

JEQ

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The latest Basic Environment Plan established in April 2018 put forward the concept of a “Circulating and Ecological Economy”. Based on utilization of the approach of the SDGs, this concept is key to simultaneously addressing both economic and social challenges using environmental policies. A Circulating and Ecological Economy will advance “circular economy”, “harmony with nature” and “decarbonization” according to each area’s unique characteristics to achieve sustainable communities. This edition will explain the concept of the “Circulating and Ecological Economy”, as well as introduce Ministry of the Environment measures which contribute to the creation of this concept.

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Toward realization of Circulating and Ecological Economy



SDGs and a Circulating and Ecological Economy

The Basic Environment Plan formulated in April 2018, put forward the concept of a “Circulating and Ecological Economy” based on utilization of the concepts of the SDGs. Implementation of the plan is currently underway towards achieving this goal. This article will incorporate concrete examples to introduce both of these concepts.

The first Basic Environment Plan released after the SDGs

Since the 1990s, while the global economy has continued to develop alongside globalization, our world has come face to face with a variety of environmental problems such as global warming and increasing numbers of endangered species. In this context, the international community reached two “historic agreements” in 2015. One was the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established as 17 goals that humans should achieve, included in the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” that was unanimously adopted in September of that year at the UN General Assembly. The other is the Paris Agreement, which set forth international rules for combating climate change, that was adopted in December of the same year.

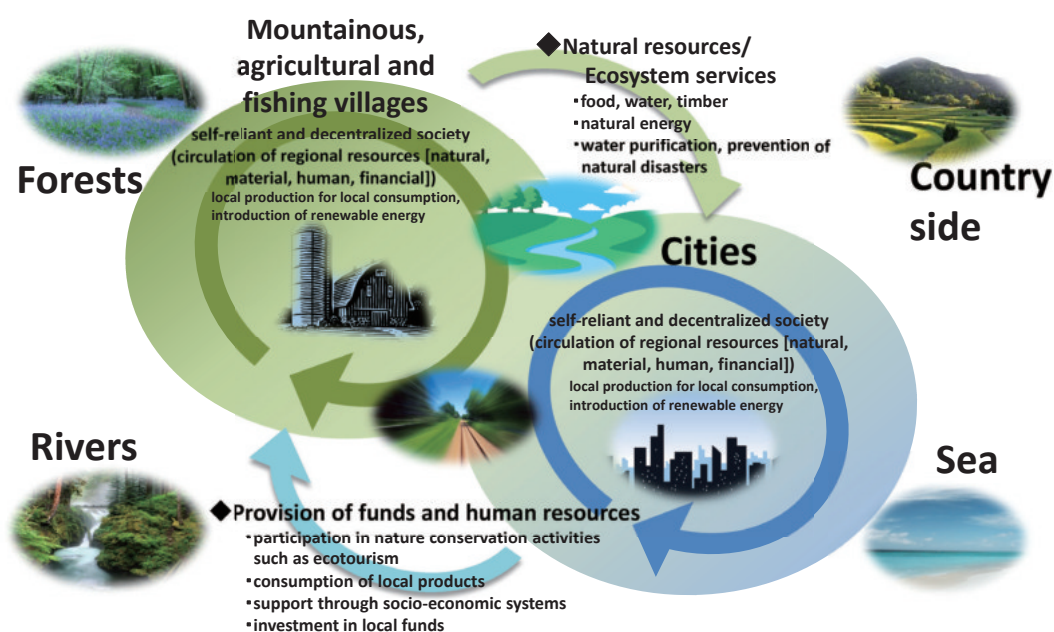
Coming out of these turning points in international trends, the new Basic Environment Plan decided by the Cabinet in April 2018 utilizes the concepts of the SDGs. Its fundamental aim is to use environmental policies to simultaneously address both economic and social

challenges. Specifically, the plan utilizes concepts characteristic of the SDGs, including a “multiple-benefit approach”, “all-inclusive partnerships” and a “back-casting approach” in its aim to create innovations across all perspectives, including those concerning socio-economic systems, lifestyles and technologies. The plan’s approach, to bring about “new avenues for growth” that ensure quality of life into the future based on creating win-win relationships among the environment, economy and society, corresponds to these international trends.

