

WORKSHOP 2009 OF THE ASIAN NETWORK FOR PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES

OPENING REMARK

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Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Department of Environment of Malaysia for cooperation and support in hosting and organizing this event. We are very happy that Malaysia accepted our request to co-organize this workshop as has been discussed during the Regional Workshop on the ESM of E-Wastes in Cambodia organized by BCRC-SEA in 2007 and the COP 9 of the Basel Convention in Bali, Indonesia in June 2008. I also consider that Malaysia has been very cooperative and concerned on e-waste issues. The Department of Environment of Malaysia has demonstrated its leadership by conducting development of national e-waste inventory project. We have also made the results of the e-waste studies in Malaysia, in addition to those conducted in some other countries, as part of the references for the development of our two Technical Guidelines for the ESM of E-Waste.

We also would like express our deepest thanks to the Ministry of Environment of Japan for inviting our Centre to co-organize this Workshop. As you already know, this Workshop is the sequence of the Workshops already held in Tokyo and Beijing in the past years. We have been participating in the Workshops, and now we believe that the topics of this Workshop will provide us with very fruitful information for all of us in preventing illegal transboundary movement of hazardous waste, particularly e-waste, as well as to ensure environmentally sound management of 2nd hand e-product and e-wastes.

We also would like to thank all the participants who have traveled a long way to come and make contribution to make this event successful.

The rapid development of technology has increased the production and consumption of e-products as well as caused high obsolescence rate of the e-products, which leads to increase of generation of e-waste. E-waste contains valuable recyclable and also toxic materials, which if

improperly handled during the recycling and disposal process, can pose hazard to human health and environment.

The fact that e-waste has two opposing advantages and disadvantages has drawn attention of various countries and communities, especially when most developing countries have become destination for used e-products and e-waste export. Most developing countries have no adequate technology and facilities for handling the e-waste properly and in environmentally sound manner. So, either the used e-products or e-waste will eventually pose serious environmental problems in such countries.

Many countries and organizations have demonstrated their serious attention to the e-waste issues by making multilateral agreements, establishing policies, regulations, guidance and various programs for managing e-waste properly. The Basel Convention, one of the three conventions under UNEP, includes the e-waste on its lists of hazardous waste.

The 6th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Basel Convention in Geneva, Switzerland, 2002, has identified e-waste as priority waste stream in The Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention to 2010. The countries in Asia and the Pacific Parties to the Basel Convention also considered E-waste as priority during the Scoping Workshop on ESM of E-waste in Tianjin, China in November 2002.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA) located in Indonesia has been established and operated to assist the parties to the Basel Convention in the South-East Asian region in implementing the Convention. Since its development, with the support of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the other stakeholders, the BCRC-SEA has conducted several regional training workshops and developed regional technical guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of e-waste, in the context of the Basel Convention, which are the Technical Guidelines for National Inventories of E-Waste and 3 R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycling) of End-of-Life E-Products. Both Technical Guidelines available for download on our website.

Finally, It is my utmost hope that we can have better cooperation in the future and I would like to wish you all a nice and productive workshop.

Thank you very much.