

Circular Economy in Japan

20th January 2022

Takaaki ITO (Alaska)

Director

Office for Promotion of Sound Material-Cycle Society,
Environmental Regeneration and Material Cycles Bureau
Ministry of the Environment, Japan



1. 3R + Renewable
2. Legislation and Plan
3. Public-Private partnership
4. International cooperation

Redesign the socio-economic structure toward more sustainable and resilient
⇒ Achieving SDGs in local area



Measures supporting the Transitions

Society Transformation utilizing ESG Finance, Nudge, or by starting up new business

Enhancing Environmental Cooperation Strategy

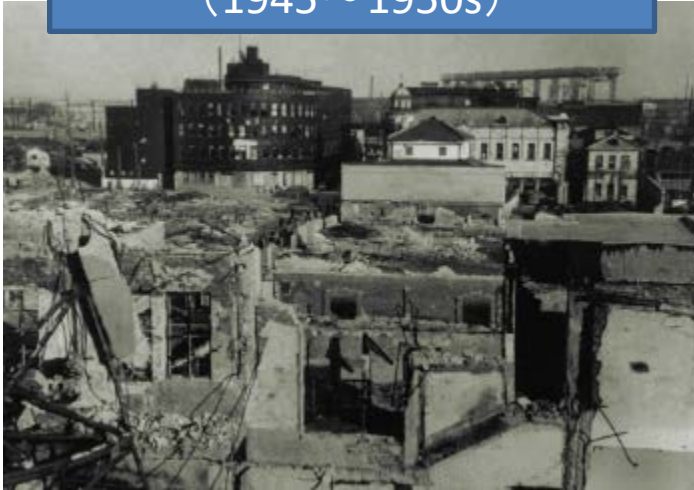
- Cooperation toward COP meetings on climate change and biodiversity
- Expand and deepen “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision” initiative

Protecting Basic Health & Environment

- Infectious disease measures
- Asbestos, PCB and Mercury

History of Solid Waste Management in Japan

Post-war
(1945~1950s)



Rapid-economic growth period
(1960~1970s)



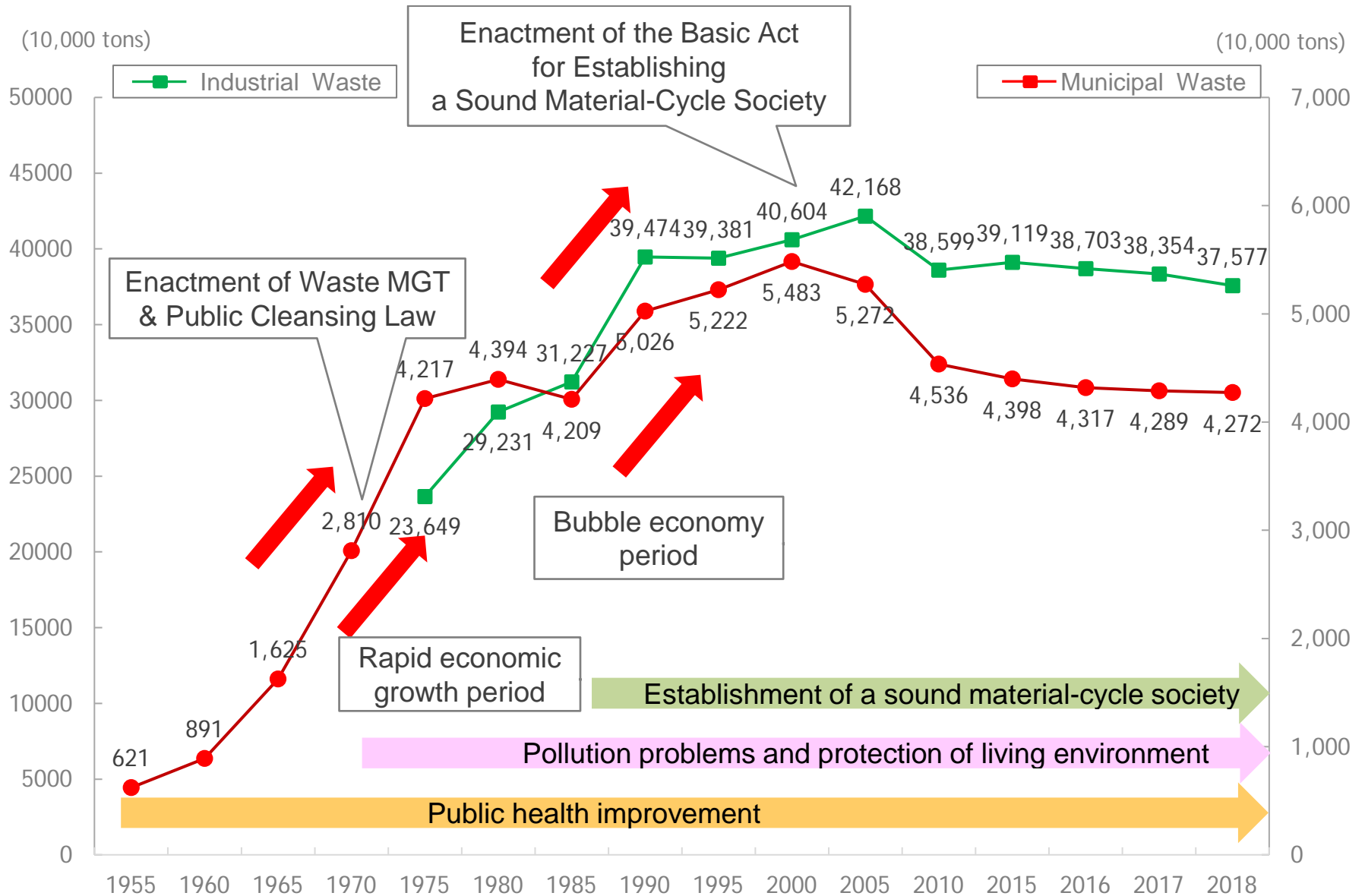
Establishment of sound
material-cycle society



