



GEN ANNUAL MEETING 1998



The GEN Annual Meeting will be held in Berlin (Germany) next October 29 and 30. Prior to this meeting, the commemorative functions of the 20th anniversary of the German ecolabel "Blue Angel" and the Green Goods V meeting sponsored by OECD will be held. Likewise the GEN ExCOM meeting will be held on the 28. These meetings will assemble all responsible for the actual Ecolabelling Systems in the world and all interested in this subject during the last week of October.

It is certainly an extraordinary opportunity to interchange information, meet the people who are involved in subjects about Ecolabelling Systems and will promote progress altogether.

At the GEN Annual Meeting, the incorporation of new members, amounting to 22 members, which is more than 3/4 of the actual ecolabelling system in the world will also be approved.

This situation will help push to actions for the mutual recognition agreements, which will be an advantage for all GEN members in the future. Also, technical assistance programs for emerging new ecolabelling systems requiring help for development will be treated.

In the 6th plenary meeting of ISO/TC 207 held in June in San Francisco, the ISO 14020, ISO 14021, and ISO 14024 which will be published at the beginning of 1999 were approved. Likewise the elaboration of a standard on Environmental Labelling Type III was rejected.

Undoubtedly, the existence of these international documents will serve as a benchmark for developing new ecolabelling systems.

José L. Tejera
GEN Chair
Asociación Española de
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Short Report from Latest GEN Executive Committee Meeting

The ExCom met in June this summer. Ambitious work plans were developed.

GEN further elaborated the Product Category List, and after some minor modifications this list will be presented to the members at the next annual meeting in Berlin, Germany, in October 1998. This list is intended to give information to and help not only the schemes run by the members of GEN, but also other schemes. GEN also intends to make this list available on the web homepage. ExCom discussed the possibility of reorganizing the web homepage and move it to another site. Some problems have been met to keep the homepage updated.

GEN has not yet received applications this year for use of the Technical Assistance Program that was expanded at the last annual meeting. ExCom wants to encourage new members to consider the possibility of obtaining experience from the older and more established schemes. ExCom has decided that a package of information material should be distributed to new members.

GEN ExCom also discussed the different projects concerning mutual recognition. Earlier EDF, Taiwan, and TerraChoice, Canada submitted reports on their experiences. New projects have also started. One of these is between Green Seal, USA, and TerraChoice and another between EDF and Green Seal. ExCom welcomes all bilateral initiatives for mutual recognition. The GEN action plan for mutual recognition will be discussed at the annual

meeting and experiences from different bilateral projects will be valuable for this discussion.

The treasurer provided a financial report. Some members have not paid their annual fees, and ExCom will investigate the reasons. Low budget programmes will be given priority to reduce the annual fee. Should there be problems with the fees, the annual meeting will have to discuss how to solve them.

Kerstin Sahlén
Gen Secretariat



News around Ecolabels

Green Purchasing Network (GPN) , Japan

Hiroyuki Sato (Japan Environment Association)

In Japan, the Green Purchasing Network (GPN) was established in February 1996 to promote institutional and individual green purchasing by the initiative of the Environment Agency of Japan (EAJ) and Japan Environment Association (JEA) . As of August 1998, it has about 1,500 member organizations. From the industry sector, 1,100 companies have joined GPN, including 55 of top 100 Japanese major companies such as Toyota, Sony, Cannon, NEC, and Nippon Steel. Also more than 33 out of 47 prefectural governments and most major cities such as Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Yokohama, and Kyoto have become members, as well as many consumer groups, NGOs, and co-ops.

To promote the ideas and practices of green purchasing, GPN holds numerous seminars and study meetings, draws up purchasing guidelines for each type of product, publishes environmental data books on various products, and awards

"Green Purchasing Prize" to members that have shown remarkable performance in green purchasing. These activities have raised great interests on Eco Mark, the Japanese ecolabelling program, which has more applications than before.

"Purchasing Guidelines" for each type of product

GPN has been drawing up specific purchasing guidelines for each type of product, based on the Green Purchasing Principles. So far it has completed the guidelines for paper, copiers and printers, personal computers, toilet and tissue paper, refrigerators, office supplies, light bulbs and devices, and washing machines, and will develop guidelines for motor cars, air conditioners, office furniture, in a year. It should be noted that GPN guidelines do not set standards of "green products", but rather propose desirable directions in terms of environmental protection, and encourage buyers to

follow the guidelines to every extent possible. This is the point that is different from ecolabelling schemes.

