

## **Case of Recovery from the Illegal Industrial Wastes Dumping in Partnership with Inhabitant— The Experience of Teshima Island**

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Teshima Island is located to the west of Shodosima Island in Seto Island Sea. Teshima Island is a small green-shrouded island with the population of less than 1400 residents. Most of the residents make their living primarily from fishing and agriculture. From the late 1970's to 1990, one company illegally shipped and dumped, burned toxic wastes including shredder dusts, sludge and waste oil on Teshima Island. In 1990 the police of Hyogo Prefecture exposed the illegal waste shipment and dumping. In 1993 the residents of Teshima Island appealed to Environmental Dispute Coordination.

The examination of the Japanese Government conducted in 1995 revealed that 500,000 tons of hazardous wastes had been dumped illegally on the Teshima Island. Toxic substances, such as lead, PCB and dioxins were detected in the wastes at high concentrations. It is said to be the largest scale of illegal dumping of industrial waste that has occurred in Japan. It is highly possible that the toxic substances included in the dumped wastes penetrated into the marine environment through ground water flow.

Environmental Dispute Coordination in the Teshima Island industrial waste case was concluded on June 2000. Despite knowing the practices of hazardous waste dumping, Kagawa Prefecture had given permission of metal recovery business to the company, and allowed the heavily polluting practices. Kagawa Prefecture has the responsibility of removal and treatment of waste materials, and soils polluted by the hazardous wastes.

The examination committee was organized by Kagawa Prefecture to provide technological advice to resolve the problem of environmental pollution caused by industrial hazardous wastes, which were dumped illegally on Teshima Island. First, an impermeable wall will be constructed on the North coast of the disposal area to prevent polluted water from flowing out to sea. The industrial hazardous wastes will be excavated and moved to Naoshima Island. These waste materials will be melted and transformed into slag at a new furnace. The slag will be reused. Now, these facilities are under construction.

The residents of Teshima Island have attended this examination committee, and took part in this planning. It is the first experience of risk communication concerning recovery from the illegal wastes dumping.