

SANITATION COUNTRY PROFILE

JAPAN

Countries usually report on the issue of sanitation from a broader perspective than just basic sanitation (i.e. excreta disposal systems such as sewage, latrines etc.), to include disposal of other types of wastes such as solid, hazardous and radioactive wastes, the preparation of the Draft Country Profile on sanitation has adopted this approach. Consequently, sanitation is viewed as an integral concept that involves the adequate management and disposal of different types of wastes with a view to minimizing harmful effects to human health and the environment. Different types of wastes include: a) water-borne wastes such as residual waters and discharge from point and non-point sources of pollution (e.g. disposal of urban sewage, run-off from industrial and agricultural processes into water courses and/or oceans); b) solid wastes such as garbage and scrap from domestic, industrial or agricultural sources; c) hazardous wastes, including chemical and biological wastes; and d) radioactive wastes resulting from nuclear plants, hospitals, laboratories or industrial processes. The Draft Sanitation Country Profile covers these different types of wastes.

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- C. Hazardous Wastes
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- A. Basic Sanitation
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- A. Basic Sanitation
- B. Solid Wastes

- C. Hazardous Wastes
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- A. Basic Sanitation
- B. Solid Wastes
- C. Hazardous Wastes
- D. Radioactive Wastes

Cooperation

- A. Basic Sanitation
- B. Solid Wastes
- C. Hazardous Wastes
- D. Radioactive Wastes

Decision-Making:

A. Basic Sanitation: The disposal of night soil is conducted in accordance with the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law. The Government strictly regulates effluent from industries and public sectors according to their types and sizes and promotes the construction of sewage treatment facilities and *Johkasou* for household waste water. In addition, plans for the conservation of water quality for selected lakes have been established including such measures as dredging contaminated sediment. Standards have also been developed for the registration of agricultural chemicals with respect to their residue in crops and water pollution.

B. Solid Wastes:

<Waste management and Public Cleaning Law, etc.>

The disposal of waste is conducted in accordance with the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law. The Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law was enacted in 1970 for the purpose of preserving the living environment and public health through reducing the waste generation, ensuring appropriate waste management (e.g., sorting, storage, collection, transport, recycling, disposal) and conservation of a clean living environment. The latest amendment was enforced in December 2003.

In 1991 a Council for the Promotion of Recycling was established to bring together industrial and consumer organizations in this field. With the wide-ranging amendments of the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law in 1992, the basic policy is to promote the planned disposal of wastes, and Japan is enforcing measures to reduce wastes, including the promotion of appropriate packaging for goods, packaging reuse, composting and the segregation and separate collection of recyclable waste. In September 1992, in order to promote the reduction of waste, a National Conference for the Promotion of the Reduction in the Amount of Garbage was established.

In accordance with the Five-Year Plan for Waste Treatment Facilities Improvement which was started in 2003, local authorities have decided to reduce the disposal amount of municipal waste to 97% in 2007, by means of incineration, segregation, and composting. In May 1992, Japan established the Law Regarding the Promotion of the Construction of Specified Facilities for the Disposal of Industrial Waste to give due consideration to the importance of maintaining waste disposal facilities for environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes.

Law on Special Measures concerning Removal of Environmental Problems Caused by Specified Industrial Wastes was established in February, 2003. Inappropriate disposal of industrial wastes, such as illegal dumping, has caused environmental problems in the past, and public distrust regarding the management of industrial wastes is threatening to impede the establishment of a sound material-cycle society. The law will enable prefectural governments to receive financial support from the national government and to conduct special measures, including the issuance of local bonds, for a certain period of time, in order to cover costs necessary to carry out removal programs systematically and steadily.

< Fundamental Law for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society >

In 2000 Fundamental Law for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society was established to promote comprehensive and systematic policies for establishing a sound material-cycle society. A Sound Material-Cycle Society, in which the consumption of natural resources is minimized and the environmental load is reduced as much as possible, is established by promoting reduction, reuse, recycling, heat recovery and appropriate disposal. Accordingly Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society was established in March 2003. Numerical targets for establishing a sound material-cycle are set in this plan: resource productivity, cyclical use rate and final disposal amount as targets for indicators based on material flow accounts, targets for indices related to efforts including reduction of households waste per person per day and promotion of the business concerning to establish a sound material-cycle society.

