

# FUNDING PROGRAM FOR NEXT GENERATION WORLD-LEADING RESEARCHERS

**Project Title:** Cooperation Innovation for Sustainable Society – Application of Aarhus Principles in Japan

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## 1. Background of research

Despite the importance of the participation and cooperation of all actors for creating a sustainable society, we have been observing a situation that is referred to worldwide as “being tired of cooperation.” Japan is among the few countries where voluntary efforts by its citizens or businesses have achieved beneficial results till today; therefore, it is expected to disseminate an innovative prescription for cooperation into the international society.

## 2. Research objectives

In order to break the status quo, this project aims to acknowledge the historical significance of Japan’s leading cases and meet the standards of the Aarhus Convention. In addition, it aims to pose a Japanese model for cooperation that focuses on watershed management and road management as main issues in Kansai area.

## 3. Research characteristics (incl. originality and creativity)

First, this research explores the variety of local rules in the environment field in Japan. For that purpose, by collaborating with Environmental Partnership Council (EPC), we will conduct questionnaire surveys for and interviews with local governments to acquaint with the current condition, and analyze their outcomes. In addition, we will explore the possibilities for the agreement type of local rules in collaboration with NGOs.

Also, this study conducts a comparative analysis of the EU and Japanese situation on the right to participation and the access to justice among the three principles of the Aarhus Convention. Further steps will be taken to examine the studies of the lawsuit requirements and the methods for the proceedings of judicial judgment.

Then this study attempts to pose a Japanese model for cooperation that meets the standards of the Aarhus Convention by comprehending the dynamics of the process from participation to lawsuits, as well as acknowledging the historical significance and features of Japan’s leading cases.

## 4. Anticipated effects and future applications of research

Proposing a cooperation model that underlines the possibilities for local rules will result in the innovation for autonomy and revitalization of communities. Furthermore, this research will contribute to the second reformation of the administrative lawsuit by providing a direction for the reformation of environmental lawsuit.