



Connecting regions to achieve global impetus for policy action:

lessons learnt from four years of GACERE and sharing Japan's experience

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Ko Matsuura (Ministry of the Environment, Japan)
Daniele Serra (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)





GACERE in a nutshell

An alliance of governments at the global level willing to work together on and advocate for a global just circular economy transition and more sustainable management of natural resources at the political level and in multilateral fora.

GACERE is committed to demonstrate the benefits of the circular economy to address the **triple planetary crisis** of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.













Current GACERE members and partners

16 Member States + the EU







Ecuador



























European Union

Strategic Partners











Regional Networks









Expectations and objectives

- GACERE was created on the margins of UNEA-5.1 in February 2021
- **High ambition**: contribute to a global just transition to more climate neutral, resource efficient and circular economies

• **Space**: working at the connection of existing initiatives and regional alliances, bringing circular economy to multilateral discussions and making it part of its members' policies



Achievements in four years

- Circular economy has become a relevant part of many multilateral discussions:
 - UNEA Resolution 5/11 on enhancing circular economy
 - UNEA Resolution 5/14 on ending plastic pollution
 - Pact for the Future
- ❖ 62 countries have a circular economy roadmap/strategy and 16 are developing one
- *Regional commitments or declarations have been made (UNECE, 3R Forum, ECO, etc.)

GACERE toolkit

6 events with ministerial participation
7 publications, more in pipeline
7 side events, more to come
Webinars, focused groups, working-level meetings







Deep dive on Japan's experience

Legislative and Regulatory frameworks on Waste & Circular Economy



Basic Environment Act

Fully enforced in Aug 1994

Basic Environment Plan Fully revised and published in Apr 2017

Basic Act for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society (Basic framework law) Enforced in Jan 2001

Securing material circulation in society Controlling the consumption of natural resources Reducing environmental impacts

Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society (National Plan)

First published in Mar 2003

Proper waste managemen

Promotion of recycling

Waste Management Act

- (1) Waste generation control; (2) Proper waste management (including recycling);
- (3) Regulations on the establishment of waste management facilities;
- (4) Regulations on waste management operators;
- (5) Establishment of waste management standards:

Act on the Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources

Fully revised and enforced in Apr 2001

- (1) Recycling of recyclable resources; (2) Design and material improvements to facilitate recycling;
- (3) Labeling for sorted waste collection; and (4) Promotion of effective use of by-products Recycling (1R) \rightarrow Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (3Rs)

Plastic Resource Circulation Act Enforced in Apr 2022

Advancement of Recycling Business Act Enforced in May 2024

Container and Packaging Recycling Act

Home Appliance Recycling Act

Food Recycling Act **Construction Material** Recycling Act



Automobile

Recycling Act

Small Home Appliance Recycling Act



Glass and PET bottles, paper

ШТ



Vehicles

Small electronic appliances,

and plastic containers and packaging, etc. Fully enforced in Apr 2000

Partially revised in Jun 2006

freezers, televisions, and washing machines & clothing dryers

Air conditioners, refrigerators &

Food residue Fully enforced in May 2001 Partially revised in Jun 2007

Fully enforced in May 2002

Wood, concrete, and asphalt

Enforced in Apr 2013

Fully enforced in Apr 2001

Enforced on full-scale in Jan 2005

Ministerial Council on Circular Economy



- The Ministerial Council on Circular Economy was established on July 30th, 2024 for the realization of the circular economy as a national strategy and ensuring that the government carries out the strategy in a strategic and integrated manner.
- "The Policy Package for Accelerating the Transition to a Circular Economy" was compile and approved by the Ministerial Council on December 27th, 2024

The Prime Minister's Instruction

- ◆The Prime Minister instructed the ministries and agencies to promptly implement the policy package.
- ◆PM also stated that this Ministerial Council will continue to serve as a command center to promote the transition to a circular economy as a national strategy.



Member

Chair : Chief Cabinet Secretary

Vice Chair: Minister of the Environment, Minister of Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

Member : Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs and Food Safety.

Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Minister of State for the Promotion of Overcoming

Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy, and others

The National Plan towards Circular Economy



- The National Plan towards Circular Economy (The 5th Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society) was approved by the cabinet on August 2, 2024. This plan sets the direction of resource circulation and waste management over the next five years for Japan.
- The 5th plan will drive **the transition to a circular economy**, which contributes to achieving a net-zero and nature positive economy, strengthening industrial competitiveness, promoting circular business, local revitalization, and economic security.

August 2, 2024 2030

Cabinet decision

Basic outlines

- 1. Transition to a circular economy with a view to realizing a net zero and nature positive economy
- 2. Resource circulation throughout the life cycle with enhanced collaboration among stakeholders, including manufactures and recyclers
- 3. Realizing diverse **local/regional** resource circulation systems
- 4. Strengthening infrastructure for resource circulation and environmentally-sound waste management
- **5. International resource circulation** and promotion of development of recycling and waste management infrastructure



The plan indicates the basis of policies to enhance circularity both domestically and internationally.



Thank you!

Please join us on 5th March at the **roundtable on plastics**

Contacts:

Ko Matsuura (Ministry of the Environment, Japan)
Daniele Serra (UNIDO), <u>d.serra@unido.org</u>