"Environmental Data Books" for product selection

After setting guidelines, GPN publishes "Environmental Data Book" for Product Selection, which provides purchasers with quantitative/qualitative environmental information on each product. It has already issued five data books which respectively cover most products of its kind in the current Japanese market. They simply compare and provide environmental information for each product, with

the final decision to be made by each buyer.

Financially GPN is supported by EAJ and some foundations, and receives income from Data Book sales, newsletter subscription fee, and so on. Its work is handled by 4 staff in the JEA office, following the decisions made by 25 board directors.

For more information, please visit our web site at [<http://www.wnn.or.jp/wnn-eco/gpne/>], or contact Hiroyuki Sato at [hvh6h-stu@asahi-net.or.jp] or Fax +81-3-3406-5155.

Principles of Green Purchasing

1. Note the environmental impact of a product at all stages of its life cycle: Buy a product only after considering its cumulative environmental load, from processing of its raw materials to its disposal.
 - 1-1 Reducing harmful substances and chemicals: Select products that use and emit fewer substances that damage the environment or human health.
 - 1-2 Resource and energy conservation: Select resource-conserving and energy-conserving products.
 - 1-3 Avoiding depletion of resource: Select products whose component materials were obtained in a sustainable manner and used effectively.
 - 1-4 Product serviceability: Select products that provide a long service life.
 - 1-5 Reusability: Select reusable products.
 - 1-6 Recyclability: Select recyclable products.
 - 1-7 Promoting recycling and reuse: Select products containing a high percentage of recycled materials or reused parts.
 - 1-8 Low-impact disposal and treatment: Select products that ensure trouble-free disposal and treatment.
2. Assess corporate policies and activities: Select products manufactured and distributed by corporations with an active interest in environmental conservation.
3. Gather and apply environmental information: Evaluate products by collecting environmental information on the products, manufacturers and distributors.

Established on November 7, 1996

GPN-GL1

"Guidelines for Purchasing Paper for Office machines and Printing"

Green Purchasing Network(GPN)

1. Scope

This document lists important guidelines that should be considered from environmental points of view when purchasing paper for office machines (plain paper for copiers, printers, and faxes) or printing paper.

2. Guidelines

When purchasing paper for office machines (plain paper for copiers, printers, and fax machines) or printing paper, the following guidelines should be considered to reduce its loads on the environment:

Both Paper for office machines and printing paper shall

- (1) be blended with a maximum of waste paper, and
- (2) have low brightness.

Printing paper shall
- (3) be less coated on the surface, and
- (4) have no plastics coating which prevents easy recycling

of the paper.

Established November 7, 1996

*These guidelines are subject to alterations as required by changes in social conditions or new knowledge.

GPN-GL2

"Guidelines for Purchasing Copiers, Laser Printers, Laser Faxes, and their Multifunctional Machines"

Green Purchasing Network(GPN)

1. Scope

This document lists important guidelines that should be considered from environmental points of view when purchasing copiers (using plain paper), laser printers, laser faxes, or their multifunctional devices. The guidelines cover those machines which are used mainly in offices, not including ink-jet printers, thermal faxes, and color copiers.

2. Guidelines

When purchasing a copier (using plain paper), laser printer, laser fax, or their multifunctional device (hereafter called "the machine"), the following guidelines should be considered to reduce their loads on the environment:

- (1) The machine shall consume as little power as possible during operation. The copier shall have a low "energy consumption rate" as stipulated in the Law Concerning the Rational Use of Energy.
- (2) The machine shall be complete with the function of automatically switching it into low-power or power-off mode a certain time after it has become inactive. (For all machines except multifunctional devices, the "Energy Star logo" helps indicate the machine has such a function.)
- (3) The machine shall have a two-side copying/printing function.
- (4) The machine shall emit little ozone during operation.
- (5) The machine shall be designed to ensure that, after the end of its life, disassembled and its parts or materials easily recycled.
- (6) The machine, after the end of its life, shall be recovered; many of its parts shall be reused for new products; and others shall be recycled as materials.
- (7) The machine shall incorporate recycled parts and/or materials.
- (8) For the machine using harmful selenium in its photosensitive drum, the substance shall be properly recovered and recycled.
- (9) The used toner cartridge of the machine shall be properly recovered and recycled.

