

*The 8th Science Council of Asia Conference, Quingdao, China, May 28-30, 2008* 

# Sustainable urban water management in developing region

Kensuke Fukushi(福士謙介)

Associate Professor Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S) The University of Tokyo, Japan

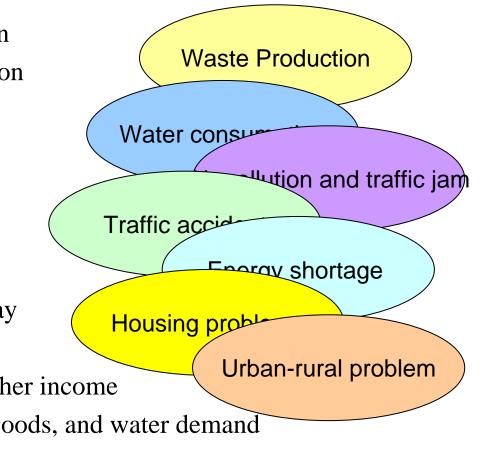
#### **東京大学** THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

#### **Development and environment**

#### Economical development

- Income increase
  - High energy consumption
  - High material consumption
  - Lifestyle change
  - Diet change
  - Etc
- Urbanization
  - High-rise buildings
  - Heavy traffic and highway
  - Dense population
  - Good job market and higher income
  - Large energy, material, goods, and water demand

2





#### **Urban water problems in developing regions**

#### Rapid development of urban area

- Increase commercial water use

#### Increase of population

- Increase domestic water use

#### Change of lifestyle

- Increase domestic water use per capita (300 liter/p)

#### Inadequate wastewater treatment

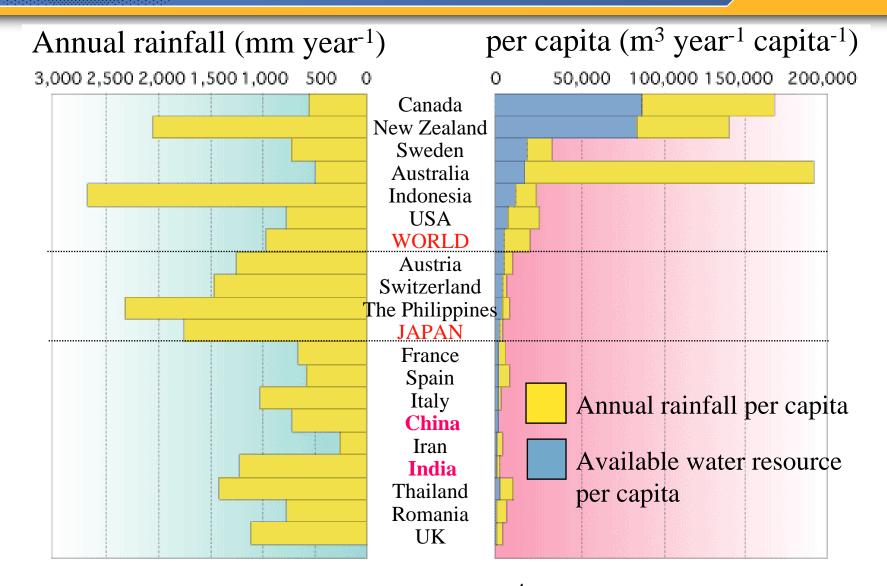
- Deterioration of water environment
- Small amount of water recharge to groundwater
  - Urban inundation and groundwater table decrease

#### Overuse of groundwater

- Groundwater table decrease and ground subsidence
- Stealing water and illegal use of water