<Laws for recycling, etc.>

In October 1991, Law for Promotion of Utilization of Recyclable Resources, the Law on Temporary Measures to Promote Business Activities for the Rational Use of Energy and the Utilization of Recycling Resources, and the amended 1991 Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law. The 1990 Guidelines that were developed from the report of the Subcommittee for Industrial Structure on measures to address waste management and recycling of resources are applied and reviewed on an annual basis. In 1995, “Law for the Promotion of Sorted Collection, and Recycling of Containers and Packaging” was established to encourage the establishment of new recycling and packaging systems under the each responsibility of consumers, local governments and producers. There are, in addition, standards and regulations that apply. These include: The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Section of the Council for Industrial Structure established guidelines by item (23 items at present) and industry (11 industries at present) in 1990, and has stimulated the industry sector to voluntarily engage in waste management and resource recovery.

Law for the Recycling of Specified Kinds of Home Appliances was enacted in June 1998 for the purpose of ensuring appropriate waste management and efficient material usage through obliging the retailers to collect and transport the specific household appliance (e.g., TV sets, refrigerators, air conditioner, electric washers) and the manufactures (including importers) to recycling them.

In 2000 Law for the Recycling of Construction Materials was established to effective and efficient recycle of construction waste which is approximately 20% of the total generation amounts and 30% of the final disposal amounts of industrial waste. In 2000, Law for the Promotion of the Utilization of Recyclable Food Resources was established to restrain generation of food wastes, reduce the amount of food wastes, and recycle them as animal feed or manure. In 2002 Law for the Recycling of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs) was established in order to treat ELVs properly and utilize them effectively as resources, which is scheduled to enforce in January 2005.

C. Hazardous Wastes: Japan strictly enforces the Basel Convention by means of proper implementation of the relevant domestic laws and regulations including, in particular, the Law on the Control of Export and Import Specified Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes which has specifically been enacted for the purpose of implementing the Basel Convention. A penalty regime has been established against illegal transactions of wastes.

Local authorities represented by prefectural governors and mayors of cities, towns and villages have been given the power to instruct businesses, which generate a large amount of wastes, to draw up plans for waste reduction. In accordance with the October 1991 amendments of the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law, each of the individual prefectures has the power to designate a waste treatment public center for disposing of specially controlled wastes.

The Law for the Promotion of the Environment Sound Destruction of PCB Waste has been enacted and the Law Concerning the Japan Environment Corporation (JEC) has been amended in response to the urgent need to establish systems for the treatment of the PCB wastes in order to promote reliable and proper treatment. These two laws have prepared the framework for PCB waste treatment. The Law for the Promotion of the Environmentally Sound Destruction of PCB Waste came into effect on 15 July 2001.

D. Radioactive Wastes: Legislation concerning the safe management of radioactive wastes includes the Law for the Regulation of Nuclear Source Material, Nuclear Fuel Material and Reactors, and the Law concerning Prevention from Radiation Hazards due to Radio-Isotopes, etc.

Programmes and Projects:

A. Basic Sanitation: *Water pollution*: EQSs for surface water (23 substances) are satisfied in most areas.

The budget allocated to rural sewerage projects has been increasing in order to enable these areas to catch up with medium-sized cities with regard to the sewerage penetration ratio. Japan is also promoting the improvement of Johkasous (on-site treatment systems of domestic wastewater) in towns and villages.

In Japan, 13 billion m³ wastewater was treated at sewerage treatment plants in FY2002. The percentage of population connected to public sewerage was 65% in FY2002. The population ratio of domestic wastewater (night soil and gray water) treatment is 76% in Japan in FY 2002. For aspects related to freshwater, see under the Freshwater Profile.

B. Solid Wastes: In order to construct a socio-economic system with reduced environmental load, Japan is reducing waste amounts by promoting the reuse and recycling of resources as well as limiting the generation of wastes.

