

Approaches in the International Interchange Activities of JW
- Toward the Formation of Networks with Asian Countries and Regions -

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International Affairs Division
Japan Industrial Waste Information Center

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1. Introduction

At G8 Meeting in 2004, “3R Initiative” was advocated by the former Prime Minister Koizumi. Based on this, the Ministerial and the Senior Officials Meetings were held. And with results of these Meetings, “Kobe 3R Action Plan” was agreed at G8 Environment Ministers Meeting.

Upon the above, Asia 3R Conference was held at Tokyo in 2006, and their efforts toward the building of a Material Cycled Society in Asia and Pacific Ocean Region were agreed. Then, “Asia 3R Promotion Forum” was taken off and the first meeting was held at Tokyo in November 2009. In the efforts toward the building of a Material Cycled Society by Asia 3R Promotion Forum, Japan is expected to take the leadership with its experiences and knowledge developed thus far. In this context, national policies in Japan are implemented along this line.

Japan Industrial Waste Technology Center, hereafter called “JW” has undertaken activities such as the provisions of education and training courses for personnel related to the Waste Management Law, the operation and management of the e-manifest system, survey and research, the dissertation of guidelines and manuals, and publication in the field of hazardous and industrial wastes management for 20 years since its establishment. The control of hazardous waste is an essential issue in order to promote the 3R policies in developing countries and thus the experiences and knowledge accumulated by JW may be usable for the advancement of the management.

At JW, in order to further promote the international interchange activities, a new Division managing its international activities was created in April 2008. In this report, the current activities and JW’s approaches to the future are outlined. Key considerations in undertaking these are also presented.

2. Framework of the international interchange activities and the basic concept

The framework for implementing international interchange activities is shown in Table 1 and the basic concept is as follows:

(1) Interchange with Asian countries and regions

Since in Asian developing countries and regions, Japan is a model when they promote their industrialization, it may rather be easy to use the experiences and knowledge of Japan. In addition, many Japanese companies have overseas premises in these countries and regions and thus supports in the management of hazardous waste are a kind of subject which Japan should address.

(2) Focus on hazardous waste

Based on experiences and information on hazardous waste management, and achievements in the education and training of personnel involved and the provision of seminars, JW will effectively implement international interchange activities.

(3) Interchange beneficial for Japan

JW will contribute to increase business chances for Japanese enterprises involved by providing useful information and also to the harmonization of the systems developed by each country or region in Asia by providing experiences in implementing effective policies such as the industrial waste management and the e-manifest operation.

Table 1 Framework for promoting international interchange at JW

Item	Description
Basic concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Interchange with Asian countries and regions · Focus on hazardous waste management · Interchange beneficial for Japan
Specific cooperation scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Collection of information on industrial waste · Firsthand observation in developing countries and regions · Provision of useful information to developing countries and regions · Promotion of specific bilateral interchange on industrial waste management · Assisting to international cooperation agencies, governments, academic societies and etc.
Goal	Functional status as an Asian Information Center for Industrial Waste Management

3. Activities to date and mid-term approaches beyond

Based on the outline shown above, JW carries out the following specific activities.

(1) Collection and Processing of information

JW currently collect information on industrial and hazardous wastes through literature survey, internet searching, international conference attendance, and firsthand observation, and will continue to systematically collect and process the followings:

- 1) Actual picture of the generation and disposal of waste
- 2) State-of-the Art of facility development and treatment technology
- 3) Policies (legal system, incentives and etc.)

Classification and definition of waste, and the responsible actor for the management

Legal systems (business license, facility standard, management standard, guideline and manual, manifest system, qualification and training system, and etc.

Control system for export/import waste (relevant to Basel Convention)

Proper management of medical waste

(2) Provision of useful information

JW put up the English page in its homepage (Fig.1) in March 2010 and provides information related to waste management in Japan thus far. JW will further enrich it by uploading the above listed information and others steadily.



Fig.1 JW homepage English site [JW Information]

JW will provide an information interchange platform shared by Asian countries and regions through the information delivering and exchange efforts where information of the actual picture, the policies and the examples of practice on waste management in each country and region will be gathered. Hence, the platform will be used as a tool for promoting multilateral communication.

(3) Formation of network

In order to carry out smooth information collection and mutual visiting survey, JW will take the effort to build up bilateral exchange relation with an entity performing activities similar to those of JW in each Asian country or region.

The sign on the memorandum of understanding (MOU) on mutual exchange between JW and Korea Environment and Resources Corporation (now Korea Environment Corporation, KECO) in August 2008 is an example of the pioneer work (Photo.1). The objective of the sign is to contribute together in promoting industrial waste management and the implementation of the e-manifest in Asian region through mutual information exchange based on the stronger relation between the both.

Through building up such a bilateral relation with a certain entity of each country, JW will form a network for the promoting overall interchange on waste management in Asia.



