

# The Actual Situation of Japanese Resources and Recycling Industry ----Considering METI's Eco Town Project

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**ABSTRACT** : In this paper, the author analyzed the characteristics of cycle Economy which is a key concept of current Japanese environmental policy. The Japanese government has adopted the Eco Town Project in order to grow up *vein industry*. But it is not clear that Eco Town project aims to create cycle society or sustainable society. When considering the location of *vein industries*, it is important to consider how efficient this industry collects wastes and develops a recycling goods market. Present Japanese law requires the people and companies to reduce waste. As a result, conventional manufacturing discharges waste this is too massive for *vein industry* to dispose of or recycle.

*Key Words*: Cycle Society, Sustainable Society, Eco-town Project.

## 1. INTRODUCTION – What does a Cycle Society or Sustainable Society look like?

The Japanese Government says it is their goal to create a "Cycle Society" or "Sustainable society" that has balance between the environment and the economy. But what exactly does such a society look like? From the viewpoint of material balance, it must be an social system where material and energy is as efficient as possible, waste generated is as small as possible, and the waste recycling rate is as high as possible. But Japan's material consumption and waste generated are still too high. Meanwhile, METI also supports efforts through local governments to foster environmental industries as new industries, as in the example of Eco Town projects.

## 2. The Eco Town Project

The Eco Town Project aims at promotion of environmental industries and has been developed in 23 areas in Japan. Most of these areas are heavy and chemical industries zones, which once supported the steady growth of Japanese Economy in 20<sup>th</sup> century. A lot of environmental business derived from these existing industries are observed in the Eco Town Project.

The demonstrated research results of the Eco Town Project lead us to believe local government intervention should include provision of sites, construction of supporting facilities, provision of testing materials, briefing for residents, environmental management and supply of research data. It is also believed that administrative intervention is required to support the Eco Town project as material to clear various regulatory initiatives.

## 3. Conclusion

Lastly, the author mentions the five interests of agglomeration of the Eco Town project. It is pointed out that in Japanese case, the environmental industries have a strong relation with big heavy industries in respect to materials and technology. Furthermore, it is critical for environmental industries especially recycling industries to get information about environmental policy and vein markets.

## REFERENCES

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