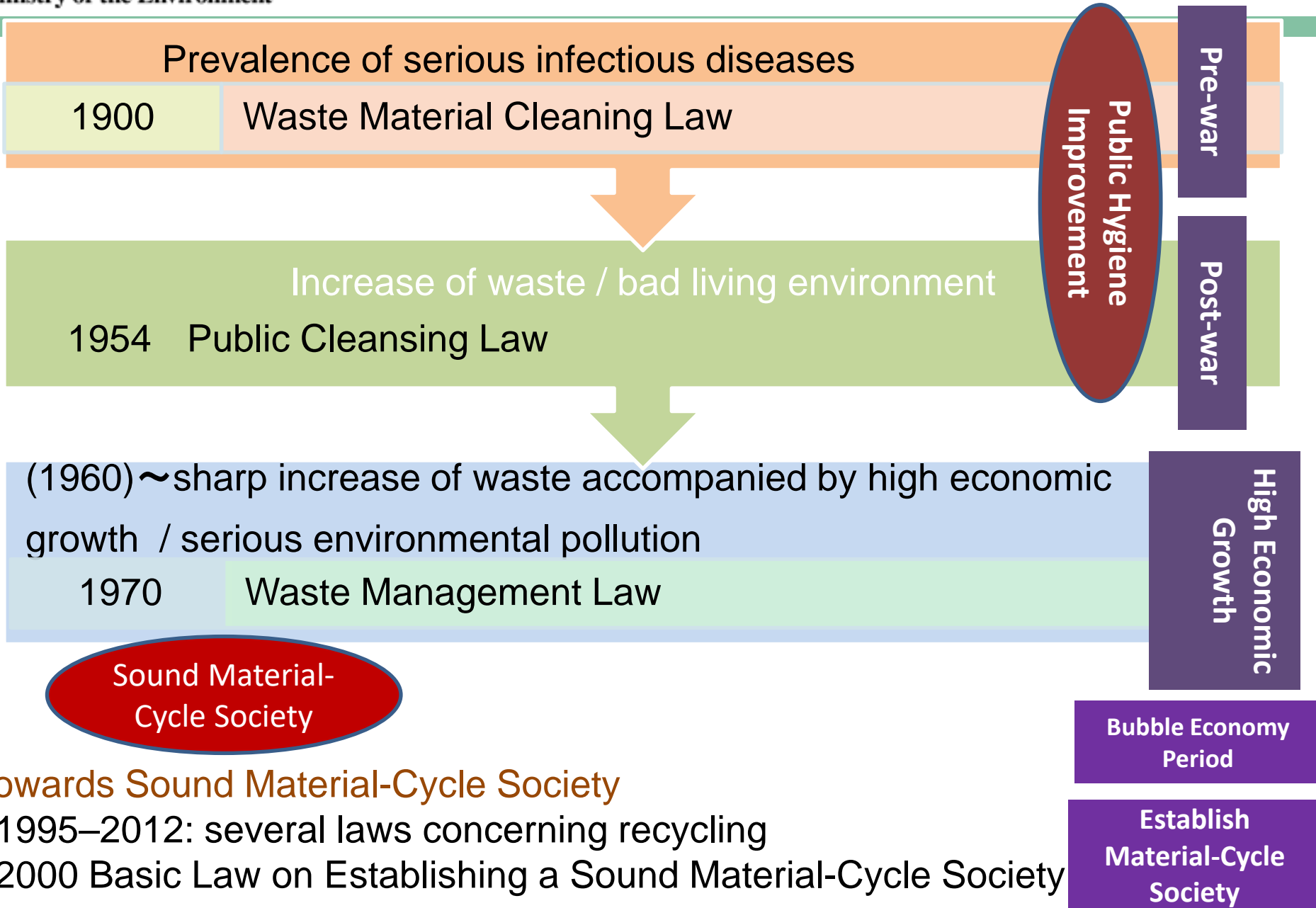
Recession~bubble period
(1980~early 1990s)



