

Research Report

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| Researcher Name | Tine Walravens |
| Home Institute | Copenhagen Business School, Department of International Economics, Government and Business |
| Nationality | Belgian |
| Host Researcher | Prof. Yamamoto Masashi |
| Host Department | Department of Economics, School of Political Science and Economics |
| Research Period | From: Oct 3, 2022 To: <u>Oct 22, 2022</u> |
| Research Field | Circular Economy in Japan |



Research Theme at Tokai University

Title: Circling around the 3R's: The rise of CE as a concept in Japan

Abstract:

While the term circular economy (CE) has gained global traction among academia, industry and policy-makers, the actual definition of the concept in different national contexts, and in particular its relationship to the term sustainability, remains ambiguous or sometimes even contested (Geissdoerfer et al. 2016). Although Japan is considered to be a CE pioneer, current understandings of the concept in Japan, both in terms of policy output as of industrial practices remain largely unexplored. This research aims to fill this gap through a historical reconstruction of the development of CE and its operationalized definition in a Japanese context. While primary data on both the public and private side have been collected, the research stay aims to collect additional data through expert interviews. At the intersection of the political and private sphere, this study as such contributes to the literature on CE as a concept in a non-European, non-Northern American context.

Results / Achievements:

Please write a summary of your research results / achievements. Also, please share your research papers/articles, books, poster presentations if there is any.

During my three week research stay at Tokai University, I have been able to present my work in progress to and get feedback from the members of the research group on Circular Economy. Extensive sparring sessions with several researchers at the department allowed me to test as well as deepen certain lines of thinking and argumentation in the current research project. Tokai University staff's input has proven invaluable for the further development of this paper, both through their expert knowledge and experience, their access to historical documentation, as well as introductions for further data collection. One paper on the topic is in process and will hopefully be submitted for publication later in 2023.