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## Not so fantastic: can Japan end its love affair with plastic?

没你想的那么美：日本能否终结对塑料的迷恋？

**love affair**: 挚爱，热爱；风流韵事

例句：Someone has a love affair.

例句：Someone is involved in a love affair. 有人恋爱了。

例句：He has a love affair with hamburgers.

From **bento** boxes to **individually wrapped** bananas, plastic reigns supreme in Japan. But **amid** global concern about single-use waste, new **legislation** could help end the country's love affair with plastic.

从便当盒到单根包装的香蕉，塑料制品在日本极度盛行。但在全球对一次性垃圾的普遍担忧下，新的立法或许有助于终结日本对塑料的痴迷。

**bento**/'bentoʊ/: n. 便当，盒饭

**individually**/ˌɪndɪˈvɪdʒuəli/: adv. 分别地，单独地

词性拓展：individual (n./adj.)

individual 例句：Every individual has equal rights.

**wrap**/ræp/: v. (用纸、布或其他材料) 包，裹

例句：She wrapped the present and tied it with ribbon.

**reign supreme**

主宰，占统治地位；盛行

相关词汇：reign (/reɪn/ v. 主宰；盛行)

reign 例句：Queen Victoria reigned over Britain.

相关词汇：supreme (adj. 至高无上的)

例句：Love reigned supreme in her heart.

**amid**/ə'mɪd/: prep. 在...当中

近义词：among

**single-use**/ˌsɪŋɡl 'juːs/: adj. 一次性的

搭配短语：single-use chopsticks

**legislation**/ˌledʒɪs'leɪʃn/: n. 法律；立法

词性拓展：legislate (v.)

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The push comes ahead of the G20 summit, which Japan will host in Osaka in June. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government wants to use the meeting to push for an agreement on reducing **marine** plastic waste.

紧跟着新立法而来的，是日本将于六月在大阪市主办的 G20 峰会。日本首相安倍晋三及其政府希望借由此次峰会，来推动达成有关“减少海洋塑料垃圾污染”的协议。

**the push**：指这项立法：push在这里指名词“推动，推进”，the push指对新立法的推进，灵活理解为立法。

**marine** /mə'riːn/: adj. 海洋的

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But the country's own record on single-use plastic is hardly **exemplary**: Japan generates more plastic packaging waste per capita than any other country except the United States, according to the UN.

但日本本国在一次性塑料上的使用记录表明，日本很难起到示范作用。据联合国，日本人均塑料包装垃圾生成量仅次于美国，排名世界第二。

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**exemplary**/ɪɡ'zempləri/: adj. 优异的；(可作)楷模的

相关词汇：example

词性拓展：exemplar (n. 范本，范例)

例句：Your paper is exemplary.

**per capita**: 人均 (地)

例句：The per capita income in the country is very high.

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In 2018, Japan's government **unveiled** a proposal to start **tackling** the issue, with the goal of reducing the country's 9.4 million **tonnes** of plastic waste a year by 25 percent by 2030. A key part of the proposal is to require businesses to **charge for** plastic bags—a measure that has already been widely adopted around the world.

为解决塑料问题，日本政府于 2018 年颁布了一项提案。日本每年会产生大约 940 万吨塑料垃圾，而提案提出的目标是在 2030 年前将此数量减少 25%。该提案的一个关键点是要求企业对塑料袋收费，而这一措施已在全球范围内得到广泛采用。

**unveil**/ˌʌnˈveɪl/: v. (首次) 公开；将...公之于众

词根词缀：un- (否定)

相关词汇：veil (n. 面纱；v. 遮盖)

英文释义：show or announce publicly for the first time

搭配短语：unveil a test version

**tackle the issue**: 解决这个问题

tackle: n. 索具；阻截/ v. 阻截

**tonne**: 吨

**charge for**: 要价；收费

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With the national government moving slowly, local governments and businesses in Japan have in some cases **taken up the mantle** themselves. The town of Kamikatsu near Kyoto has set a goal of zero plastic waste by 2020, while Kyoto city **has long required** large **retailers** to charge for plastic bags.

由于日本中央政府进程缓慢，一部分地方政府和企业已经在某些情况下自发接过了责任。位于京都市附近的上胜町就设立了目标：在 2020 年之前实现塑料垃圾零排放。而京都市长期以来一直要求大型零售商对塑料袋收费。

**take up**: 占用

**mantle**/ˈmæntl/: n. (前任留给继任者的) 责任，衣钵

英文释义：the role and responsibilities of an important person or job, especially when they are passed on from one person to another

搭配短语：take up/on the mantle

例句：He was asked to take on the mantle of managing director.

**retailer**/'ri:teɪlə/: 零售商；零售店

搭配短语：a fashion retailer

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Greenpeace and other environmental NGOs want Japan to **commit** to the **bolder** goal of reducing plastic waste by 50 percent by 2030 and more **concrete** measures including bans on single-use plastics.

“绿色和平”和其他非政府环保组织希望日本能够做出更大胆的承诺，在 2030 年之前减少 50% 的塑料垃圾，并采取更多具体措施，包括禁用一次性塑料制品。

**commit**/kə'mɪt/: v. 承诺（投入时间或金钱）

英文释义：to promise or give your loyalty, time, or money to a particular principle, person, or plan of action

搭配短语：commit to a conversation

搭配短语：commit oneself to doing sth.

例句：Students must commit themselves to learning.

**bold**/bəʊld/: adj. 勇敢的，无畏的

近义词：brave

**concrete**/'kɒ:ŋkri:t/: adj. 具体的，实在的

词性拓展：concrete (n. 混凝土)

英文释义：clear and certain, or real and existing in a form that can be seen or felt

搭配短语：concrete evidence

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“The Japanese government needs more ambitious goals if they truly want to lead the G20 summit,” said Kenji Ishihara, a **campaigner** with Greenpeace Japan.

石原健二是“绿色和平”日本分部的一位活动推广者，他说：“如果日本政府真的想要领导 G20 峰会，他们需要更具雄心的目标。”

**campaigner**/kæm'peɪnər/: n. 活动家，活动推广者

相关词汇：campaign (n. 政治或商业上的推广活动)

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原文：

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The push comes ahead of the G20 summit, which Japan will host in Osaka in June. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government wants to use the meeting to push for an agreement on reducing marine plastic waste.

But the country's own record on single-use plastic is hardly exemplary: Japan generates more plastic packaging waste per capita than any other country except the United States, according to the UN.

In 2018, Japan's government unveiled a proposal to start tackling the issue, with the goal of reducing the country's 9.4 million tonnes of plastic waste a year by 25 percent by 2030. A key part of the proposal is to require businesses to charge for plastic bags—a measure that has already been widely adopted around the world.

With the national government moving slowly, local governments and businesses in Japan have in some cases taken up the mantle themselves. The town of Kamikatsu near Kyoto has set a goal of zero plastic waste by 2020, while Kyoto city has long required large retailers to charge for plastic bags.

Greenpeace and other environmental NGOs want Japan to commit to the bolder goal of reducing plastic waste by 50 percent by 2030 and more concrete measures including bans on single-use plastics.

"The Japanese government needs more ambitious goals if they truly want to lead the G20 summit," said Kenji Ishihara, a campaigner with Greenpeace Japan.