The Concept of a Circulating and Ecological Economy

A key to realizing the Integrated Improvements on Environment, Economy and Society (IIES) of this latest Fifth Environment Plan is the creation of a Circulating and Ecological Economy that will be achieved by mobilizing various measures designated as priority strategies.

For instance, at present an amount equivalent to approximately 10 percent of Japan’s gross regional



The Circulating and Ecological Economy Concept



Stork friendly farming is one of the good practices of Circulating and Ecological Economy (Photo by Tajima Agricultural Cooperatives)

product flows out of the various regions or even out of the country as payments, particularly for purchase of electricity and crude petroleum. However, if self-reliant, decentralized energy systems that utilize a region's renewable energy resources such as wind power or woody biomass were built, the outflow of fuel costs would be reduced thereby giving birth to new employment in the region and expanding regional economy circulation.

Humans form a part of biodiversity as well as a part of the natural environment. Rather than living in opposition to the natural environment, which can both deliver great bounty and at times pose great threats, we could live in harmony, which would enable us to make the most of the resources of nature.

For instance, the city of Toyooka in Hyogo Prefecture has designated the stork as the symbol of its initiatives. Based on rice grown via “the stork friendly farming method”, the city has increased the income of farmers. This rice grown without relying on pesticides and chemical fertilizers is sold at a price 1.3 to 1.6 times that of conventionally-grown rice. Additionally, the city has employed ecotourism in initiatives on returning storks to the wild. Teaming up with local travel agents, the city has proposed “stork tourism” that combine viewing of storks and local scenic spots. Visitors to the city's Museum of the Oriental White Stork, where one can get a close look at storks, have roughly tripled following release of the storks into the wild.

As is shown in this case, when regions make maximum use of their regional resources to co-exist together with other regions according to their respective characteristics, they can mutually complement and support each other's regional resources, both in rural agricultural, mountain and fishing villages and in cities.

By furthering this circular and ecological sphere, carbon-neutral societies become possible and sustainable communities are built, leading to the creation of a Circulating and Ecological Economy.

MORE INFORMATION

The Fifth Basic Environment Plan [outline]
http://www.env.go.jp/en/policy/plan/5th_basic/outline_14.pdf



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Technological Innovations for Decarbonization in Japan

In order to realize the technological innovations necessary for achieving Japan's INDC and build a long-term decarbonized society, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan is developing and demonstrating a number of low-carbon technologies for introduction into society. Some representative examples are introduced below.

CNF, a plant-derived next-generation material

Cellulose nanofiber (CNF) is a plant-derived, carbon-neutral, next-generation material that is one-fifth the weight of steel but has five times the strength. Utilization of CNF simple components or CNF-plastic hybrid material instead of existing materials can tremendously contribute to global warming mitigation through the weight reduction and improved fuel efficiency of automobiles, as well as improved heat insulation performance for housing and home appliances. In fiscal year 2018, trial manufacture of automobile parts and house building materials was carried out (Photo 1).



Photo 1 Trial manufacture of automobile parts using CNF composite material

GaN, a next-generation semiconductor

We are conducting a technology development and demonstration project to achieve higher efficiency and drastic reduction of energy consumption by substituting high-quality gallium nitride (GaN) semiconductors for semiconductor devices in a wide variety of electrical and electronic equipment. In fiscal year 2018, we developed and demonstrated an energy efficient microwave oven that can supply microwaves selectively to a target.

Low-carbon hydrogen from local resources

Demonstrations are being carried out in eight communities in Japan on building low-carbon hydrogen supply chains that utilize local resources such as renewable or unused energies (livestock manure,

post-consumer plastics, by-product hydrogen) based on collaboration with local governments. These demonstrations are unique projects without international precedents.

Energy storage using high-temperature heat

In order to promote the diffusion of renewable energies, we are working to establish a new self-reliant and decentralized energy storage technology that enables surplus power from renewable energies to be stored in the form of heat to be used again when needed. Our most recent effort was the design and examination of a thermal energy storage facility and the development of a technology to utilize stored heat in the form of electricity.

