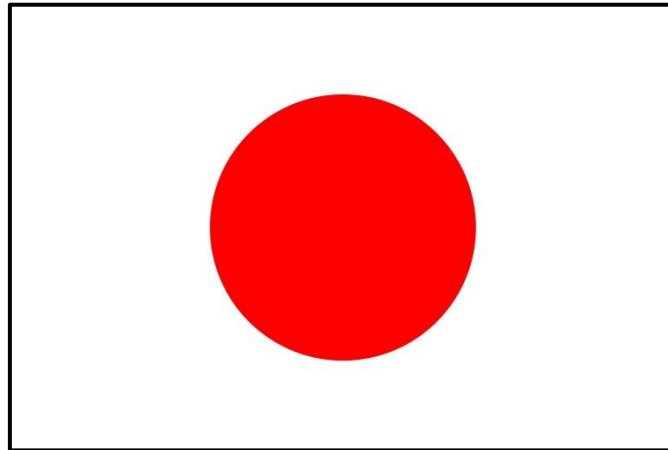


Country: Japan

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Agenda: Promoting the responsible disposal of electronic and hazardous waste



The world has generated 2.01 billion metric tons of municipal solid waste in 2016, and this number is expected to grow as much as 3.4 billion metric tons by 2050. Japan generated 42.89 million tons of waste in fiscal 2019, meaning 938 grams of waste was generated per day by each citizen last year. This number has been gradually decreasing over the last ten years; however, much effort is needed to reduce waste in Japan. If this waste generation continues, the country's landfill is expected to be filled up in approximately 20 years' time.

Electronic waste in Japan is a major environmental issue. Although Japan was one of the first countries to implement an electronic waste recycling program, it is still having serious issues. In this day and age, e-waste disposal has become of major importance due to the increasing demand for electronics on a worldwide scale. In 2013, the Japanese government reported that roughly 550 thousand tonnes of e-waste was collected and treated in Japan, which only equates to about 24-30% of total e-waste. Not only does e-waste harm the environment if untreated, it also becomes a fiscal loss due to the material lost that could have been salvaged.

To overcome this issue Japan has implemented two laws, the first is the Law for the Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources (LPUR) and the other is the Law for the Recycling of Specified Kinds of Home Appliances. The first law encourages manufacturers to voluntarily help recycle goods and reduce the generation of the waste. The second law imposes more requirements on the recycling efforts of both consumers and manufacturers of home appliances