
PRESS RELEASE

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Japanese Steel Scrap Association Joins BIR

Yet another national association has joined the Bureau of International Recycling: The Japan Iron and Steel Recycling Institute (JISRI) has officially applied for BIR membership and will be ratified as new member association during the BIR General Assembly on 26 May 2009 in Dubai.

Founded in 1975, the Tokyo-based organisation comprises about 1000 companies involved in recycling, including all major Japanese trading firms, and is closely associated with the car manufacturers (e.g. JAMA) and the Japan Iron and Steel Federation.

Steel scrap accounts for almost 25% of the total annual Japanese steel production of 120 million tons. Since scrap availability exceeds domestic demand, 6 to 7 million tons are being exported to South-East Asia and the Pacific Rim.

A Japanese delegation visited the BIR 2008 Autumn Convention in Düsseldorf and was highly impressed by the standards of the gathering and found the networking opportunities as well as the high information content very useful.

BIR Director General Francis Veys commented on JISRI's membership: "In the context of the growing globalisation of the recycling industry the Japanese association's decision to join BIR seems a logical development, but it will add a lot to the efficiency of BIR activities worldwide. JISRI will promote BIR messages in their region and will support our organisation's programmes for the development of recycling at OECD and UN level."

BIR has a dozen members companies in Japan. The first organisation that joined BIR was the Tokyo-based Paper Recycling Promotion Center 30 years ago.