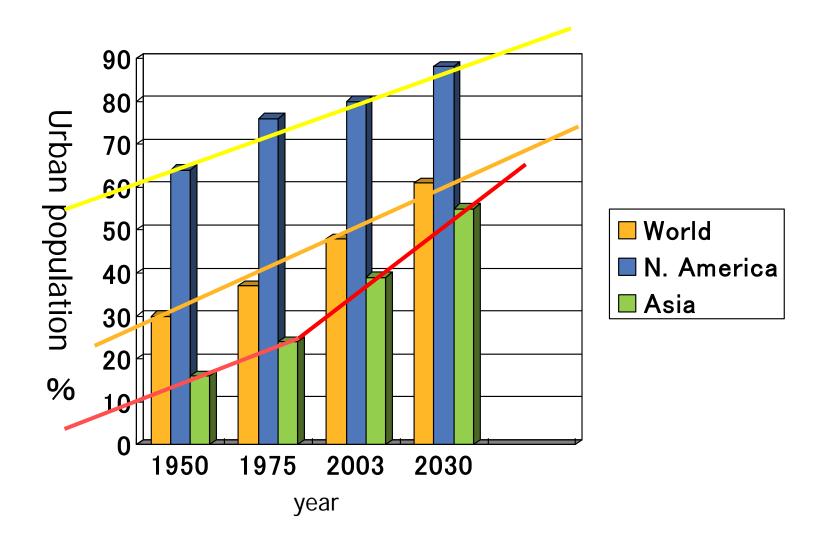
#### Annual rainfall and water availability



