

Eco-Town Initiatives in Japan

-Implications for Cities in the Asia Pacific Region-



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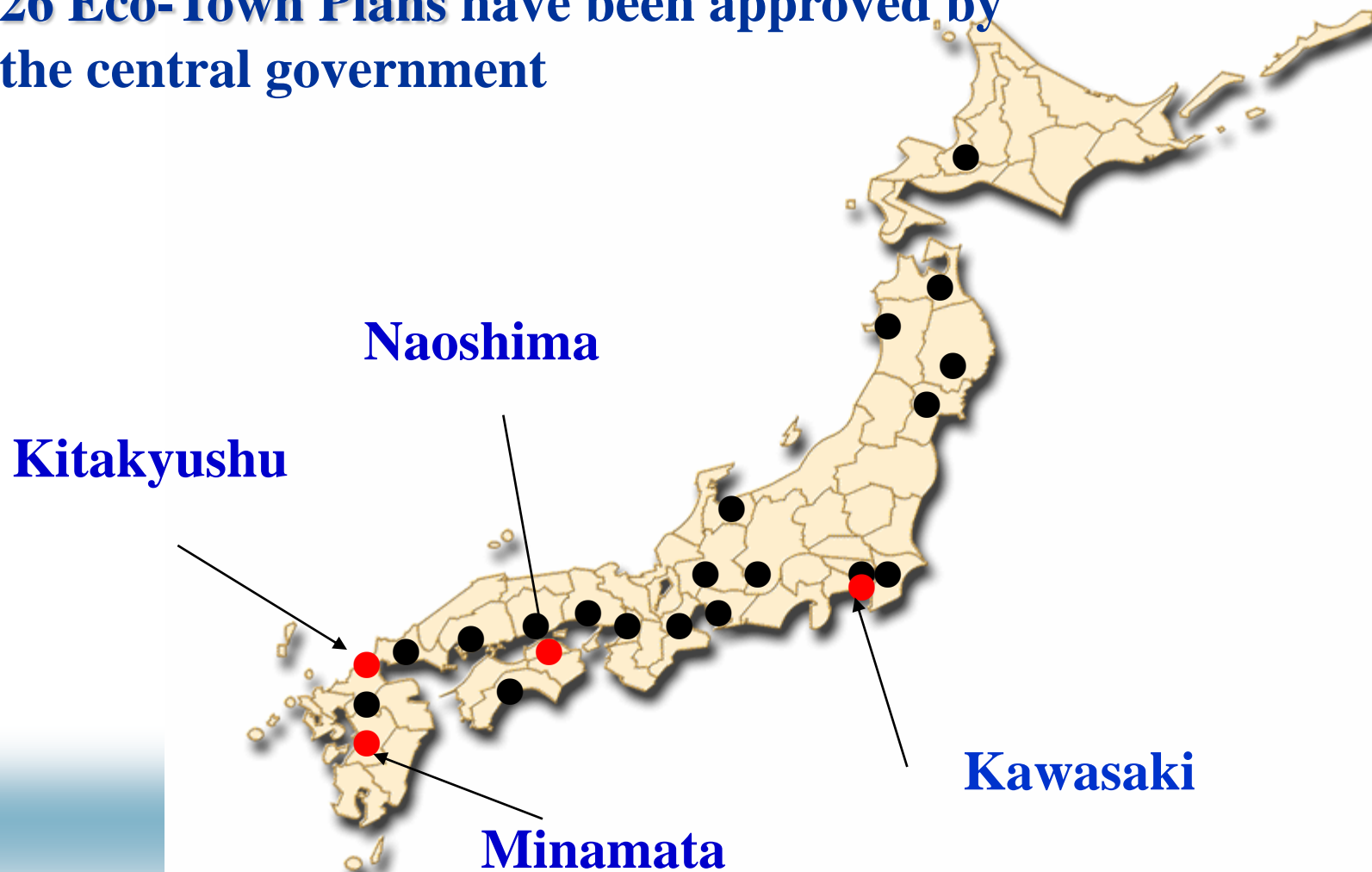
- 1. Features of Eco-Towns**
- 2. Background of Eco-Town Initiatives in Japan**
- 3. Framework Supporting Eco-Towns in Japan**

1. Features of Eco-Towns

- ◆ Contribution toward a sound material-cycle society
- ◆ Local governments play a central role.
- ◆ Utilize the strengths of local industries

Eco-Towns in Japan

26 Eco-Town Plans have been approved by the central government



2. Background of Eco-Town Initiatives

Changes in Socioeconomic Conditions

Challenges of Local Governments

Private Companies

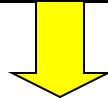
Citizens, NGOs

**Eco Industrial Development
Eco Town Initiative**

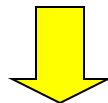
2. 1 Changes in Socioeconomic Conditions

