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Automotive recyclers come together in the U.K.

JARA reports on the effects of the 2011 disaster relief

From June 14 -16, the International Roundtable on Auto Recycling (IRT) was held in Liverpool, the United Kingdom. The 6th international conference was attended by 6 regional and national associations of professional recyclers as well as industry officials from around the world to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the auto recycling business on a global scale.

In addition to Country Reports from Australia, Canada, Europe, India, Japan, Malaysia and the U.S.A., the audience also heard about the effects of last year's March



11 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami on the auto recycling industry. Detailed video images stored on a DVD titled "375 Days of Disaster-Damaged Vehicle Recycling Activities in Tohoku," which was created by the Super-Line Tohoku, were shown to delegates. Some of them couldn't keep back their tears in front of the screen. The Japanese JARA Managing Director Soshio Kitajima introduced the report and thanked supports from overseas for the disaster relief efforts.

In the Country Reports, JARA Vice Chairman Minoru Gouko presented updates of Japan's auto recycling industry. "Japanese recyclers have begun to expand their businesses to Asia," he concluded. He also introduced JARA's efforts to help protect the environment in developing countries. The association won the Energy Globe award for the second straight year.

"One of the highlights of this year's IRT was the emergence of the Indian industry. Delegates from the Society of Indian Automotive Manufacturers attended and participated in all events," said Steve Fletcher, IRT Chair and Managing Director of the Automotive Recyclers of Canada.

The auto recycling industry in India is highly fragmented and is in a position similar to the Canadian or U.S. market of 50 years ago. But like any great emerging nation, India will need to manage the development of a professional automotive recycling sector sooner than later. By participating in the IRT, India's auto recyclers have seen a path forward that will ensure firm foundations are built for an important industry. "No country can be full of doctors and midwives without having a thriving undertaker. That is what India needs to develop: good undertakers for cars," quipped Captain Mohan Ram of the SIAM.

The 2012 IRT wrapped up with a lively open discussion on the trends that all recyclers are seeing, such as increased total losses, the global emergence of the Green Recycled Parts brand, the thriving underground economy undermining legitimate business everywhere and the need for more data and interaction with carmakers, insurers and repairers.

The next IRT will be held in Phoenix, Arizona in the U.S.A. in November 2013 as part of the Automotive Recyclers Association Annual Convention.



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RECYCLERS TODAY

Completion of disaster-damaged vehicle recycling activity

JAERA hosts completion ceremony in Sendai

On May 18, the Japan ELV Recyclers Association (JAERA) held a ceremony to mark the completion of disaster-damaged vehicle collection and recycling activities in Sendai and Iwanuma cities, Miyagi Prefecture. It was also a presentation to send thanks to those who were voluntarily involved in the disaster-damaged vehicle recycling activities led by the Association. JAERA Chairman Kuriyama said, "We would like to send thanks to all of those who were involved for more than a year in activities of disaster relief since immediately after the occurrence of the March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami last year. Contributors are not only recyclers who collected many damaged vehicles but also local government staff who took appropriate measures for recycling such vehicles." The ceremony was attended by Miyagi Prefecture Damaged Vehicle Collection Headquarters Chief Goro Domon. Other attendees included representatives from NGP, SPN group, Big Wave, East Japan Automobile Dismantlers Association, Japan Truck Refined Parts Association, Miyagi Prefecture Used Vehicle Parts Wholesalers Association, and the Japan Highway & Road Towing Service Cooperation. In addition, guests included the Vice Mayors of both Sendai and Iwanuma cities, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Environment, Automobile Recycling Promotion Center, and Japan Auto Recycling Partnership.

Letters of thanks were given to Ota Parts Co. President Ota, who led vehicle collection activities, and Super-Line Tohoku employees,

who served in the coordination work.

Recyclers formed a team to do their utmost for the damaged vehicle collection work. They did it voluntarily and also donated money to schools and welfare facilities in Sendai and Iwanuma cities. The contribution was part of their sales of scraps made from such collected vehicles.

Activities for disaster-damaged vehicle collection and recycling in Sendai and Iwanuma cities progressed at the fastest pace in the whole Tohoku region, thanks to the teamwork of recyclers. Flexible procedures, including a tax refund system for users of such vehicles, are also positive factors for the smooth processing of damaged vehicles.

