

Overview of the Act on Promotion of Food Loss and Waste Reduction

<Issues of food loss and waste (FLW)>

- A large amount of edible food is discarded in Japan.
- Food loss and waste is mentioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in September 2015).

Promulgation: 31/May/2019 as Act No.19 of 2019
Enforcement: 1/Oct/2019

Issues include waste of resources (i.e. increase of business costs and household burdens) and increase of environmental burden.

Preamble

- While there are many people plagued with malnutrition in the world, it is imperative for Japan to engage in reducing FLW seriously, as a nation that depends on a large amount of imported food.
- There are two basic viewpoints for reducing FLW; 1) All entities need to change their attitudes and foster awareness of not wasting food, 2) prevent discarding edible food, in short, consume food as food.

➔ Declares that the objective of the Act is to promote FLW reduction as a national movement through collaboration of various entities.

Definition of reducing food loss and waste (Article 2)

Defines reducing FLW as “efforts made to prevent discarding food that is safe and nutritious for human consumption”.

Responsibilities (Article 3-7)

Prescribe the responsibilities of the central government/local governments and businesses, the role of consumers, and the necessity of collaboration between relevant entities.

Relationship between the Act on Promotion of Food Loss and Waste Reduction and the Food Waste Recycling Law (Article 8)

The central government/local governments must implement measures on the Food Waste Recycling Law based on the philosophy and the contents of the Act on Promotion of FLW Reduction.

Promotion month for reducing food loss and waste (Article 9)

Prescribes October as a promotion month for reducing FLW in order to enhance understanding and interests among the people.

Basic policy (Article 11-13)

- The central government must decide a basic policy (by the cabinet decision) on reducing FLW.
- Local governments (prefectures and municipalities) shall endeavor to establish their basic plans on reducing FLW, based on the basic policy.

Basic measures by the central government/local governments (Article 14-19)

- ① Promote awareness and advocacy on FLW on consumers and businesses.
- ② Support efforts made by food-related business operators.
- ③ Commend entities for making significant achievements on reducing FLW.
- ④ Conduct surveys on FLW, implement researches on measure to reduce FLW effectively.
- ⑤ Collect and disseminate best practices on reducing FLW.
- ⑥ Support food banks, conduct researches on indemnities for food donations/supplies by food banks.

Council for Promotion of Food Loss and Waste Reduction (Article 20-25)

- The Council will be installed in the Cabinet Office.
- The Council consists of relevant Ministers and experts of FLW and entitled to draft the basic policy.
(Chairperson : Minister of State for Consumer Affairs and Food Safety)