

## **Workshop of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes**

### **Chair' Summary DRAFT**

1. A Workshop of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes was held in Tokyo on January 28-30, 2008. The workshop was attended by 27 participants from competent authorities or focal points to the Basel Convention from 12 countries or a special administrative region and the Basel Convention Regional Centers (BCRCs) in China and Indonesia, and 14 observers from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC), IMPEL-TFS network, UNEP/ROAP, Canada, and government and semi-government organizations in Japan. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Kuniaki Makiya, Director of Office of Waste Disposal Management, Waste Management and Recycling Department, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (hereinafter referred to as the MOE).
2. At the Opening Session, Senior Vice Minister of the Environment of Japan, Mr. Ikuzo Sakurai, warmly welcomed the participants and delivered the opening address in which he stressed the importance of establishing an environmentally sound material-cycle society internationally through the establishment of such a society domestically and of enhancing the prevention of illegal trade of hazardous wastes. The Session was followed by the nomination of the Chair and the Session coordinators (Ms. Qian Wang, Mr. Ibrahim Shafii, Ms. Rohaya Saharom, and Mr. Salvador Passe) and the keynote speech by Mr. Hideto Yoshida, Director General, Waste Management and Recycling Department, MOE, to outline the overall purpose and expected outcome of the workshop.
3. During Session 1, all the participants shared up-to-date information with regard to implementing the Basel Convention. Delegates from Brunei, China (including Hong Kong SAR), Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam have made a presentation to share up-to-date information in terms of the legal framework, statistics, illegal cases, newly introduced regulations and activities and major challenges.
4. During Session 2, criteria on waste and non-waste with the focus on electrical and electronic equipment were discussed. The Secretariat presented the gap on interpretation of waste, the existing regulations in Asia countries, the desk study on used TV flow in Asia, and international activities on harmonization of criteria. BCRC China introduced their on-going research on clarification of criteria on

distinguishing waste from non waste, namely second-hand and waste, second-hand and brand new EEE, and hazardous waste and non-hazardous waste. IMPEL-TFS explained the current information on export criteria of used electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) in EU countries.

5. Through the discussion, the participants understood that the difference of interpretation of waste might cause illegal trade and agreed for conducting further research on distinguishing waste from non-waste to clarify criteria and practices at the front line by BCRC China with the support of MOE of Japan and Environment Canada. To prevent illegal shipments, participants shared the understandings that each country should make all efforts to control import and export of hazardous waste domestically, and if needed, exporting country and importing country should cooperate closely to check the legal compliance by informal PIC. The participants also shared the view that although common criteria can be an effective tool, many participants mentioned that it would be premature to develop it right now because of the diverse situations in Asia. The participants agreed that sharing information and respecting requirements in importing countries are important to solve the gap and recognized the importance of having HS codes for used EEE and fulfilling requirements of Parties to report to SBC according to Article 3 of the Basel Convention. SBC called for active participation in the MPPI and the partnership in computing equipment for the inputs from Asian countries.
6. During Session 3, the Secretariat explained the importance of enforcement to prevent illegal shipments and cultivate good practices in recycling industry for an environmentally sound material-cycle society. It was followed by the presentation on unique activities for effective implementation of the Basel Convention in Asian countries.
7. Through the discussion, the participants shared common understandings that there are many worth-sharing good implementing practices introduced in each country and those should be shared systematically for more effective implementation. The participants recognized the necessity of improving the Basel notification procedures in terms of process time and accompanying documents and of exchanging information by utilizing the Asian Network website. The participants also pointed out the relevant websites to upload the latest information. The participants identified 1) contact persons list, 2) more specific information on items regulated, 3) application of HS codes in each country, 4) guideline on import/export in each country, 5) penalty for non-compliance of the domestic law for the implementation of the Basel Convention in each country, and 6) success stories on the prevention of

illegal trade, as the information contributing to the enhancement of implementing the Basel Convention.

8. In session 4, reviewing the past activities on Asian Network, previous and ongoing activities by BCRC-SEA, IMPEL-TFS, UNEP/ROAP, Canada and Japan Customs were introduced. The participants agreed to: 1) update the country coordinator list, 2) collaborate closely among Asian countries as well as EU and Canada, 3) launch research projects, 4) develop a reference material on good practices, 5) facilitate the implementation of the Asia-Pacific E-waste Partnership program. At first, the Secretariat of the Asian Network announced that it will prepare a list of contact persons and outlines of the projects (development of a reference material, researches on speedy Basel notification and consent procedures and criteria for packaging) and circulate them to the participants for their comments.
9. In the closing Session, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Environment of Japan, Mr. Masayoshi Namiki, acknowledged all the contributions and efforts made for the success of this workshop.