

## **ABSTRACT**

This research studies Japan's role and policies in response to international environmental issues after the Cold War and a case study of waste management. The research considers Japan's environmental policy associated with a potential role of Japan in aspects of global environmental concerns for greater cooperation at international level in order to become a global environmental leader. The motivations behind policies of Japan's the government towards environmental issues at the international level are examined.

This study has two main objectives. The first objective is to study the distinguished role of Japan towards environmental issues on the international stage in particular leadership in environmental protection. The second one is to analyze Japan potential and efforts in stimulating international environmental awareness and concerns in order to gain a position as an international environmental leadership. The initiative role, cooperative role and contribution of environmental assistance of Japan in the area of waste management at international level are focused.

Being the second largest economy in the world, the role of Japan towards environment has been very crucial to the international community. In case of waste treatment, Japan has encountered this problem since its period of economic growth and high consumption. The problem appeared with hygienic condition. In an effort to overcome the problem, the Government of Japan has been working to cope with waste treatment continually. The close collaboration with the central and local governments together with business and industrial sectors, local community, household sector, and citizens is the great achievement. Furthermore, the waste management and recycling-related legislations of Japan are seriously enforced and developed. In this research, realism theory is the conceptual framework to study and examine the response of Japan towards international environmental issues. In-depth interview with Japanese citizens and Thai academics in order to understand the attitude towards the role of Japanese Government in environmental field is a part of research methodology.