

**Seventh Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific**

*“Advancing 3R and Resource Efficiency for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*

Adelaide, SA, Australia, 2-4 November 2016

# **City Report**

**(Draft)**

**< Toyama Prefecture >**

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This city report was prepared by Toyama Prefecture as an input for the Seventh Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.

**Guideline for City Reporting on Major Initiatives/Achievements in 3R areas**

The main objective of the City Reporting is to share among international community the progress, achievements and best practices, including various challenges faced, in the areas of **3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)** and sustainable waste management. This would help development agencies, donors, including development banks, in assessing the needs and challenges of cities to better devise their existing as well as future capacity building programmes and operations in the field of 3Rs and sustainable waste management.

It would be appreciated if a consolidated city report could kindly be prepared by answering the following questionnaire and submitted to the **Secretariat of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific** by email to [3R@uncrd.or.jp](mailto:3R@uncrd.or.jp)

Timeline for submission: **30 September 2016**  
 Secretariat of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific  
 United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

<b>City Report [City Name: Toyama Prefecture]</b>	
<b>Q 1</b>	<p><b>What are the roles of local government stipulated in the 3R-related policies, acts, laws, or regulations?</b></p> <p>According to Japan’s Basic Law for Establishing a Recycling Based Society, regional governments have the following duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement and enforce necessary measures to ensure appropriate recycling or disposal of recyclable materials.</li> <li>• Formulate, then implement policies for the creation of a recycling based society respecting natural and societal constraints and the appropriate division of roles set by the national government.</li> </ul> <p>Our prefecture has formulated the “Toyama Prefecture Basic Environmental Plan,” as well as the “Toyama Waste Plan.” We will push harder for greater application of 3R principles and proper disposal of waste, as well as tackling global warming and disaster related waste, and will double down on our efforts towards the creation of a recycling based society.</p>
<b>Q 2</b>	<p><b>Is 3R policy integrated in your city development strategy or master plan?</b>                  (Please attach photo(s) of your city’s waste management if available.)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes =&gt; Please share goals/visions/major achievements/important lessons learnt that could be replicated elsewhere.  <input type="checkbox"/> No =&gt; Please go to Q6 (please also answer Q4, 5, and 7)</p> <p>Safety is one of the pillars of Toyama Prefecture’s general plan, the “New Plan for the Creation of a Vibrant Toyama. Under the objective of safety (for safe and healthy living), the plan aims to create a recycling based society, and promotes the 3Rs under the “Toyama Waste Plan.”</p> <p>So far, our ban on free plastic bag distribution in supermarkets, the first for a Japanese prefecture, and our recycling program for small electronic appliances, which became the model for a national law, and other policies have shown that the efforts of our prefectural citizens, businesses, and government have led the nation in voluntary establishment of 3R practices.</p> <p>(1) Ban on free plastic bag distribution in supermarkets</p> <p>Plastic bags had traditionally been distributed for free in supermarkets, but in 2008, with the cooperation of consumers, businesses, and the government, this distribution was banned on the prefectural level, a first in the country. In 2015, 95% of shoppers brought their own bags to the supermarket, setting a high standard at the top spot in the nation. This ban on free plastic bag distribution has spread to 21 prefectures in the country.</p>



Calls for collaboration with the free plastic bag distribution ban at a storefront

(2) Toyama Style End-of-life Small Electronic Appliance Recycling

With Japan’s scarce resources, it is very important that resources are used efficiently. In this light, Toyama Prefecture created collection points in the municipalities for used small electronic appliances (digital cameras, personal computers), encouraging local businesses to collect gold, copper, and other rare metals, creating the structure for a local recycling system.

This system, called “Toyama Style End-of-life Small Electronic Appliance Recycling,” was used as a model for the establishment of the national small electronic appliance recycling law, and this opportunity led to its spread around the country.



