

The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation ZOOM webinar

Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (CEREP)

- The Strategy of Resource-Autonomous Circular Economy for Growth -

Thursday, June 15, 2023 17:00-18:30 Tokyo (10:00-11:30 Brussels)

(Summary)

After the opening remarks by Hubert, Managing Director of the European side of the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, Tanabe, Managing Director of the Japan side, started the webinar as the moderator.

First, four panelists gave presentations.

- Ciobanu-Dordea, Director, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
He mainly explained the EU's efforts in line with the Circular Economy Action Plan 2.0 announced in March 2020. Among these efforts, the circular economy has been positioned as part of the Green Deal since 2019 in the history of initiatives since the 2010s, and the initiatives are characterized by two key aspects: (1) Regulations designed to change various sectors (regulation proposals have been made for batteries, packaging, automobiles, etc.), (2) a focus on sustainability, circularity and resource efficiency as the defining characteristics of the manufacturing industry. In the midst of these efforts, strong expectations were expressed for Japan as a like-minded partner.
- Tanaka, Director, Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Division, METI
Achievements of 3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) initiatives since the 1999 Circular Economy Vision and the 2001 Basic Law for a Sound Material-Cycle Society (Final disposal volume of waste: 109 million tons in 1990 → 13 million tons in 2019) (surpassing results in Europe) was introduced. In addition, he emphasized the importance of shifting focus from quantity to quality in the future, Japan should aim for CO2 reduction through circular economy efforts, enhance economic security related to crucial mineral resources, and work on regulatory compliance and standardization initiatives.



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Furthermore, cooperation between Japan and the EU was suggested in areas such as standardization of circularity design and data compatibility for the circular economy.

- Bauer, Director, Public Affairs at the Policy Hub
The efforts of Policy Hub, an organization that promotes circular economy initiatives in the textile sector, were introduced. And she pointed out that important issues for the future will include securing traceability, considering various businesses including small and medium-sized enterprises, implementing future legislative measures, and addressing the challenge of free riders, etc.
- Amanuma, President and CEO, airCloset
He introduced the company's unique business (rental fashion subscription), touching on the importance of ICT in its business model, and expressed its ambition to grow as a circular fashion company through overseas expansion and diversification of their business domains.

After the presentations, the panelists answered the questions from the audiences, addressing topics such as the scope and actual operation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in the EU; the operation of the Digital Product Passport (DPP) and cooperation with Japan; the relationship between eco-design and recycling in the textile industry; and the value and future direction of circularity in the chemical industry (see recorded video for details).

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