

# NEWSLETTER

NO. 2

May 1991

**THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF WASTE MANAGEMENT EXPERTS**

*This Newsletter is printed on recycled paper.*

## **Proposed Revisions of Japanese Laws on Solid Waste Management and Planned Legislation on Waste Recycling**

Solid waste management in Japan is governed by the Public Cleansing Law 1971, while waste recycling is promoted by some other laws in view of recycling reusable resources rather than managing waste.

Since the Public Cleansing Law was enacted 20 years ago, various problems have arisen with respect to both municipal and industrial waste. Problems with municipal waste include increases of waste amount particularly of paper waste due to generalization of office automation, increases in waste which is difficult to dispose, and diversification of waste types, while problems with industrial waste include rapid increases of waste, increasing difficulty in securing disposal sites, and increasing practices of illegal dumping.

Ministry of Health and Welfare has recently drafted revisions of the existing Public Cleansing Law for drastic solution of the problems. Major points of the proposed revisions include the following:

- 1) Clarification of responsibility of people, enterprises, national government and local public bodies
- 2) Stipulation of new legal requirements, on the part of the above mentioned parties, of preparing plans for waste disposal and for volume reduction
- 3) Promotion of waste reduction and recycling
- 4) Strengthening of enforcement of regulations requiring manufacturers' cooperation with local governments
- 5) Strengthening of control of toxic or infectious or other special waste
- 6) Designation of legal persons responsible for inter-prefectural management of solid waste



*A Recycling Box Placed in the Office of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Japan. All the papers used in the office are put into recycling boxes which are divided into three parts inside for papers, newspapers and magazines respectively. There are about 300 recycling boxes in the whole office building.*

On the other hand, 7 governmental bodies including Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Construction, and Environment Agency have drafted a new law for the promotion of recycling reusable resources for production, which contains the following points:

- 1) Clarification of responsibility of private enterprises, consumers, national government and local public bodies.
- 2) Designation of types of business responsible for utilization of reusable resources
- 3) Designation of kinds of products subject to utilization of reusable resources
- 4) Designation of kinds of products on which some indication should be placed for the promotion of reutilization
- 5) Designation of types of by-products (waste) which should be reutilized



## Japanese Municipalities on Move (1)

### *"Tokyo Slim" — A Campaign for Waste Recycling and Reduction*

This column will introduce some municipalities, in series, which have been uniquely tackling with waste problems. As the first time of the series, we introduce Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) which initiated "Tokyo Slim" — a campaign aiming at waste recycling and reduction through citizens' cooperation.

#### **Background:**

Municipal waste generated in the TMG's urban area has increased 6 % per year in recent years. Its annual amount was 4.9 million ton (1.7 kg/person/day) in 1989. If it increases at this rate, the landfill site currently used will be full in 1995 at the latest. Yet, there is not much prospect that TMG will be able to secure new landfill sites immediately. It is in this situation that TMG started the campaign in 1989.

#### **Citizens' Cooperation Required:**

Residents are asked to:

- 1) Recycle and reduce solid waste within households and communities.
- 2) Reconsider the life style which produces a lot of waste.

Enterprises are asked to:

- 1) Reuse paper once used in each office, and use recycled paper.
- 2) Develop and/or choose goods and packing materials which can be easily recycled.
- 3) Separate recyclable materials from non-recyclable waste in each office in order to facilitate recycling.
- 4) Expand and strengthen the existing recycling system.

#### **Means of the Campaign:**

TMG uses mass media such as TV and radio. In addition, campaign posters are put in trains and buses.

#### **Citizens' Reaction to the Campaign:**

Both residents and enterprises seem to be interested in the campaign. Recycling activities

are more active than before at all levels: households, offices and communities.

## Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the Field of Water Supply & Sanitation

Since International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD) started under the UN initiative in 1980, Japan has made an increasing international contribution in this field as shown below:

#### Experts Dispatched

YEAR	75-79	80-84	85-89
Long-term	11	22	48
Short-term	34	74	182
Total (persons)	45	96	230

#### Trainees Accepted

YEAR	75-79	80-84	85-89
Group	109	141	128
Individual	44	34	261
Total (persons)	153	175	389

#### Development Study (Engineering Service)

YEAR	75-79	80-84	85-89
Water Supply	4	8	7
Sanitation	0	3	5
Total (number)	4	11	12

#### Grant Project

YEAR	75-79	80-84	85-89
Number	11	39	83
Amount (¥billion)	5	25	59

#### Loan Project

YEAR	75-79	80-84	85-89
Number	11	17	29
Amount (¥billion)	31	50	142

## Registered Members of JSWME (As of Feb. 1991)

Regular Members	1,667
Student Members	20
Non-Profit Organization Members	67
Corporate Members	184
Total	1,938



### Discount Fee Rates for Members from Developing Countries

Those residing outside Japan may become a member of JSWME filling in and returning the attached application form to the secretariat of JSWME. Membership fees (7,000 yen/year\*member) will have to be remitted, in Japanese Yen or in equivalent U.S. dollar amount, through any of the major overseas banking facilities to the JSWME current account. Discount fee rates are available for the members from developing countries. Namely, nationals of low-income, lower-middle-income and higher-middle-income economies may be given membership fee rates of 2,000 yen/year, 3,000 yen/year and 4,000 yen/year respectively by ticking the corresponding answers in the application form. In each remittance (except the case of International Postal Money Order), 2,000 yen should be added to the membership fees to cover the cost of check cashing.

