

## 「リサイクルによって生き返った埋立処理場」

10月21日付当地Nation紙は、国際協力推進協会(A P I C)の「太平洋・カリブ記者招待計画」により訪日した同紙エバンソン記者の鹿児島県大崎町の廃棄物管理(3R)に関する記事を掲載しているところ、概要以下のとおり。

1 2000年、緑豊かな森林に覆われた盆地に位置する大崎町に廃棄物埋立処理場が開設された。当初15年の使用が見込まれたが、場合によっては5年でほぼ埋め尽くされるかもしれないという、悲惨な予測が現実的となった。そのため同町は住民を巻き込んでリサイクルを開始したところ、同処理場は50年延命された。

2 同町は、コンポスト施設を作り、家庭からの生ゴミ、木の枝等の堆肥化を開始した。これにより、現在では1万2千世帯から集めた材料から、毎日3トンの有機肥料を生産し、家庭や農家に安価で販売している。

3 同町の分別回収は、缶やペットボトルから始まり、16年間で14品目が追加され、合計16品目になった。現在、町民の各世帯は、蛍光灯、古着、乾電池、小型家電、壊れた鍋などを含め27品目の分別を行い、これらが収集容器で回収される。

4 2014年以降、同町は埋立処理場への廃棄物の持込みを禁止したことにより、廃棄物埋立処理量が6割減少。かつて存在していたメタンガスによる悪臭、カラスやネズミによる害もなくなった。現在、同町では試験的に世界初の紙おむつのリサイクルを試みているとのことである。これらの取り組みにより、同町は、廃棄物ゼロとなる日が来ると期待する。

Osaki's vice head of Resident and Environment Division, Shizuto Takehara, standing in front one of the compost heaps. (HLE)



# New life for landfill after recycling

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When the landfill that had a predicted life span of 15 years ran out of space in five, the government of the rural Japanese town of Osaki knew it had a problem and had to come up with a drastic solution quickly.

And so, the idea of recycling and composting as much garbage as possible was born.

Now that landfill, nestled in a basin overtopped by verdant forestry, has a new lease on life – a new 50-year lease on life.

Recycling programmes are nothing new – they're found all over the globe, but the difference is this programme was in a small town, with

a population of only 12 331 people who took environmental matters into their own hands. Osaki is located in southwestern Japan on the island of Kyushu.

Osaki's vice head of Resident and Environment Division, Shizuto Takehara, explained that when the landfill was opened in 2000, it was projected to last for 15 years.

## Almost full

However, he said it was almost full within five.

Speaking through an interpreter yesterday, Takehara said when the dire prediction about the landfill's shelf life was realised, the government roped in the residents in the rescue plan. A composting facility was



Community Leader Shoichi Hidaka helping to sort some of the recyclable items brought by residents of Osaki, Japan. (HLE)

established and household garbage and green waste like tree branches and clippings were diverted there.

As a result, that facility now produces three tonnes of the organic material daily from the material it collects from 12 000 households. That finished product is then sold, at nominal prices, to homeowners and farmers.

Meanwhile, the diverting of household items started with cans and

plastic bottles.

Sixteen years later, said Takehara, 14 more categories of items were added, bringing the total to 16. Today, he said, there are 27 categories of items – like fluorescent lights, old clothes, dry cell batteries, along with small appliances and broken pots and pans – which homeowners place in special containers, which are diverted

Continued on next page.

# Landfill items reduced

From Page 20.

away from the landfill.

The project has reduced the items going to the landfill by 60 per cent, said Takehara.

“In 2014, we prohibited any of the citizens to bring any garbage here. Before then, all the garbage was coming here so there was methane gas, crows, there were smells and rodents.”

