

This market report on Japanese packaging focuses particularly on barrier-free including universal design and eco-friendly packaging. It also includes information on remarkable new packaging technology and materials and all types of consumer packaging.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has announced the average life expectancy of Japanese people in 2006. According to its study, the life expectancy for Japanese men is 79.00 years for men (the second longest in the world after Iceland) and 85.81 years for women (first in the world). Japan has one of the most aged populations in the world and universal design and barrier-free packaging has been developed and marketed in numerous fields such as foodstuffs, beverages, cosmetics, toiletries, pharmaceuticals and stationery. Enterprises have developed a vast range of eco-friendly packaging that prevents global warming, minimizes resource consumption and enables recycling. Numerous remarkable new packaging technologies and materials have been developed.

Examples of features include the following:

Universal Design (including Barrier Free) Packaging: Kokko's cup-shaped oblate designed to make it easy for the elderly to take medication; Osaka Hososha's easy-opening film sandwich pack; ESS's tube type lotion refill bottle; a wearable robot suit called HAL developed by Professor Sankai making it possible for a man who suffered polio soon after birth to walk for the first time in 45 years; Yonetani Printing's easy-open envelope without scissors or cutter for visually impaired or elderly people, and more

Eco-Friendly Packaging: Denka Polymer's super light weight PPF container that is 10 to 20% lighter compared to existing products; Nagata's foldable liquid container that can be folded for easy transportation and storage; Toppan Container's staple-less fold out carton featuring special interlocking tabs on the base that completely eliminates the need for staples; Taisei Lamick's PIC (Pouch in Carton), a container that keeps air outside to keep the content fresh. It is easy to separate the outer box and the pouch for recycling; Oji Chiyoda Container's cardboard for use in making cardboard boxes containing green tea lees, a by-product of the tea brewing product; ESS's tube type lotion refill bottle. The tube is the recessed nozzle with pops out when the center of the tube is squeezed. The nozzle of the tube fits exactly inside the neck of the original bottle to simplify the refill process and minimizing spillage and mess; Daiko Sangyo's environmentally friendly gift wrapping cloth made from fibers from recycled PET bottles; etc., etc.

Remarkable New Packaging Technology: Tohcello's active packaging that reduces oxygen permeability by 90%; Today's industry-first durable polyester nano-alloy film using mainly plant derived materials; Unitika's heat resistant PLA resin; Jemco's electrically conductive powder without antimony, and more.

Innovative New Packaging Materials: Kyodo Printing's new type of flexible spout pouch; Dai Nippon Printing's packaging material for foods in space; Oshio Sangyo's flexible pouch-like bottle with a spout; Yutaka's edible wafer film cup; Toppan Printing's steam releasing package for microwave ovens; Nishimura's PLA food container, and more. The report includes about 350 articles.

Packaging Industry Statistics/Corrugated Board Market: Reflecting the globalization of the industry as a whole and resultant increased competition, significant "Reorganization" within the industry took place.

One representative example of which was the "Strategic Co-operation" announced in November 2006 between 3 of the largest companies in the corrugated board industry: Rengo, Nippon Paper Industries and Sumitomo Corp. Reorganization in the form of capital co-operation and participation, etc. is also actively being pursued by other companies.

For more information please click on:

http://www.researchandmarkets.com/product/253321/japan_barrierfree_ecofriendly_packaging_a

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C. CURRENT STATUS OF THE ECO-FRIENDLY PACKAGING INDUSTRY

D. PACKAGING INDUSTRY NEWS

Nipro pill sheet wins design award

Asahi Kasei Life & Living, NEC Tokin reduce resin in products

Prize winning "pleated skirt" bottle

Advancing Ubiquitous Computing

Professor Sankai of Tsukuba University develops robot suit named HAL

Aluminium bottle-can used for Sake

Prize winning seal

Aeon supermarket products wrapped in biomass plastic

Label printing industry seal and label contest winners announced

New 70% starch biodegradable sheet

Taste evaluation service

Food service industry moves toward reducing waste

Barrier free adaptation for partial color blindness

Guidelines for egg traceability offered

NEC, Sony, others using plant-derived plastic for their products

Special film bag for freezing and microwaving foods from Packs

Dai Nippon Printing offers package design evaluation system in virtual shop

Food manufacturers start displaying ingredients and expiration date on small sauce packets

