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# Basel Act and Waste Management Act in Japan

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Opportunities for EU & Japan Industrial and Innovation Cooperation in the  
Circular Economy for Strategic Metals

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# How can we make circular economy real?



- Transition to circular economy is national and global challenge for all countries
- How is Japan addressing this challenge?
  - Economic growth and circular economy
    - creating the 80 trillion-yen business market related to circular economy by 2030
  - Legal scheme at National level
    - ← Circular Society Act, Waste Management Act and related recycling acts
  - Legal scheme at Global level
    - ← Basel Act and Waste Management Act

# National Legal Scheme for Circular Economy



Basic Act on the Environment

Basic Environmental Plan

Basic Act on Promoting of Formulation of Circular Society

Basic Plan for Promoting of Formulation of Circular Society

## Waste Management Act

preventing waste generation;  
ESM waste disposal and recycle;  
standards for waste management facilities, handlers, and disposers;  
waste treatment standards

## Act on Promotion Effective Utilization of Resources

recycling of recovered materials; recycle friendly design and materials; labelling for sorted collection; utilization of by-products

## Plastic Resource Circulation Act

[Variety of Recycling Acts for each item ]

Containers and Packaging



Glass bottles, pet bottles, paper and plastic packaging

Home Appliances



Air Conditioners, TVs, refrigerators and freezers, washing and drying machines

Food



Food Waste

Construction Materials



Lumber, concrete, asphalt

End-of-life Vehicles



car

Small Home Appliance



Mobile phones, computers, and 26 others

## Act on Promoting Green Procurement

# Basel Act (1992)

- Basel Act was enacted in 1992 for the implementation of Basel Convention. The latest amendment was made in 2018.
- The purpose of this Act is **only for control of import and export of hazardous waste**, not for control of domestic waste management.
- **The definition and lists of the “Basel waste”**, that are regulated by the Basel Act, **are basically the copy of Basel Convention and OECD Decision**, but not exactly same as Basel Convention and the OECD Decision because of translation and incorporation.



# Waste Management Act (1970)

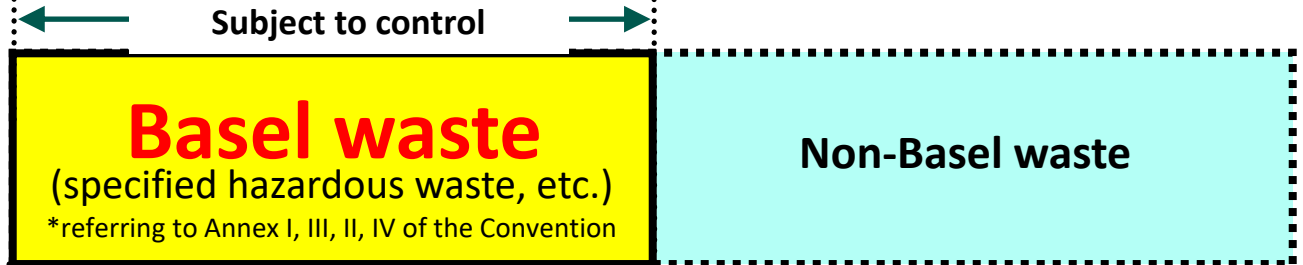
- Waste Management Act was enacted in 1970 and amended time to time.
- The purpose of the Act is to **control the whole waste management process, including** transport, incineration, recycling, final disposal, **import and export**.
- The “**wastes**”, that are regulated by the Waste Management Act, **are defined by five criteria, such as economic value**, nature of an item and its discharged circumstances.



# Definition of "Basel waste" and "Waste" under WMA

Defined by the hazardous characteristics and disposal operations

Basel Act



Examples



Lead acid batteries



Mercury waste



Used Paper

Waste Management Act



← Subject to control →

Defined by the five criteria including economic value, nature of an item and its discharged circumstances

# Regulation of Export of “Basel waste” and “Waste” from Japan to other countries

		To OECD countries		To Non- OECD countries	
		PIC(*1)	Confirmation of ESM (*2)	PIC(*1)	Confirmation of ESM (*2)
“Basel waste” (*3)	Recycling	✓		✓	✓
	Final disposal	✓	✓	✓	✓
“Waste” under WMA	Recycling		✓		✓
	Final disposal		✓		✓

\*1; Prior informed consent procedure

\*2; Minister of the environment confirms whether necessary measures to prevent environmental pollution are taken in the process of the recycling or disposal.