Photo.1 Attendees in the ceremony of MOU signing at ENVICO

(4) Firsthand observation

The purpose of firsthand observations is to make face-to-face information exchange on waste management, and also to observe the current situation and obtain necessary information by visiting entities relevant to industrial waste management in developing countries and regions in Asia. As to the necessary information, JW

currently prioritizes the one related to the e-manifest implementation. JW will pursue the program of the firsthand observation in this respect.

The countries and regions that implement the e-manifest or the electronic consignment note in Asia are Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore besides Japan¹⁾. In addition, China is now studying the e-manifest implementation with the experiences in the City of Beijing, Dalian city and Shaanxi province in which the e-manifest has already implemented concurrently with the paper manifest.

For realizing an Asian Material Cycled Society, the development of the advanced traceability system using Information Technology (IT) for tracking waste and recyclable materials may be required to control their transboundary movement or to ensure their proper management. The mutual use of the e-manifest information owned independently by Asian countries and regions may be the most feasible option. JW will contribute to minimize improper treatments in the transboundary movement of waste and recyclable materials, and promote 3R policies through the cooperation in developing such a system.

(5) Assisting to international activities provided by other organizations

As the specific policies of 3R, SWAPI (Society of Solid Waste management Experts in Asia and Pacific Islands) Meeting and Asia 3R Conference are created. The objective of SWAPI Meeting is to form the network of experts for promoting proper management and 3R of waste in Asia and Pacific islands and the first Meeting was held in Tokyo in October 2005. In 2010, the 7th Meeting was held in Taipei in September. JW is and will be closely engaged in the Meeting.

It is well know that JICA has thus far made extensive contribution in the progress of industrial waste management in Asian region. Based on the request from JICA, JW has dispatched experts or research mission members for 10 years. As for assisting service for Asia, the Cycle Economy Promotion Project for China is a recent example. The counterpart of this service is National Center of Solid Waste Management, State Environmental Protection Administration (NCSWM, SEPA). NCSWM is in charge of the promotion of solid waste management policies, and the control of export/import and hazardous wastes (Photo.2)

Since the participation in SWAPI Meeting or assisting JICA activities provide good opportunities for information exchange and interchange with other Asian countries and regions. JW will continue to do this kind of activities as necessary.



Photo.2 Information exchange session with the members of NCSWM

(6) Mid-term approaches in the future

The concept of the mid-term approaches in the future at JW is illustrated in Fig.2.

JW will promote its interchange activities with other Asian countries and regions and place its role to contribute to information sharing and policy harmonization on hazardous and industrial waste management. Through the collection of the information on hazardous and industrial waste, and the understanding of current and future approaches by relevant organizations, JW will seek a way to advance its activities.

In doing the above, JW will work in close contact with the Ministry of the Environment, Japan and JICA.

