2023.7.22)
example of registration initiatives

Introduction of garbage bags that use 25% biomass materials and 75% recycled plastic

©東大阪市
(製造・販売：野添産業株式会社)



Ballpoint pen made from recycled marine plastic waste

©パイロットコーポレーション



Offering straw-free lids and FSC®-certified paper cups for 70% of standard ice beverages

©スターバックスコーヒー・ジャパン



Take-out containers that can be used repeatedly

©O'TREE



Initiative for International Cooperation

Japan has launched the “**MARINE Initiative**” to advance effective actions to combat marine plastic litter at a global scale focusing on;

- (1) **M**anagement of wastes
- (2) **R**ecovery of marine litter
- (3) **I**nnovation
- (4) **E**mpowerment

Under this initiative, Japan supports empowerment in developing countries, through the following concrete policy measures.

1. International Cooperation including bilateral ODA and assistance through international organizations
2. International Operations by Japanese companies, NGOs, and local governments
3. Dissemination and Sharing of Best Practices of Measures



Technical Cooperation



Capacity Building



Waste-to-energy plant



Marine biodegradable plastics

https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ge/page25e_000317.html

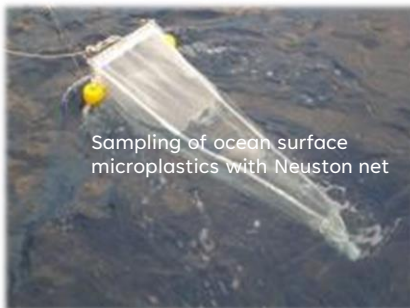
Training Program on Monitoring Methods

JAPAN is contributing to the international harmonization of marine plastic litter monitoring methods.

Number of participants

| FY2017 | | FY2018 | | FY2019 | | FY2020 | | FY2021 | |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Indonesia | 1 | Indonesia | 1 | Indonesia | 4 | Indonesia | 5 | Indonesia | 10 |
| Thailand | 2 | Thailand | 1 | Vietnam | 3 | Vietnam | 4 | Vietnam | 6 |
| P.R. China | 2 | | | Cambodia | 1 | Thailand | 4 | Thailand | 6 |
| | | | | Thailand | 1 | Myanmar | 4 | Myanmar | 5 |
| Total | 5 persons | Total | 2 persons | Total | 9 persons | Total | 17 persons | Total | 27 persons |

Snapshots of the training



Summary

- Addressing global triple crisis requires a transformation towards carbon neutral, circular and nature positive economies.
- Japan is taking the whole life cycle approach to address plastic pollution with the Plastic Resource Circulation Act.
- Engagement of all stakeholders is a key.
- Japan will take a lead in developing the global treaty as well as supporting countries in need on the ground.

Thank you for your attention!