Established November 7, 1996

*These guidelines are subject to alterations as required by changes in social conditions or new knowledge.

Report on the Annual Meeting of ISO TC 207/SC3

Ning Yu, President, Environment and Development Foundation, ROC (Taiwan)

The annual meeting of the ISO TC207 was held in San Francisco from June 14 to 21. There were over 500 delegates from 51 countries who participated in this gathering. Four subcommittees had their sessions during this week. They were SC1 (Environmental Management System), SC3 (Environmental Labels and Declarations), SC4 (Environmental Performance Evaluation) and SC5 (Life Cycle Analysis). There were also many workshops. Among them, the "Workshop on Trade Implications" drew a large audience and provided useful information on Environmental Labels and Declaration.

The SC3 has three working groups and one task group. Their responsibilities are shown in the following table.

WG1	ISO14024	Type	Env. Labelling
WG2	ISO14021	Type	Self-Declared Env. Claims
WG3	ISO14020	General Principles	
WG4/TG1	ISO14025	Type	Env. Labelling

The following are the important conclusions reached by SC3.

- (1) The first three documents, namely 14020, 14021 and 14024, are close to completion. ISO 14020 is a fDIS (Final Draft International Standard) now and is about to be published as an IS (International Standard) by the end of this year.
- (2) ISO14021 was released as a DIS in April. Submission of formal written comments and voting on this document will be open until September. In San Francisco, WG2 held an open session to help members frame their comments on the draft. It also decided to develop an explanatory document (Question and Answer) as a supplement to 14021. The next meeting of WG2 will be sometime in late November to resolve written

comments. A formal announcement of ISO14021 is expected in June 1999.

- (3) DIS 14024 was released for vote and was approved by a majority of Pmembers. WG3 met to resolve written comments accompanying both positive and negative votes. One of the major concerns of GEN on this document is about the applications of risk assessment. The original text was "Criteria that directly or indirectly require or exclude the use of particular processes or production methods without justification shall be avoided. Any exclusions of certain substances should be based on a risk assessment meeting principle3 of ISO14020. "The revised text, after rigorous discussion now reads, "Any exclusions of certain substances should be based on scientific methodology meeting principle3 of ISO 14020. Methods such as risk assessment may provide useful information in this respect." This text is therefore considered acceptable by GEN.
- (4) Since the work on 14020 and 14024 are completed, the two working groups, namely WG1 and WG3 have thus disbanded. However, since the work on Type Environmental Labeling, continues, the WG1/TG still exists.
- (5) After lengthy discussion and a formal vote, WG1/TG decided to develop a technical report on Type Environmental Labelling, rather than an International standard. This decision makes the 14025 document far less important than the others within the 14020 series and will of course affect the member's willingness of participation seriously. This group will meet also sometime in late November and discuss the draft reports submitted by Sweden and US, respectively. The goal of this group is to finish 14025 as a technical report by next June.

News from Members



German Blue Angel Scheme (Germany)

Federal Environmental Agency

Total number of valid criteria:	79 criteria documents (May 1998)
Number of certified products:	3.987 products by 830 companies (21 September 1998)
Newly developed criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mobile computers (notebooks) • rechargeable alkaline-mangan batteries
Number of criteria under development now:	appr. 20 projects

News

- The subjects of the Green Goods V Conference, Berlin, 26 - 28 October, is Environmental Labelling „for a sustainable future“, visit the homepage <http://www.green-goodsV.de>
- first certifications were realized in the product-categories „PE bags für milk“ and „rechargeable alkaline-mangan batteries“ (Big Battery Innovation Group, Schwerte near Dortmund, Germany)
- high interest was raised by producers of mobile computers
- first certifications are expected in the product categories „low noise tires“ and „televisions“ in the near future
- visit the homepage of the Blue Angel: <http://www.blauer-engel.de>



Eco Mark (Japan)

Japan Environmental Association

Total number of valid criteria:	72, as of June 30
Number of certified products:	2398, as of June 30
Number of newly developed criteria (last 6 months) :	6 (Revised)
Number of criteria currently under development :	2 (Newly Developed) , 4 (Revised)