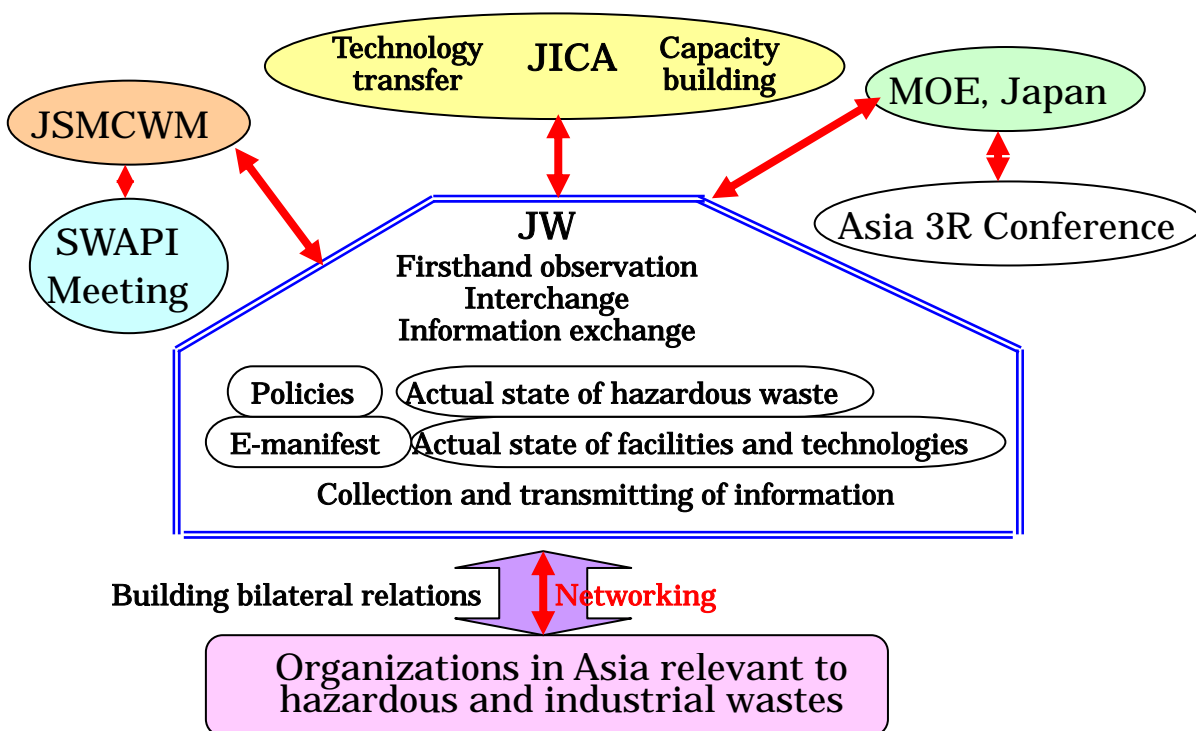


Fig. 2 Schematic of JW's approaches in international interchange

4. Key considerations for promoting international cooperation activities

(1) Application of the experiences of Japan taking into account of the actual state of developing countries.

In the cooperation works at developing countries, it becomes often keenly aware that necessary elements such as stuff, money, equipment, social system, information and so forth are in fact deficient. In order to cope with this issue, the dispatch of technical experts is implemented based on the request of the central government of developing countries. Yet, it often happens that things that can be easily done in Japan may not always be done in developing countries. Continuous activities of cooperation for a longer time may be needed to achieve the targets set initially. It is essential to undertake a realistic approach taking into account of the actual state of a developing country, when international cooperation services are implemented. It may often happen to be obliged to change initial policies and hence, it is desired to manage flexibly. Table 2 shows the overview of economical indicators and legal systems of Asian countries and regions.

(2) Key considerations for implementing international cooperation

Based on the experiences of cooperation activities overseas, the followings may be key points to be considered.

- Deference in the definition of waste
- Insufficiency in statistical data for decision making in waste management

For instance, In Chinese legal system, "solid waste" is classified into three categories of "waste derived from daily life", "industrial waste" and "dangerous waste", whereas "medical waste" is separately controlled under the regulation of "the Ordinance on Control of Medical Waste". "Industrial solid waste" denotes "waste from industries", thus "livestock excreta" is excluded from waste category. These are the points deferring from the definition of industrial waste in Japan. Further, discarded tires are included in the category of waste derived from daily life. Thus the appropriate management of discarded tires is becoming a major issue in municipal solid waste management in China.

In developing countries and regions, it is often found that necessary data for setting policies is not always available. Thus it is often required to start with how to collect data concerned. The manifest system may be a useful instrument to do so. In this respect, the definition of waste is needed to be clarified. Considering the recent extensive promotion in IT environment, e-manifest may be easily implemented compared with paper manifest.

Table2 Outline of the economical indicators and the legal systems on hazardous waste in Asian countries and region

Country and region	Population ¹		GDP(2007) ¹		Principal regulation on hazardous waste ²	Legal manifest system		Basel Convention	
	Year	(× 1000)	Total (mil. US \$)	Per capita (US \$)		²	E-manifest	²	OECD
Japan	2005	127,768	4,385,435	34,326	·Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
India	2001	1,028,610	1,141,346	976	·The Hazard Waste (Management and Handling) Rules	Yes	No	Yes	No
Indonesia	2000	206,265	432,817	1,869	· Cabinet Order on the Control of Hazardous Waste	Yes	No	Yes	No
Korea	2005	47,279	956,788	19,841	·The Waste Control Act	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Singapore	2000	4,018	161,349	36,370	·Environmental Public Health Act	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Thailand	2000	60,617	245,351	3,841	·The Factories Act ·The Hazardous Substance Act	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Taiwan	2000	22,227	383,343	16,764	·Waste Disposal Act	Yes	Yes	No	No
China	2000	1,242,612	3,400,351	2,604	·Law of People's Republic of China on Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollutions by Solid Waste	Yes	No	Yes	No
Filipin	2007	88,575	144,129	1,639	·Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act 1990	Yes	No	Yes	No
Betnum	1999	76,323	71,174	815	·Decision No. 155/1999/QD-TTg Prime Minister issued on the Regulation on Hazardous Waste Management	Yes	No	Yes	No
Malasya	2000	23,275	186,720	7,027	· Environmental Quality (Scheduled Wastes) Regulation ·Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

1 Source: Bureau of Statistics of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan

2 Source: Reference 1 and 2

(3) Necessity of long-term view, and harmonization

When international cooperation activities are implemented, the continuous efforts with long-term view are required just like the building of Rome. For the success, effective use of networks of bilateral relations and regional cooperation is important. The share of related information may be the first step for the cooperation activities.

In addition, according to experiences in Japan, harmonization and vectorization in activities by stakeholders including administrations, businesses, citizens and experts may be another important factor.

5. Closing remarks

JW will make continuous and systematic efforts toward the building of a Material Cycled Society in Asia and Pacific region through the international interchange activities and toward the further advancement in activity. JW hopes to have the continuous and further supports and advises by concerned parties.

[References]

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2. Waste and Recycle Subcommittee, Environment Panel, Industrial Structure Council, No. 4 Working Group reference material 26, 2001.10.26