Japan Polystyrene Foamed Sheet Industry Association seeks Eco Leaf category

Japanese burger chain to switch to paper bags

Food products industry promotes universal design

Sato begins tag and label printing service that eliminates software costs

Carto can recycle enterprise

E. BARRIER-FREE PACKAGING

1. Packaging Materials

Easy opening adhesive seal

Breathable highly absorbent waterproof sheets

Asahi Kasei Pax promotes small easy-open seasoning packs

GN develops easy-open plastic shopping bag

Easy opening film sandwich pack

Universal design glass bottles
Poltex and others jointly develop easy open film package
From shelf to table plastic pack
Cup shaped oblate
Easy opening thin card lunch box
2. Consumer Packaging
Non-spill drink bottle
Sato Shokuhin promotes universal design in product development
Convenient cling film cutter
Mouth freshening tissues
RE-sealable can
Refined green tea from Kirin
New easy grip can ring pull
Easy hold fit bottle
Easy opening direct mail envelope
New Zealand made Salami sausage from Itoham Foods
Healthy, environmentally friendly processed meat
Itoham Foods releases soup curry base product
Finger spot 2-litre pet bottle
Evian to release 330ml pet bottle
High calorie nutrition food in pouch for hospital use from Terumo
Easy opening direct mail envelope
Itoham Foods improves opening of ham products
Pop-up CD/DVD storage case
Improved body soap bottle design
Q.P. updates toast spread product
Q.P. introduce easy opening inner seal
Asahi Food & Healthcare use new high insulation pot for soup range
2 new 2-litre bottles from Ito En
Double handled rubbish bags

F. ECO-FRIENDLY PACKAGING

1. PACKAGING MATERIALS

1) Material, Energy and Waste Reduction

Q.P. to use thinner cardboard boxes
High transparency 5 layer nylon poly bags
Denka Polymer develops super lightweight PPF container for deli dishes
Kobax develops new type of plastic zipper bag
Denka Polymer releases super lightweight PSP tray product
Heiwa Kagaku, Unitika create high-function plastic bottle from polylactic acid
Sales of biodegradable plastic soars
Asahi Printing Starts Sales of paper package with plant derived resin coating
Large convenience store to trial 100% bio plastic trays
Biodegradable decorative packaging ribbon-tie
Nagata Sells foldable liquid container product
Sliontec releases environmentally friendly packaging adhesive tape
Murakami Corporation devises biodegradable container from tapioca starch
Dai Nippon Printing releases clear nylon vapor deposition films with high barrier
PP laminated paper trays
Oji Paper focusing on moldable paper
Low cost, ultra-thin plastic containers a huge hit
Apple traceability labels
Poly-lactic acid fruit bags

Environmentally friendly tape
Thin core pallet wrap
100% biodegradable multipurpose agricultural plastic sheeting
Biodegradable laminated paper
Plastic foam shock absorbing beans
Bio shock absorbing material
Biodegradable wireless plastic tape from Okamoto
100% biodegradable laminated envelopes
RO water cold insulating material
2) Reuse
Stapleless fold out cartons
CO2 emission saving reusable chiller packs
Toy box
Meiwa Pax develops reclosable envelope made of film
Daiwa Gravure's Cartridge Packs wins attention along with award
Reusable cushioned shipping box with height changing function from Japan Plus
3) Recycling
Biodegradable shock absorbing pallets
Earth Republic line of recycled paper products honored by government
Keio Paper, Keio Shiken sell safe, eco-friendly paper food containers
Kitahara Sangyo sells high-seal containers
Tea lees cardboard box
End folding box tape applicator
Award winning laptop packaging from Ueno Systech
Shock absorbing returnable envelopes
Taisei Lamick pouch in carton functional, eco-friendly
Environmentally friendly laminated box
Sanei Polymer develops reusable core for PP bands
Ko-Pack International innovates with shrink label product
Kyodo Printing releases metal printing products
Paper & plastic pot noodle container
Green Sea tape dispenser creates easy-open lip
Pet bottle heat resistant cap

2. CONSUMER PACKAGING

1) Material, Energy and Waste Reduction
Coconut shell fibre PE rice bag
Bio-mass confectionery tray
Pocket rubbish bags
Environmentally friendly instant noodle container
Cardboard frozen cup tray
DHA fish sausage
Matsushita increase use of biodegradable packs
Ohki boosting single-serving filters for coffee and tea
Amino acid health supplement drink from Kirin
Takara Shuzo uses biodegradable plastic cap for health drink bottle
Organic spice range from House
Wire free sausages
Biodegradable paper product seedling pot
Campbell's enter instant cup soup market
Environmentally friendly notebooks
UCC coffee announce use of biomass plastic
Lion re-vamp top laundry detergent for Indoor dried clothes
Transparent recycled plastic rubbish bins
Eco leaf mark cans

Small portion microwave gratin from Itoham Foods
House Foods and its drinking water product receive Eco Rail Mark
Environmentally friendly reusable shopping bags
Environmentally friendly confectionery wrappers
Paper frozen food tray
Meiji Seika releases high quality chocolate in small packages
Seitsu packages fruit and vegetable mixes for IH cooking
Burnable trash sacks
Easy squeeze diamond cut condiment tube