\*3; Basel wastes which are included in Green list of OECD decision, e.g., GC020, are regulated only the case of export to Non-OECD countries.

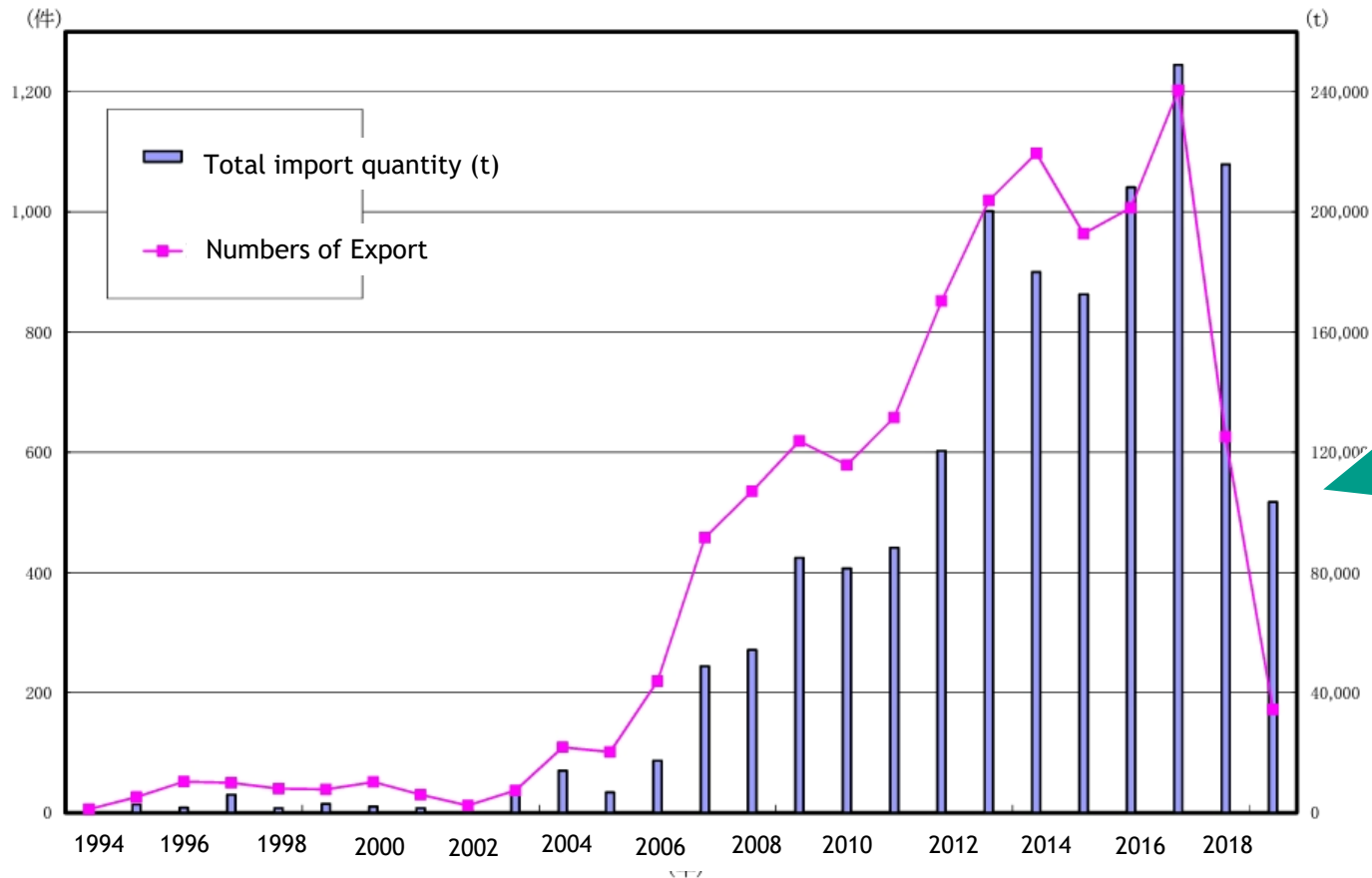
## Criteria of confirmation of ESM of recycling by Minister of the Environment