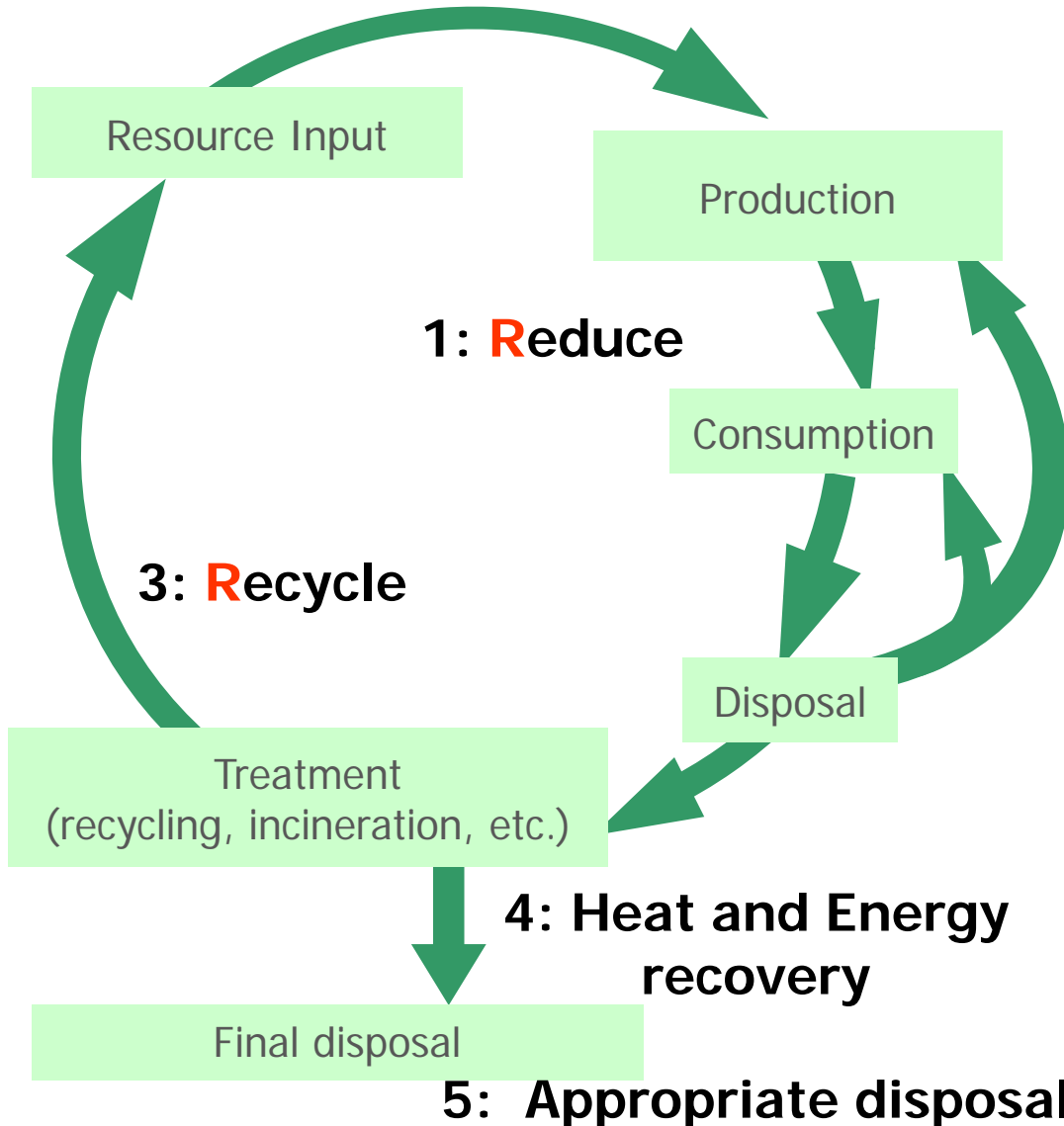
Trends of Waste Generation in Japan



Changes in Laws concerning Waste Management



3R + Renewable Principle



2: **R**euse



Renewable

- Biomass
- Recycled Materials

1. 3R + Renewable
2. Legislation and Plan
3. Public-Private partnership
4. International cooperation

Legislative Framework

The Basic Environmental Law

1994. 8

The Basic Act for
Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society

2001. 1

From 1970

Waste Management and
Public Cleansing Law

Law for Promotion of Effective
Utilization of Resources

Plastic Resource Circulation Act

2022. 4

The First legal system
focused on 'Materials'

Individual Recycling Laws

Container and
Packaging
Recycling Law



2000. 4

Home
Appliances
Recycling Law



2001. 4

Food Wastes
Recycling
Law



2001. 5

Construction
Materials
Recycling Law



2002. 5

End-of-life
Vehicles
Recycling Law



2005. 1

Small Home
Appliance
Recycling Law



2012. 8

Act on Promoting Green Procurement

2001. 4

This Act addresses whole lifecycle of plastics (i.e. from designing products to disposing plastic waste) and involves all stakeholders in promoting “3R+Renewable” and increasing circularity.

