

2 March 2022 (No. of pages:1)

Japanese report: 22 Feb 2022

Why is Sustainable Fashion Needed now?

Sustainability is what the era demands, and fashion must not lag behind

Economic Research Dept.
Takuya Ichikawa

Summary

- The fashion industry is the second largest polluting industry in the world (the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)), and the environmental burden is large. In addition, it has a history of being criticized for child labor, as well as other problems, and there are also issues from the viewpoint of animal welfare. The whole fashion industry needs to change drastically in an age in which society is conscious of the need to realize a sustainable economy.
- Looking at the world, the fashion industry has already begun to move in a sustainable direction. Many companies participate in the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action, led by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, and the Fashion Pact. Sustainable Fashion is now becoming a major trend.
- On the other hand, only a few Japanese companies participate in this framework. It is difficult to say that consumers are fully aware of the need for fashion to improve sustainability. Fashion can be an aspiration only because it captures what the age demands. It will be necessary to accelerate initiatives led by corporations and the industry so as not to lag behind other industries in the area of sustainability.

Attention

This report is a summary translation. The official document is only in Japanese.