### JSWME Activities in 1990

27 Mar. '90: The JSWME was formally established with 919 initial registered regular members.

15 Mar. '90: Issued the first Society News in Japanese, which are expected to serve as a close communication tool among members and governing board officials.

24 July '90: Organized the first field observation trip for the Society members. 179 members participated to observe the Shizuoka Numagami landfill site.

30 July '90: Published the first Journal of JSWME. This includes technical papers and some information from the Society.

6 Aug. '90: Invited Dr. Carl R. Bartone, senior environmental specialist, the World Bank to the first seminar; "International Cooperation in Solid Waste Management Sector" organized by the Society.

6-16 Sep. '90: Organized the first overseas

observation team to participate in the Dioxin '90 and Enviro '90.

28 Oct. '90: Hold a discussion session "Citizen Involvement in Recycling" with consumers and communities. Many people actively participated in the discussion.

29-30 Oct. '90: Organized the first annual conference. The special lecture and 2 symposiums were held. 14 papers presentation sessions including 97 papers attracted about 1000 participants.

1 Nov. '90: Published the first English Newsletter, which was delivered to all members and 200 overseas experts.

9-17 Nov. '90: Organized the second overseas observation trip to participate in the Pacific Basin Conference held at the East-West Center of Hawaii University.

28 Feb. '91: Organized the second international seminar to discuss "Recent topics in Landfilling of Solid Wastes in U.S. and Europe" with the help of the National Institute of Environmental Studies.

25 Mar. '91: Held the second JSWME assembly in Tokyo.

### Journal of the Japan Society of Waste Management Experts Vol. 2., No. 1 Jan. 1991

This volume contains the following two technical papers (written in Japanese with English abstract):  
**Survey of Noncombustible and Bulky Waste Generation by the Use of Video Recording**

by Toshihiko MATSUMOTO,  
Nobutoshi TANAKA,  
Takayuki MATSUO,  
Masanori KOBARI and  
Keiichi KOYAMA

**Chemical Composition of the Ash Produced from Municipal Incinerators and the Analogy of the Behavior of 36 Elements**

by Akiko KIDA,  
Yukio NOMA and  
Kenzo KOUNOBE



## Recent Publication

Administrative Documents:

### A Prospect of Future Waste Disposal Based on "Tokyo Long-term Plan"

(Subtitle: Formulation of an Environment Prioritized Society, An Urgent Plan and a Prospect to the 21st Century)

Tokyo Metropolitan Government TMG has prepared a long-term city plan emphasizing recycle-intensive and environmentally harmonized city. This is an extract from the plan related to waste management, and at the same time a brief introduction for the waste management strategy of TMG.

(Solid Waste Problem Project Team, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, The Journal of Urbanity and Waste, Vol. 20, No. 12)

### Guidelines on Disposal of Construction Waste

These guidelines are to be used by business establishments for proper disposal, volume reduction and recycling of construction waste. (Ministry of Health and Welfare, 29 May, 1990)

Investigation Reports:

### Voluntary Recycling Campaign of One-Way Bottles

The report introduces citizens' voluntary activities for recycling bottles in two medium-sized cities in Tokyo Metropolitan Region.

(Editorial staff, The Journal of Urbanity and Waste, Vol. 20, No. 12)

### Survey on Demand for and Supply of Reusable Plastic Waste

This report studied plastic waste with respect to its generation sources, characteristics, reutilization and problems.

(Clean Japan Center (CJC) & Association for Plastics Disposal Promotion, Monthly Waste, Vol. 16, No. 184)

## A Brief Note on Solid Waste Disposal in Japan (2) Changes in Waste Quality

The figure below shows changes of waste quality in Kawasaki City located next to Tokyo. The city has approx. one million population. Waste calories (low heat values) have been doubled during the past 20 years with 1930 kcal/kg in 1989. In terms of percentages, paper and plastics have been increasing, while garbage and water content have been decreasing. In 1989, percentages of respective contents were as follows: paper 44.4 %, garbage 7.7 % and plastics 13.7 % on wet base; water content 42.2 %.

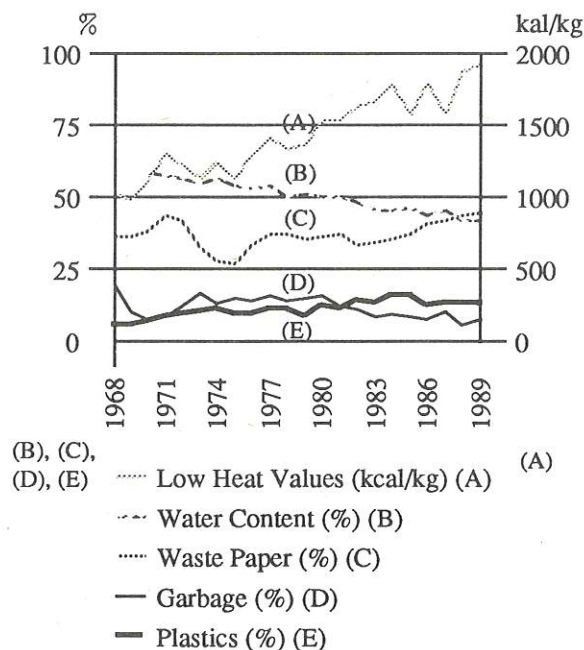


Fig. Changes in Waste Quality

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