[Guidelines for Design for the Environment]

- Develop **guidelines for Design for the Environment** for manufacturers and establish a mechanism to **certify** products designed in accordance with the guidelines.
 - **The government procures preferentially** the certified products (under the Act on Promoting Green Procurement) and **provides financial support to the manufactures.**



<Replaceable bottles>

[Reduction of Single-use Plastics]

- Set **criteria** for retailers and service providers to reduce single-use plastics.
 - The competent ministers may issue **recommendations and orders** to suppliers who provide large amounts of single-use plastics when their actions are found significantly insufficient in light of the criteria.



<Single-use plastics>

[Separation, Collection, and Recycling by Municipalities]

- Municipalities can recycle plastic product waste effectively under **the current recycling scheme for containers and packaging**
- Municipalities develop a **recycling plan in collaboration with** recyclers.
 - When the plan is approved by the competent ministers, the recyclers can recycle plastics without sorting and bailing by municipalities.



[Collection and Recycling by Manufacturers and Retailers]

- Manufacturers and retailers develop a **plan to collect and recycle their used products.**
 - When the plan is approved by the competent ministers, the manufacturers and retailers **can recycle without service permission** under the Waste Management Act.



[Recycling by Waste Generators]

- Set **criteria** for waste generators to reduce and recycle plastic waste.
 - The competent ministers may issue **recommendations and orders** to waste generators who generate large amounts of plastics when their actions are found significantly insufficient in light of the criteria.
- Waste generators develop a **recycling plan.**
 - When the plan is approved by the competent ministers, the waste generators **can recycle without service permission** under the Waste Management Act.

The Fundamental Plan

- The Plan is formulated based on the Basic Act on Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society (established in 2000).
- It sets a med-to long-term direction for the establishment of a sound material-cycle society in Japan, and indicates measures to be implemented in a strategic manner.
- The 4th Fundamental Plan was approved by the Cabinet on June 19th, 2018.

Pillars of the 4th Fundamental Plan

Integrated measures toward a sustainable society

Integrated Improvement on environment, economy and society

Regional
Circular and
Ecological
Sphere

Resource
Circulation
throughout
the entire
Lifecycle

Proper
Waste
Management
and
Environmental
Restoration

Disaster
Waste
Treatment
Systems

International
Resource
Circulation

Sustaining fundamentals for 3Rs and waste management

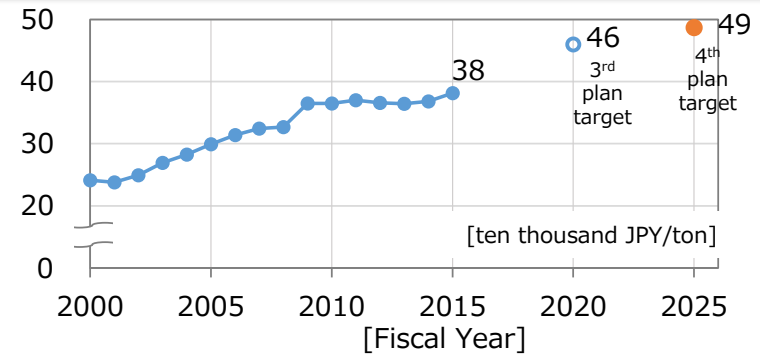
Technologies, Human Resources and Awareness Raising, and Information and Databases

Resource productivity

= GDP/ Input of natural resources, etc.

FY2025 target: 490,000JPY/ton = approx. double from FY2000

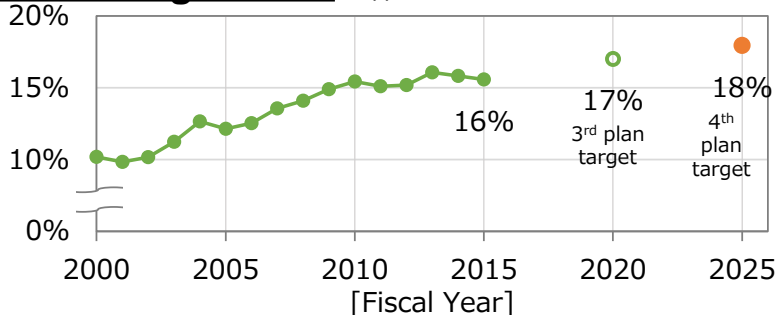
- An indicator that comprehensively represents how effectively materials are used in industrial activities and people's daily lives, in terms of creating more wealth using fewer resources.
- The indicator was first adopted in a national-level plan in Japan.



Cyclical use rate (resource base)

= Amount of cyclical use / (Amount of cyclical use + Input of natural resources, etc.)