<sup>4</sup> Modified from the source: Japan International Cooperate Agency

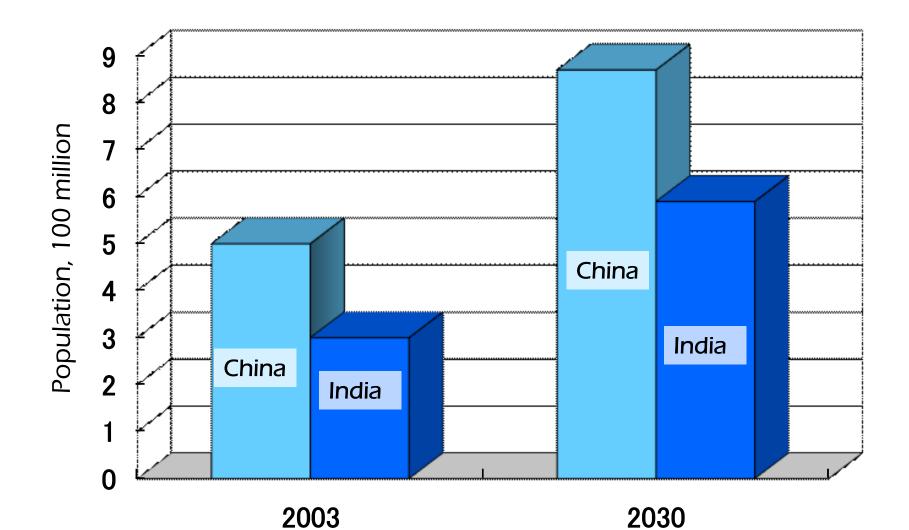


#### **Increase of urban population**





### **Urban population increase**





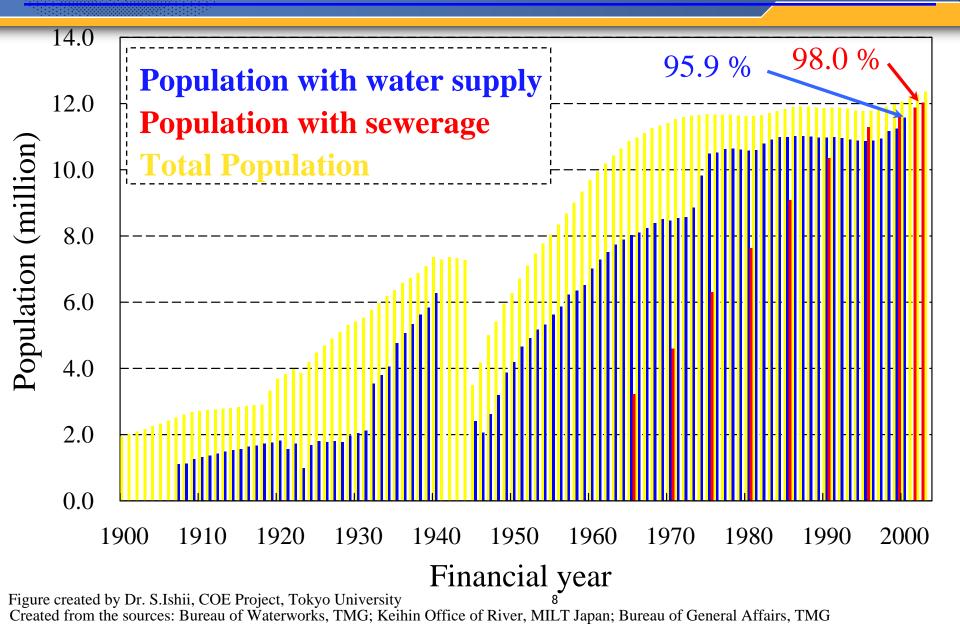
## Water management in Tokyo

7

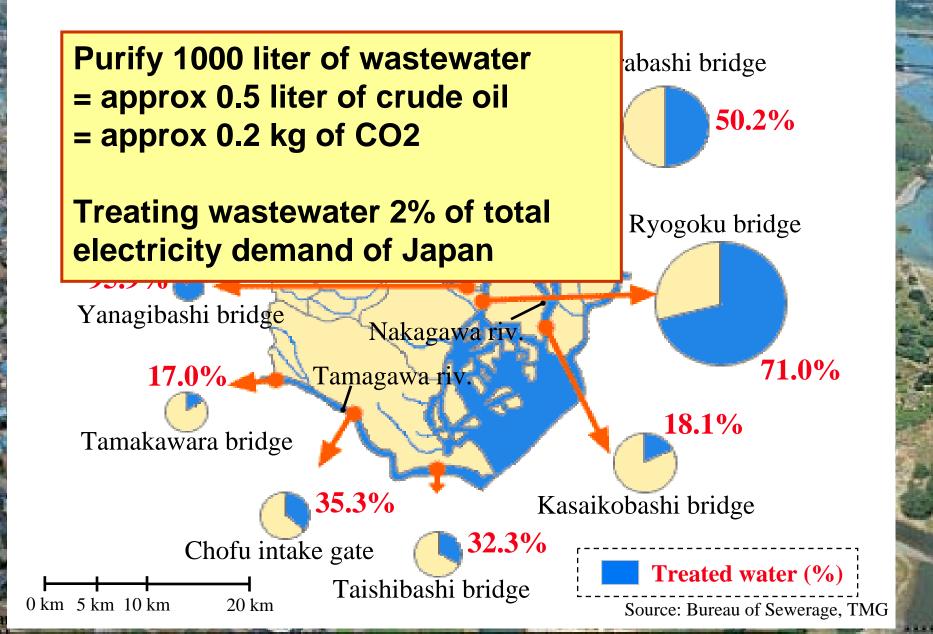




#### **Population with water supply/sewerage in Tokyo**



#### Large share of treated water in rivers





#### **Restoration of natural ecosystems and aquatic amenity**



#### Water environment in Tokyo

Ochanomizu station

Kandagawa riv. Picture source: Tokyo Canal Project

Sumidagawa riv. Picture source: Tokyo Canal Project

Nihonbashi Picture source: Tokyo Canal Project



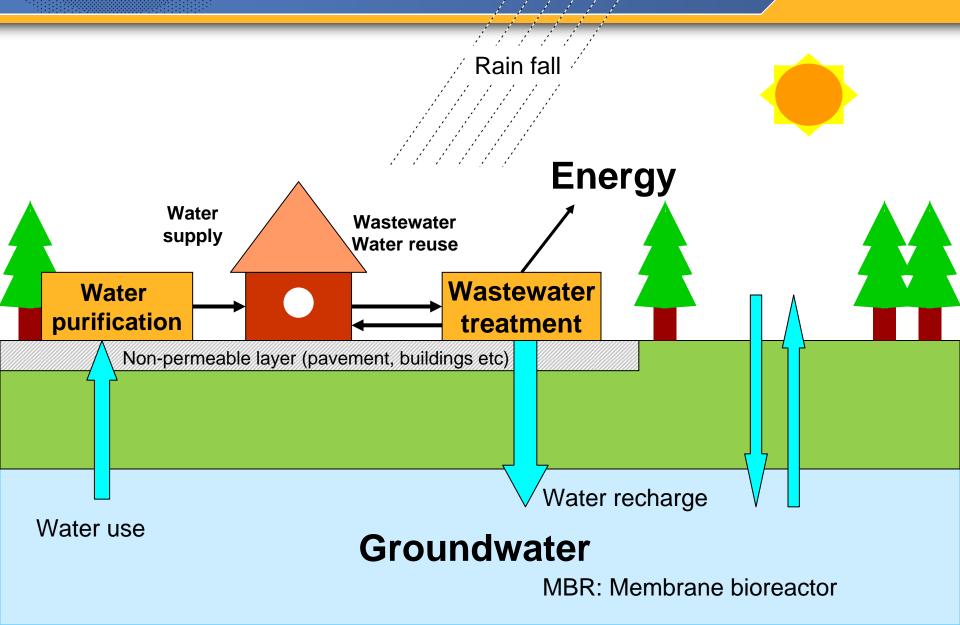
#### **Centralized water management system**

- "Developed countries apply energy-intensive technologies to keep urban water environment clean, however, such approach may not be appropriate for sustainable water environment management" (modified from Wagner, Ohgaki and Zehnder et al. in Ambio)
- "Design, approval of the planning and the lay out of the piping and sewer networks is time consuming and swallows about <u>80% of the total</u> <u>investment costs</u>". (Peter Wilderer)
- "Estimating the cost of worldwide implementation of centralized system, it become evident that the capacity of <u>global money market</u> <u>would not be sufficient</u> to cover the need for investment capital". (Peter Wilderer)
- However, in old time, the centralized system is the only choice since treatment technology was not available in small scale