CCUS

Aiming for practical application of CCS (carbon capture and storage) technology by around the year 2020, we are constructing the first domestic commercial-scale carbon capture technology test plant (Fig. 1) and conducting a pre-feasibility study related to technologies and systems for transporting CO₂ by ship. Further, an ocean floor seismic survey is underway in order to select proper storage sites with suitable capacity toward commercialization of CCS. Additionally, a CCU (carbon capture and utilization) verification projects have begun, such as manufacturing methane from captured CO₂ and low-carbon hydrogen.

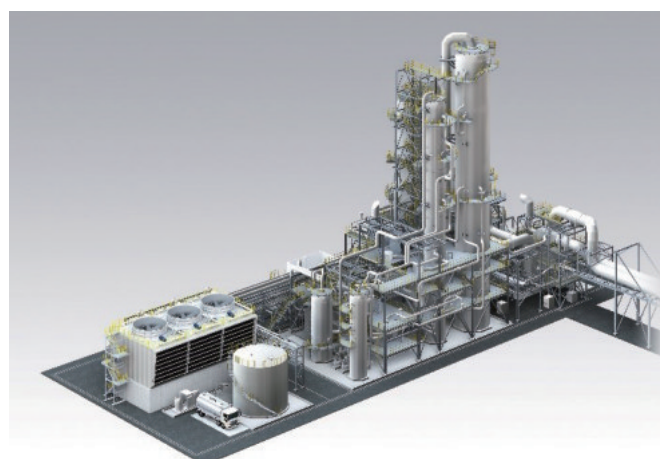


Fig. 1 Image of CO₂ capture demo plant



Photo 2 Goto City's Sakiyama 2 MW floating offshore wind power plant (Photo by Toda Corporation)

Boosting energy-saving behaviors based on behavioral insights

We are implementing a demonstration project based on collection and analysis of data on energy consumption at home and while driving cars, and utilization of behavioral insights such as “nudge” and “boost” and AI/IoT (BI-Tech) to feedback personalized messages to each individual to promote energy-saving behaviors.

Blockchain

By creating a low-cost and free trading system for the CO₂-reduction value of self-consumption of renewable energies using blockchain technology, we aim to trigger a paradigm shift toward a society that appropriately evaluates CO₂ reductions for accelerating the use of renewable energies. In fiscal year 2018, a trading platform for CO₂-reduction value was developed on a small scale and a feasibility assessment on a large-scale demonstration was carried out (Fig. 2).

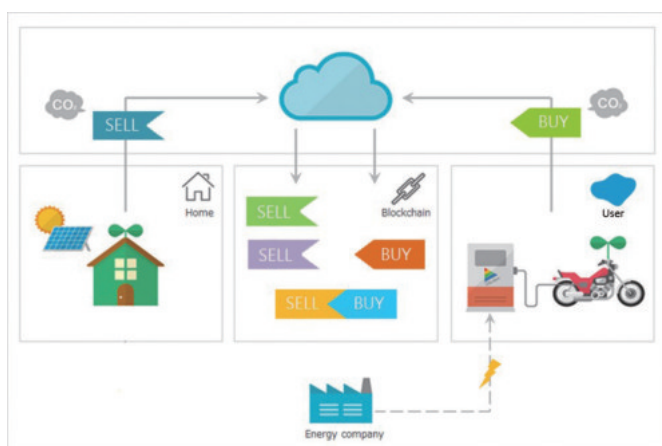


Fig. 2 Trading platform for CO₂-reduction value

Floating offshore wind power plant

In Goto City in Nagasaki Prefecture, the world's first hybrid spar commercial-scale (2MW) floating offshore wind power station was established and demonstration was carried out through fiscal year 2015. This demonstration equipment achieved an over 30% average capacity factor and demonstrated high durability to withstand a direct hit by one of the largest typhoons of the post-war era. Based on these results, projects for achieving low-carbon and low-cost construction to spread offshore turbines have been implemented since fiscal year 2016 (Photo 2).

Other Efforts

Aside from the above-mentioned examples, a wide variety of technology development and demonstration is underway. For instance, an under 10 kW small-sized, low-cost micro-hydro power generation system was developed to maximize use of unutilized water-flow energy in the existing pipelines of water supply facilities. Additionally, technology development was carried out to realize CO₂ emission reduction based on reducing power by incorporating a novel surface treatment on heat exchangers of car air-conditioners.

