



Environmental Efforts in Japan

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Overview of Environmental Issues in Japan



Re-design of economy and society by “3 transitions”

① Decarbonization

- Support Package for Zero Carbon City and renewable energy
- Decarbonization of “New-Normal”
- Acceleration of innovation for decarbonization

② Circular Economy

- Plastic Resource Recycling Strategy
- Establishment of sustainable system for waste disposal
- Resilient waste disposal

Creation of “Circulating and Ecological Economy” (Local SDGs)

③ Living Harmony with Nature

- Enhancement of resilience by “Climate x Disaster Prevention” and “Adaptive Restoration”
- Renovation of National Parks
- New Sato-chi, Satoyama, Sato-umi

Supporting initiatives

Reform of society by ESG Finance and Nudges

- ESG finance, Impact finance
- Nudges
- Corporate management for decarbonization, etc.

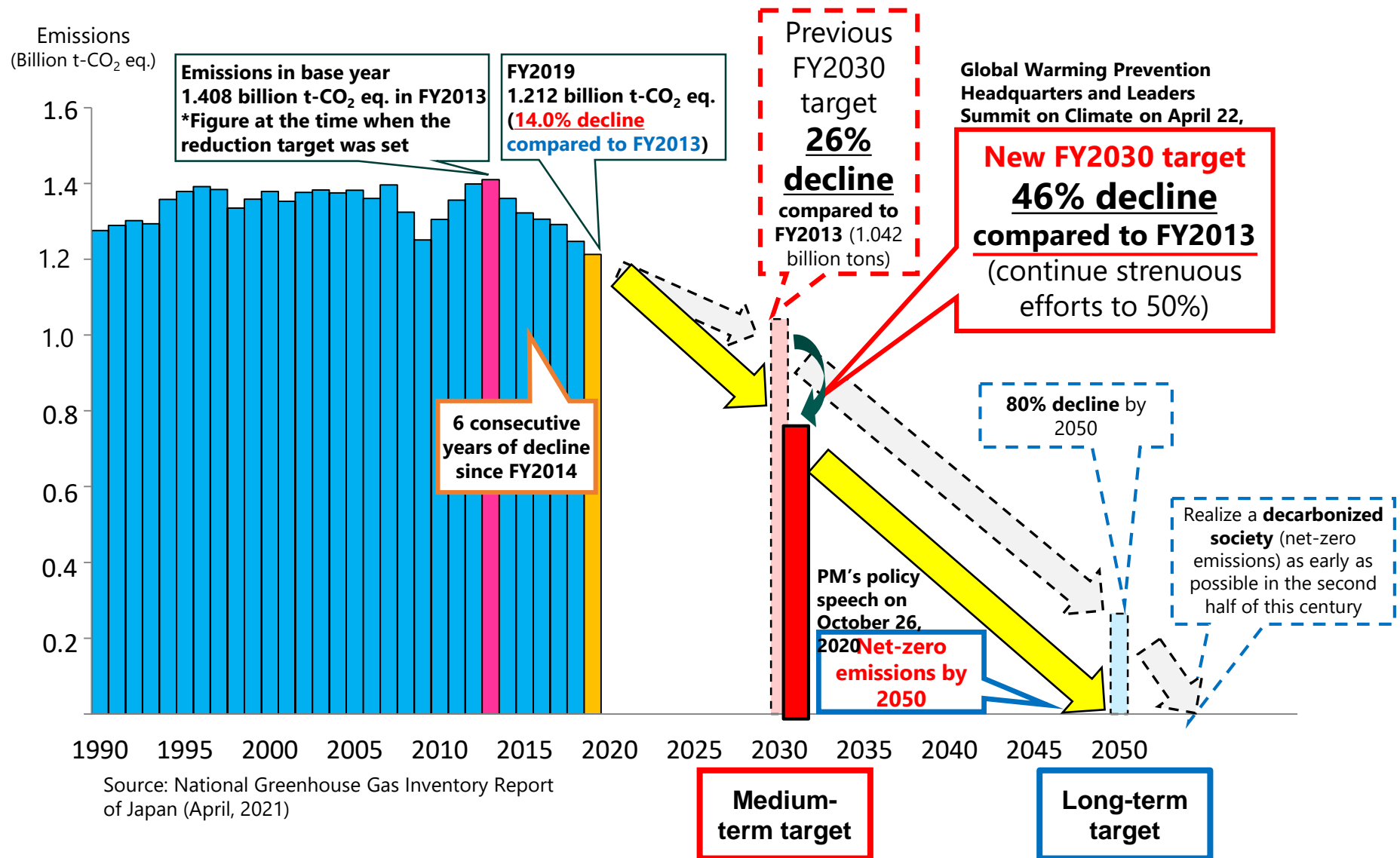
Enhancement of Environmental Diplomacy

- Enhancement of diplomacy for COP27 and COP15
- Deepening of Osaka Blue Ocean Vision
- Export of environmental infrastructure