#### **Proposal of decentralize water management system**



#### Decentralized water system: example of single unit

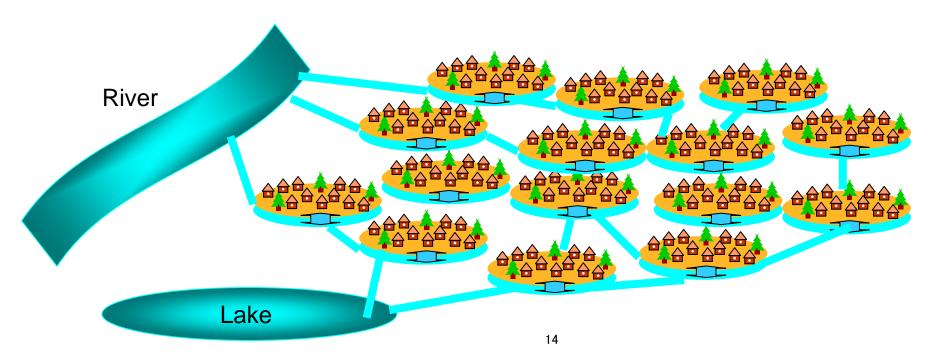




#### Decentralized water management: urban area

- Community-based management
- Groundwater as stock
- Durable for various risks





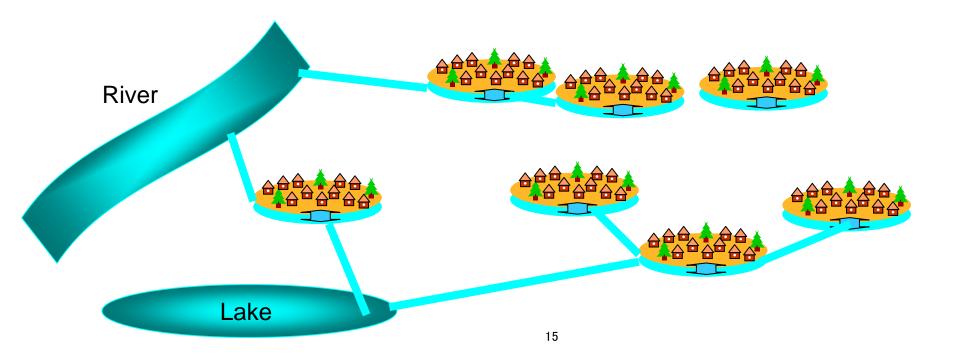


#### **Decentralized water management: urban area**

Water Management Unit

- Community-based management
- Fast development







#### **Demand of high-efficiency process**

#### Upstream

- High demand of people
- Prevention of pollution of water from pollutants in environment

#### Downstream

- Prevent contamination of environment
- Production of high-quality treated wastewater for reuse

#### Technology has not been available

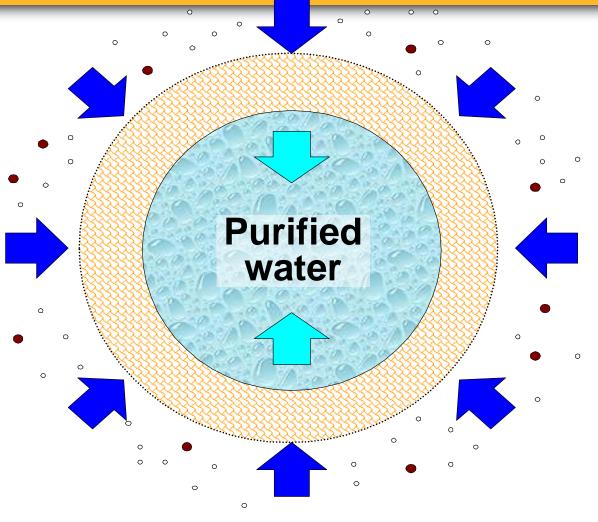
#### **Membrane technology**



### **Membrane process: hollow fiber**

•Production of extremely high quality water

•Used for bottled water production, seawater desalinations, wastewater treatment etc.