1. **The measure** to prevent air pollution, water contamination and other environmental pollution in recycling process must be taken at **roughly the same level as Japan does.**
2. **All or Almost all waste must be recycled** (not including thermal recycling)

\*Criteria 1 is for both “Basel waste” and “Waste” under WMA  
Criteria 2 is only for “Waste” under WMA



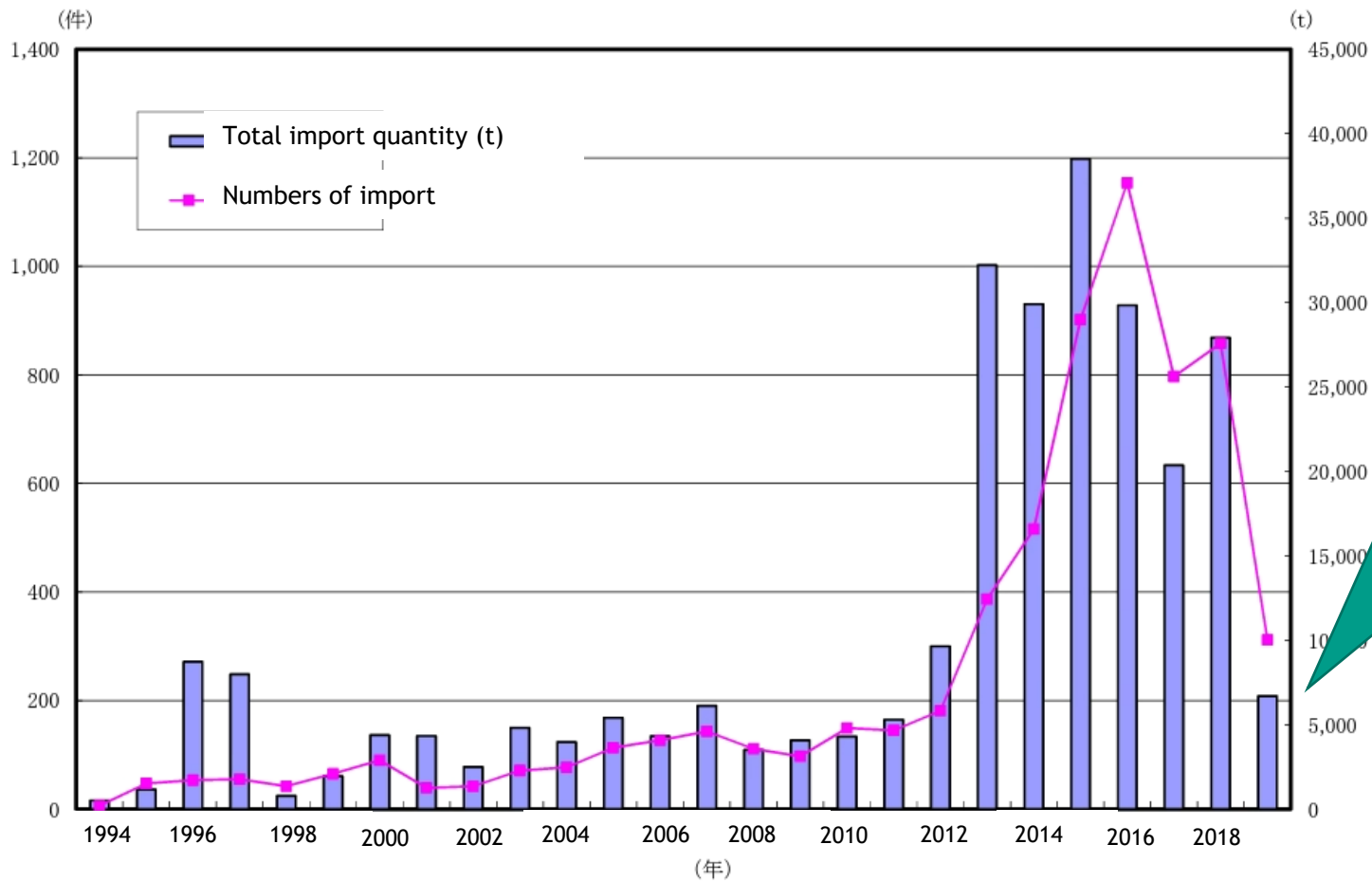
# Export of "Basel waste" under the Basel Act



