

For the future of the Earth

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

ICETT

NEWSLETTER



Purpose of establishment

The International Center for Environmental Technology Transfer (ICETT) was established through industry-government-academia cooperation for the purpose of transferring technologies for environmental conservation owned by our country and various foreign countries to other regions and alleviating environmental problems on a global scale.

ICETT aims at conservation of the global environment and sustainable development of the global economy by implementing various projects according to the characteristics of various foreign countries and by promoting smooth technology transfer.

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In this issue, icons of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) closely related to the introduced projects are displayed.

Promotion of the 3rd Medium-Term Management Plan: Balancing environmental conservation with economic

Amid the growing urgency of global challenges such as realizing a decarbonized society and transitioning to a circular economy, the International Center for Environmental Technology Transfer (ICETT) has been accelerating its activities based on the “3rd Medium-Term Management Plan (FY2024–FY2028),” which commenced in FY2024.

In FY2025, the second year of the plan, we have been promoting initiatives for technology transfer in line with the “Four Directions of Action for Environmental Conservation.”

- Promote technology transfer in the carbon neutrality (CN) field
- Promote technology transfer in the field of resource circulation
- Respond to environmental issues based on local needs (such as preventing industrial pollution)
- Foster the next generation of human resources and promote information and technology exchange

Going forward, we will reaffirm our original mission and promote initiatives with the aim of contributing to the revitalization and advancement of regional industries from the perspective of achieving both environmental conservation and economic development.

Our website, which we renewed in March 2025, provides more detailed information on the Four Directions of Action for Environmental Conservation. We invite you to visit and take a look.

Performances in FY2025

Direction	Subject	Outsourcer, etc.	Project	Main Target Groups and Participants, etc.	Number of Participants	
CN	Thailand	Self-funded, GEF (※)	Decarbonization Support for Thai SMEs	Thai SMEs, Thai Government entities, etc.	217	○
	Japan	— (Self-funded)	Overseas Transfer Project of CN-Related Technologies	Companies and government entities mainly in the Chubu region	276	○
	Japan	— (Self-funded)	Utilization and promotion of Initiatives of CN in Yokkaichi Industrial Complex	ICETT participated as an observer as a member of the Yokkaichi Industrial Complex CN Promotion Committee	—	
Resource Circulation	Japan	— (Self-funded)	Transfer of Recycling Technologies for Plastic Resource Circulation	Needs surveys conducted for government entities in ASEAN countries and municipalities in Mie Prefecture	—	
	Philippines	AOTS (※), Self-funded	Fostering Human Resources in the Green Growth Strategy Sector	Companies and government entities in the Philippines and Japan	70	○
	Japan	— (Self-funded)	Overseas Transfer Project of Resource Circulation Technologies	Companies and government entities mainly in the Chubu region	428	○
	Japan	Mie Prefecture	A Survey of Advanced Efforts to Contribute to the Transition to a Circular Economy	Advanced Case Studies (approximately 40 cases)	—	○
Others	Palau	JICA (※)	The Project to Promote Systematic Household Waste Segregation and Discharge in Babeldaob Island, the Republic of Palau	2 states and 8 elementary school in Palau	—	○
	China	Yokkaichi City	Tianjin Environmental Exchange Project	Tianjin Government officials	6	○
	Japan	Mie Prefecture	The Glocal Human Resource Development Course	High school and university students, etc. in Mie	78	○
	China, USA, Japan	Yokkaichi City	Global Environment Workshop for High School Students	Students in Tianjin, Long Beach, Yokkaichi city	12	○

※ GEF : The Global Environment Facility

AOTS : The Association for Overseas Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Partnerships

JICA : Japan International Cooperation Agency

Articles published in this NEWSLETTER : ○

During FY2025, we made efforts to establish and develop operations, building on our initiatives thus far for decarbonization management support for the Kingdom of Thailand (Thailand) and support for converting waste into energy for the Republic of the Philippines (the Philippines). In these projects, while also making use of external funding, we carried out activities tailored to local needs, further reinforced collaboration with local partners, and provided more robust support.

Furthermore, continuing from the previous fiscal year, we held well-received ICETT seminars on carbon neutrality and resource circulation. These seminars address timely topics aligned with national policies and industry trends, and by providing useful information, we were able to welcome many participants, primarily from the Chubu region.

In the following sections, we will introduce the projects we carried out in FY2025 by area of focus.