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan will continue to bolster innovations for decarbonization.

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Climate Change Adaptation Initiatives in Japan

In regards to climate change, both “mitigation”, or measures to reduce greenhouse gases and “adaptation”, or measures to avoid or reduce the impacts of climate change, are important. This article will introduce initiatives in Japan on adaptation.

A new mechanism to promote adaptation

The impacts of climate change have begun to appear in recent years, including rising temperatures, increased heavy rainfall, degrading quality of agricultural produce due to high temperatures, and changes in the distributional area of animals and plants. It is feared that these impacts will escalate in the future. To augment and bolster adaptation measures to avoid or reduce the impacts of climate change, the Climate Change Adaptation Act (CCAA), a single law on adaptation, was approved in June 2018 and went into effect in December.

Mainstreaming adaptation

Climate change wields impacts in various realms, from agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries, natural disasters, health and natural ecosystems. Accordingly, relevant ministries and agencies are required to work in cooperation to incorporate adaptation into various measures and systematically advance measures. In order to advance highly effective adaptation measures, it is a must to acquire scientific information on the present and future impacts of climate change. The CCAA stipulates that approximately every 5 years, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is to take a leading role in the implementation of an Assessment of Climate Change Impacts related to various fields in our country, and to undertake a review of the National Adaptation Plan based on this assessment. Periodic collection of the most update information on climate change impacts will enable us to implement highly effective, timely and appropriate measures.

Building an information infrastructure on adaptation

The National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) plays a major role in the collection and analysis of scientific information related to climate change impacts and adaptation. The CCAA stipulates that NIES is to put in place an information infrastructure and provide information to local governments, private companies and citizens. In 2016, the MOE established the Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (A-PLAT), which has been operated by NIES to date. Likewise, in December 2018, the Center for Climate Change Adaptation was established within NIES. From on now, we will continue to augment the information of A-PLAT and carry out research related to climate change impacts and adaptation as we further enhance the information infrastructure to support adaptation measures on the part of a wide range of stakeholders.

