

**Workshop 2009 of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary
Movement of Hazardous Wastes**
Chair's Summary (Final Version)

1. Workshop 2009 of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes was held in Kuala Lumpur on January 20-22, 2009. The workshop was attended by 26 participants from competent authorities and focal points to the Basel Convention from 11 countries and one special administrative region, the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Asia and the Pacific in China (BCCC China), the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA), and 6 observers from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC), Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law Transfrontier Shipments of Waste (IMPEL-TFS), government and semi-government organizations, researchers, and consultants from member countries.
2. In the Opening Session, three opening remarks were delivered by the distinguished speakers. First, Mr. Aboejoewono Aboeprajitno, Director of BCRC-SEA, expressed deep gratitude for a large attendance from member countries as well as the support by both Malaysian and Japanese governments. Mr. Ir Lee Heng Keng, Deputy Director General of the Department of Environment (DOE), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Malaysia, warmly welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of capacity development and regional cooperation through the Asian Network for preventing illegal trade of hazardous wastes. He also highlighted the importance of sharing responsibilities among countries and cooperation in controlling the illegal transboundary movements of these wastes so that developing countries do not become dumping grounds for hazardous wastes, on the pretext of recycling and reuse. Dr. Ryutaro Yatsu, Director General of Waste Management and Recycling Department, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, warned of the unprecedented effects that the recent world financial crisis may have on the dynamics of demand and supply of wastes and recyclable resources and stressed the importance to take prompt and appropriate actions as a region for coping with current challenges in the global waste management. The session was followed by the nomination of the Chairperson and the session coordinators (Mr. Geri Geronimo R. Sanz, (the Philippines), Dr. Ab. Rahman Awang (Malaysia), Ms. Junko Nishikawa (Japan), and Ms. Rohaya Saharom (Singapore)). The workshop was chaired by Mr. Aboeprajitno and he outlined the overall objectives and expected

outcome of the workshop.

3. During the Session 1, the representative of SBC highlighted main discussions and decisions adopted by the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 9) held in Bali, Indonesia in 2008. All the network members presented the update on enforcement activities with regard to the newly introduced and recently amended regulations on hazardous wastes, trade statistics, illegal cases as well as relevant policies.
4. Through the discussions, the participants understood the latest information on rules and regulations on hazardous wastes and secondhand electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) including the definitions and criteria of regulated materials. The participants reaffirmed the importance of information exchange and prior informed consent procedure since each country has different definitions of regulated wastes.
5. During the Session 2, the noteworthy practices for effective implementation of the Basel Convention were introduced by member countries, including effective and prompt import/export procedure, cooperation with customs and other relevant stakeholders, various awareness raising and training activities. A representative from Royal Malaysian Customs introduced customs clearance system and inspection of hazardous wastes which were well-coordinated with environment offices. Through understanding the practices being uniquely conducted by some countries, the participants learned lessons and ideas for improving enforcement activities in their countries.
6. Several participants stressed the importance of the harmonization in the classification of hazardous wastes including the development of harmonized customs code for those wastes. Promoted dialogue and collaboration with customs officers in the future workshop of the Asian Network was also proposed while the participants need to bear in mind the existing initiative by UNEP ROAP for the MEA Regional Enforcement Network.
7. In addition, the participants recognized it is useful and valuable to keep sharing those practices among member countries with the purpose of enhancing the overall implementing capability of the region. Possible mechanisms to share good practices in even more systematic manner were discussed and participants agreed to develop a web-based handbook for good practice (e-handbook) which is periodically updated. The Secretariat of the Asian Network will seek the way to collaborate with BCRCs on the development of the proposed e-handbook.
8. It is recognized that speedy and transparent import/export procedures may promote legal transactions, which, as a result, contribute to preventing illegal trade of

hazardous wastes. In this regard, the participants agreed to send notification documents promptly through fax or e-mails as well as by post in order to accelerate the notification process. For this purpose, it was suggested for each member country to share more than one email address to ensure the receipt of electronic notification without delay. The participants were encouraged to set a performance pledge for the notification processing time.

9. At the beginning of the Session 3, a representative from Indonesia explained the background, objectives, and scope of the Country-Led Initiatives (CLI) on Ban Amendment which was launched at COP 9. The representatives from the Philippines and Vietnam made presentations on environmental concerns related to recycling activities in their countries. Korea and Singapore explained recent policy and activities to promote recycling of e-wastes. An expert from the Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO, made a presentation on the national endowment and specialization of production related to international trade of secondary resources.
10. The participants discussed the changing situation of the transboundary movements and recycling of hazardous wastes in the region, reasons of environmentally unsound treatment, and possible measures to tackle those identified reasons. The participants recognized that clear definitions and strict border control on illegal import and export of disguised secondhand EEE and e-wastes are vital for combating environmentally unsound practices. In addition to that, taking into account that economic aspects are among the biggest factors behind the situations, the importance of effective law enforcement, awareness raising, environmentally sound and economically viable management scheme and meeting the basic social and economic needs of development were emphasized.
11. In the Session 4, representatives from member countries reported findings and lessons learned from the completed projects for the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Electrical and Electronic Waste in Asia and the Pacific region. The BCCC China reported the study of the import/export regulations and identification criteria of secondhand EEE and e-wastes. The participants agreed to respect regulations and criteria each member country has adopted and cooperate with BCCC China in sending comments, corrections and additional information to its draft report.
12. The discussion was followed by the presentation by the representative of IMPEL-TFS to introduce threat assessment survey in the WEEE projects. The chair requested that the outcome of the IMPEL TFS projects be shared at the next Asian

Network Workshop. The representative of SBC reported on the progress of the Basel Convention Partnership Programs, such as e-wastes projects in the Asia and the Pacific, the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI) and the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE). SBC also strongly encouraged member countries to participate in the PACE Working Group. Thailand presented the new take-back system based on product charge, the outcome is to be shared with the member of the network participants at the next workshop. The participants discussed the issues on the EPR and take-back schemes, low quality of used EEE, generation of e-wastes arising from increasing consumption of brand-new EEE, low awareness of the public. The participants were encouraged to take into account of the discussion in the session into future activities of e-waste projects.

13. In the closing remarks, Mr. Aboeprajitno has acknowledged all the contributions and efforts made for the workshop.