Promotion of Technology Transfer in the Field of Carbon Neutrality



Initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions are an urgent international concern as emissions of GHG, which contribute to global warming, continue to increase. To address this, ICETT has established “CN Promotion” as one of our priority initiatives. Since holding our first seminar in FY2021 on decarbonization management for small -and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Japan, we have continued to host seminars and workshops and provide hands-on support to promote proactive efforts toward decarbonization among Japanese companies. Furthermore, from FY2024, we have been leveraging our expertise obtained by supporting Japanese companies to provide decarbonization management support for companies in Thailand as well.

Decarbonization Support for Thai SMEs

Self-funded, with subsidy from the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Background and purpose

The Thai government aims to realize CN and zero GHG emissions by 2050, and, as part of these initiatives, approved the Climate Change Act in December 2025. With this, the need for decarbonization initiatives among Thai companies is expected to grow going forward.

Given this environment, at the request of Thailand’s Department of Industrial Works (DIW), ICETT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DIW in May 2024 regarding cooperation on initiatives to promote CN in Thai industries, and we have since been implementing decarbonization management support projects for Thai companies. To date, we have held seminars in Thailand, welcomed to Japan a delegation from Thailand made up of representatives from Thai government agencies and others, and planned and orchestrated their visits to Chubu-region companies engaged in advanced initiatives. Through this project, we aim to promote decarbonization management among Thai companies, and in the future, promote the incorporation of technologies and facilities that contribute to decarbonization from companies in the Chubu region, such as those in Mie Prefecture, to expand business opportunities for the region and give rise to the development of regional industries.

Details

In FY2025, this project targeted companies in the food industry, which is one of Thailand’s key industries.

At the CN seminar held in Nakhon Pathom Province near Bangkok, we provided information on GHG emission calculation methods and GHG reduction measures, and local Japanese companies introduced their energy-saving products. (This seminar was held for two days in August, with a total of 217 participants, co-organized with DIW and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).) Furthermore, we provided hands-on support to three local companies (including Japanese companies) selected with the aim of establishing model companies capable of calculating their GHG emissions in Thailand.

The aim of these initiatives is to enable Thai companies themselves to calculate and visualize GHG emissions across their own operations and supply chain in order to grasp their current situation.

Results and prospects

Participants shared comments such as, “I was able to understand the importance of decarbonization management” and “I learned the basics of decarbonization efforts,” confirming that we contributed to raising awareness and enabling participants to gain new knowledge. Additionally, through hands-on support, all three companies came to understand how to calculate GHG emissions on their own and established frameworks, creating case examples that will serve as models for this project. Furthermore, we received praise from our collaborator DIW: “Participating in the hands-on support activities of ICETT also led to cultivating human resources at DIW.”

Going forward, we will support companies in their creation of detailed GHG emissions reduction plans and make efforts toward horizontal expansion of best practices. We will also conduct activities such as business matching to promote technology transfer from companies in the Chubu region, including Mie Prefecture.



Seminar (Nakhon Pathom Province)



Factory visit for companies providing hands-on support

Overseas Transfer Project of CN-Related Technologies

Self-funded

ICETT held three seminars to promote CN initiatives among companies in the Chubu region, including Mie Prefecture. (November 2025, February and March 2026, with a total of 276 participants both in person and online)

- First seminar : The Construction Industry's Challenge to Achieve Carbon Neutrality
- Second seminar : The Next Step in Energy Saving – Carbon Credits that Turn CO₂ Reduction into Value
- Third seminar : Seminar for Promotion of Hydrogen Utilization (Co-hosted by the Central Japan Hydrogen and Ammonia Association)

The first seminar introduced corporate case studies and government policies toward reducing CO₂ emissions throughout the entire life cycle of buildings from construction to demolition (Life-Cycle Carbon). The second seminar introduced the latest trends in carbon credits and examples of credit generation from diverse perspectives including those of the government, consulting firms, and financial institutions. The third seminar introduced national policy trends toward attaining a hydrogen society, along with case studies of hydrogen utilization in the Chubu region.

At the business card exchange sessions following the seminars, participants and lecturers engaged in lively discussions. The seminars were well received, with participants noting that their knowledge of the subject matter had deepened. ICETT will continue to plan and hold seminars with the aim of promoting CN initiatives and developing regional economies, in light of the needs of local communities.



The first seminar



Business card exchange and networking session

Promotion of Technology Transfer in the Field of Resource Circulation



Promotion of resource circulation is essential for the construction of a sustainable society by enabling effective use of limited resources and reducing environmental footprints. To achieve this mission, ICETT has been identifying resource recovery technology providers located in Mie Prefecture and the Chubu region, and implementing projects that promote initiatives toward the realization of a circular economy.

