

Introduction

Currently in Japan, in addition to some officially or publicly authorized environmental accounting methods recommended by the governmental agencies, a newly advocated, privately developed method, the *Japan Environmental Policy Priorities Index (JEPIX)*, is attracting attention: Many of Japan's leading companies, eager to introduce and develop ecological and eco-efficiency accounting systems, are introducing JEPIX in order to obtain data with *relevance, reliability and comparability*.

JEPIX is a set of indexes which makes different types of environmental impacts (originally measured in physical units) fully **comparable in a common measurement unit of "Environmental Impact Point": EIP or Eco-Point: EP (which are usually/normally used, meaning essentially/virtually "Japan Environmental Policy Priorities Point": EPP or JEP)**. Similar methods of it have been developed in several European countries including Switzerland, where Swiss EcoScarcity method has been practiced by Stefan Ahbe, Arthur Braunschweig, Daniel Rufer, Patric Hofstetter., Georg Wüest et al. for these ten years, conceptually wholly basing on the *Ecological Bookkeeping (ökologische Buchhaltung)* method originated by Ruedi Müller-Wenk (see the next section about concept and method of JEPIX).

The *JEPIX Development Project* (co-leaders: Claude Patric Siegenthaler and Nobuyuki Miyazaki) was carried out with financial and administrative support by the Japan Science and Technology Corporation (JST) as a project for *environmental rating (environmental evaluation)*. It was administrated by *Sustainable Management Forum Japan (SMF)* and *Sustainable Management Rating Institute (SMRI)*. For providing us with data, verification of data and qualified guidance, the project team thanks especially *Japan Ministry of the Environment, Japan Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry* for their kind support and orientation.

In the autumn of 2003, **12 large Japanese industrial companies** (*TEPCO, Canon, Suntory, J-Power*, etc.) have voluntary organized *JEPIX Forum* on the initiative of JEPIX developing team (president: Nobuyuki Miyazaki; chief advisor Claude Siegenthaler). The 12 pioneering companies (the names and some related data shown in the table) have been preparing for the application of JEPIX based on their experience with EcoBalances and eco-efficiency measures, discussing strengths and shortcomings of JEPIX, and improving the relevance and utility of JEPIX by exchanging their own experiences gathered in their companies. In 2004 the 2nd JEPIX Forum started and the group of companies has grown by another 12 of Japan's most advanced industrial companies.

Company name	Sales Amount in Jpn. Yen	Type of industry
CANON	3,198 billion	Copying machine, Digital cameras, Video Camcorders, Printers
SEKISUI CHEMICAL	845 billion	Housing, High Performance Plastics, Urban Infrastructure
BOSCH in JAPAN	192 billion	Automotive Technology, Power Tools, Industrial Technology
ALPS Electronic company	602 billion	Magnetic devices, Automotive products, Peripheral products
Mitsubishi Estate	681 billion	Building Business, Residential Development, Urban Development
Railway Technical Research Institute	17 billion	Research Institute
FUJI FILM	795 billion	Copying machine, Film, Digital camera, Information media
J-POWER	546 billion	Power supply
KAO	900 billion	Fabric and Home Care, Personal care, Chemical Products Health care
SUNTORY	1383 billion	Alcohol(Whisky, Beer, Wine), Soft drink, Food
TEPCO	4,919 billion	Power supply
KOMATSU	1,089 billion	Lift Trucks, Outdoor Power Equipment & Hobby Engines, Diesel Engines & Hydraulic Equipment, Industrial Machinery
Yamatake	50 billion	Industrial automation systems, Building automation systems

Table: Participating Companies of 1st JEPIX FORUM 2003

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We expect this newest method developed by the JEPIX research group and practiced by JEPIX Forum will encourage more precise and practical quantitative assessment of

environmental impact and improve rational and effective environmental management in Japan.

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