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# The Guidebook for Promoting Biomass Town Concept

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Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

## Foreword

We have lived depending on biomass made by solar energy (photosynthesis) in order to produce food, energy and most everyday goods before the beginning of recorded history. We, however, are consuming petroleum of fossil fuel to generate energy at the present day, resulting in heavy consumption of resources and energy. It is not possible for us to continue such life-style with heavy consumption of energy permanently. Some issues impacting our life already occur. They are shortage of resources and environmental matters.

Japan reviewed its energy consumption policy and system and “the Biomass Town Concept” under the Biomass Nippon Strategy set up in December, 2012 was presented by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries with other relevant ministries. “The Biomass Town Plan” is a realized plan of the Biomass Town Concept. The Biomass Town Plan aims to create new recycling-based society where biomass (including organic recourses originated in living organisms and excluding fossil fuel such as petroleum and coal) are effectively utilized. In other words, the Biomass Town Plan presents “new way to live or new lifestyle” as well as “new recycling-based society”. About 300 Biomass Town Plans are formulated and issued in Japan until April, 2011.

On the other hand, shortage of resources and environmental matters impacting our life are not limited to Japan and they are global serious issues. The Biomass Town Project in the East Asia has started to introduce the Biomass Town Concept, which was born in Japan and aims new society and new lifestyle, to world, in particular, to Asian countries having rich biomass resources, supported by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Four Asian countries are trying to realize the Concept.

However, there is big challenge associated with biomass. Each area has greatly different conditions from biomass production/generation to its use. The challenge occurred when the Biomass Town Plans were formulated in Japan. If the Asian counties try to formulate their Biomass Town Plans, they have many areas with different conditions including applicable technologies. Therefore, it is necessary for the countries or regional communities to formulate and implement Biomass Town Plan suitable for their actual conditions.

The Guidebook describes basic policy and know-how to formulate and implement the Biomass Town Plan in various conditions of Japan and the Asian countries. The Guidebook has also a plenty of experiences and pains of the people and parties promoting the Biomass Town Concept. I would like to not only respect all the involved people and parties, but also expect the Guidebook encourage people to have interest in the Biomass Town Concept and to consequently formulate and implement their Biomass Town Plan by themselves.

I would like to greatly appreciate people contributing to the Guidebook last of all.

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