C. Hazardous Wastes: To promote the spread of waste disposal facilities, Japan is adopting measures concerning taxation and finances. Japan promotes the prevention and minimization of hazardous waste by continuing to provide technological and financial assistance to prefectural governments which enforce the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law, and by strengthening institutional capacities in hazardous waste management.

D. Radioactive Wastes: Regarding measures for the treatment and disposal of radioactive wastes, Japan abides by such international arrangements as Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Dumping of Wastes and other Matter.

Status: *Socio-economic aspects*: Poverty is not an issue in Japan. The population in Japan has remained the same since 1994, at 125 million. There has been a national debate on population/environment linkages both in parliament and at the government level. Among the activities that Japan attaches importance to in this area are the following: (1) promotion of the settlement of population in rural areas through the development of those areas, and (2) continuing research, begun in 1993, into the relationship between demographic trends and socio-economic conditions and their effects on environmental problems in the region of Asia and the Pacific.

With brisk industrial and commercial activities in urban areas, there is concern over the deterioration of various aspects of the living environment, including the air and water, which accompany concentrations in population. Japan is therefore currently devising a variety of pollution prevention and clean-up measures to promote public health. In addition, Japan is making an effort to compensate sufferers of pollution-related health damage. In rural areas, Japan has established Rural Medical Examination Centers to compensate for the lack of sufficient medical institutions. Japan continues to promote measures to deal with contagious diseases and protection of vulnerable groups.

Topography: Forests cover about 25 million hectares or about 70% of Japan's national land area. Of the entire forested area, planted forests make up 10 million hectares accounting for 41% and natural forests and others make up 15 million hectares accounting for 59%. The current growing stock is about 3.8 billion m³ with an average annual growth of 80 million m³ consisting mainly of planted forest, which mostly require further tending and thinning. The national forests cover 7.6 million hectares, approximately 20% of Japan's land area or about 30% of the entire forest area. A large portion of the national forests is located in the backbone mountain ranges or upstream water reservoir areas, including pristine natural forests. The recent policy reform resulted in an increase in the area of the national forests

managed primarily for social objectives, from 50% to 80% of total forest areas. These objectives include water resource management, soil conservation, recreational use and environment protection.

There are no deserts or areas in danger of becoming deserts in Japan. Floods, avalanches, landslides and earthquakes are serious problems for Japan. The number of hazardous spots of mountainous disasters due to slope failure, landslide, and debris flow and land creep increased from 131,000 in 1978, to 205,000 in 1992.

Business and industry deal not only with traditional types of industrial pollution concerning air and water, but also with a wide range of environmental problems, including those of global warming and waste. They play a major role in economic activities, and are expected to play a bigger role in regards to the construction of a sustainable socio-economic system with reduced environmental load. In addition to the measures adopted thus far, Japan also provides economic and institutional assistance to the private sector for the development of technology, facilities and equipment which contribute to the rationalized use of energy in manufacturing processes; promotes various measures in accordance with the Action Program to Arrest Global Warming, the Law concerning the Protection of the Ozone Layer, and the Automobile NOx Reduction Law; develops a system to stimulate the Project for Innovation and Development of Environment and Energy Technologies, which is based on The New Earth 21 Programme; promotes the transfer of technology which contributes to environmental conservation and the creation of a new framework by which recycling can permeate into the existing socio-economic system; participates actively in the creation of internationally harmonized standards of environmental audits; and promotes the development of methods for the objective assessment of the environmental burden imposed on business and industry by environmentally-friendly production processes and products.

A. Basic Sanitation: It is imperative to take measures of hazardous water pollutants other than EQSs for surface water (See under *Programmes and Projects*).

The population ratio of domestic wastewater (night soil and gray water) treatment is 76% in Japan in FY 2002. Improvement of piped sewerage system is slow in small and medium-sized municipalities, and the role of Johkasous (on-site treatment system of domestic wastewater) is increasing.

B. Solid Wastes: According to a waste collection plan, in 1993 the percentage of the total population which receives collection service for general waste had reached 100%. However, when looking at the conditions of disposal, the amount accounted for by direct reclamation was equal to 14.4% of the total amount of waste generated. The amount of household disposal by household was equal to 2.0% of the total. At present, the population ratio of domestic waste water treatment is 51.6%. Improvement of sewerage is slow in small and medium-sized municipalities.