2) Reuse

Tube type lotion refill bottle
Recycled PET bottle back packs
Peel off PET bottle labels
Milbon releases hair salon product for home use
Easy use shampoo refill packs
h-concept sells animal shaped silicon rubber band product
Cardboard model toys
Popular natural facial lotion now in refill packs
Biomass plastic egg carton
Waste reducing cling film
Itoham Foods releases ham and bacon products in re-sealable package
2 IN 1 reusable paper packaging

3) Recycling

Soft recycled toilet tissue
DyDo Drinco releases cafe au lait product in cardboard carton
Recycled green tea bench
Inabata develops waste bags using recycled plastic
Mandom to expand use of residue gas release can
Recycled polyester fibre grocery carrier bag
Nichiban releases recyclable tape glue in dispenser
Film & card basket
Instantaneous deodorising toilet spray
Cardboard cushioned paper envelope
Perforated handling caution tape
Colourful wall mounted fold away hook/clip
Recycled pet bottle gift wrapping cloth
Suntory uses easy-peel thermal label for glass bottled drink
Recyclable CD case
Front & rear printable shrink wrap labels

G. REMARKABLE NEW PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY

1. Packaging Materials

Heat resistant bio-plastic
Osaka University, Riken Vitamin develop soft, clear biodegradable film
Unitika develops heat-resistant PLA resin
Kakui develops biodegradable plastic using cotton and wood
Nagoya University team creates tiny springs, pipes with polylactic acid
Edible fish shaving film
Heat resistant bio plastic
Dainippon Ink and Chemicals develops high function plastic
Kuraray develops new clear barrier film
New nano-alloy from Toray creates versatile plastic
Asahi Denka protective silicone resin boosts transmissivity to 99%
Boron Japan develops eco-friendly plastic additive
Infrared light cutting energy saving window film
SCIVAX creates honeycomb pattern on thinner film

Antibacterial hot pepper film
Recycled PET bottle plastic for automobile industry
Lightweight foamed PP plastic sheet
Toray develops first durable polyester nano-alloy film using mainly plant materials
High gas barrier food film
Dai Nippon Printing develops Clear film for foods with highest vapor barrier property
Kuraray develops high barrier food packaging film
Environmentally friendly fish bait capsules
Tohcello develops plant derived plastic with 215-degree melting point
Moisture absorbing soft packaging material
Toyo Ink Mfg. develops ink for noncontact printing on eggs
Polylactic acid base industrial ink
New ink from Sakata
6 colour high chroma ink
New type of thermosensible paper for portable printers
Corrosion resistant aluminium film
2. Packaging Related Materials
Citizen Watch reconstructs gyrosensor for use in car navigation
Dai Nippon Printing working on conductive resin-coated stainless
Moving holograms
Ebara-Udylite develops plating technology to color resin without paint
Taisho Pharmaceutical develops new coating technology
Low cost, high conductivity adhesive
Seaweed shock absorber
Sauce packet black lettering without ink at K pack
Nippon Tungsten's vacuum zipper safely protects sensitive thin electronics

Semiconductor Energy Laboratory, TDK create thin wireless, flexible CPU
Lintec's dicing tape product for semiconductor manufacturing sells well
Cast thin metal strip with long thin holes
Kyocera Chemical insulating varnish reduces VOCs while tolerating heat
Arakawa Chemical hybrid organic/inorganic material photohardens
Fuji Xerox, Ricoh, Toppan Forms announce paper innovations
Nippon Paint's new auto body paint reduces VOC emissions
Toppan Printing develops thin, flexible electronic paper
Glass membrane for wood
Photocatalytic paint
Glow-in-dark materials keep photocatalysts working, says Try Company
Biomass pallet stabilizing film
Information Displaying Store Shelves
DNA colour changing glass
Unitika develops clear static electricity prevention coating agents
Jemco develops electrically conductive powder without antimony
Daiken Chemical silver-palladium alloy promises thinner circuits

H. INNOVATIVE NEW PACKAGING MATERIALS AND CONSUMER PACKAGING

1. Packaging Materials

Kansai Tube increases sales of laminated tube
Plastic pouch / bottle hybrid
Altech develops laminated film beverage pouch with various openings
Slide-Rite zip bags from Takigawa
Soft spout pouch
Dai Nippon Printing packaging material for foods in space
Toyo Aluminum PTP foil with aligned printing