Programs, Activities, Conferences, etc. and Any Comments or Messages

Most of our activities are now devoted to revising present categories into the new form along the way that the Eco Mark promotion committee established in March, 1996. The procedures in the Eco Mark program and development of the certification criteria are carried out in accordance with those of ISO standards under development. Categories newly set during the last 6 months are as follows;

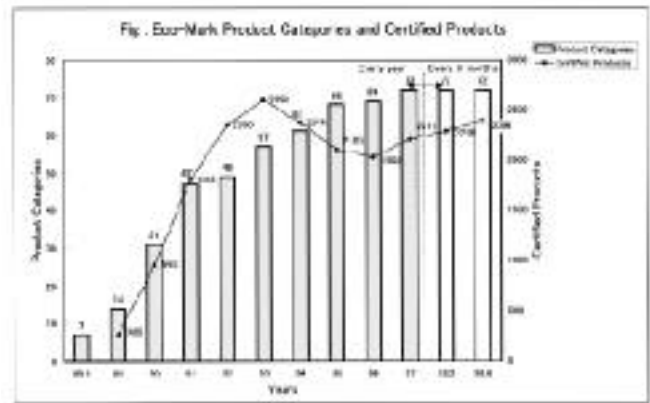
(No.109) Tiles & Blocks Made of Recycled Materials, (No.110) Biodegradable Lubricating Oil, (No.111) Board Made of Wood or the Like, (No.112) Paper Stationary, (No.113) Packaging Paper, (No.114) Paper Packaging Materials

These categories were developed by revising the old categories; No.17,18,25,35,39,42,46 and 47 and other old ones were abolished.

New categories under development are " Copiers" and "Personal Computers." The other four categories under revision include "Plastic Products Made of Recycled Materials," "Wooden Products Made of Culled Logs and Small-diameter Logs," "Flow-reducing Valves and Water-saving Faucets," and "Returnable Containers". The revision of the remaining 52 categories will commence in a couple of years.

The changes in the number of certified products and product categories are shown in the figure below. The number of certified products is on the rise partly due to the

movement of the Green Purchasing Network and Governmental Procurement of Green Goods in Japan and partly due to the keen interest of the public in recycling. Especially, the number of certified products in categories such as "Clothing Made from Recycled PET Resin," "Recycled Paper for Stationery," and "Products Made from Used Plastics" is increasing remarkably.



Korea Environment Labelling Program (Korea)

Korea Environment Labelling Association (KELA)

Total number of valid criteria 29
 Number of certified products 155
 Number of newly developed criteria (last 6 month) 8
 Number of criteria under development now 20
 Activity)

As described in GenNews No.5, KELA had revised the existing product groups and developed the new product groups. As of 8th May of this year, the environmental labelling criteria for a total of 29 product groups with

ecolabelling criteria "Water based paint," "Industrial batteries," "Gas boiler," "Copier air conditioners," "Washing machine" and Detergent"

Table 1.

No.	Approved criteria	No. of licenses	No.	Approved criteria	No. of licenses
01	Printing paper (R)	21	16	Petroleum (R)	1
02	Stationery paper (R)	-	17	Refillable heater (R)	2
03	Toilet paper (R)	12	18	Solar water heater (R)	4
04	Poly-resin product (R)	22	19	Refrigerator (R)	26
05	Clothing (R)	-	20	Spray (R)	1
06	Non-asbestos transportation parts (R)	9	21	Toner cartridge (R)	8
07	Water saving equipment (R)	7	22	Water based paint (N)	-
08	Filter for air cleaner (R)	-	23	Printing ink (N)	-
09	Soap (R)	6	24	Industrial batteries (N)	-
10	Materials for civil engineering and architecture (R)	19	25	Gas boiler (N)	-
11	Rubber product (R)	4	26	Copier (N)	-
12	Fluorescent lamps (R)	4	27	Air conditioner (N)	-
13	Maritime two cycle engine oil (R)	-	28	Washing machine (N)	-
14	Engine oil for pump (R)	4	29	Detergent (N)	4
15	Wooden molding (R)	2			

*R : Revised criteria, N : New developed criteria

At present, KELA is developing the following criteria ;
 Printer, fax machine, computer, detergent for dishwash, vending machine, printed paper.