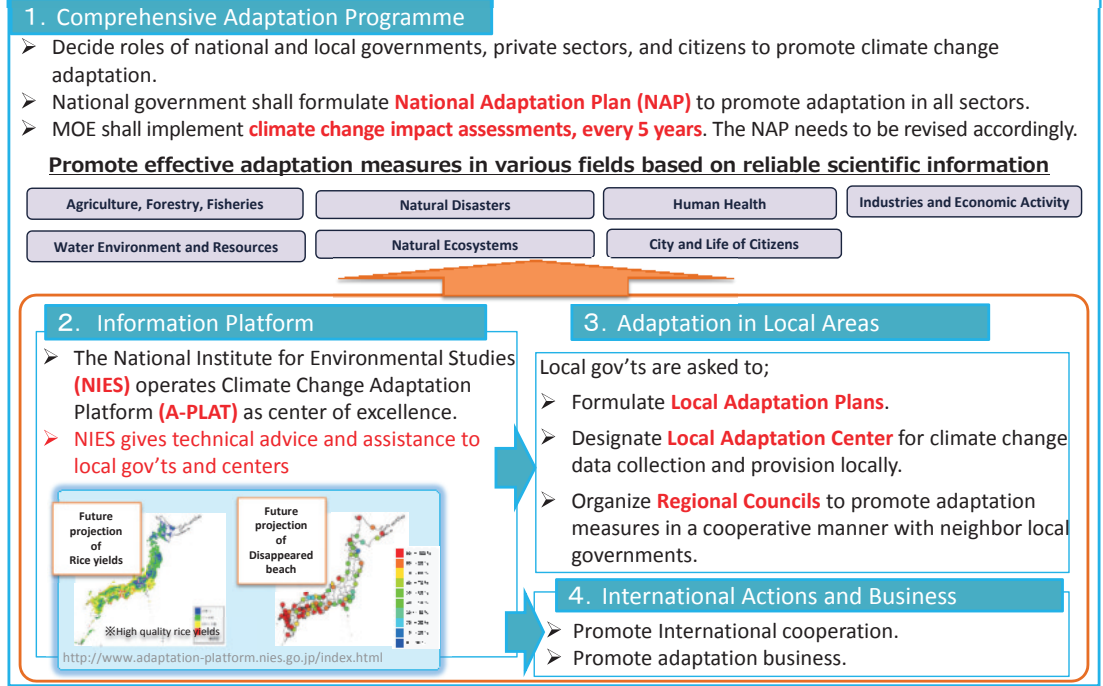
Regional adaptation initiatives

The impacts of climate change are wide-ranging depending on socio-economic factors such as regional climate, geographical conditions, population and industrial structure. Thus, adaptation measures suited to the respective characteristics and conditions of each region are required. Accordingly, the CCAA provides that local public bodies bear the obligation to make effort to formulate Local Adaptation Plans and to set up Local Climate Change Adaptation Centers that will engage in collection, analysis and provision of information related to climate change impacts and adaptation in respective regions and serve as bases for



Constructing seaweed beds to prepare for high temperatures at the Nagasaki Prefectural Institute of Fisheries (Photo by Keisuke Toh)

Climate Change Adaptation Act



Overview of the Climate Change Adaptation Act

supporting regional adaptation measures.

Furthermore, the CCAA stipulates the forming of Regional Councils on Climate Change Adaptation for each regional block and the creation of a framework for cooperation and collaboration on regional adaptation measures that goes above and beyond the boundaries of prefectures and municipalities. Participation in the Regional Councils is expected to include not only local governments, but also local branch offices of the national government and research institutes and universities located in respective regions, as well as private companies and citizens as necessary. Mutual collaboration among constituents is anticipated to lead to the promotion of adaptation measures in respective regions and the enhanced resilience to climate change of regions overall.

International cooperation

Aside from our domestic efforts, Japan is also engaged in international cooperation. We have been

conducting bilateral cooperation related to climate change impact assessments and formulation of adaptation plans that respond to the respective needs of countries, focused on the Asia-Pacific region. Further, in order to support the planning and implementation of adaptation measures based on scientific information in developing countries, we aim to expand the domestic initiatives of the Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform internationally in the creation of the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT). Further, combined with information on the risks of future climate change impacts in developing countries, through AP-PLAT we will also actively transmit information on the adaptation technologies, products and services of Japan's private companies in an effort to expand adaptation business.

Japan has begun full-scale implementation of adaptation measures. We will continue our efforts to prepare for the threat of climate change both domestically and abroad.



High temperature countermeasures for "Yamada Nishiki" sake in Hyogo Prefecture (Photo by Seiji Narita)

MORE INFORMATION

Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform
<http://www.adaptation-platform.nies.go.jp/en/index.html>



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Ministry of the Environment Efforts on Eco-DRR

The concept of “green infrastructure”, which contributes to sustainable and attractive national land and community development by utilizing various functions of natural ecosystems (including the provision of habitats for organisms, the creation of pleasant landscapes, and suppression of temperature rise), has gained ground of late. Furthermore, ideas and methods focused particularly on the functions of the natural environment related to disaster risk prevention and reduction have drawn attention as “Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction” (Eco-DRR). The efforts of the Ministry of the Environment related to the advancement of Eco-DRR are introduced in this article.

The start of debate in Japan

The disaster risk reduction function of nature has been understood since long ago, such as the function of forests to prevent sediment discharge and of maritime forests to mitigate damages from sea winds and tsunami. However, discussions on Eco-DRR in Japan were triggered by the massive damages brought about by the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred in March of 2011. It was at this turning point that the need to build communities able to withstand disasters came to be recognized based on the ideas of “disaster reduction” and “multi-layered defense”. Furthermore, a declining standard of land management, deteriorating social capital and increased maintenance costs due to the shrinking and aging population has been predicted in Japan. The Eco-DRR approach, which enables low-cost improvements and maintenance and can also contribute to regional revitalization during not only times of disaster but normal times as well based on a variety of ecosystem services, is expected to contribute to solutions to a number of challenges faced by Japan.