Collapse of Bubble Economy

A long period of serious economic stagnation in 1990s



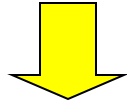
- ◆ Transformation to business model of mass production and consumption
- ◆ The pressure of globalization
→ “Hollowing out of Japanese industries”
- ◆ Environmental problems



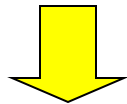
Promotion of a Sound Material-Cycle Society

2.2 Challenges of Local Government

Collapse of Bubble Economy



- ◆ Outflow of business enterprises
- ◆ Depopulation
- ◆ Decline of Tax revenue

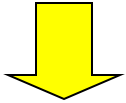


Developed initiatives, policies and plans

- ◆ To provide infrastructural and other support to industries
- ◆ To attract businesses, especially environmental businesses

2.3 Private Company

Collapse of Bubble Economy



Restructure



Major solutions

- ◆ Dissection and consolidation of production process
- ◆ Improved productivity by the application of cleaner production technologies and energy saving
- ◆ Entry into **environmental business** especially **3Rs-related ones**

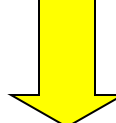
2.4 Citizens, NGO

In the 1960s and 1970s



Conflicts between local governments and local residents over the construction of waste treatment facilities

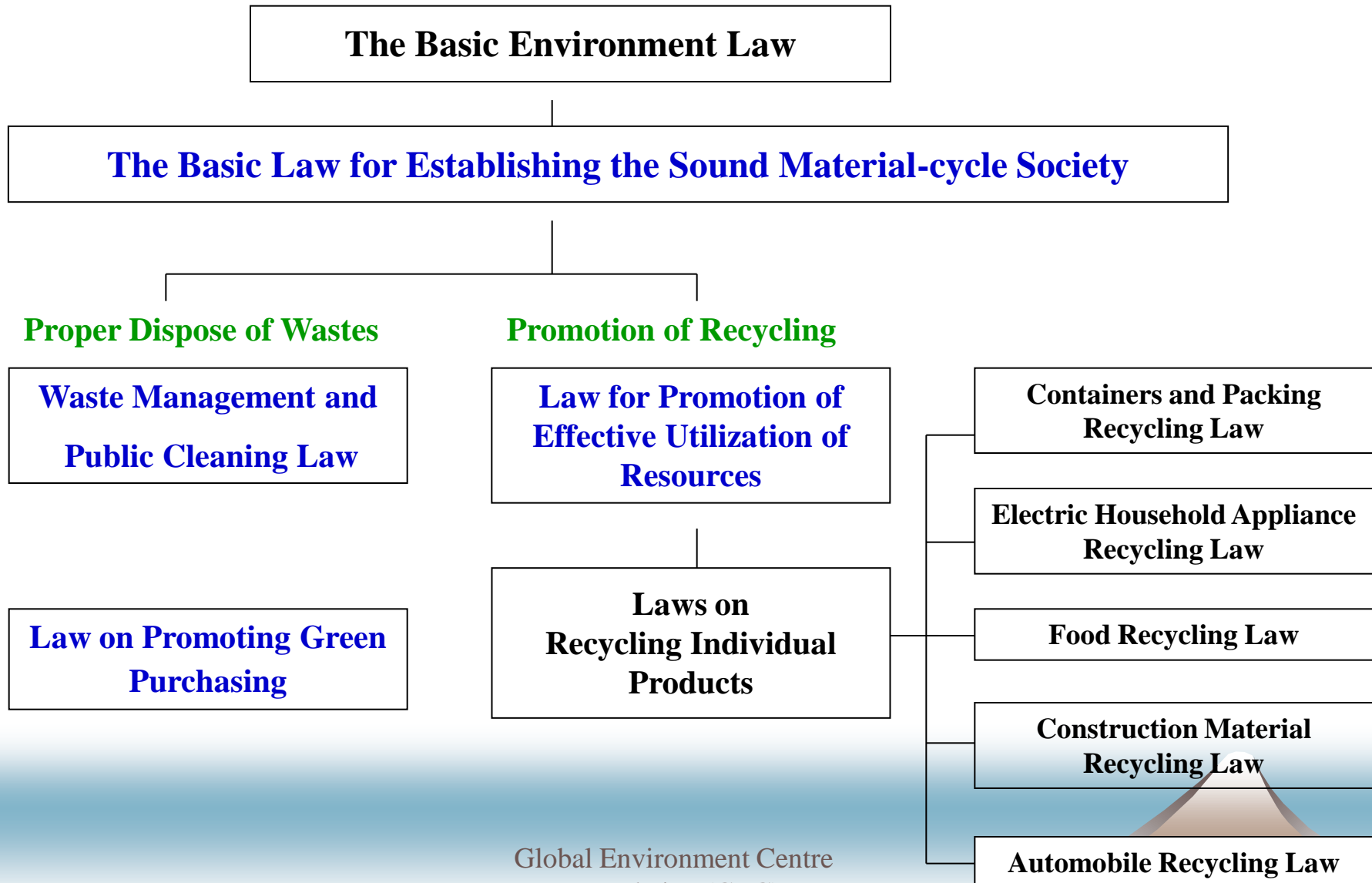
- Learned the importance of cooperating on the issues of waste management, the reduction of municipal wastes
- 3Rs' activities by Citizens groups, NGOs and NPOs