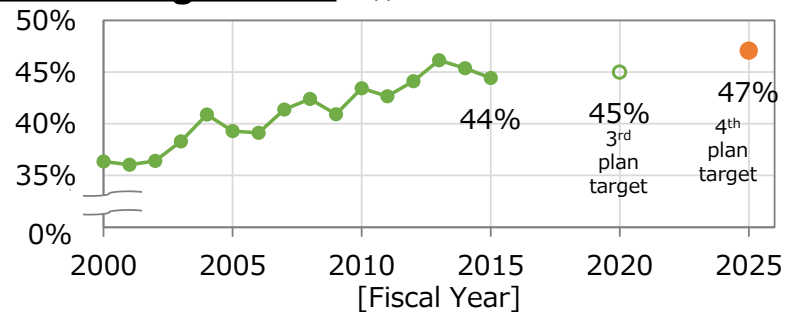
FY2025 target: 18% = approx. 80% increase from FY2000



Cyclical use rate (waste base)

= Amount of cyclical use/ Generation of waste, etc.

FY2025 target: 47% = approx. 30% increase from FY2000

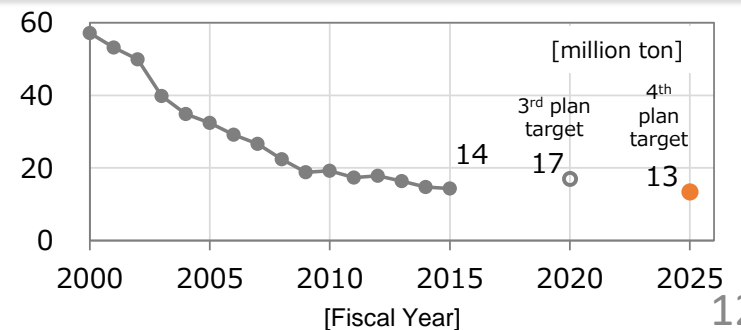


Final disposal amount

FY2025 target: 13 million ton = 77% cut from FY2000

[Municipal solid waste] 1 million ton in FY2025 = 70% cut from FY2000

[Industrial waste] 10 million ton in FY2025 = 77% cut from FY2000



1. 3R + Renewable
2. Legislation and Plan
3. Public-Private partnership
4. International cooperation

Japanese Government and Keidanren launched the "Partnership for Circular Economy" as a **public-private partnership**. The goal is to further foster understanding of the circular economy, promote initiatives, and increase Japan's presence in the international community.



Founder : Ministry of the Environment
 Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
 Keidanren (Japan Business Federation)
 Members: 131 companies/organizations
 Secretariat: Institute for Global Environmental
 Strategies
 Established in 2nd March, 2021

Sharing

Japan's advanced initiatives and solutions domestically and internationally

- 131 cases available from <https://j4ce.env.go.jp/en>
- Booklet on 28 noteworthy cases



Accelerating the activities for circular economy by sharing the latest trends and formulating network of stakeholders within and beyond sectors.

Setting up dialogues among the stakeholders to promote the circular economy

Gram Beautique Recycle Program

- Inter-corporation initiative to collect and recycle used containers from customers at collection boxes in Aeon stores since 2021
- Focus on containers for daily necessities and cosmetics
- Containers for any brand of various products for skin care, makeup, hair care and hair colour can be put into the collection boxes, even when originally purchased at other stores
- Collected containers will be recycled into shopping baskets and eco-bags



1. 3R + Renewable
2. Legislation and Plan
3. Public-Private partnership
4. International cooperation

launched on 22 February, 2021

【Purpose・Activities】

- Advocate for a global just transition to a resource efficient and circular economy
- Mapping country's policy, Identify barriers, Sharing good practices
- Support sectoral, bilateral and/or regional partnerships (such as 'African Circular Economy Alliance', 'Latin America and the Caribbean Circular Economy Coalition')
- Facilitate more global conversations on the governance of natural resources and option

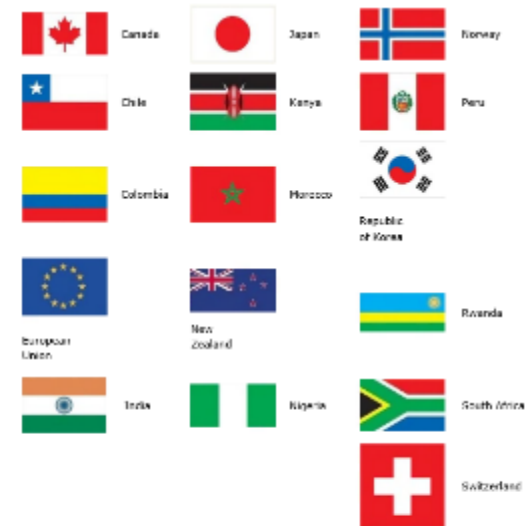
【Members】

- UNEP, UNIDO, EU, Japan and other countries
- Strategic partners : Stakeholder platforms, business leaders, NGOs and CSOs, and relevant international networks and initiatives

【Meetings】

- High level representatives once a year
- Regular technical meetings with Members' expert representatives