Applications of diplo pouches expand
Yutaka develops edible wafer film cup
Chuo Kagaku sells plant derived plastic container for food
Nishimune starts commercial manufacture of PLA food container
Dai Nippon Printing launches biomass packaging materials
Rengo promotes corrugated cardboard box without metal clasps
Toppan Printing develops steam releasing package for microwave
Light reflection cutting drink carton
Try Company develops cake box with cooler effect
Reduced material injection moulded cup
Nihon Tetra Pak's paper drink container used for Kagome's functional drink

Transparent vapour proof deposition film
New vacuum evaporation coating film from DNP
UV light cutting transparent film
Low cost vapour barrier transparent film
Toppan Printing develops ceramic deposition film for food packaging
Dai Nippon Printing's standing retort pouch earns prestigious award
Hybrid barrier film from Futamura
Toyobo develops OPP film with high heat sealing strength
Antibacterial hot pepper film
Thick, glass like PET bottles
Chokoku Gravure and Plast sell standardized bag products
Leak preventing small plastic cups
Strong, ultra-thin round cut produce bags
Low density foam containers for piping hot food
Shape memory food wrap film
Toyo Ekco promotes high functional PET tray product
Self adhering PET film
Multi compartment tray set from Acta
Microwave steaming trays
PP bottle sales soar
Graphic Japan introduces 3D image sheet
Disposable plastic IH compatible plates
Improved PEN bottle from Kyodo Printing withstands impact
Gas venting lid for fermenting food products
Aoki Technical Laboratory develops PET bottle with half the resin
Sliced apple packaging material
Yamagata Gravure develops package with manual in one piece
Square shaped pet bottle range

2. Packaging Related Materials

Anti-tamper tape from Sumitomo 3M
Vertical / horizontal perforation bags
Next generation hologram foil
Shizuoka Sangyo, Hypertech Japan develop water-retaining shipping bag for cut flowers
Kwik Lok Japan promotes labels with QR code
Non-stick binding tape
Fresh food film from Brother-tec
Security labels still needed to prevent theft
Adhesive free adhering labels
Freshness preserving melon stalk cover
Ozone vegetable freshness preserver
Oxygen removing agent and oxygen Sensor agent from Powder Tech
Large size zip sealing bags
Pet bottle "neck ringer"

3. Consumer Packaging

Ceramic defrosting device

Ise Foods releases Disney character eggs

Crow proof rubbish bags

Hypertech Japan and Shizuoka Sangyo sell air cushioned flower packaging

Fragrance product for rooms from Kobayashi Pharmaceutical

I. OTHER PACKAGING MATERIALS & CONSUMER PACKAGING

1. Packaging Materials

Usage of spout film bags soars

Itohiko offers high-barrier standardized film bag for moist food

Flange on Zip-Pak's zippered nutraceutical bag enhances cleanliness

Tetra shaped single serving dressing packs

Terumo and Tanabe Seiyaku release IV solution in error preventing package

3D look wrapping paper

Insulating paper cup sleeve

Cardboard box with integrated shock absorber

Kohnan Rubber Corporation paper box lid holds its angle

New glass sake cup

Jutec shaker appeals with design, performance

Zipper + hem seal Multi-purpose plastic pouches

Wave shaped fruit tray

Freshness preserving okra packs

Disposable lunch trays for toddlers

Komaki Bussan sells foldable cooler bag

Transparent plastic coffee cups

Disposable noodle bowls from Aoba

Fruit & veg freshness preserving film

Freshness preserving packaging from Showa Denko

New concept container

High transparency PS plastic desert pots

Colourful fruit bags

Flower bouquet wrap, etc.

Stick snack container

Lightweight OPS tray

Strong, lightweight low foam trays

Light weight wrapping film

Mushroom spore cultivating film bags

Cut flower protector

2. Packaging Related Materials

Kyowa launches twist-tie products without wire core

Stretch adhesive tape

Lap top heat dispersing sheet

Heat resistant adhesive for Velcro fasteners

Tamper proof adhesive tape

Citrus fruit freshness preserving cover

Sealex announces new type POP label

Printable non-woven material

Pfizer uses RSS detachable display label for antibiotics

Net type fruit protector

3. Consumer Packaging

Self heating lunch box

Micro hole vegetable freshness preserving bags

Printed baking sheet

Improved Cooking Paper

Improved Refrigerator / Freezer Bags

Kobayashi renew room deodoriser packaging
New sake bottles target female consumers
Food preserving bowl cover
Steamable non-woven material containers
Instant noodle microwave bowl
Closed lid microwave containers
Double application laundry bleach
Smart Labels
Napkin wrapped cups
Pal Corporation develops simple beverage container heating pot for emergency use
Adjustable Nozzle Athletes Foot Spray
Shrink label pet plastic plum wine cup
Flame free cooking bag
Pfizer releases rhinitis liquid medication in package of single-dose stick

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