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# Updates on Enforcement Activities of the Basel Convention in China

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ZHENG Yang  
MEP, China



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## Outline

- Implementation of Basel Convention
- Updates on the newly introduced regulations and the draft regulations under discussion
- Import Statistics under the Basel Convention
- Export Statistics under the Basel Convention
- Other activities
- Challenges and difficulties



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## Implementation of Basel Convention

- Signed on 22 Mar. 1990.
- Ratified at the 21st Session of the Standing Committee of 7th National People's Congress of P. R. China (NPC) on 4 Sep. 1991.
- Competent authority:  
Ministry of Environmental Protection – MEP  
(Named as State Environmental Protection Administration - SEPA before March 2008, and National Environmental Protection Agency - NEPA before 1998)



## Implementation of Basel Convention

- Formulate laws, regulations and standards of import & export of wastes
- Establish management system and coordination mechanism
- Put export of hazardous wastes and import of solid wastes under strict control
- Take drastic measures to crack down illegal transboundary movement of hazardous wastes
- Develop training and technical exchange on management of hazardous wastes



## The newly introduced regulations

- *Measures on the Management of Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by E-waste*
  - Decree No.40 by SEPA, entered into effect on 1 Feb. 2008
- *Measures on the Management of Export Permit of Hazardous Wastes*
  - Decree No.47 by SEPA, entered into effect on 1 Mar. 2008
- *National Catalogue of Hazardous Wastes*
  - Decree No.1 by MEP and NDRC, entered into effect on 1 Aug. 2008



## The newly introduced regulations

- *Catalogues of Import Solid Wastes Management 2008*
  - Announcement No.11, 2008 by SEPA, MOF, NDRC, GACC and AQSIQ, entered into effect on 1 Mar. 2008
  - Catalogue of Solid Wastes Forbidden to Import
  - Catalogue of Restricted Import Solid Wastes that Can Be Used as Raw Materials
  - Catalogue of Automatic-Licensing Import Solid Wastes that Can Be Used as Raw Materials
- *Institutions and Procedures for Identifying the Characteristics of Solid Wastes*
  - Notice No.18, 2008 by SEPA, entered into effect on 22 Jan. 2008



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## The regulations under discussion

- *Measures on the Management of Waste Import*
- *Catalogues of Import Solid Wastes Management 2009*



## Import Statistics

- *Law of the People's Republic of China on Prevention of Environmental Pollution Caused by Solid Waste*
  - Dumping, storage or disposal of imported solid wastes are prohibited
  - Solid wastes that cannot be used as raw materials or used in an environmentally sound way are prohibited to import
  - No hazardous wastes allowed to transfer through China





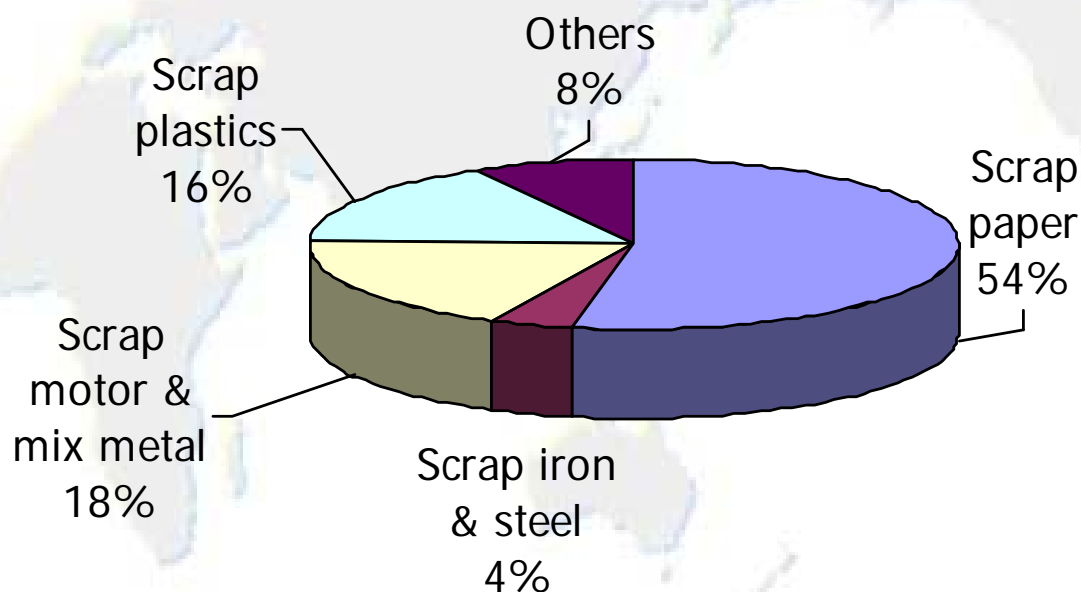
## Import Statistics

- Solid waste which can be used as raw material are divided into two categories
  - Automatic-licensing solid wastes that can be used as raw materials;
  - Restricted solid wastes that can be used as raw materials.
- All imported wastes must meet National Environmental Protection Standards and be regarded as qualified by quality supervision and quarantine department after examination



## Import Statistics

- Imported 42.24 million tons of wastes as raw material in 2007
- Mainly from EU, USA, Japan etc.

