Development of Technology for Producing Raw Materials for Plastics Using CO₂ and Other Sources (Amount covered by the government: Up to 126.2 billion yen)

- Most of the raw materials for plastics are derived from naphtha (crude gasoline), which is obtained from refining petroleum, and about half of the CO₂ emitted by the chemical industry is due to processes like cracking naphtha to produce basic chemicals such as ethylene and propylene.
- In addition, about 84% of waste plastics are recycled, but <u>some 57% of these are used as a heat source for</u>
 waste-to-energy plants, etc. (thermal recycling), and are eventually discharged as CO₂. So, drastic measures are therefore necessary.

[R&D Item 1]

Development of advanced technology for naphtha cracking furnaces by adopting carbon-free heat sources

- Currently, the heat source is off-gas (methane, etc.) generated from naphtha cracking furnaces.
- In this project, develop the world's first technology to change the heat source of naphtha cracking furnaces to carbon-free sources(eg.ammonia).

Photo of the interior of a naphtha cracking furnace

Observation window

Naphtha vapor passes through the reaction chamber

Change the heat source of furnaces that crack naphtha at about 850°C to ammonia

[Aim to reduce CO₂ emissions by about 70%]

[R&D Item 2]

Development of technology for producing chemicals from waste plastics and rubber

- Establish technology for producing raw materials such as ethylene and propylene from waste plastics and rubber.
- Produce them at a yield ratio of 60 to 80%, and also aim to reduce the CO₂ emitted from the production process by about a half.



Waste plastic pyrolysis oil (Raw material for plastics)

[Aim to reduce CO₂ emissions by about a half]

[R&D Item 3]

Development of technology for producing functional chemicals from CO₂

- Functional chemicals such as polycarbonates theoretically be and polyurethanes can synthesized from CO₂ without requiring hydrogen.
- Work to improve the functionality, such as electrical, optical, and mechanical properties.

[Aim to turn CO₂ into raw materials]



High-performance polycarbonate (Camera lenses)

[R&D Item 4] Development of technology for producing chemicals from alcohols

[Produced chemicals from green hydrogen and CO₂]

- Improve the catalyst yield (80-90%) for producing olefins such as ethylene and propylene from methanol and other materials (MTO).
- Aim to commercialize artificial photosynthesis by developing a photocatalyst capable of achieving both high conversion efficiency and mass productivity.



MTO demonstration



Large-scale demonstration of photocatalytic panels