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/gacere.html



International organisations



- ◆ Launched in November 2009, with an objective to provide strategic policy advices to national government authorities in mainstreaming 3Rs in the overall policy, planning and development
- ◆ organized by MOE Japan, UNCRD and governments in hosting country
- ◆ Issued “State of the 3R ” in 2018 to assess the progress of “HaNoi 3R Declaration(2013)”
- ◆ In the 10th Forum, the title has been changed into “3R and CE Forum” to accelerate circular economy in the region. Issued “State of Plastics Waste in Asia and the Pacific”



	Time	Venue	Theme
1 st	Nov., 2009	Japan	Inaugural Regional 3R Forum in Asia
2 nd	Oct.,2010	Malaysia	3Rs for Green Economy and Sound Material Cycle Society
3 rd	Oct., 2011	Singapore	Technology Transfer for promoting the 3Rs
4 th	Mar., 2013	Viet Nam	3Rs in the Context of Rio+20 Outcome - The Future We Want
5 th	Feb.,2014	Indonesia	Multilayer Partnerships and Coalition as the Basis for 3Rs Promotion in Asia and the Pacific
6 th	Aug., 2015	Maldives	3R as an Economic Industry- Next Generation 3R Solutions for a Resource Efficient Society and Sustainable Tourism Development in Asia and the Pacific
7 th	Nov., 2016	Australia	Advancing 3R and Resource Efficiency for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
8 th	Apr., 2018	India	Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency- A 21st Century Vision for Asia-Pacific Communities
9 th	Mar., 2019	Thailand	3R as a Way for Moving towards Sufficiency Economy - Implications for SDGs
10 th	Nov.-Dec.,2020	Online	Advancing Circular Economy in Asia-Pacific towards the SDGs under COVID-19 Pandemic

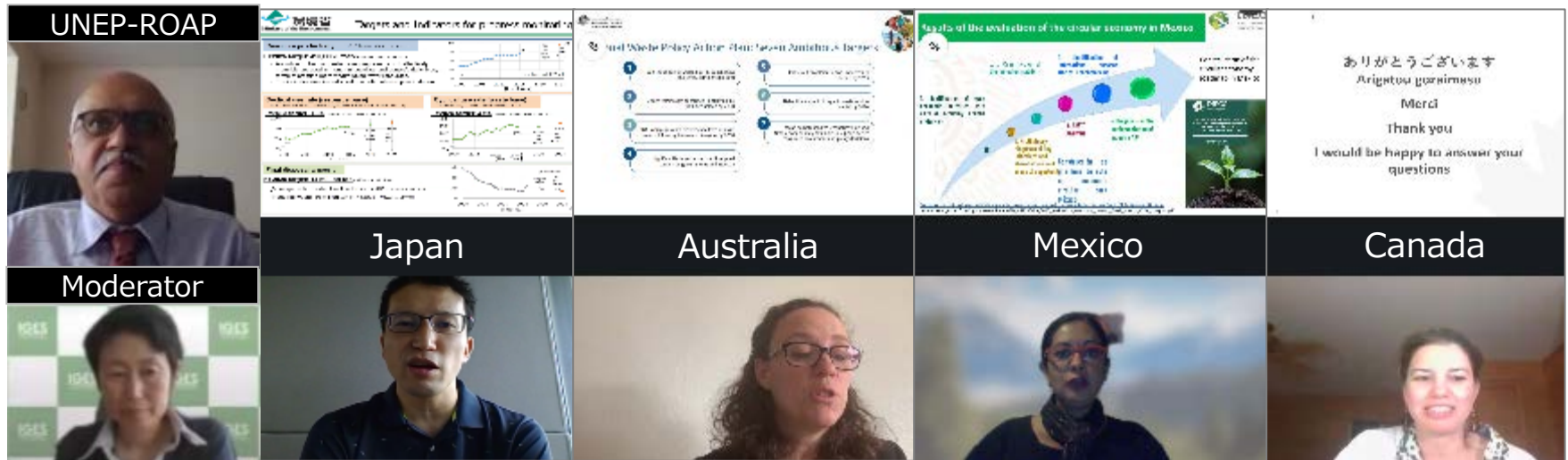
[State of Plastics Waste]

https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/UNCRD_10th%203R%20Forum_Final%20Chair%20Summary%20%28without%20formal%20editing%20%26%20after%20Webinar%20VI%29-23%20Dec%202020-for-circulation.pdf

✳️The 11th Forum will be convened in Dec. 2021 hosted by the Russian Federation

CPTPP: Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership

- GoJ hosted “CPTPP Webinar on Circular Economy/Resource Efficiency” on 13th July 2021, as a side event within TPP Environmental Subcommittee
- Policies focused on resource circulation was shared among the participating countries.



