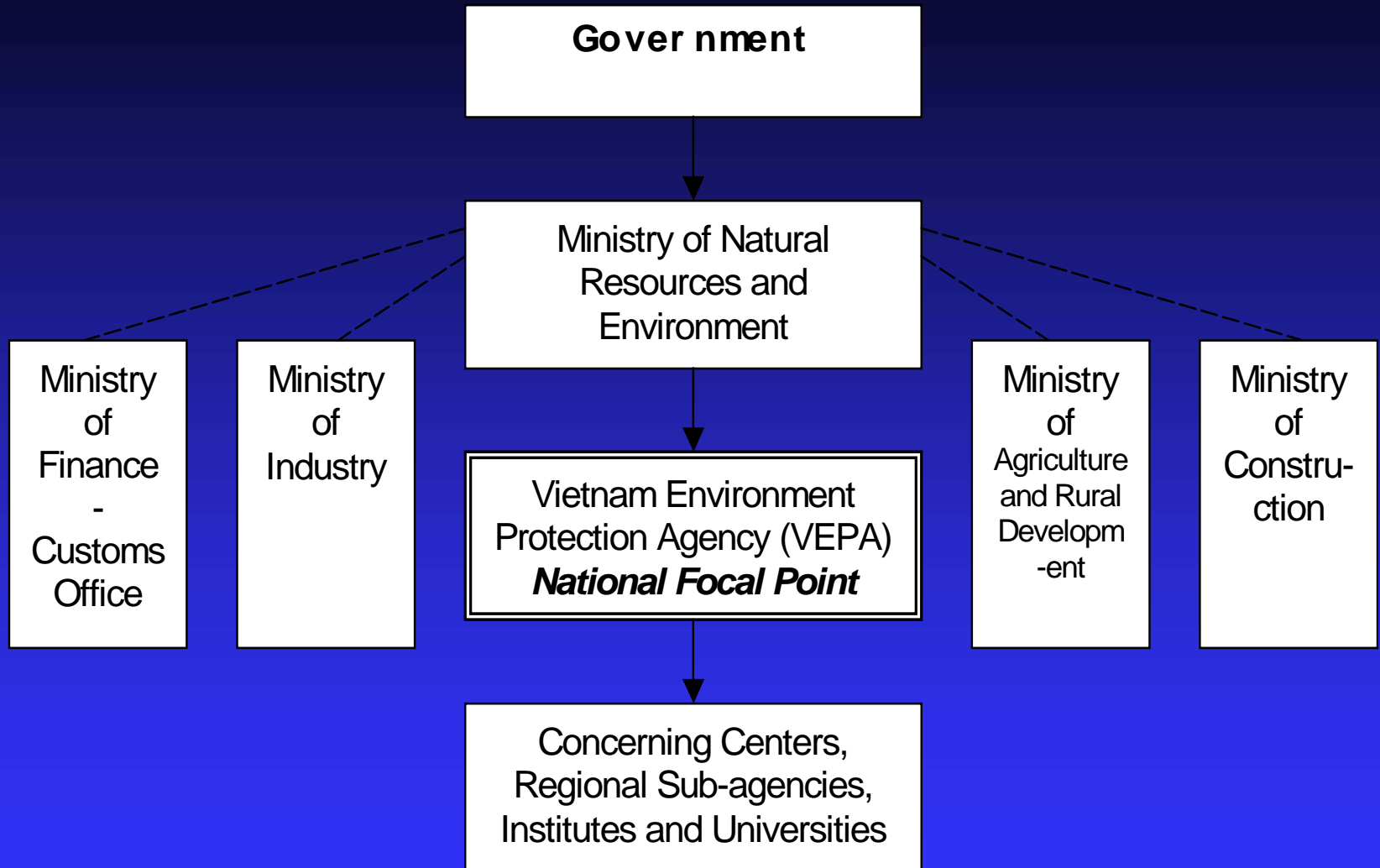


Sharing of experiences and difficulties through implementing the Basel convention in Viet Nam

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Basel Convention Implementing scheme in Viet Nam



----- Collaborative Relation
 —————> Directly Relation

Competent authority and focal point

- Vietnam ratified Basel Convention on 13 March 1995.
- Vietnam Environment Protection Agency (previously National Environment Agency) acts as the competent authority and the focal point of the Convention on behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.
- The competent authority and the focal point are assisted on daily basis by Pollution Control Division within VEPA.