2019  
103,528 t

Destinations:  
South Korea  
Belgium

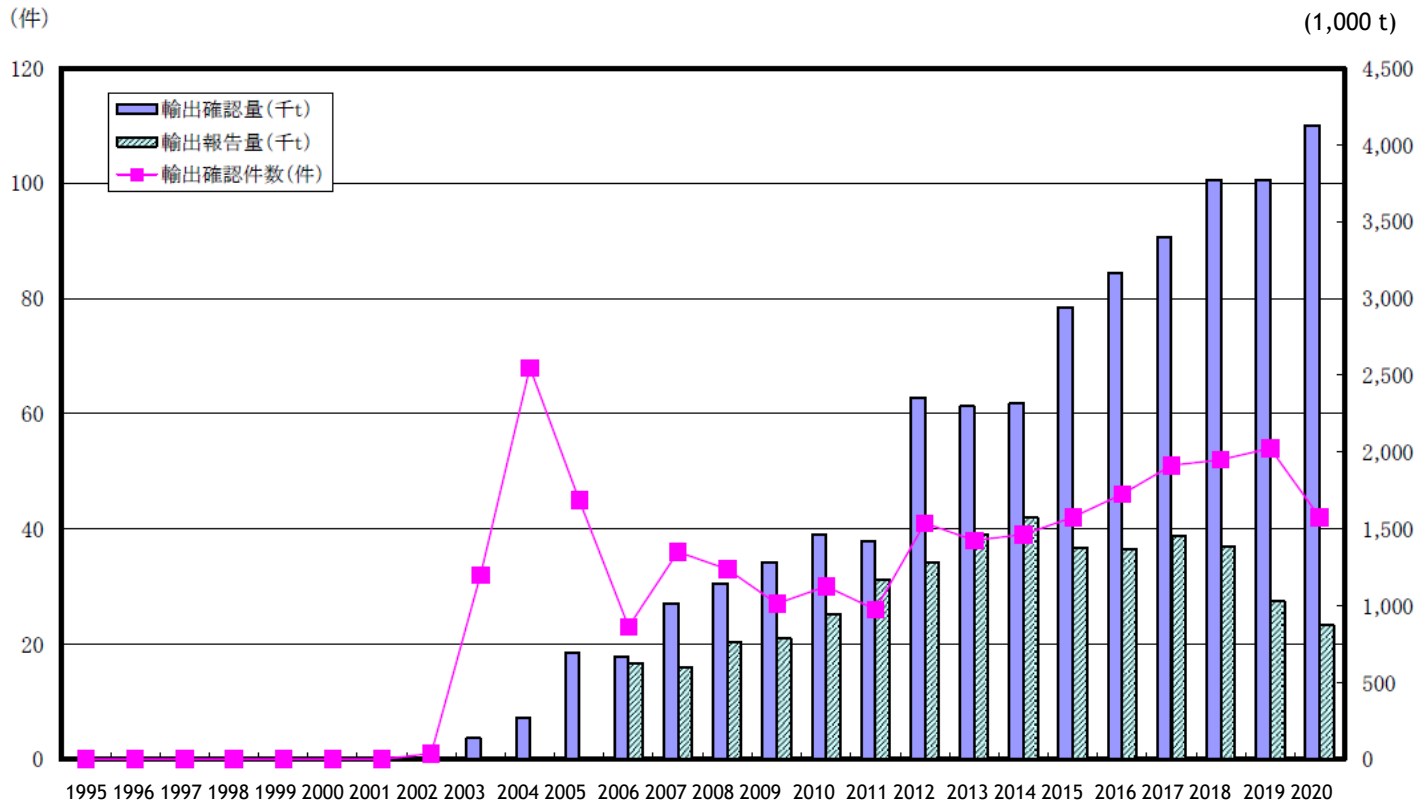
# Import of "Basel waste" under the Basel Act