Opening	Deputy Director General, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
Keynote Speech	Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency, UNEP-ROAP
Presentations	Director, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australia
	National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change, Mexico
	Environment and Climate Change, Canada
Moderator	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies(IGES)

- Date : 11th Nov 2021 (Thu)
- Place : COP26 Japan pavilion
- Co-hosts : MOEJ, NL, EU, UNEP, UNIDO, WEF
- Speakers/Panelists :
 - Dr. Yamaguchi: Minister of the Environment, Japan
 - Mr. Steven van Weyenberg: Dutch Minister for Environment
 - Ms. Faustine Delasalle: Co-Executive Director, Mission Possible Partnership
 - Dr. Florika Fink Hooijer: Directorate-General for Environment, EC
 - Mr. Alex Saer: Director, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia
 - Mr. Al-Hamndou Dorsouma: Acting Director for Climate and Green Growth, AfDB
 - Mr Cédric de Meeûs: Vice-president, Holcim
 - Dr. Bob Maughan: Executive Vice President, SABIC
 - Mr. Joss Blériot: Executive Lead, EMF



- The **ACCP** was **established in April 2017**, by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) and other partners, aiming to contribute to **sound waste management in Africa**, which leads to the achievement of the SDGs and the increase in investment.

Member (As of October 2021)

- African 42 countries
- African 89 cities
- Ministry of the Environment of Japan
- JICA
- City of Yokohama
- UN-Habitat
- UNEP

Main activities

Capacity building

- Training in Japan (2 times by year)
- Study tour (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Data Collection and Publications

Field survey and pilot project in Africa

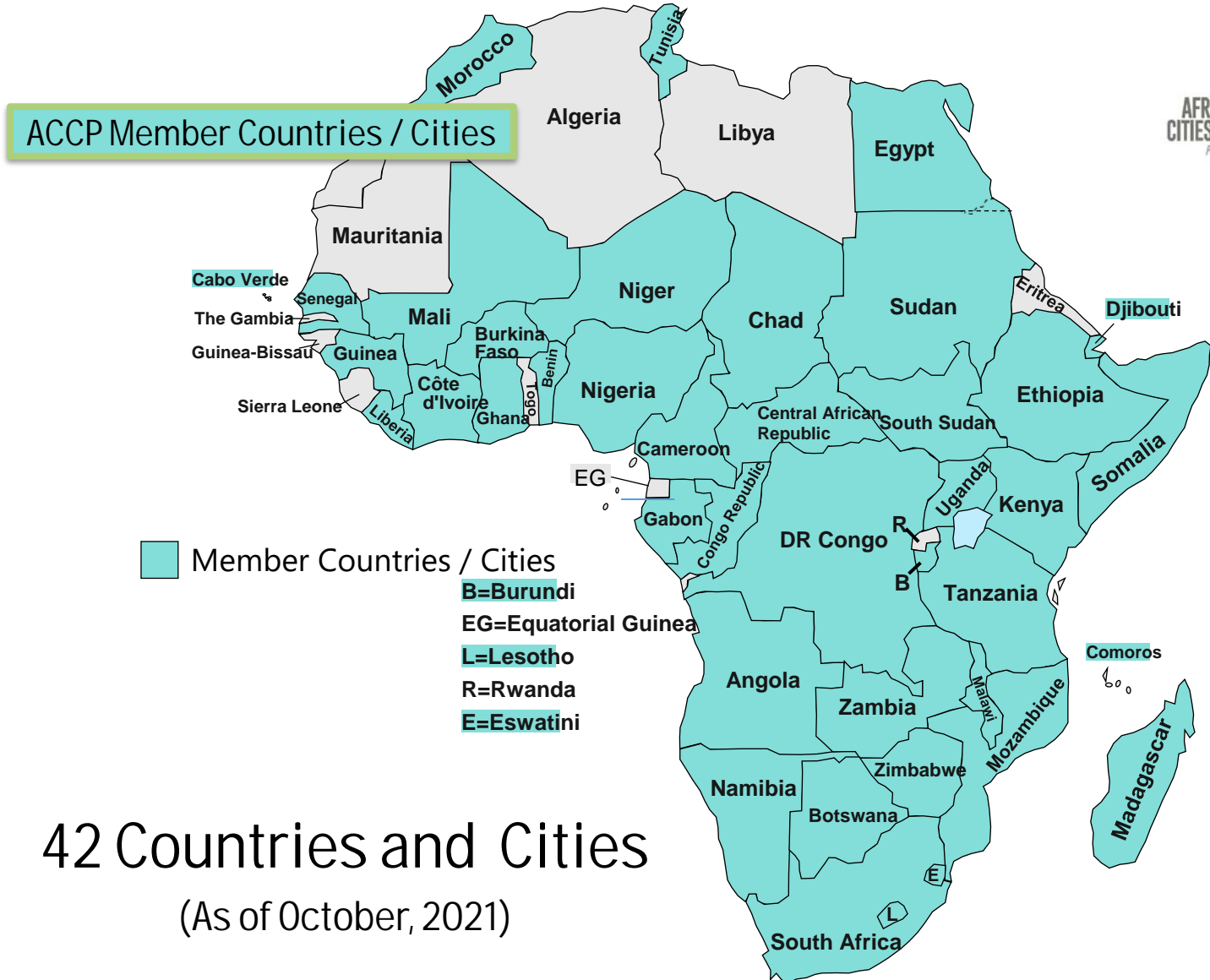
- **ACCP Model Project in Mozambique**
Fukuoka Method - Semi-aerobic Landfill -