Monument commemorating the highest point reached by past tsunami, Iwate Prefecture



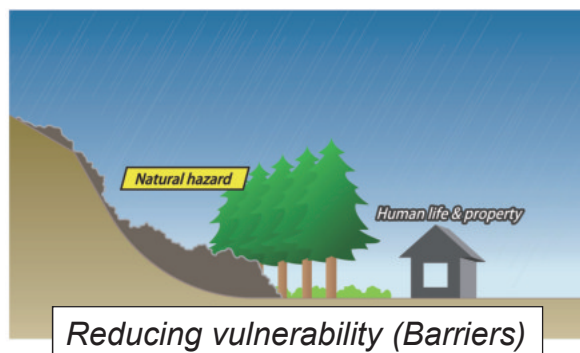
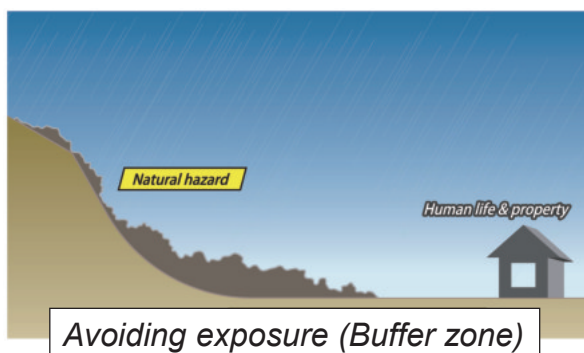
Pine forest that captured drifting articles, Miyagi Prefecture

Important points on promoting Eco-DRR

The basic concept of Eco-DRR involves, 1) avoidance of exposure and 2) reduction of vulnerability. First, avoiding exposure of human lives and assets to dangerous natural phenomena is based on avoiding development of lands vulnerable to natural disasters, such as low areas along rivers and along coasts, and efforts to conserve and restore ecosystems. These ideas in some cases already exist within traditional knowledge, and it is important to utilize them.

In addition, the concept is based on reducing a society's vulnerability by mitigating the damages of dangerous natural phenomenon such as landslides and floods through conservation of the ecosystems of forests and wetlands, as well as by utilizing the function of ecosystems to support human lives, including food provision and climate regulation.

Avoiding Exposure and Reducing Vulnerability



Eco-system based disaster risk reduction

Ministry of the Environment efforts

The Ministry of the Environment is organizing basic concepts and important points on Eco-DRR and collecting case studies to compile in a brochure entitled, "Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan - a handbook for practitioners -".

Further, support has been given to two research projects in fiscal year 2017 and one research project this fiscal year to ascertain the diverse functions possessed by ecosystems and establish assessment methods.

From 2015 to 2018, a capacity-building project on Eco-DRR in developing countries (Resilience through Investing in Ecosystems - knowledge, innovation and transformation of risk management; RELIEF Kit) was implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) via the Japan Biodiversity Fund established within the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This project involved needs assessments and collection of case studies in 6 areas around the world, as well as capacity-building workshops targeting government officials working in the fields of environment and infrastructure in developing countries.

Moreover, discussions have been taking place in expert groups within the Convention on Biological Diversity framework toward the preparation of voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Approach in various plans

In April 2018, the Fifth Basic Environment Plan approved by cabinet decision included implementation of measures related to enhancing resilience utilizing green infrastructure and Eco-DRR under the priority strategy on "Improvement of value of national land stock".

Further, the Basic Policy for Nature Restoration (2014) based on the Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration, which falls under the jurisdiction of the

Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, states the importance of nature restoration in light of the disaster reduction capacities of natural ecosystems based on the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Additionally, the National Adaptation Plan that was approved by cabinet decision in November of 2018, makes reference to the importance of measures to bring about adaptation and cobenefits. Eco-DRR is listed as a promising measure that is anticipated to contribute not only to climate change adaptation, but also to climate change mitigation and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Conclusion

Ecosystem functions are difficult to qualify in comparison to artificial structures and their effectiveness is hard to understand. However, making the most of their multi-functional and flexible nature presents a potential approach to addressing multiple challenges faced by our country. Incorporating the Eco-DRR concept into community-building founded upon scientific knowledge and the premise of agreement by communities is essential to realize sustainable and safe societies that are in harmony with nature.