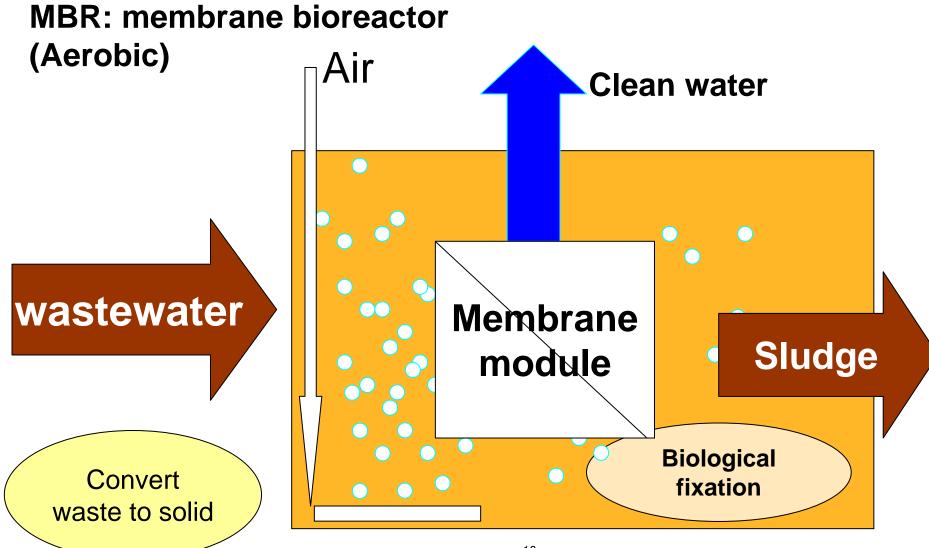


#### **Raw water**

**Raw water** 

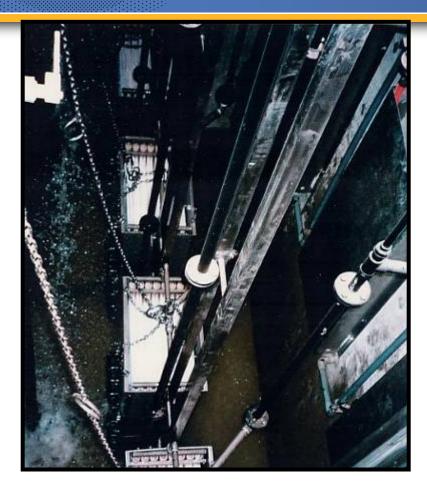


#### Wastewater treatment





#### Actual MBR system

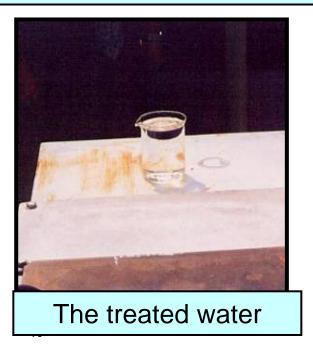


Membrane modules placed in tanks

Pictures provided by Mitsubishi Rayon



#### The inside of a aeration tank





### **Advantages of MBR**

#### Clan effluent

- Pathogen free
- Low pollutant concentration
- Rechargeable to groundwater