In FY2025, continuing its activities from the previous year, ICETT shared the latest trends and pioneering initiatives for resource circulation. In addition, ICETT conducted projects both domestically and internationally to promote deeper deliberations on how to achieve resource circulation by encouraging discussions and dialogue in addition to introducing initiatives and technologies.

Fostering Human Resources in the Green Growth Strategy Sector

AOTS subsidy/Self-funded

Background and purpose

The Philippines has seen significant economic growth, and it also faces many environmental challenges. One of the concerns considered to be critical is management of organic waste, particularly food waste. In FY2024, ICETT conducted a training program in Japan and invited representatives from the country's government agencies, local governments, industry organizations, and private companies such as food processing businesses to learn about energy recovery operations from food waste and technologies from public and private organizations in the Chubu region. Through this training program, we recognized a strong interest in and the necessity of these technologies in the Philippines, especially in Pampanga Province. For this reason, we implemented a project in FY2025 to transfer technologies to the region.



Group work in an overseas seminar

Details

ICETT held an overseas seminar in Pampanga Province with the Philippine Department of Science and Technology's Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) with the aim of enhancing understanding of energy recovery from food waste. (This seminar was held in November with 50 participants; the initiative is a human resource development program under the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's advanced technology deployment (in the Green Growth Strategy field), with an AOTS Grant from the government.)

Another seminar was also held in Yokkaichi City in Mie Prefecture, Japan to provide information for businesses in the Chubu region, including Mie Prefecture, that are looking to expand into the Philippines. (The seminar was held in July with 20 participants.)



A seminar in Japan

Results and prospects

At the seminar in the Philippines, experts and engineers from both Japan and the Philippines gave lectures on technologies and efforts regarding energy recovery from food waste, and also discussed potential project concepts and the expectations and challenges involved with participants. At the seminar in Japan, lectures were provided by the Philippine Consulate General in Osaka along with speakers from private companies with deep business experience in the Philippines. Group discussions with these lecturers and participants were also held, resulting in the sharing of valuable knowledge regarding the current state and business in the Philippines.

ICETT hopes that these initiatives will promote resource circulation in the Philippines and Pampanga Province, while also enabling the active development of businesses from the Chubu region, such as in Mie Prefecture, in the Philippine market.

Overseas Transfer Project of Resource Circulation Technologies

Self-funded

Three seminars were held to promote resource circulation among companies in the Chubu region, including in Mie Prefecture. (September and December 2025, March 2026, a total of 428 participants both in person and online)

- First seminar : Toward a New Stage of e-waste Resource Recycling
- Second seminar : Product Design for Improved Recyclability; Now and Beyond
- Third seminar : Toward Regional Plastic Chemical Recycling

The first seminar had the theme of e-waste recycling, which is in a period of transformation, and introduced the current status and policy direction along with recent case studies on new resource circulation initiatives. The second seminar concerned product design for resource circulation. This seminar featured a panel discussion and led to sharing of insights that transcended industry boundaries, providing an opportunity for businesses, including manufacturers, to obtain information to reference when deliberating future initiatives while exploring potential applications in other fields. The third seminar aimed to set the groundwork for implementing chemical recycling in the region by introducing advanced initiatives and efforts currently underway in Mie Prefecture.

At the business card exchange sessions following the seminars, participants and lecturers engaged in lively discussions. The seminars were well received, with participants commenting that their knowledge of the topics had deepened. ICETT will continue to plan and hold seminars that reflect the needs of the local community with the aim of promoting resource circulation initiatives and developing regional economies.



A panel discussion



Business card exchange and networking session

A Survey of Advanced Efforts to Contribute to the Transition to a Circular Economy

Commissioned by Mie Prefecture

ICETT was commissioned by Mie Prefecture to conduct a survey of advanced efforts that contribute to the transition to a circular economy.

The Government of Japan formulated the "Fifth Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society" in August 2024 as a national strategy, positioning the promotion of the transition to a circular economy as crucial for realizing a recycling-oriented society.

In March 2021, Mie Prefecture formulated the "Mie Prefecture Plan for Promoting the Formation of a Sound Material-Cycle Society" and has been promoting efforts to achieve both economic development by promoting recycling-related industries and solutions to social issues such as the plastic waste problem and food loss reduction. However, with an eye to the transition to a circular economy, it is necessary to promote further initiatives.

Against this backdrop, the project conducted a desk research (approximately 40 case studies) and an interview survey (10 companies) on advanced resource circulation practices nationwide. Based on the findings, it organized the success factors and the challenges associated with implementing similar initiatives in Mie Prefecture and examined support measures to address those challenges.