MORE INFORMATION

Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan
- a handbook for practitioners -
<http://www.env.go.jp/nature/biodic/eco-drr/pamph04.pdf>



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The Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

A driving force towards global decarbonization

Through the Joint Crediting Mechanism, the Ministry of the Environment Japan supports co-innovations and the overseas environmental infrastructure development.

What is the JCM?

The JCM contributes to global warming mitigation on a global scale through diffusion of advanced low carbon technologies in developing countries. Likewise, through appropriate assessment of contributions to emissions reduction, the JCM is utilized to achieve the reduction targets of Japan. At present, JCM have been established with 17 countries (Mongolia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Maldives, Vietnam, Laos, Indonesia, Costa Rica, Palau, Cambodia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Chile, Myanmar, Thailand and the Philippines). More than 140 projects include not only those in energy conservation and renewable energies, but also projects in the areas of waste and transportation.

Realizing co-innovation through the JCM

Into the future, we would like to further expand projects based on cooperation with partner countries and to take a leading role in global economic growth and decarbonization based on Japan's strength in environmental technologies. The innovations we aspire to are not mere one-way introduction or diffusion of Japan's technologies or systems in partner countries. Rather, through cooperation, we aim for co-innovations that create markets for low-carbon technologies and services in partner countries and bring about major changes in socio-economic systems. For instance, in Vietnam, a Japanese company utilized a JCM facility support project to reduce initial costs and was able to realize production of high-efficiency transformers employing amorphous metal made in Japan for power distribution systems in Central and Southern Vietnam. By making improvements to power loss in distribution, CO₂ reduction effects were confirmed.

These results were recognized by other companies and are being expanded to other areas of Vietnam and Laos (Photo 1).



Photo 1 Introduction of high efficiency transformers in power distribution systems in Vietnam

Deploying decarbonized infrastructure development overseas through the JCM

In July of 2018, the Ministry of the Environment formulated the Sustainable Infrastructure Development Strategies to more concretely and comprehensively advance the diffusion of infrastructure in the environmental field. These strategies, devised against a backdrop of increasing global demand for environmental infrastructure, are designed to internationally deploy the environmental technologies and high-quality infrastructure that are the strengths of Japan. The JCM has now become one of our country's core programs for overseas expansion of low carbon technologies, evidenced by the announcement of this strategy for overseas expansion in the environmental sphere on the part of the government as a whole in June of last year (Photo 2).



Photo 2 10MW Solar Power Project in Darkhan City, Mongolia

MORE INFORMATION

Carbon Market Express
<https://www.carbon-markets.go.jp/eng/>



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Project to Fully Enjoy National Parks



Japan's national parks offer opportunities to view beautiful scenery and diverse flora and fauna, to engage in various activities and to enjoy rich-in-nature Japanese culture and history. A project is currently underway to bring in more visitors from overseas to enjoy our national parks.

The diverse array of nature and culture in national parks

Japan offers a wide array of nature and scenery, from drift ice to coral reefs, satoyama landscapes to 3,000-meter-high mountains. National parks are the preeminent places for nature in Japan, with a total of 34 parks nationwide. Since ancient times, Japanese people have enjoyed the bounties of nature, both from the sea and the mountains, and many people even now live within national parks. Therefore, national parks enable visitors to come into contact not only with beautiful scenery, but also with the culture of everyday lives rich in nature that differs by region, traditional festivals and food and ancient faiths. However, to date many people from overseas have been unaware of the charms of Japan's national parks.

Helping travelers from overseas to enjoy the parks

In order to encourage more travelers from overseas to visit Japan's national parks, the "Project to Fully Enjoy National Parks" has been advanced since 2016. Environmental improvements are underway to make the parks more welcoming to overseas visitors, such as multi-lingual signboards and visitor centers within the national parks, provision of Wi-Fi and the training of guides suited to the needs of foreigners.

Efforts have also been made to improve activities that can be enjoyed in national parks and to disseminate information. Representatives of travel agencies and the media have been invited to participate in familiarization trips, and efforts have been made to ascertain activities of interest to foreign visitors and to make improvements to programs. This information on activities was compiled



Visitors are enjoying sea kayaking in Keramashoto National Park

and provided to travel agents along with introductions to recommended routes within national parks.

