

Statement by the Delegation of Japan
on
Waste Management

5 May 2010

Mr. Chair,

The waste management is an issue that looms ever larger on our horizon. Japan, with its small land mass and large population has had serious problems finding disposal sites adequate to meet its needs. To reduce the volume of material that must finally be dumped, it makes maximum use of incineration technology. There nevertheless continues to be concern about final disposal sites, and Japan, like so many other countries, needs to make an effort to minimize the amount of waste it generates. Doing this would also contribute to the conservation of natural resources. We therefore are striving to establish a Sound Material Cycle Society through the promotion of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycling), and also to decouple economic growth and environmental degradation.

Japan's Fundamental Law for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society provides general direction for its efforts in this area. Several other laws provide the framework for the 3R system, and establish specific schemes and regulations relating to the recycling of containers and packaging, home appliances, food,

construction materials and automobiles.

Under its Fundamental Law, Japan pursues several targets whose attainment will help it to become a sound material-cycle society. To be specific, in the years 2000 to 2015, it is aiming for an approximately 60 percent improvement in resource productivity, a 50 percent expansion in recycling and a 40 percent reduction in final disposal volume. It is conducting an annual review of the implementation of the plan, and all indicators have shown that steady progress has been made.

Promotion of the 3Rs can create a market for new environmental businesses, and indeed from 2000 to 2006, 3R business in Japan expanded by as much as 150 percent. This is also the period during which the relevant laws were developed and the 3R concept and measures to implement it were disseminated throughout Japanese society. Without implementing appropriate legislation and regulations for 3R, such rapid growth could not have been made by companies in this area.

Japan wishes also to contribute to the promotion of 3Rs and waste management on a global level. It will therefore participate actively in the discussions on waste management at CSD-18 and CSD-19. Furthermore, the Government of Japan will convene a meeting in early 2011 that it expects will provide useful input for CSD-19.

Also on the international level, Japan is working actively to promote the 3Rs in the Asian region. For example, it is providing support for the Regional 3R Forum in Asia, which it believes can serve other regions of the world as a model for cooperation in this area.

Thank you very much for your attention.