"An emergency scheme is desired for future disasters, by which licensed recyclers will be effectively involved as a team in the relief efforts," said Kuriyama.

A total of 3,300 people from 181 recyclers joined the disaster-damaged vehicle activities. They used 1,200 vehicles for the effort. As a result, in cooperation with Sendai and Iwanuma cities as well as the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, the authority of Sendai Airport, more than 8,400 disaster-damaged vehicles were collected and recycled in the proper manner. <Daily Automotive News May 24 issue>

BEST recyclers alliance holds its 1st joint seminar

Members study hard to improve business process

BEST Recyclers Alliance held its first joint seminar for member firm employees focusing on business practice during June 9-10. A total of 130 people from members of the three firms, Big Wave Co., EcoLine Co. and SPN Co., as well as people from rebuilt parts makers which are partners of the three firms, participated in the 2-day seminar held at a facility located in Chiyoda Ward of Tokyo.

The seminar program was consisted of: presentations of management work; introduction of sales promotional equipment such as a contamination checker, crash research; and

new technologies used in vehicles, including CVTs and immobilizers.

In the first session, employees of Tochigi-based Eco R Co. and Saitama-based Showa Metal Co. presented how they improved their business process at each company. In the second session, lecturers from repair equipment makers outlined how the quality of recycled parts production is improved by the use of inspection equipment. They also introduced new technologies employed in today's automobiles to the audience.

In the panel discussion, participants were separated into 12 groups to deepen discussions about issues for marketing recycled auto parts, focusing on 4 themes: 1) packaging for exterior parts; 2) selection method of parts after detachment from the vehicle; 3) inspection and testing methods for functional parts such as engine and transmission; and 4) photos and appearance of the parts. After the discussion, each group presented their proposed solutions for such issues.

Big Wave President Hattori said, "Although the accepted numbers of ELVs have been recovering thanks to the eco-car subsidy program, but we should be cautious toward difficult conditions in the long-term. We are considering an assisting measure to increase the acceptance of ELVs." EcoLine President Imahara said, "It is a great opportunity for participants to communicate with each other. I believe that participants in this joint seminar will bring their companies positive effects later. Today's results will help improve your their work."

SPN President Kitajima thanked the participants, "During the disaster relief activities, we received precious support from all of your companies. Thanks to your support, our members in the disaster-hit Tohoku region have recovered and some of them joined this seminar today."

It has been 5 years since setting up the inventory sharing business using the GateWay system by the three BEST member firms. Through this business practice seminar, communication among members will become closer than before. Armed with improved skills and business processes, further expansion of the inventory sharing businesses is expected. <Daily Automotive News June 14 issue>

ASR recycling rate up to 93.2%

Toyota-Honda team's FY2011 results

On May 31, Toyotsu Recycle Corp. compiled a report on the results of designated recycling facilities, which were seen by Toyota-Honda team of the Japan Auto Recycling Partnership (JARP) as facilities with ASR (automobile shredder residue) - free recycling capability. The ASR-free recycling, or so-called "precise recycling", is a 100% recycling process through which ASR does not remain. The company also announced the award-winning shredder oper-

ators for the year.

In fiscal 2011, the recycling rate of ASR rose 8.7 percentage points from a year earlier to 93.2 percent. An increased weight of consigned ASR contributed to the rise. However, ELVs accepted by the designated facilities declined 25.9 percent from a year earlier to 1,339,049 units, due to a sharp fall of generation of ELVs after the end of the scrap incentive program.

Toyotsu Recycle has been hosting a presentation to award shredder operators since 2007. Registered shredder operators of JARP as press operators (pre shredding process) are eligible candidates for the award. The award consists of two prizes, the "High Rank Award" for those who get upper rankings for the number of recycled ELVs, and "Excellent Operator Award" for those who

surpassed the target number set by the JARP Toyota-Honda team.

Recently, there have been changes in the production of steel products at electric furnace and converter operators due to slowed production of crude steel. The rate of ASR-free recycling has been declining from a peak recorded in 2009 as shredder operators seek many more ELVs.

Nevertheless, Toyotsu Recycle will continue to assist JARP-registered operators. "The presentation is one of our thanks to press operators who emphasize ASR-free automobile recycling."

Award winners of this year:

The "High Rank Award" was presented to 1st to 30th ranked operators.

The "Excellent Operator Award" was presented to 27 operators.