The Basic Environment Plan decided in 1994 by the Cabinet stipulates that a target for waste management and recycling should be developed promptly. For this purpose, a study on this subject has been conducted. By the Law for Promotion of Utilization of Recyclable Resources, designated industries are required to recycle more wastes and by-products in the manufacturing processes. Targets have been set to recycle 56% of waste paper and cullet by 2000 and to reach 65% by 2001. The Law Concerning the Promotion of Procurement of Eco-friendly Goods and Services by the State and Other Entities (Law on Promoting Green Purchasing) fully came into force from FY2001. The Government is to implement green purchasing based on the law to encourage other sectors to follow them, and finally to change their consumption pattern.

C. Hazardous Wastes: See under Solid Wastes.

D. Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The Ministry of the Environment prepares and provides various materials and programmes to help people understand the current state of the environment and to give them incentives to participate in environmental conservation in their daily lives. Furthermore, the Ministry provides various opportunities such as Junior Eco Club to help children voluntarily participate in environmental conservation activities for their communities. To promote activities for communication with nature, the Ministry also establishes networks among the many nature lovers and institution/organizations that offer a wide range of opportunities to communicate with nature, and provides information on their events ("Nature Loves Club"). The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport also provides opportunities to utilize rivers as play fields in cooperation with local communities.

There are a number of programmes or campaigns geared toward raising the awareness of the public with regard to issues of sustainable consumption and production patterns. Some of these are: The Eco Mark Programme: Since 1989, and under the authority of the Ministry of the Environment, the Japan Environment Association has implemented the Eco Mark Programme to raise public awareness. The Eco Mark is a label which is given to products that play leading roles in reducing environmental burdens. As of 31 July, 1997, 2,045 products in 71 categories were permitted to use this Mark; The Green Purchasing Network: This network was established in February 1996. Its objectives include promoting the concept and the practice of green purchasing at all levels of government, and among companies and consumers; providing useful information about green purchasing in practice and venues for exchanges of experience and information among GPN members. It is intended to assist consumers, enterprises, the National Government, local governments, and other organizations to give more serious considerations on environment when purchasing goods and services (not just price, function, and quality) and to assign a higher priority to such goods and services as are helpful in reducing environmental burdens. As of the end of October 1997, 964 organizations had joined the GPN.

A. Basic Sanitation: No information available.

B. Solid Wastes: Japan conducts reduction of waste and recycling activities with the cooperation of local authorities, citizens and corporations. Japan promotes public awareness of appropriate waste disposal, environmental education and assists voluntary activities among the private sector, through the national government and local authorities, to encourage companies to develop waste reduction and reuse policies. In 1991, with a view to enhancing public awareness, ministries and government agencies declared October of each year as the month for the promotion of 3R (reduction, reuse and recycling).

C. Hazardous Wastes: See under Solid Wastes.

D. Radioactive Wastes: See under Solid Wastes.

Information: The Geographical Survey Institute of Japan receives remote sensing data every day to monitor the state of national land. Every month it produces Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) images in graphic form from the data it receives. The NDVI images are accessible at: http://www1.gsi.go.jp/ch3www/EODAS/ndvi-download_e.html.

The Japanese Government has 1) connected local networks of ministries and agencies to the Internet; 2) provided every official at headquarters of ministries and agency with an Internet connected computer; and 3) established websites of each ministry/agency. These programmes have improved the government officials' literacy on electric information and the condition of access to the information by general public including sustainable development information.

Japan conducts systematic environmental surveys and monitoring to measure the state of chemical residue in the environment, and acts accordingly. The Government collects and publishes the data on water quality, air quality and the discharge of chemicals from facilities into water. The Government has established database for information of chemical substances and makes it available to the public. Several activities about endocrine disrupting chemicals such as development of screening test methods and risk assessment have been promoted in collaboration with relevant ministries. The Ministry of the Environment has announced the “Strategic Programs on Environment Endocrine Disrupters'98” (SPEED'98) (Established in 1998 and revised in the year 2000).