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- ◆ Environmental conservation awareness
 - ◆ Participation in local governments' strategies on Environment

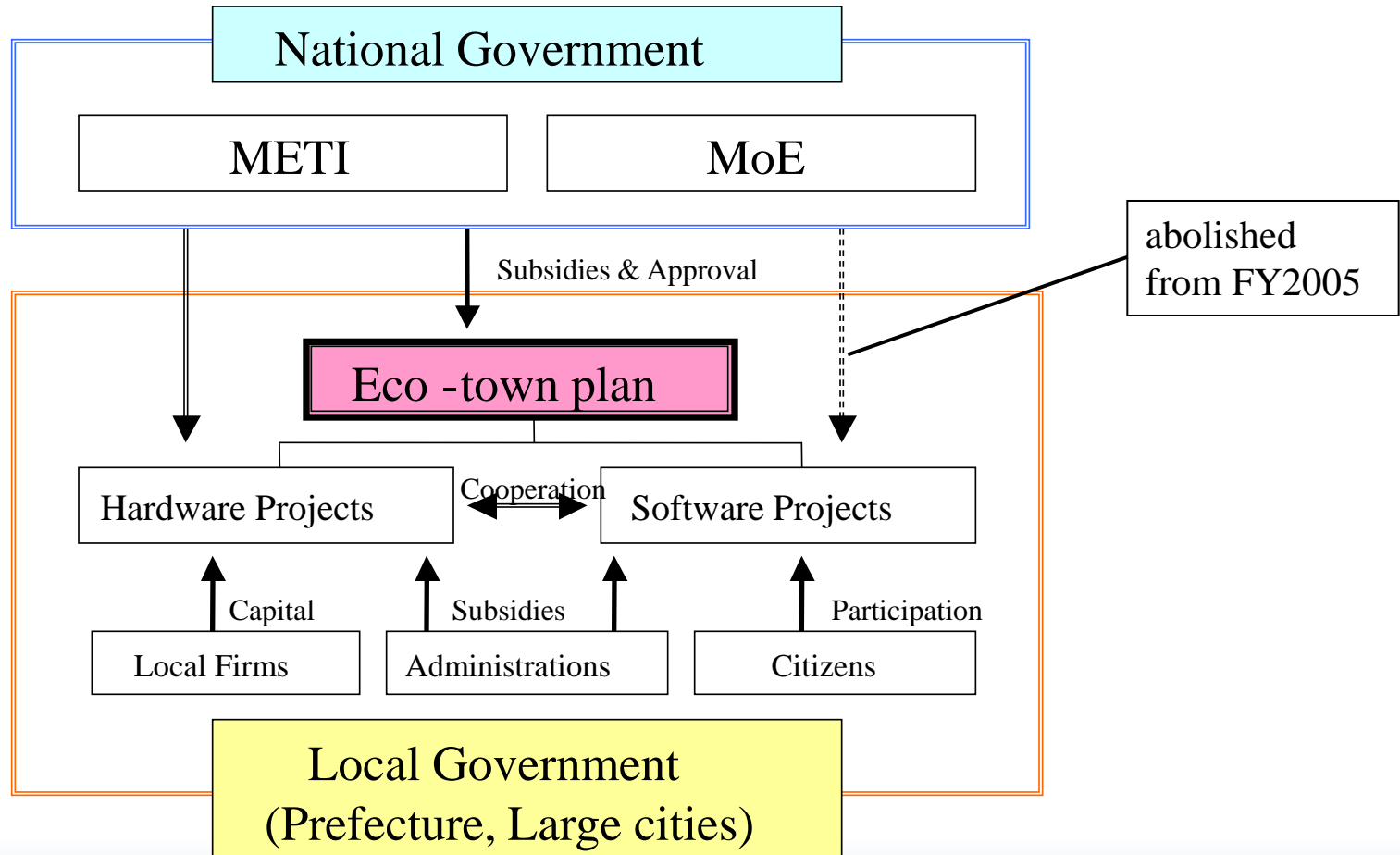
3. Framework supporting Eco-Town Initiatives

