

Japan Initiative for Marine Environment (JaIME)



September, 2018
JaIME Secretariat

Message from the Chairman

Chemical products including plastics are making enormous contributions to the welfare and the resource savings globally and thus they are indispensable for social life of humankind. On the other hand, due to the outstanding characteristics of plastics such as durability, plastics would remain in the environment for a long period of time and might exert unexpected harmful influences on human health and the environment if they are inappropriately disposed after use. Therefore, it is very important to manage plastics wastes properly.

Unfortunately, in reality, various wastes including used plastics flow into rivers from various regions including Asian emerging countries and accumulate in the oceans. This reality is widely covered politically and socially, and also, the problem is pointed out by academic experts.

We, the chemical industry, is strongly committed to take voluntary actions under the principle and the initiative of 'Responsible Care' to protect the environment, and to ensure the health and the safety throughout the life cycle of chemical products from development to manufacturing, consumption, disposal and recycling.

In the spirit of 'Responsible Care,' we will act to address the marine plastic issue as we acknowledge that it is a big challenge to our industry. As a first step we recently established the 'Japan Initiative for Marine Environment (JaIME)' supported by five chemical industry associations as joint secretariat, namely the Japan Chemical Industry Association, the Japan Plastics Industry Federation, the Plastic Waste Management Institute, the Japan Petrochemical Industry Association and the Vinyl Environmental Council.

The most important and fundamental measure we have to take to cope with the marine plastic problem is to prevent plastic wastes from flowing into rivers. In order to do so, we have to take the big challenge to help development of social infrastructure for plastic waste management.

In Japan, in pursuant to the policy of 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle), related infrastructure such as separation and collection systems of plastics wastes has been developed over time since it started struggles with environmental pollutions in the 60s. The efforts need to be continued to increase the effective utilization rate of plastic wastes. We believe that Japan has a role to play in the improvement of plastic waste management in the countries and regions which need help to reduce emissions of significant amount of plastic wastes. In cooperation with the Japanese government and other industry associations who share the same goal, we will actively make contributions, to help our international partners towards development of social infrastructure system including education, respecting the circumstances and social systems of each country or region.

September, 2018

Tsutomu Tannowa

Chairman of JaIME

Action Plan of JaIME

1. Collect and analyze information and promote information sharing

In recent years, various reports and papers on marine plastics are published by academic experts, NGOs and others, and the number of them is rapidly increasing. JaIME collects, analyzes and shares the information timely and properly, considering their influences on policies, etc. so that JaIME can take most effective actions.

2. Take actions

JaIME will take appropriate and timely actions, closely following the development of the discussions in the “Subcommittee on Resource Circulation Strategy for Plastics” established by Ministry of the Environment to will follow the proposed amendment of ‘Act on Promoting the Treatment of Marine Debris’ sponsored by a cross-party group of lawmakers and approved in June, 2018 and the subsequent “Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society” which was approved by the Cabinet.

3. Engage in outreach to Asia

To represent the Japanese chemical industry, JaIME helps Asian emerging countries to discuss measures to support improvement of plastic waste management in them. In order to do so, it plans and organizes symposiums and seminars in Asia to share the experiences and knowledges that Japan has had. It will put a focus on relevant training activities in the Asian region.

4. Promote capacity building for scientific knowledge and evidences

JaIME explores experts related to the marine plastic issue to collect most up-to-date and solid scientific knowledge. It supports research work to assess the effectiveness of energy recovery scientifically to share with global partners in consideration of the current condition that energy recovery has not received full understanding in western countries.

JaIME Member List

June, 2019

【Members】

Asahi Kasei Corp.	JXTG Nippon Oil & Energy Corporation
AGC Inc.	Zeon Corporation
Ube Industries, Ltd.	Maruzen Petrochemical Co., Ltd.
Kao Corporation	Idemitsu Kosan Co.,Ltd.
KANEKA CORPORATION	Mitsubishi Corporation
JSR Corporation	Japan Plastic Food Container Association
Showa Denko K.K.	NIPPON STEEL Chemical & Material Co., Ltd.
Sumitomo Chemical Company, Limited	JNC CORPORATION
SEKISUI CHEMICAL CO.,LTD.	Japan Chemical Fiber Association
Daicel Corporation	Dow-Mitsui Polychemicals Company, Ltd.
DIC Corporation	SunAllomer Ltd.
Denka Company Limited	Prime Polymer Co., Ltd.
Toagosei Co.,LTD.	Japan Styrene Industry Association
Tosoh Corporation	Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.
Tokuyama Corporation	Taiyo Oil Company, Limited
NOF CORPORATION	Lion Corporation
Nippon Kayaku Co., Ltd.	TEIJIN LIMITED
NIPPON SHOKUBAI CO., LTD.	Dow Chemical Japan Limited
FUJIFILM Holdings Corporation	Toray Industries, Inc.
Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.	Japan Polystyrene Foamed Sheet Industry Association
MITSUBISHI GAS CHEMICAL COMPANY, INC.	Japan Soap and Detergent Association
Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings Corporation	SEKISUI PLASTICS CO.,Ltd.
	KURARAY CO., LTD.
	KH Neochem Co., Ltd.
	Sumitomo Bakelite Co., Ltd.

【Supporting members】

Japan Soft Drink Association
Japan Department Stores Association
Japan Franchise Association

【Secretariat】

Japan Chemical Industry Association	(phone:+81-3-3297-2567)
Japan Plastics Industry Federation	(phone:+81-3-6661-6811)
Plastic Waste Management Institute	(phone:+81-3-6855-9175)
Japan Petrochemical Industry Association	(phone:+81-3-3297-2014)
Vinyl Environmental Council	(phone:+81-3-3297-5601)