Protection of Fundamental Health and Environment

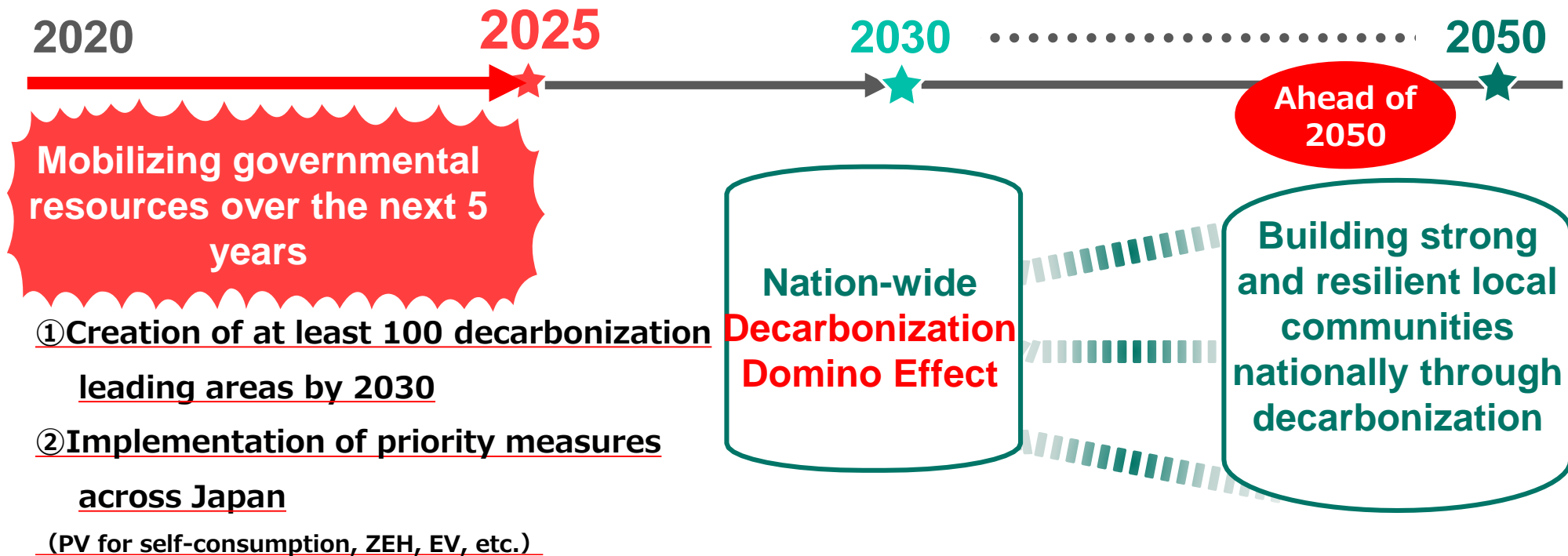
- Prevention of zoonosis
- Countermeasures against asbestos, PCBs and Minamata Disease. Animal welfare management.

Decarbonization (1) : Japan's mid- and long-term goals



Decarbonization (2) : Regional Decarbonization Roadmap

- As of November 2021, 492 local governments including Metropolitan Tokyo, Kyoto City and Yokohama City (295 cities, 14 special wards, 119 towns and 24 villages across 40 prefectures) announced their commitment to “Net zero CO2 emission by 2050” (zero-carbon cities).
- The Council for National and Local Decarbonization, which was held in June 2021, adopted a roadmap to realize the decarbonized society by 2050 through cooperation and collaboration between the national and local governments.



What is “Circulating and Ecological Economy” (=Local SDGs) ?

- Each region demonstrates its strengths by utilizing its unique characteristics
- Makes use of regional resources and builds a **self-reliant and decentralized society**
- Complements and **supports one another** according to unique characteristics of each region



- ✓ **Integrated improvement of environment, economy and society**
- ✓ **Creating Innovation from various perspectives**
- ✓ **Enhancement of a broad range of partnerships**

Revitalization of regions
Sustainable regions

Important Points to Create Circulating and Ecological Economy

- ① Adequate understanding of local issues and needs
- ② Discovery and utilization of corresponding local resources
- ③ Creation of new partnerships to deepen local collaboration
- ④ Creation of new value, enhancement of local economic cycle

⇒ Enhance attractiveness and solve issues with “Technology X Design.”
Transform “a single approach to a multifaceted approach (Integral problem-solving)”



- Circulating and Ecological Economy can contribute to creation of local business, revitalization of local economy, and enhancement of local economic cycle.
- Ministry of the Environment joins as a player to promote further collaboration among sectors and integrated problem-solving, with utilizing a concept of “Society 5.0.”