#### Small footprint

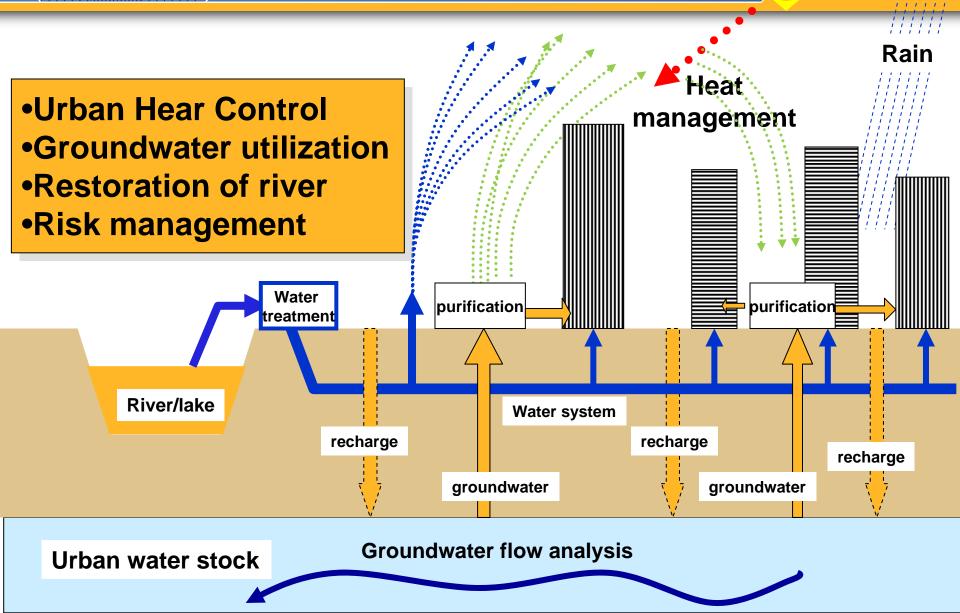
- Suitable for decentralized system

#### Easy maintenance

- Membrane failure can be detected by trans membrane pressure only

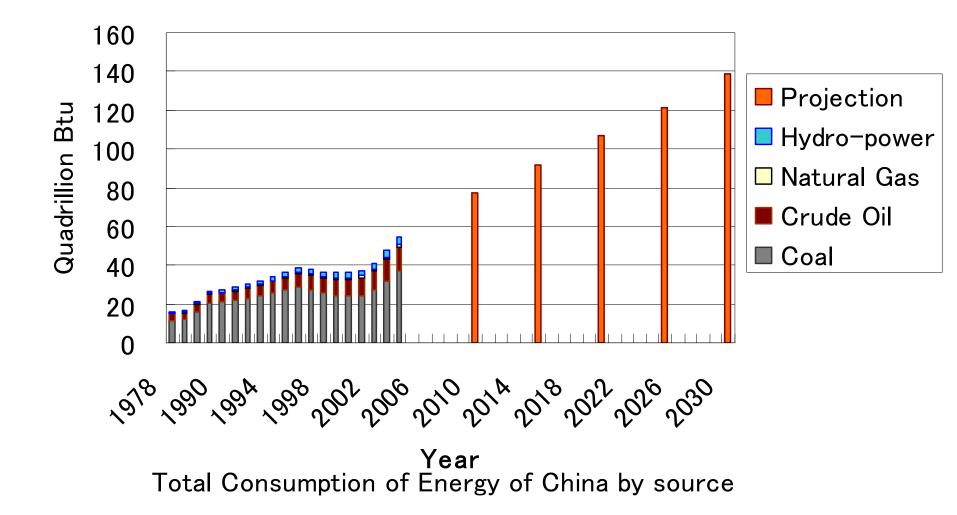
#### Suitable for independent small-scale system

#### **Decentralized water management system** (ultimate status)



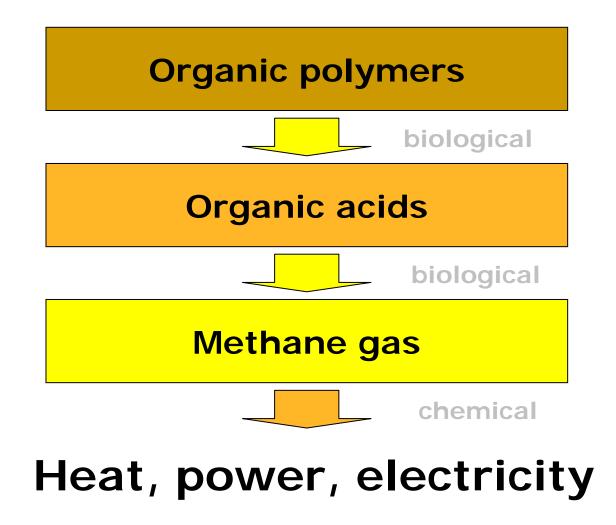
#### **東京大学** THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