Responding to Environmental Issues Based on Local Needs



Environmental infrastructures and framework development in developing countries and regions have not been able to keep pace with rapid urbanization and increases in population, leading to issues such as a lack of waste treatment facilities and water and sewer infrastructures; air and water pollution; deforestation; and increased risk of disasters due to climate change.

As support for incorporation of technologies, development of human resources, and creation of frameworks that cater to the needs of the situation in each country and region are desired due to insufficient funding, technologies, and human resources, ICETT has continued to promote waste segregation and discharge activities for residents of the Republic of Palau (Palau) under its efforts to resolve environmental issues. Furthermore, under commission from Yokkaichi City, since 1993 we have continued to conduct exchanges on environmental issues with government officials from Tianjin City of the People's Republic of China (China).

The Project to Promote Systematic Household Waste Segregation and Discharge in Babeldaob Island, the Republic of Palau (Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project/Community Empowerment Model)

Commissioned by JICA

Background and purpose

Palau is an island nation blessed with a beautiful natural environment. However, waste is not segregated when being set out, and maximizing the number of years of operation of the newly established landfill has become an issue. From August 2018 to February 2022 (Phase 1), Mie Prefecture and ICETT, along with Palau's Bureau of Public Works, Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Industry (BPW), and the Ministry of Education, supported waste segregation and discharge activities by residents of two areas of Babeldaob Island. Based on this model, we conducted activities to raise awareness regarding waste segregation and discharge for residents across all of the states of Aimeliik and Ngatpang (the two states), which include the aforementioned two areas, along with all eight elementary schools on Babeldaob Island. This was Phase 2, which was carried out over three years from February 2023 to January 2026.

Details

Phase 2 aimed to establish a habit of waste segregation and discharge through proactive initiatives by the Palauan people, with Palau stakeholders, including the BPW, Ministry of Education, state governments, schoolteachers, and NPOs taking the lead in actively raising awareness among residents and students and promoting waste segregation and discharge activities, all while raising their own awareness of waste reduction. In the two states, resource segregation methods were carefully explained through community meetings and home visits, which raised residents' motivation to take part. At elementary schools, student motivation was heightened by teachers putting into practice the environmental education and resource segregation methods they learned about through the project.

Moreover, based on residents' waste segregation and discharge activities in Phase 1, a total of 40 resource stations were installed across the two states, plus one station at each of the eight elementary schools, to launch the waste segregation and discharge initiative. In addition, leveraging the waste segregation and discharge initiative at the eight elementary schools as a starting point, we also worked to ensure that residents of the two states gained a better understanding of nature and waste segregation as well as changed their behavior.

Results and prospects

According to the results of a survey conducted in December 2025 for the residents of the two states, more than 80% are now able to segregate their waste for discharge. At the final community meeting in which ICETT participated, the chief, the community's leader, told us, "Please rest assured that we will diligently continue our waste segregation and discharge activities." The residents made great efforts to take on the unfamiliar task of segregating waste, which evolved into an activity they took pride in as their own effort. This in turn fostered a sense of ownership throughout the entire community. We were also able to establish, as a mechanism, a ripple effect in which children's education and behavior changes at schools promoted efforts in their households and at a community level. Finally, the project outcomes were compiled into a policy proposal, which we explained to and shared with the Palau national and state governments.

Through the policy proposal created by this project, with the Palau national and state governments, businesses, NPOs and residents working together to make efforts for waste segregation and discharge as well as resource collection across all of Babeldaob Island, these efforts are expected to be established as a new custom throughout Palau. We hope that initiatives such as these will continue to protect Palau's beautiful natural environment and way of life into the future, and we hope that the people of Palau themselves will carry the outcomes of this project forward into the next phase.



Local resource segregation (Resource station)



Learning to segregate resources at elementary



Discussion among all related parties regarding the recommendations on the approach to Resource Recovery

Tianjin Environmental Exchange Project

Commissioned by Yokkaichi City

Yokkaichi City and Tianjin, the People's Republic of China, have continued to hold exchanges in various fields since their friendship city affiliation in 1980. As part of these exchanges, ICETT has undertaken, on commission from Yokkaichi City, training programs aimed at addressing the environmental challenges faced by Tianjin. In FY2025, the 45th anniversary of the friendship city affiliation, participants visited Japan for training under the theme of “preventing water environmental pollution” (held over four days in November with six participants).