What is our “Second ESD Implementation Plan” ?

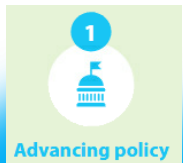
- In order to promote ESD in Japan by cooperating with all stakeholders and lead ESD in the world, Japanese relevant ministries work together to formulate “Second ESD Implementation Plan” based on “ESD for 2030”.
(This plan will take a role as the Country Initiative of “ESD for 2030” in Japan as well.)
- This Second Implementation Plan clarifies the idea that ESD contributes to achieve all sustainable development goals for the first time.
- This implementation plan presents methods to get various stakeholders involved to realize ESD and initiatives that each stakeholder in Japan will implement for each priority action area.



1. Promoting ESD with various stakeholders

- Making the network more multi-layered by utilizing “Platform for Future Co-Creation of UNESCO activities” and “the ESD promotion network”.
- Enhancing communication such as sharing information both domestically and internationally to cooperate.

2. Introducing Concrete Actions Each Stakeholders Involve for the Priority Action Areas



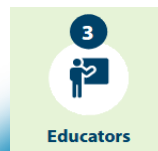
Advancing policy

- Integrating ESD in SDG-related policies
- Positioning of ESD in education policies
- etc.



Transforming learning environments

- Practicing ESD based on the National Curriculum Standards
- Enhancing ICT-driven education environments
- etc.



Building capacities of educators

- Training for teachers
- Publish and utilize a guide to promoting ESD
- etc.



Empowering and mobilizing youth

- Creating peer-to-peer communities for Youth
- Creating environments to facilitate the participation of youth in international discussions
- etc.



Accelerating local level actions

- Leveraging ESD to promote local SDGs
- Networking for supporting ESD across the nation
- etc.

MOE-J's Initiative : Local SDGs Leaders Training Program (1)

Purpose : Develop young leaders who can actively and continuously engage problem-solving of local issues, centered on environmental ones, with aiming at realization of sustainable society

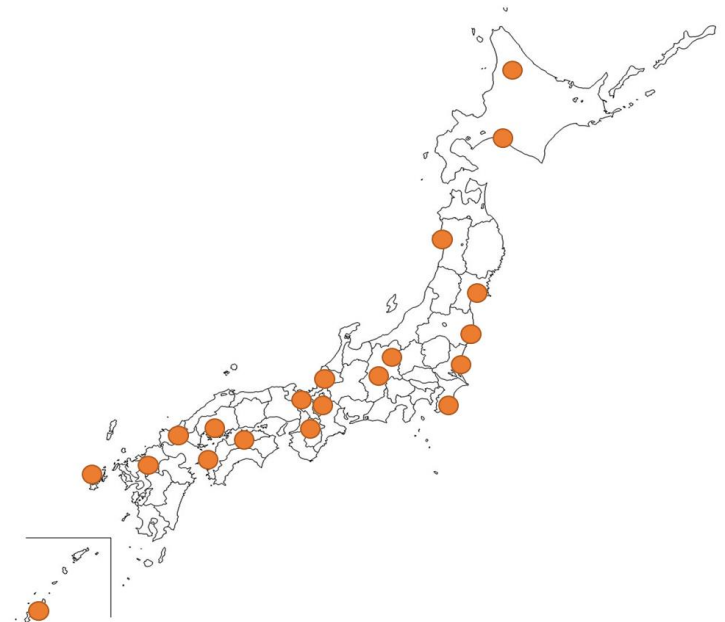
Objective : Youth generation of 25-35 yrs. old.

Venues : 7 of local cities, towns and villages (3 in 2019, 5 in 2020, and 5 in 2021)

Periods : 10 days in total during 12 weeks plus field work

Program : Lecture, field work, group work, mentoring, presentation, exchange meeting, assembly, etc.

Participants : 20-30 ppl per venue.
150 ppl in total



Local SDGs Leaders Training (2)

The program consists of orientation, webinars, local fieldwork, mentoring during the period from mentors who are familiar with each region, and report at the plenary session where all regions gather. The training is conducted not only through one-way lectures, but also using ICT, including interviews with local people, discussions based on these interviews, and the sharing of projects using business applications.

Step:1 Discover

Learn about local resources and themes to gain new perspectives and insights.

Step:2 Define

Clarify their own vision of the community and incorporate it into their ideas.

Step:3 Develop

Develop ideas into a feasible business plan

Step:4 Deliver

Brush up through mentoring and redesign the business plan

Step:5 Evolve

Discover and circulate local resources