Japan will continue to promote the development and improvement of an indicator system in which environmental factors are appropriately evaluated, and to coordinate this work with the indicators of sustainable development developed under the auspices of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Japan has developed a System of National Accounts (SNA) that includes the Satellite System for Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA), drawing upon the standards contained in the SNA Handbook on Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting of the United Nations. Particular importance is being given to quantitative and qualitative changes in Japan's forest and agricultural resources in this regard.

A. Basic Sanitation: The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and the Geographical Survey Institute of Japan are promoting the Global Mapping project. The Global Map consists of digital geographic information in standardized specifications covering all aspects of the land, such as drainage. Global Map Data are available to anyone at marginal cost. International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) was established with the aim of realizing Global Map and expanding its benefits through international co-operation among national mapping organizations worldwide. Currently 79 UN member countries have joined the activities of ISCGM and 9 countries, including Japan, have completed development of Global Maps and offered the data to the general public through the Internet. Japan plays a leading role as the secretariat of ISCGM. For aspects related to freshwater, see under the Freshwater Profile.

B. Solid Wastes: In general, the Japanese Government has been disseminating the information on major environmental issues. Ministry of the Environment's website is taking a role of portal site of information on sustainable development. Its URL is <http://www.env.go.jp/en>. Governments at both national and local level have provided their officials with training courses for information analysis and management. Examples of the theme of those courses are utilization of remote-sensing data, computer operation, statistical data analysis and handling. The programmes have an emphasis on so-called hardware aspects like mechanical operation and lack of software aspects such as communication theory and interaction with general public etc. Some of local governments have implemented measures such as establishing websites for disseminating environmental information to their citizens and training their citizens how to connect the internet and acquire information through it.

C. Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

D. Radioactive Wastes: A couple of computer-based real-time prediction systems, named SPEEDI and WSPEEDI, are now operated for domestic and world-wide nuclear accidents with accidental releases of radionuclides into the atmosphere.

Research and Technologies: Government research institutes, universities and the business sector carry out Research and development of environmentally-sound technology. In most cases, the cost of environmentally sound technologies is higher than existing technologies. Financial measures including subsidy, or reduction of interest of the loan for plant investment, are very effective means of diffusing

such technologies. Exhibitions of clean and environmentally sound technologies give good opportunities to spread such technologies.

A. Basic Sanitation: Biotechnology is being widely used in such areas of wastewater treatment, and there are new wastewater treatment systems in operation which make use of bioreactors of enzymes and microorganisms. A wastewater treatment system was developed by an application of a new methane fermentation method, i.e. Up flow anaerobic sludge blanket (UASB) method for the waste water from animal barn. The system requires only half electricity in comparison with a conventional method. The technological needs for wastewater treatment include the establishment of advanced sewage treatment technology including denitrification and dephosphorization and of low-cost and multi-purpose waste water treatment technology for small enterprises. For water purification, the needs include the establishment of advanced water treatment technology to cope with recent water pollution problems including cryptosporidium and trihalomethanes.

B. Solid Wastes: Reduction of waste generation, promotion of recycling and improvement of energy efficiency are priority areas. The Government has been promoting research and development on life-cycle assessment to find method to evaluate the environmental impacts of a product throughout its product life, i.e. extraction of raw materials, manufacture, and consumption and disposal of it. Reduction of wastes generation and the promotion of recycling is the most prioritized area to exert efforts.

C. Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

D. Radioactive Wastes: See under *Cooperation*.

Financing:

A. Basic Sanitation: The estimated cost for sanitation, it is 23.7 trillion yen to increase the coverage of the sewage treatment plant from 54% to 65% (from FY1996 to FY2002). Public sources are principal for activities aiming at the reduction of dioxins emission from waste incinerators. For aspects related to freshwater, see under the Freshwater Profile.

B. Solid and Hazardous Wastes: As an incentive to properly dispose and recycle, Japan has adopted measures for special tax redemptions in regards to facilities for disposing and recycling, as well as financial measures for low-interest financing through governmental financial agencies.

C. Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Cooperation: On the occasion of the Third World Water Forum held on March 2003 in Kyoto, Japan launched an Initiative for Japan's ODA on Water. For drinking water and sanitation, for which the targets were set by the Millennium Development Goals and the at World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Japan has been by far the top donor among the bilateral donors and international institutions, providing about US\$1 billion, a third of the average (about US\$3 billion) of the total ODA financial flow from during the period between 1999 and 2001. Japan will continue these efforts and, in particular, focus on the following 3 salient measures.

- (a) Japan provides assistance for safe drinking water and basic sanitation to poor countries and regions including Africa, which are suffering from shortages. For this purpose, Japan has established the "Grant Aid for Water Security," and 16 billion yen was earmarked in the FY2003 budget for this scheme.
- (b) In FY 2002 Japan started to apply loan aid with the lowest concessional condition ever made (the current interest rate is 0.75% as a general rule) to projects such as the water supply systems, water pollution control facilities.

- (c) Japan provides assistance for capacity-building to approximately 1000 people over the next five years from FY 2003 in order to improve the developing countries' capacity for planning, management, and control in the field of water supply system and sewage system.

Japan is also active in building and strengthening international partnerships with other donors. Japan and U.S. will cooperate in West Africa and Asia under the Clean Water for People Initiative launched at the WSSD in 2002. On the occasion of Third World Water Forum, Japan and France agreed to cooperate in supporting the Senegal River basin, Djibouti and Laos.

The Government is also involved in the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research to provide necessary governmental support to the scientific process of reducing uncertainties related to global change; and activities related to various bilateral environment or science and technology agreements. (As of November 1996, there were four bilateral environmental cooperation agreements and seventeen bilateral science and technology agreements). Having experienced serious pollution in the past, Japan has actively promoted scientific research to address the problems of domestic pollution. It actively participates in worldwide research projects, including the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Programme (HDP), and the Technology Renaissance for Environment and Energy, as well as in such scientific assessment activities as those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It also carries out related interdisciplinary research. Furthermore, Japan contributes to regional development, including the construction of a research network for the promotion of effective research in the Asia-Pacific region.

Promotion of observation and scientific research is beneficial to developing countries in their efforts to improve the prediction of climate change and to mitigate the impact of natural disasters. The important role of Earth observation in solving global environmental issues and the importance of strengthening international cooperation in this area have been stressed in the Implementation Plan of the WSSD, the Ministerial Declaration of the Third World Water Forum held in March 2003, and the Action Plan of Evian G8 Summit. As a result of the Earth Observation Summit (EOS) I on July 31, 2003, it was declared that a 10-year Implementation Plan for a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observation system or systems will be prepared. Japan will host EOS II on April 25, 2004, which will become an important milestone in the process of strengthening international cooperation, by adopting the Framework of the Plan. Against these background, Japan is co-operating with various countries and international organizations in the following fields; i) ocean observation, including the North East Asia Region GOOS, the ARGO project, deployment of the TRITON buoys and Ocean Drilling, ii) terrestrial observation, including observations of the Asian monsoon jointly with meteorological communities in other countries.

A. Basic Sanitation: Japan provides assistance to developing countries to improve the water supply and sanitation systems. Japan has dispatched experts and provided training courses such as the "Water Supply Management Seminar".

B. Solid Wastes: Japan promotes international cooperation in solid waste. Japan has dispatched experts and provided training courses, such as the "Training Course on Solid Waste Management".

C. Hazardous Wastes: Japan signed and ratified The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal in 1993.

Japan promotes close international cooperation and works with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, UNEP, and the Regional Economic Commissions. In addition, Japan is promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the management of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes.

D. Radioactive Wastes: Japan will continue to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Japan considers that, in addition to promoting the reduction of radioactive wastes, it is necessary to take measures for their appropriate treatment and disposal. In this regard, and based on the Long-Term Programme for Research Development and Utilization of Nuclear Energy, Japan promotes various measures including those for ensuring financial resources, promoting research and development, and strengthening international cooperation. Japan acceded in August 2003 to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

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