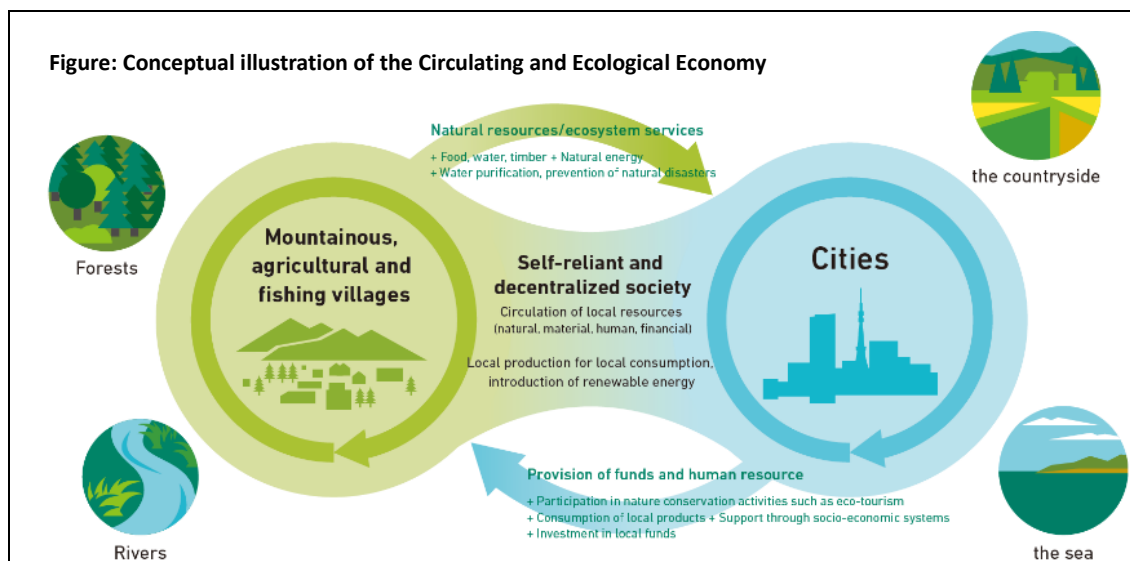


**Input from Japan: Circulating and Ecological Economy (CEE)  
for the United Nations Climate Action Summit**

<b>Title of the initiative/action:</b> Circulating and Ecological Economy
<b>Purpose of the initiative/action:</b> Achievement of SDGs in local areas
<b>Partners:</b> Countries and regional governments
<b>1. Objective and programme</b> In order to attain sustainable future, the Government of Japan (GOJ) has continued putting effort into creation of a “Circulating and Ecological Economy” or CEE to reflect the philosophy of the 2030 Agenda and achieve SDGs. It is believed that CEE can be applicable globally based on their regional and local circumstances of natural and human capital through cooperation and partnership with Asian countries and cities, and beyond. The GOJ is currently strengthening its effort by starting a new programme and providing support for local governments to vitalize local resources and economies. By connecting regions/municipalities with experts to find the most effective way to cope with social, environmental, and economic issues, this programme will materialize the principles of CEE. It will also enable communities to find their unique assets and base their sustainable development plans upon them.
<b>2. What is CEE?</b> CEE has emerged through deliberations on the 5th Basic Environment Plan of Japan. It aims to produce new value chains, complementing regional resources by building broader networks. CEE is composed of natural connections (connections among forests, the countryside, rivers and the sea) and, economic connections (composed of human resources, funds, and others), while making full use of mountainous, agricultural and fishing villages, and cities ( <b>Figure</b> ).



### 3. What benefits can CEE provide?

CEE can advance a low carbon, self-reliant, and decentralized society living in harmony with nature. CEE can also help simultaneously achieve regional sustainable development while promoting regional mitigation and adaptation to climate change by effectively utilizing renewable energy resources in communities. The key to create CEE is to re-discover regional resources and to utilize them properly.

### 4. Where can we find good practices?

Two concrete examples of good practices could be found in Nagano Prefecture and Shimokawa Town in Hokkaido Prefecture. Nagano Prefecture is targeting a 100% renewable energy production that will minimize CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and help revitalize the economy of rural communities. Nagano is moving towards a bio-economy based on decarbonisation, tighter rural-urban linkages, resource circulation and conservation of its biodiversity. Second, Shimokawa Town is unleashing its vast potential to confront depopulation and ageing. It is finding innovative ways to utilize its natural resources while decarbonising –such as using biomass for thermal energy production or creating new forest-related industries. Shimokawa Town's 'Ishi no Hachi BioVillage' is putting forward a new community for everybody to live a comfortable life by combining residential units, social services and new industries.

**Further information:** (*website link etc.*)

p.2 and p.3 of the following link

<http://www.env.go.jp/en/focus/jeq/issue/pdf/Volume21March2019.pdf>

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Attachment