Green Mark Program (ROC(Taiwan))

Environment and Development Foundation (EDF)

Total number of valid criteria: 47

Number of certified products: 541

Number newly developed criteria (last 6 months)

46 Computer Keyboard

47 Computer Mouse

(These are common criteria, developed together with Terra Choice, Canada)

Number of criteria under development now

1. Fax Machines

2. Water Heaters

3. Low Pollution Textile Products

Programs, activities, conferences, etc. and any comments or messages

1. A "Green Purchasing Network" is in preparation and will be launched in August. This Network will provide information, identifying green products, promoting Internet trade and rewarding the best performers. Membership is open to all kinds of businesses.

2. EDF is generated by ROCEPA to start a campaign named

"Greening the Office". All the central government agencies (a total of 33) will be judged, scored and the best performers rewarded, EDF is also required to guide 30 businesses to green their offices.

3. The newly passed "Government Procurement Law", includes a provision stating "Government agencies may purchase Green Mark products in priority to other Products with same functions. In the same product category, the price of the Green Mark products may be 10% higher than others." EDF is required by ROCEPA to develop detailed guidelines to implement this provision now.



MARCA AENOR-Medio Ambiente (Spain)

Asociación Española de Normalización y Certificación (AENOR)

AENOR-Medio Ambiente is a Spanish environmental labelling program. The program is operated by AENOR (Spanish Association for Standardization and Certification) and its objectives are:

- Provide credible and independent information on environmental aspects related to products to consumers
- Provide incentive to producers to reduce environmental impacts of products.

AENOR-Medio Ambiente was established in 1994. The first ecological criteria standard created was for paints and varnishes. Nowadays the criteria list includes 10 standards of ecological criteria

UNE 48300 EX	Paints and varnishes
UNE 53970 EX	Shopping bags
UNE 53971 EX	Dustin bags
UNE 71901 EX	copiers machines
UNE 156000 EX	Paper envelopes

UNE 1180 EX	Organizers
UNE 1181 EX	Paper labels
UNE 206001 EX	Solar cells
UNE 134001 EX	Paper recovering and warehousing centers
UNE 26470 EX	End of life car recovering & scrapping centers

With the last two standards AENOR-Medio Ambiente label has been extended to services. For dealing with services we have created a specific version of the logo called AENOR-Medio Ambiente Servicios. The first license to use the AENOR-Medio Ambiente Servicios label was granted in July. With this initiative very promising sectors will enter in the ecolabelling system.

During 1997 AENOR carried out a promotional campaign focused mainly on producers, including promotional material, press releases and participation on national and

international seminars and exhibitions. Next November a large international exhibition will be hold in Madrid (IV National Congress for environment) . The AENOR-Medio Ambiente logo will take part in the event as we are conducting a working group on "ecolabelling". Conclusions of the working group will be presented at the congress.

Information

Total number of valid criteria	10
Number of certified products:	92 licenses granted to 18 manufacturers
Number of newly developed criteria	2
Number of criteria under development	5



Green Seal (USA)

Green Seal Inc.

Total number of valid criteria:	34
Number of certified products:	276
Number of new criteria:	1 (central heat pumps)
Number of criteria under development:	4 (degreasing solvents, photovoltaic cells, fast-food packaging, green hotels)

Programs, activities, etc.: Green Seal's purchasing program is now reaching a large number of institutions. The monthly Choose Green Reports, which recommend specific brands that meet our guidelines, reach over 100,000 readers. Green Seal is working with a U.S. Army base on its paint inventory. For the U.S. government Green Seal is developing a criteria for degreasing solvents. In its green hotels project, Green Seal is developing a criteria for hotels in conjunction with the Green Globe program. Also, Green

Seal just launched a multi-stakeholder sustainable hotels initiative involving major hotel chains and their suppliers. The purpose of the initiative is to demonstrate economically viable environmental practices in the hotel industry. Green Seal is also developing a project jointly with Mothers & Others to green the school system; the project will involve working with pilot schools and developing a green purchasing/operations manual and audit.



