

## Cooperation among different sectors

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JEAN has been active in Japan since 1990 in response to calls from environmental conservation organizations in the United States for an international coastal cleanup campaign.

The purpose of our activities is to have all countries in the world join in the fight against refuse in coastal areas to resolve the problem of the pollution of the oceans by refuse. Cleanup activities are conducted while gathering data on refuse dumping for identical periods using identical methods. The results are used to ensure fundamental improvements.

Anyone anywhere can participate, so there is a great deal of interest from companies and participation from schools, local organizations and the like. Cooperation from local governments in refuse collection and processing is also indispensable. These activities have been implemented in Japan for 12 years, but it is now time for the accuracy of surveys to be increased and specific policies for improvement to be devised.

Up to now, refuse has generally been collected through the unpaid service of volunteers and processed using the tax revenues of local governments. However, for studies and research delving more deeply into this matter as an environmental problem (to take one example, a study regarding the possibility of endocrine disruptors from plastic refuse), as well as the problem of refuse that cannot all be collected through volunteer efforts alone and so on, it is necessary to promote action with greater cooperation among private citizens, researchers, governments and industry to achieve an appropriate division of responsibilities and costs based on a common understanding.

In my presentation, I would like to organize current issues and problems to see how different sectors can cooperate in working on common problems.

I would like to take this forum as an opportunity to recognize differences in enthusiasm in different sectors and hold discussions in preparation for the promotion of joint efforts aimed at a resolution of this problem, and to exchange views as to what action should be taken, and in what manner, after the EMECS conference to preserve the environment of the Seto Inland Sea.

Keywords

1. Different sectors
2. Common understanding
3. Division of responsibilities