Collection of end-of-life small electronic appliances

Please attach photos with caption, if available:

<p><b>Q 3</b></p>	<p><b>What are the major challenges and constraints faced by your city in implementing 3R policies and programmes? (Please answer only if your answer to Q2 is “Yes”)</b></p>	
<p>Financial constrains:</p>	<p>-</p>	
<p>Institutional/governance challenges:</p>	<p>According to our system, basic treatment of general waste is administered by the local municipalities. We do come across issues when we want to formulate policies for the prefecture as a whole, since cooperation with the municipalities becomes indispensable.</p>	
<p>Policy gaps:</p>	<p>-</p>	
<p>Other challenges such as technical capacity, human resources etc.:</p>	<p>It is difficult to gain the understanding of the inhabitants who live near planned waste processing facilities, so we must strive to improve the image of waste processing.</p>	

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City Report [City Name: Toyama Prefecture]																																		
Q 4	<b>What programme is in place in your city to support NGOs activities towards promotion of 3Rs?</b>																																	
	<p>The Toyama Environment Foundation was established as one entity, comprised of prefectural citizens, businesses, and governments, to promote the 3Rs and related activities, by dispatching or contributing manpower to various businesses. It also aims to build a recycling based society that would prevent global warming with the coordination of the Toyama Prefectural Citizen’s Environmental Assembly. Consisting of citizens, businesses, press, and governments, it promotes environmental education, and 3R awareness.</p>																																	
Q 5	<b>Is there any collaborative 3R related activity/project/partnerships with cities and organizations at international level?</b>																																	
	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes =&gt; Please brief the project(s) including objectives, project partners, target, period, budget etc.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Our prefecture coordinates the NEAR* Sub-Committee on Environment. Based on the “North East Asian Regional Governments Toyama Environmental Experts Meeting Declaration” of May 2016 (The 2016 Toyama Declaration), we are cooperating with each of these northeast Asian regional governments to promote environmental conservation policies. Particularly, when looking at the promotion of the 3Rs, we are working hard at curbing the incidence of plastic grocery bags, plastic trays, and PET bottles by collecting and recycling them before they have a worrying impact on ecosystems, etc. as part of the micro-plastics issue.</p> <p>*NEAR :The Association of North East Asia Regional Governments. Promoting exchange and cooperation between North East Asian Regions, this international association was created to contribute to mutual development and world peace. 14 Sub-committees were established, and 22 governments from 4 countries participate in the Sub-committee on Environment.</p> <p>Please attach photos with caption, if available:</p>																																	
Q 6	<b>Even if your city doesn’t have any dedicated 3R policies/programmes/activities, what future prospects or opportunities does your city have in 3R areas?</b>																																	
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Q 7	<b>What type of 3R infrastructure and facilities your city is equipped with? Please tick the appropriate.</b>																																	
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Q 8	<p><b>Kindly provide the important 3R policies/programmes/projects/master plans that your City Government plants to undertake within next five years (2016-2021)</b></p> <p>Once the “Toyama Framework on Material Cycles” was adopted during the G7 Toyama Environment Ministers’ Meeting, our prefecture conducted surveys to grasp the reality behind food loss and food waste, and in the face of the results, we have decided to promote efficient recycling, and reduction in food loss.</p> <p>Furthermore, industry, academics, and government are working together as a team on a project to investigate concrete methods for recycling waste in landfills, as well as supporting waste processing businesses looking into developing abroad.</p>
Q 9	<p><b>In response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 11 (<i>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</i>) and SDG 12 (<i>Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</i>), how is your City planning to advance 3R and resource efficiency related measures?</b></p> <p>We are currently promoting the local production and consumption of unused energy sources rooted in our regions, a smart grid that would enable the efficient use of our limited energy supply, enabling the “visualization” of the results of actions that take the environment into consideration, decreasing the consumption of natural resources, and promoting the use of renewable materials and resources.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Source: New Plan for the Creation of a Vibrant Toyama (Plan Period: 2012-2021 fiscal years)</p>

Thank you for your kind cooperation.