European Union Eco-label Award Scheme

European Commission

Total number of valid criteria:	11 (+ 2 under adoption)
Number of certified products:	42 licences granted to 28 manufacturers and 2 importer for 204 products (June 1998)
Number of newly developed criteria (last 6 months):	2 new product groups + 3 revisions
Number of criteria under development now:	8
Programs, activities, conferences, etc. and any comments or messages	

So far this year, criteria have been finalised for two new product groups, bed-mattresses and personal computers, and are in the process of adoption. Revised criteria have been adopted for dishwashers, soil improvers, and tissue paper. Work is well advanced on revised criteria for paints and varnishes and laundry detergents, and on new criteria for textiles, footwear, and dishwashing detergents.

The EU eco-label web-site has been significantly revised

and extended, and has a new direct address: <http://europa.eu.int/ecolabel>. The site contains more than 200 pages of comprehensive information on the EU eco-label scheme, including:

- A description of how the scheme functions.
- Full contact details for all the organisations participating in the running of the scheme.
- Full details on all existing product groups, including the

formal texts of criteria.

- A regularly updated table of the current eco-labels awards.
- Direct links to most other sites dealing with eco-labelling, including the Nordic Swan, Blue Angel, Stichting

Milieukeur, GEN, ...

- Working documents related to product groups being developed (for the time being this is only available for textiles).

UK Ecolabelling Board

To Be Wound Up - But the Scheme Lives on

As part of sweep changes to the way environmental information is provided to UK consumers, the UK Ecolabelling Board is being wound up. The work of the Board-who operate the EU ecolabel scheme - will be taken over by the Environment, Business and Transport and the Regions. The decision to wind up the Board follows a review of UK policy on environmental information for consumers, and a financial management and policy review of the Board.

The UK Government will be issuing a strategy paper with public consultation on specific proposals for environmental information and labelling initiatives. They will also set up an advisory panel to address the range of consumer environmental issues. Drawn from a range of stakeholder interests, it will include some existing UKEB members. The panel will advise on the development of strategic product policies, priorities and mechanisms for national approaches to labelling, and practical action to raise the standard of information available in the market.

Jerry Rendell, who will shortly retire as Chief Executive of the Board, said that he was encouraged that the Government was to continue supporting the scheme within a broader policy framework. He believed that the Board had had done much to try to promote the success of the scheme, including work on criteria development. Indeed the Board had awarded the first EU ecolabel licenses.

However, the scheme would benefit from the stronger policy framework which the Department will be able to provide. This would involve a co-ordinated approach to helping consumers make more sustainable choices, which the Board has consistently argued for.

The Board will continue to carry out their full range of responsibilities until December when the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions take over the running of the scheme.



Nordic Eco-labelling

(Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Denmark)

The Nordic ecolabelling system was earlier described in GENews no 2 and a status report was given in GENews no 5.

The Nordic scheme was launched in December 1989. The five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden run together this scheme. The first set of criteria were approved in November 1991 and the first ecolabelling licenses during the spring 1992. Today there are 46 criteria documents approved.

The total number of licences is more than 500 and the

number of labelled products is more than 2000.

There are several criteria under development.

To get information about the status of the Nordic scheme, the information on the home pages is frequently up-dated, and all criteria documents are to be found there too as well as most of the draft criteria, which has been sent out for comments. The address to the home page is: www.sis.se/miljo.

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◀News from GEN Secretariat▶

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place in October, just before the annual meeting for 1998 and the annual meeting will take place in Berlin, Germany, on October 29-30.

Remember that you are always welcome with questions and the GEN Secretariat will try to assist you with answers and help. By mail and fax contacts with SEC and GAO, GEN receives numerous questions on a great variety of topics connected to ecolabelling.

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◀From GEN General Affairs Office▶

Homepage Reconstruction and Product Category List

We will be reconstructing our GEN homepage to include a Product Category List of world-wide ecolabel programs this year. Information on product categories and guidelines of your program will therefore be highly appreciated. Please send us your information by either electronic data (please send by MS-WORD or MS-Excel and indicate the applications software and its version) or fax.

If you are currently preparing the Ecolabel Program ...

We would like to know how many programs you are currently preparing so that we may reflect this information in our future activities. Please kindly let us know your present situation.

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GEN Home Page Address: <http://www.wnn.wnn.or.jp/wnn-eco/gen/> (tentative)

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