#### **Energy demand projection in China**

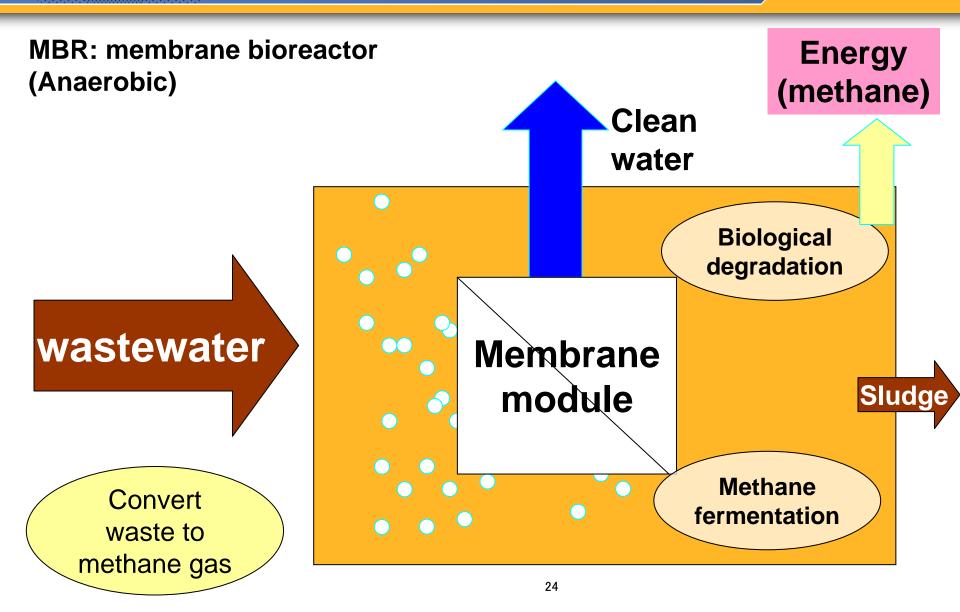




#### **Biological conversion of heterogeneous wastes**



# **MBR:** membrane bioreactor (anaerobic)



#### **Byproducts of wastewater treatment**

#### Fertilizer from sewage sludge

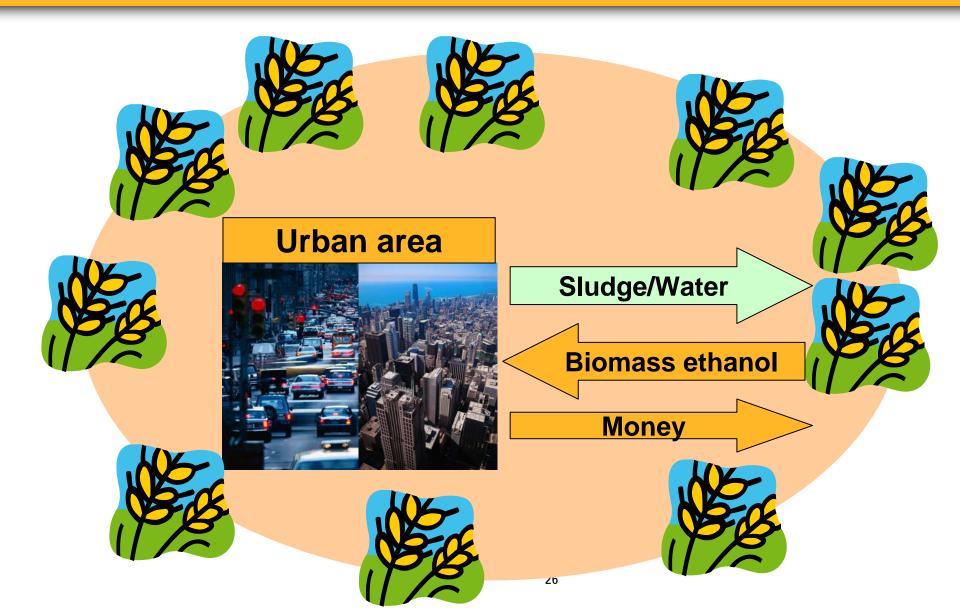
- Production of fertilizer (rich in P and N), from digested/composted sewage sludge is popular in many places
- Marketability of such sludge is not always high in urban area
- Perceived risk of heavy metals, arsenic, toxic organic chemicals, pathogens, VOCs etc.

#### Treated wastewater

- It may be clean enough for house use
- It may be used for irrigation
- However, these use may not be acceptable for people in modern society



#### **Example of solution: sustainable bioethanol production**





#### **Conclusions and proposal**

- Appropriate water management is vital for developing urban region
- Urban water management in developing region does not need to follow developed countries
- New technologies may change the structure of management
- Water management, risk assessment, low-carbon society etc. may need to optimize strategically
- Since the subject are extremely complicated, we have to bring high-technology from all academic fields (science, engineering, social science, etc.). Contribution of academia and international collaboration are important



# 謝謝 **Thank you** *ありがとうございます* Ken Fukushi *fukushi@ir3s.u-tokyo.ac.jp*