Sharing knowledge and experiences

- April 2017: Platform Preparation Meeting (Maputo, Mozambique)
- June 2018: 1st General Meeting (Rabat, Morocco)
- August 2019: 2nd General Meeting (Yokohama, Japan)



ACCP Member Countries and Cities



42 Countries and Cities
(As of October, 2021)

Hulene landfill site at Maputo City

- ◆ Construction started in Nov. 2019 and completed phase 1 in Aug. 2020
- ◆ In Dec. 2020, Mozambique and Japan signed Exchange of Notes (E/N) on grand aid for bulldozers and Excavators



Before improvement



During construction



Completion of phase 1



E/N

2030: *Target Year of SDGs*

Clean and Healthy Cities in Africa!

2022: *TICAD 8*

2020-2021:

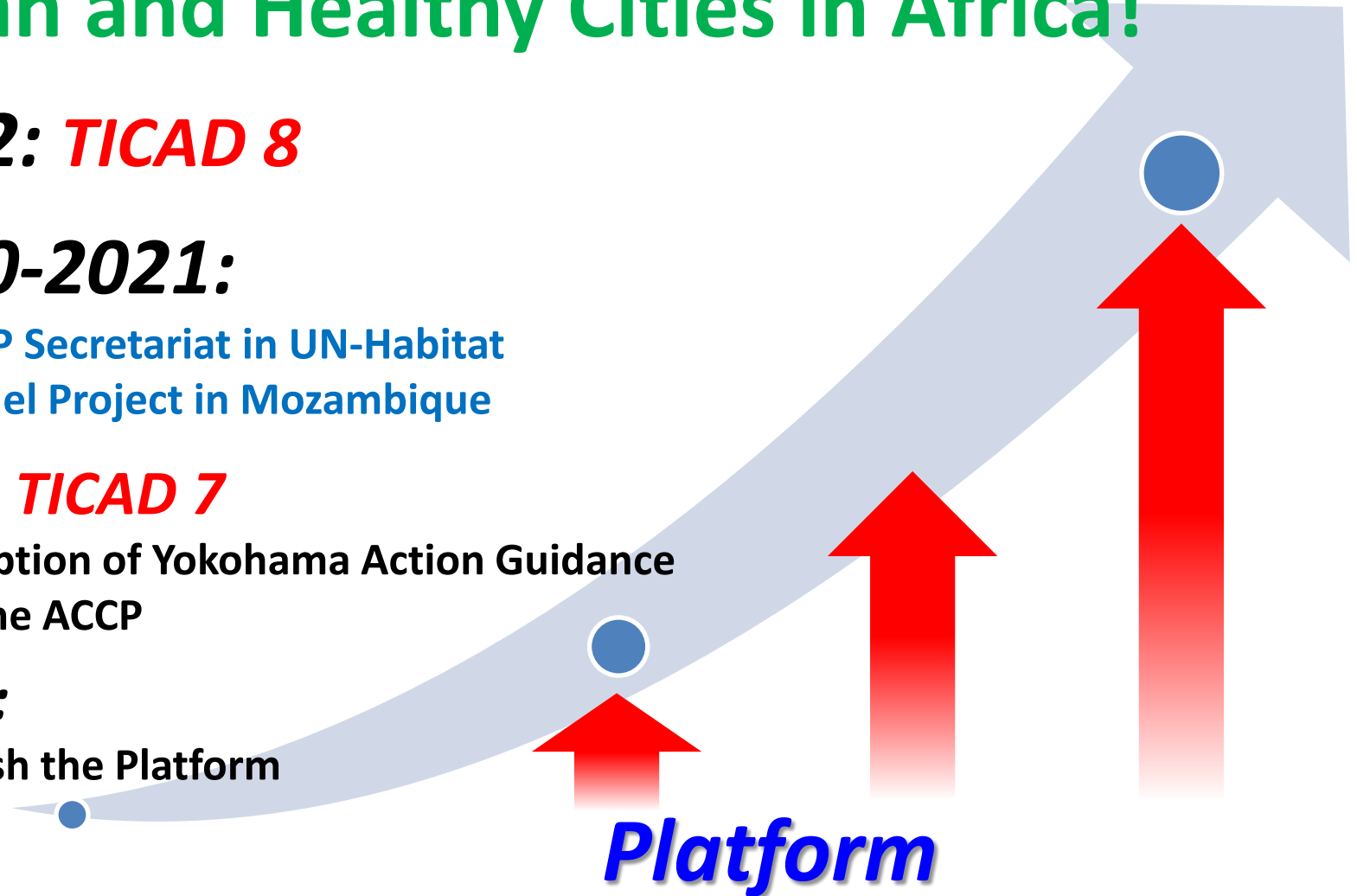
- ACCP Secretariat in UN-Habitat
- Model Project in Mozambique

2019: *TICAD 7*

- Adoption of Yokohama Action Guidance for the ACCP

2017:

Establish the Platform



Thank you