Import and export of waste through Basel Convention procedure

- According to Vietnam environmental laws and regulations, all kinds of hazardous waste (based on Basel Categories) could not be imported to Vietnam and exported from Vietnam for any reasons.
- But under Vietnamese regulation, some kinds of second-hand commodities could be imported for reuse and reproduction. So in fact, the status of manipulating hazardous as non-hazardous wastes is still happening in Vietnam.
- For example, based on our regulation, second-hand computers could be imported for reuse in Vietnam. But second-hand televisions could not be imported to Vietnam.

Cases of trouble, illegal export and import of hazardous wastes

- Since Vietnam acceded to the Convention, Vietnam participated in series of transboundary movement of wastes.
- Vietnam permits the importation of secondary materials to be used as direct raw material for production, such as: metal scraps, paper and carton scraps, plastic scraps, ...
- Vietnam has detected several cases of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes and forced shipments to be re-exported to the country of export.

- In 2000, 5,035 tonnes of metal scraps contaminated by oil, rubber, chemicals was seized by Haiphong custom and then re-exported to country of export.
- In the same year two containers containing medical wastes were found at Haiphong port. They were seized and then the importer had to treat and dispose immediately in Haiphong City.

- Last year we were notified by Hong Kong EPA on possible export of second hand PCs from HK to VN. We informed custom offices on this possibility for precautionary measures
- And in the year of 2001 we were informed by Holland Basel Focal Point that some containers from Russia were going to Viet Nam and they could contain hazardous substances (asbestos waste). So Vietnamese competent authority has quick responses to this possibility.

**...other topics regarding
the implementation of
the Basel Convention in
Vietnam**

Vietnamese competent authorities has put in place many legislative writings related to implementation of Basel Convention.

- Developed and enacted Decision No155/1999/QD-TTg dated 16/7/1999 by the Prime Minister on promulgation of Regulations on Hazardous Waste management.
- Developed and issued Inter-ministerial Circular No 01/2001/TTLT-BKHCMNT-BXD dated 18/01/2001 by MOSTE and MOC on guiding selection of, engineering and operation of sanitary landfill.

- Developed and issued Procedures for technological options to collect and treat obsolete organic phosphate and organic chlorinated pesticides.
- Issued Decision No 60/2002/QD-BKHCMNT dated 07/8/2002 by Minister of MOSTE on technical guidelines on landfilling of hazardous wastes.

**Especially, in the year of 2004,
Ministry of Natural Resources
and Environment has issued
Decision No. 03/2004/QD-BTNMT
dated on April 02, 2004 on the
promulgation of the
Environmental Protection
Regulations on the Import of
Scraps as Secondary Materials,**

In which regulates:

- o *Disciplines of import and use of craps as secondary materials*
- o *Categories of craps are permitted for importing as secondary materials*
- o *Regulations for import craps*
- o *Regulations for organizations, persons, who are responsible for craps import.*
- o *Responsibility of organizations and persons, who import and use of secondary materials.*
- o *Responsibility of Department of Natural Resources and Environment in province.*
- o *Dealing with trouble and illegal cases.*
- o *Implementation.*

- **When the above Decision is in force until now, VEPA and local authorities have dealt with many incorrect occasions of waste import. (photos)**
- **But there are still many inadequacies in implementing due to the categories of the second-hand commodity, as well as responsibility of concerned agencies.**

Difficulties encountered on daily basis

In Vietnam, we are facing many difficulties in implementing Basel Convention.

Such as:

- ✓ Lack of adequate legislation system
- ✓ Lack of knowledge on hazardous waste
- ✓ Lack of implementation facilities (incl. technology and expertise)
- ✓ Lack of financial and other resources
- ✓ Limit of public participation and stakeholder involvement.

➤ It is very difficult to distinguish hazardous wastes in the second-hand materials

**Thank you
for your attention !**