- 3.1 Legal Framework for a Sound Material-Cycle Society**
- 3.2 Subsidies Supporting Eco-Town Initiative**
- 3.3 Local Governments' Policies behind Eco-Town Plans**
- 3.4 Partnership among Stakeholders**
- 3.5 Roles of each stakeholder**

3.1 Legal Framework for a Sound Material-Cycle Society (1)



3.2 Subsidies supporting Eco-Town Initiative(1)



METI : Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

MoE : Ministry of the Environment

3.2 Subsidies supporting Eco-Town Initiative(2)

	Target Projects	Limit and Subsidy Rate
National Government	Hardware Projects	Less than 1/3 (Less than 1/2 for projects which has distinctiveness and innovativeness)
		Past Record : 54 billion JPY has been subsidized to 57 projects from 1997 to 2004.
	Software Projects	Less than 1/2 (abolished in FY2004)
		Past Record : Subsidies has been provided to over 100 software projects from 1997 to 2004.
Kawasaki-City	Hardware Projects	1% of National Government's Subsidies
Minamata-City		10% of National Government's Subsidies (Limit : 10 million JPY)
Kitakyusyu-City	Software Projects	Less than 2/3 (Limit: 20 million JPY for Demonstration Experiments, 2million for Social System Development)
		Subsidy to SMEs on Environmental Technological Development

3.3 Local Governments' Policies behind Eco-Town Plans

Goals of Local Governments

- (1) Improvement of Environment and Promotion of Sound Material-cycle Society
- (2) Attraction of Environment-related Enterprises to Fallow Lands
- (3) Activating Existing Enterprises
- (4) Prevention of Outflow of Population and Enterprises
- (5) Expansion of Employment



Initiatives or Policies aiming above Goals

e.g. Basic Concept on Environmentally Sound City Development (Kawasaki)

Basic Concept and Plan for Hibiki Bay Development (Kitakyushu)
etc.



Taken over to each Eco-Town Plan

3.4 Partnership among Stakeholders

Objectives of Each Stakeholder

Citizens
(Community
Sector)

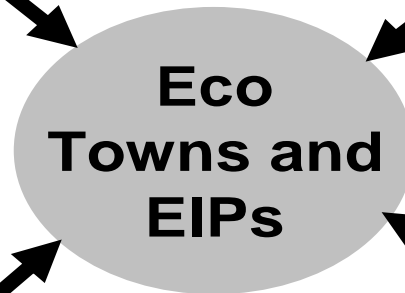
Cost Savings

Better Environment

Promotion of a sound material society

Government Sector

Development of the
Economy
(jobs, income, etc)



Better Environment

Material flows and
cost savings; better
business

Business opportunities

Good relationship with
communities and consumers

Private Sector

Reduced energy use

Better environment
and natural resources
savings

Support and
advice sector

3.5 Roles of Each Stakeholder (1)

National Government

To foster Eco-Town's current management and future development

- ◆ Establishment national policies, strategies and plans and a legal framework
- ◆ Providing subsidies to private enterprises and local government
- ◆ Green purchasing to expand the market for recycled products

Roles of Each Stakeholder (2)

Local Governments -1

Central Roles for promotion Eco-towns

- ◆ Planning and implementation of Eco-Town
- ◆ Harmonization between policies and strategies with other municipal policies and plans

Roles of Each Stakeholder (2)

Local Governments -2

Central Roles for promotion Eco-towns

- ◆ Coordination of stakeholders
- ◆ Collecting and disseminating information
- ◆ Promoting environmental education
- ◆ Green purchasing for the expansion of the recycled products market

Roles of Each Stakeholder (3)

Business Enterprises

**To Contribute to the establishment of
a Sound Material-Cycle Society**

- ◆ Promotion of 3Rs projects
- ◆ Developments of 3Rs technologies
- ◆ Promotion of 3R-related businesses
- ◆ Green procurement for expansion of the recycled products market

Roles of Each Stakeholder (4)

Citizens, NGOs and NPOs

Citizens' roles

- ◆ Active participation in Eco-Town development
- ◆ Utilization of recycled products
- ◆ Cooperation in waste separation and collection
- ◆ Changing the lifestyle of mass consumption

NGOs and NPOs' roles

- ◆ Raising public awareness on the 3Rs

Roles of Each Stakeholder (5)

Academics and Other Supporting Organizations

- ◆ Development of 3Rs technologies
- ◆ Development of methodologies for evaluation of Eco-Town projects
- ◆ Capacity building for leaders and coordinators of Eco-Town projects

Thank you for your kind attention



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URL : <http://gcec.jp>