2019 6,685 t

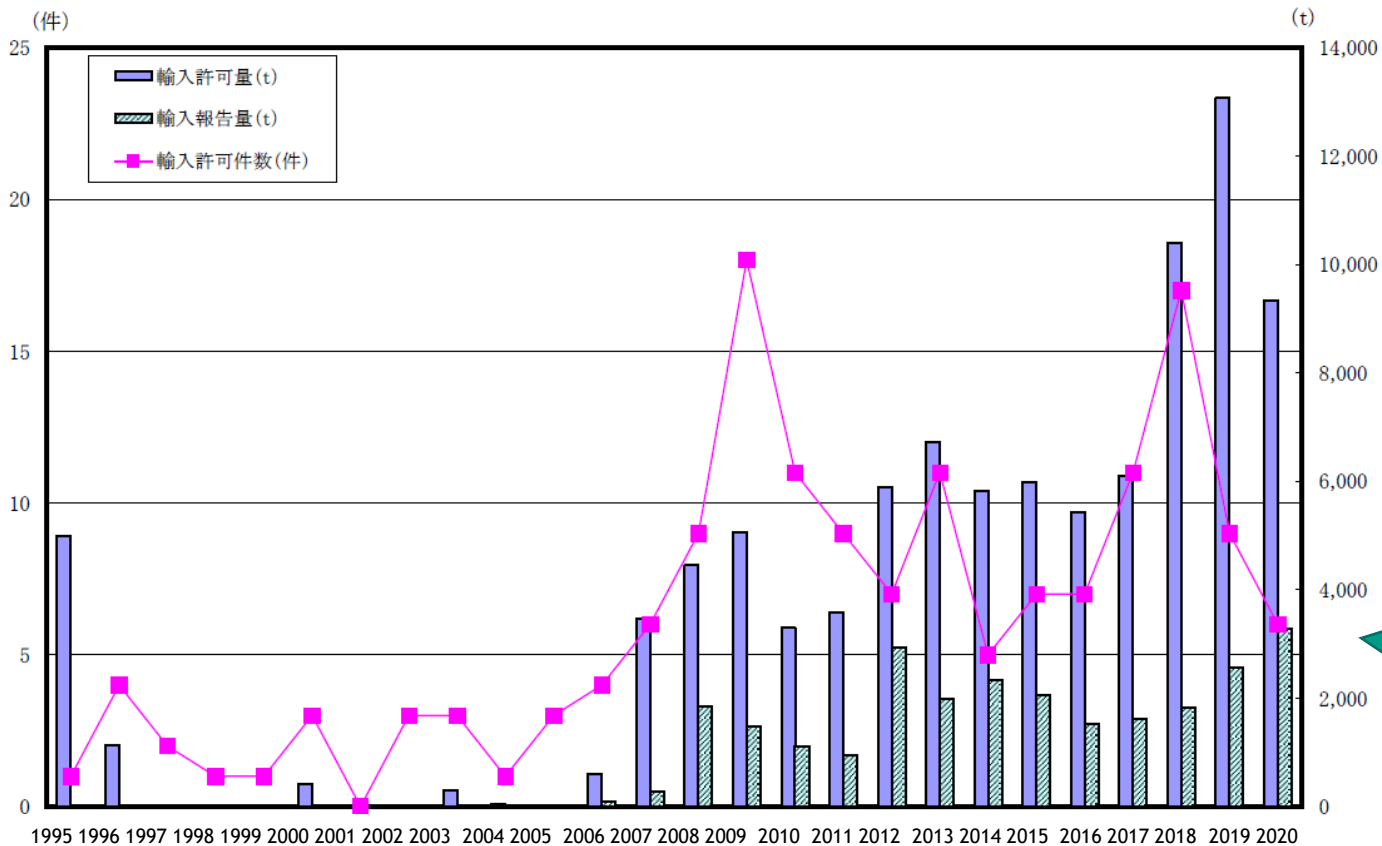
Origin countries:  
Indonesia  
Philippines  
Thailand

# Export of "Waste" under the Waste Management Act



2020  
872,318t  
Destination:  
South Korea  
Hong Kong

# Import of "Waste" under the Waste Management Act



2020  
3,280 t

Origins:  
Taiwan  
and  
Indonesia

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***Thank you  
Merci beaucoup  
Dank u wel***

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