Japan’s Actions for Marine Plastic Litter

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OECD Workshop
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G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019

- Osaka Blue Ocean Vision
- G20 Implementation Framework
Outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit

Osaka Blue Ocean Vision

- G20 leaders shared the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision as a common global vision
- They also called on other members of the international community to share this vision for protecting the world's oceans

“We aim to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 through a comprehensive life-cycle approach that includes reducing the discharge of mismanaged plastic litter by improved waste management and innovative solutions while recognizing the important role of plastics for society.”

G20 Implementation Framework

- Adopted on G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth
- Also endorsed by G20 Osaka Summit

“We also endorse the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter.”
G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter

Facilitating the Effective Implementation

➢ Promoting a life-cycle approach including sound waste management, marine litter cleaned up, promotion and deployment of innovative solutions, and international cooperation in order to support each countries in strengthening their capacity.

➢ Sharing and updating information on relevant policies, plans and measures. Utilizing opportunities of G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue for the first info sharing.

Collaboration among G20 members and outreach activities

➢ Promotion of international cooperation
➢ Promotion of innovative solutions
➢ Sharing scientific information and knowledge
➢ Multi-stakeholder involvement and awareness raising

Voluntary actions by the G20 members
Reinforcing efforts in line with the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter
Information sharing and continued updating
Outcomes of G20 RE Dialogue 2019 and Follow-up of G20 Implementation Framework on MPL

Date and Location: 8-11th October 2019, Tokyo/Japan
Organizers: MOEJ (METI, UNU-IAS, IGES)
Participants: G20 and Outreach countries
International Organizations, Academia (app. 100 participants)

- Prepared G20 Report on Actions against MPL, based on information provided from G20 members, for initial information sharing and peer learning in accordance with the G20 Implementation Framework.
- Developed a Roadmap for G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue by consensus as a guidance to effectively promote the future activities of the G20 RE Dialogue.
- Joint initiatives of MOEJ, EU DG Environment and USEPA to voluntarily take a lead in further elaborating key issues (such as ‘sources, pathways and impacts’ by EU DG Environment; ‘harmonized monitoring and data compilation’ by MOEJ; ‘innovative solutions’ by USEPA) by holding workshops.
- Contribution of relevant international organizations to advance their work relevant to the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision and the G20 Implementation Framework.
Harmonized Monitoring Methods for MPL

Background

- Marine litter, including microplastics, is a very urgent matter. Measures against marine litter and microplastics need to be considered and taken, based upon scientific knowledge.
- Understanding the actual state of marine litter is important.
- Comparing reported microplastic abundances, however, was difficult due to variations in monitoring methods.

- **Harmonization** of monitoring methods
- **Exploration** how to compare existing data

The Guidelines is available on the MOEJ website and Ocean Best Practice website of IODE.


For the next step, monitoring data performed globally will be compiled.
Japan’s Strategy for Marine Plastic Litter

- Basic Policy based on the Act on Promoting the Treatment of Marine Debris
- Resource Circulation Strategy for Plastics

Life-cycle Approach

- Intensified Collection and appropriate treatment of waste plastics
- 3R: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Innovation
- National Movements
- Accumulation of scientific knowledge

Realize the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision”
Strengthening cooperation with local governments

Five model projects for marine litter measures

- **Toyama**: Installation and operation of nets

- **Kumamoto**: Strengthen efforts in collaboration with related organizations such as agriculture and fisheries

- **Wakayama**: Installation and operation of surveillance cameras

- **Hakodate**: Awareness raising by posting ads on trains and buses

- **Yokkaichi**: Garbage station measures

Based on this year’s result, a guideline is planned to be created.
Cooperation with fishermen

**Fisheries Agency**
- Requesting cooperation and advice through local governments, fishery-related organizations, etc.

**Ministry of the Environment (MOE)**
- Requesting cooperation from local governments
- Providing support through the project to promote regional actions on washed-ashore litter

**Fishermen**
- Taking ashore marine litter recovered during fishing

**Local governments**
- Consider specific implementation methods together with relevant parties, including fishermen, and establish a system to accept and dispose of litter.

Example of system to accept and dispose of litter:
- Photos: courtesy of Kanagawa Prefecture

Carried out in 23 prefectures out of 47
To achieve Osaka Blue Ocean Vision aiming to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050,

Developing **national action plans** is effective.

In Japan, **Resource Circulation Strategy for Plastics**, of which concept is **3Rs+Renewable**, with ambitious milestones was established.

Japan’s strategy is expected to contribute to solve issues, including resource and waste constraints, marine plastic, and climate change, both nationally and globally.
Importance of Scenario Analysis

Different setting of each country
- Plastic usage conditions
- Recycling and waste treatment capacity, etc.

Japan’s global supports include;
- creation of national action plans and/or national strategies
- dissemination and awareness of collection of separated garbage
- Waste-to-energy plant constructed under the support of Japan

Scenario analysis taking into account its diversity is crucial.
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Appendix
Resource Circulation Strategy for Plastics

Key Strategies

**Basic Principle:** “3Rs + Renewable”
- Reduce
- Recycling
- Recycled materials
- Bio-plastics
- Marine Plastic Litter
- International Cooperation
- Infrastructure development

**Milestone**

**<Reduce>**
1. Cumulative reduction of **25%** of single-use plastics by **2030**

**<Reuse/Recycle>**
2. Reusable/recyclable design by **2025**
3. Reuse/recycle **60%** of containers and packaging by **2030**
4. **100%** effective use of used plastics by **2035**

**<Recycling and Bio-Plastics>**
5. **Double** the use of recycled amount by **2030**
6. Introduce **2 million tons** of bio-plastics by **2030**

- Not only **solve worldwide resource and environmental issues**, but also contribute to **economic growth and employment creation**
  ⇒ **Contribute to sustainable development**
- **Promote** investment and innovation of technology and consumer lifestyle through collaboration with all the stakeholders
Effective measures to realize a world without additional pollution by plastic litter.

① Promotion of proper waste management system
② Prevention of littering, illegal dumping and unintentional leakage of waste into the oceans
③ Collection of scattered waste on land
④ Collection of plastic litter in the oceans
⑤ Innovation in development of alternative materials
⑥ Collaboration with stakeholders
⑦ International cooperation with emerging countries by sharing best practices
⑧ Research on actual situations and development of scientific knowledge