In China, policies to prevent water pollution are being promoted at the national level. For example, through the water pollution prevention action plan known as the “Water Ten Plan,” the country has set a goal of achieving phased improvements in water quality by 2030.

Through visits to the Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness and lectures by Yokkaichi City officials, this project enabled participants to acquire foundational knowledge, including on Japan's Water Pollution Prevention Act and other related legislation; regulatory standards for wastewater; and water quality monitoring systems for public water bodies. They also deepened their understanding of the historical state of pollution in Yokkaichi City and the efforts made to rectify it. In addition, participants visited companies in Yokkaichi City to deepen their understanding of water environment pollution prevention technologies and each company's efforts from various perspectives through lectures and site tours.

We hope that the participants will apply the knowledge and experience that they gained from this training to their daily work and further promote efforts to prevent and improve water pollution in Tianjin.



Lecture



Closing ceremony

Fostering the Next Generation of Human Resources and Promoting Information and Technology Exchange



ICETT leverages its accumulated experience in environmental technology transfer projects and its network of related organizations both within and outside of Japan to conduct exchange projects among high school and university students that contribute to the development of the next generation of leaders. This initiative has members of younger generations transcend national borders for collaborative learning on environmental issues and exposes them to diverse knowledge and technology from an international perspective, which enables them to proactively think and address issues on a global scale, ultimately fostering leaders who will help realize a sustainable society in the future.

The Glocal Human Resource Development Course

Commissioned by Mie Prefecture

ICETT has conducted a total of three sessions in the “Glocal Human Resource Development Course,” which was commissioned by Mie Prefecture. This course aimed to provide young people associated with Mie Prefecture, from high schoolers to those under age 35, with opportunities to enhance their international awareness and sensibility and to open their eyes to the world, thereby fostering Glocal human resources that will play an active part in their communities in the future by leveraging global perspectives (held in August, November, and December with a total of 78 participants).

- First session : Global Companies Are Closer Than You Think! – Discovering the Connection Between the Local Community and the World Through a Familiar Company
- Second session : Rediscovering Mie's Attractiveness from a Global Perspective: Seeing, Talking, and Realizing Mie's Strength through the Eyes of the World
- Third session : Contributing to the Future of the Earth! Agriculture Is So Amazing – Evolving Agriculture Supported by Global Human Resources and Technology

In each session, participants visited companies in the prefecture that operate globally, went on factory tours, attended lectures on the companies' overseas expansion and the lecturers' overseas experiences, and exchanged views with one another. These activities all aimed to enable participants to rediscover the appeal and the strengths of Mie Prefecture. The second session featured group work with five people from overseas who are active in Mie Prefecture to provide an opportunity to reexamine the region from diverse perspectives. Feedback from participants included comments such as, "I genuinely felt that our local companies are connected to the world," "This gave me the opportunity to consider the possibility of studying and working in Mie," and "I recognized once again the appeal of Mie and its utilization of regional resources." These sessions served as the first step for participants to actively grasp the relationship between their region and the world.



First session: Visit to IX Holdings



Second session: Exchange with Sumitomo Wiring Systems and overseas residents



Third session: Visit to Asai Nursery

Global Environmental Summit for High School Students

Commissioned by Yokkaichi City

ICETT held a Global Environmental Summit for high school students as a project commissioned by Yokkaichi City under the theme of "Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change: Efforts to Prevent Global Warming" (held over eight days from July to August, with a total of 12 participants (four participants each from three cities)).

Every year during the summer vacation, we invite high school students from Tianjin, China, which is Yokkaichi's friendship city, and Long Beach, USA, which is Yokkaichi's sister city, to Yokkaichi City for training and opinion exchange with Yokkaichi high school students regarding environmental issues and other topics, as an opportunity to deepen mutual understanding. The purpose of this program is to encourage the next generation to think about the environment from an international perspective and to revitalize environmental conservation activities in their respective cities.

For FY2025, the participants deepened their understanding of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures through lectures and observation tours, and also learned about the impact of global warming on the marine environment and cutting-edge research on blue carbon. The students also experienced cultural exchange by making "Hinaga Uchiwa," which are paper and bamboo fans, as well as flower arrangement.

On the last day of the summit, participants formed two mixed teams with members from each of the cities and presented their results. They deepened their understanding of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures through lectures and observation tours and grew significantly by presenting concrete measures for environmental conservation that they themselves should take to prevent global warming.

We hope that the participants will make the most of this experience and make daily efforts to resolve environmental issues and play active roles as human resources with an international perspective.



Opening ceremony



Japanese cultural exchange (making of Hinaga Uchiwa)