At present, we are working on the creation of a highly

convenient website that not only introduces national parks but also allows reservations for activities as we advance the creation of systems that make it even easier for people to visit.

Publicizing the appeal of national parks on social media

In recent years, travel patterns have shifted from group tours to personal trips, and social media is utilized as a tool for information collection. Accordingly, we are engaged in information provision via social media sites (e.g. Instagram, Facebook). On Instagram, national park rangers in the field post daily scenic views throughout the four seasons. Visitors to national parks post wonderful photos of themselves enjoying activities, sharing with us their special moments and impressions.

By all means, have a look at the beautiful photos and numerous impressions. Then visit Japan's national parks to experience the wonder for yourself!



Photo posted on the Instagram by a visitor [Lake Tanuki, Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park]

MORE INFORMATION

National Parks of Japan
<https://www.japan.travel/national-parks/>



National Park Japan facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/NationalParksOfJapan/>



National Park Japan Instagram
https://www.instagram.com/nationalpark_japan/



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Three National Parks in Northern Nagano Prefecture

There are three national parks in northern Nagano Prefecture: the Joshin'etsu Kogen National Park, the Chubu-Sangaku National Park and the Myoko-Togakushi renzan National Park. They all possess Japan's acclaimed majestic mountain scenery, an abundance of nature and wildlife rich in diversity. The parks have many visitors throughout the four seasons from both inside and outside Japan.

Joshin'etsu Kogen National Park

This park is the fourth largest national park in Japan, comprised of mountains at altitudes of 2,000 meters and plateaued foothills. Fields of alpine flowers can be seen around ridges, and many precious creatures inhabit the park, including the golden eagle and the Japanese serow. Aside from mountain-climbing and hiking, the park also has areas famous for rock-climbing. The plateaus scattered throughout the mountainsides are used for summer retreats, hiking and high-altitude training. Hot springs abound at the foot of the mountains in areas that have been used for their therapeutic baths since ancient times. Karuizawa Town, located in the southern part of the park, is well-known as one of Japan's leading summer resorts. Due to its easy access from Tokyo, the town bustles with tourists. Also in the area is the first forest in Japan to be designated a wild bird forest in 1974, where anyone can easily enjoy a refreshing walk in the forest and bird-watching.



Yokoteyama Ski Resort and Mt. Kasa
[Joshin'etsu Kogen National Park]

Chubu-Sangaku National Park

This park is one of Japan's representative mountainous national parks in the Northern Japan Alps. In the northern part of the park, the Hakuba foothills with their world-leading snow quality offer skiing in winter and nature walks on the Happo-One Nature and Hiking Trail and in Tsugaike Nature Park in summer, which can be accessed via ropeways and gondola lifts. The Yari-Hotaka mountain range, one of Japan's leading spots for full-scale mountain-climbing, stretches across the southern part of the park. Aside from high-level technic and equipment required for mountain-climbing, the



Mt. Hotaka and Kappabashi Bridge
[Chubu-Sangaku National Park]

area also offers nature walks in the Kamikochi and Mt. Norikura areas that can be accessed by bus. Bathing in mountain hot springs and snow-shoe tours on plateaus are popular in winter. Lodging inside the park includes cabins and hot spring inns, as well as tent camping in designated areas. Also, almost all rides in the park are operated in more than two languages.

Myoko-Togakushi renzan National Park

This park spans Niigata and Nagano prefectures and is made up of densely formed volcanic and non-volcanic mountains of distinctive shapes. The park's unique scenery encompasses combined scenic views of mountain plateaus and Lake Nojiri. There are four famous peaks included in the "100 Famous Mountains of Japan" that awaken the desire to climb in many Japanese people. Both mountains geared to beginners as well as advanced climbers are available for hiking. Summer offers opportunities for enjoying nature such as walks through beech woods and white birch groves and bird-watching. Skiing and hot springs can be enjoyed in winter. The Japanese grouse found in the Mt. Hiuchi area of Niigata Prefecture is protected as an important domestic northern limit population.



View of Lake Nojiri, Mt. Kurohime and Mt. Myoko
[Myoko-togakushi Renzan National Park]

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