Takehara said the government is looking at another venture to divert

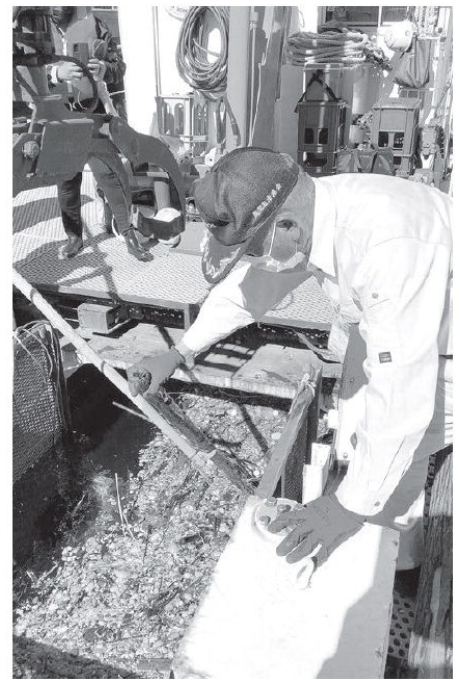
disposable diapers, which were currently not recyclable.

“We’re now trying to recycle disposable diapers and there is the world’s first test for that here. But that is a secret still, so we cannot show this to you,” he said.

“But we think in three years we can recycle diapers and then the recyclable rate will be 83 per cent to 90 percent. So, there will be a day where we have zero garbage and then we can tell children it will be alright in the future,” Takehara said.



The debris and litter in the bay of Osaka. (HLE)



Deckhand Takeo Yoshimoto guiding the litter and debris into the marine sweeper. (HLE)

# Marine sweeper clears pollution

Plastic bottles, juice containers, plastic bags along with tree branches of all shapes fished from one corner of the port in less than ten minutes.

No, it's not a marine clean-up in Barbados. It's one in the port of Kagoshima, Japan, which is also dealing with its own marine litter issues.

But they have a marine sweeper which makes the job a little easier. So unlike Barbados, where civic-minded divers and volunteers remove marine pollution by hand, Captain Katsunori Kawano and his deckhands Junichi Maeda and Takeo Yoshimoto have the Kinko at their disposal.

The Kinko, the third in the line of marine sweepers for the port, is a nine-tonne, almost

five-metre-long vessel capable of making nine knots. Equipped with a crane to fish heavy and bulky items like logs of wood or the illegally dumped appliance out of the water, the vessel boasts equipment that captures everything from the surface of the water, feeding it into a basket which is then raised so the garbage can be removed.

It makes light work of what could be, in Barbados, a dangerous task.

Yesterday, journalists from the Caribbean and the Pacific along with Executive Director and Secretary General Shoji Nagatoshi, joined Captain Kawano on board the vessel for their morning outing.

The marine sweeper is deployed Mondays to Fridays from about 8:30

a.m. to 5 p.m.

As they headed out through the guarding lighthouses of the bay, with the gases from volcano Sakurajima trailing lazily in the morning air, Captain Kawano piloted his vessel with the unerring precision of someone who knows where to find his garbage.

## Ready to guide

With their pole nets, his deckhand stood ready to guide the garbage into the steel container.

Speaking through an interpreter, Nagatoshi said any day's takings – algae, float stones from the volcano, tree branches and plastic bottles – and the weight of the garbage depended on the time of year.

During the months of May to October –

the country's typhoon season – a lot more garbage was washed into the bay, he said.

"It depends on the day but when the tide is low, it just wouldn't come into the port. But when the tide is high it would go over the tetrapods (break water) and come into the port so there will be more garbage," he said.

He also surmised that there might be a dumpsite somewhere

close and that would account for some of the illegal dumped items.

"There must be a kind of dumpsite somewhere. To dump it legally it would cost money. They would have to pay some amount of money so sometimes they just dump it illegally," he said through the interpreter.

He said, however, it was difficult to catch people in the act of

illegal dumping but should someone be caught they are given a warning.

He explained that between the marine sweeper and land-based garbage collection, they had rid the environment of between 115 000 to 207 000 kilogrammes of garbage in the last six years. The garbage removed from the water accounted for 64 per cent to 77 per cent of that total.