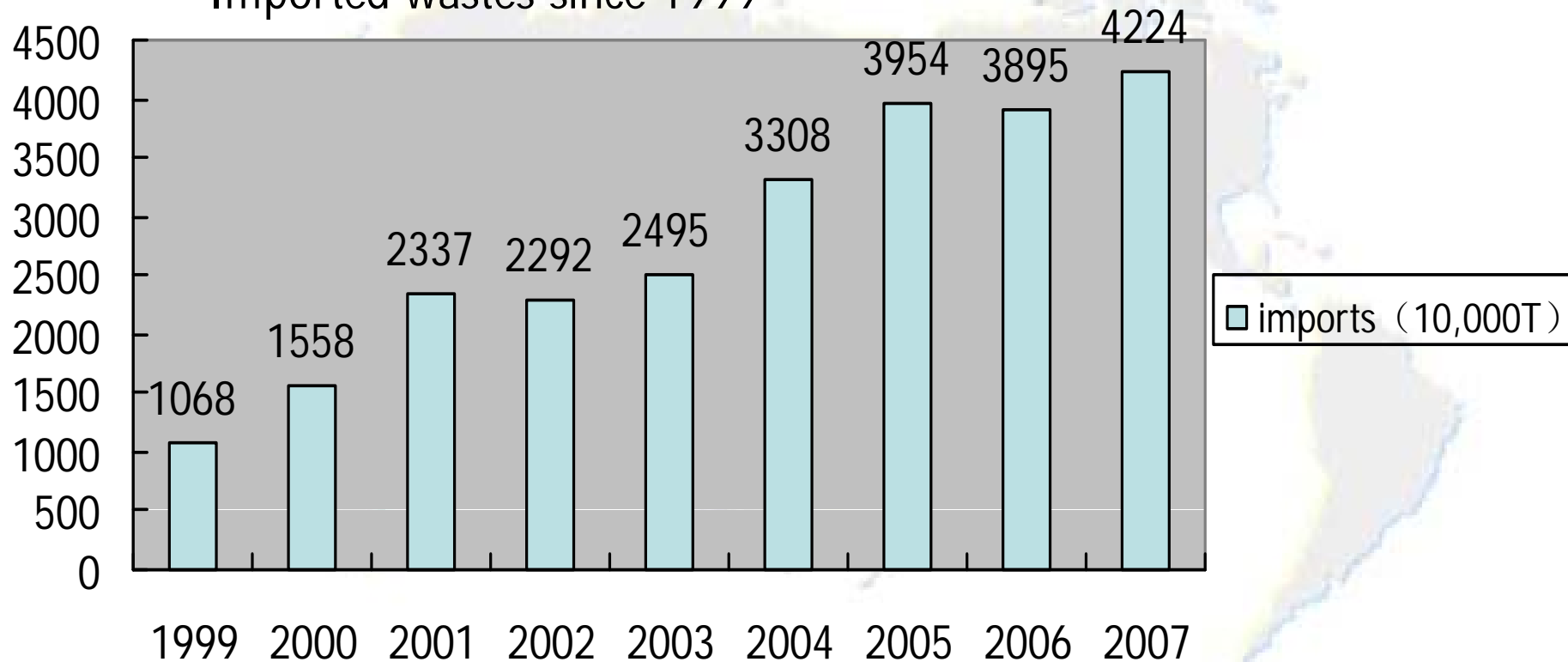


Types of imported wastes in 2007



# Import Statistics

Imported wastes since 1999





## Import Statistics

- Waste Import Licenses issued in 2008
  - 89.64 million tons
  - 10,376 licenses



# Export Statistics

- Export of hazardous waste is put under strict control
- Strengthen management of hazardous waste in China, build more disposal facilities and improve disposal capacity of hazardous waste
- China is still not capable enough in disposal of / recovery / reuse all the hazardous wastes in an environmental sound way
- Hazardous wastes need to be exported to other countries are strictly handled according to Basel Convention



# Export Statistics

- Prior informed consent procedure
  - Application to MEP
    - Application letter
    - Notification of transboundary movement of hazardous waste
    - Agreement or contract between exporter and importer
    - Documents on the basic information of the waste
  - MEP will notify the parties of Basel Convention on the import and transit of the waste for eligible export application
  - Export of hazardous waste will not be approved unless the parties concerned agree in written form.
  - Each batch of exported hazardous waste must go with a transferring document from starting point to destination



## Export Statistics

- 24 Notifications of export hazardous wastes in 2008.
  - 1645t of e-waste
  - 6270t of waste battery
  - 4080t of galvanized sludge
  - 1580t of fluorescent tube containing mercury
  - 411.8t of other hazardous wastes
- Mainly destined to Belgium, Singapore, Japan, Germany, France and Republic of Korea



## Other activities

- Strengthen management of export of hazardous waste and import of waste as raw material
- Develop training and technical exchange on management of hazardous waste
- Promote constructing waste disposal facilities and recycling industry parks
- Coordinate relevant domestic departments and joint activities
- Strengthen international cooperation to crack down illegal transboundary movement





# Challenges and difficulties

- The pressure of illegal transboundary movements of “Foreign Garbage”
- Environmentally unsound practices of waste recycling
- Lack of capacity of environmental management
- Scarcity of technical research support



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**Thank you  
for your attention**

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Tel: +86-10-66556254

Fax: +86-10-66556252

E-mail: [swmd@mep.gov.cn](mailto:swmd@mep.gov.cn)

**Website of MEP:**

<http://www.mep.gov.cn>

**Website of National Center of Solid Waste Management of MEP:**

<http://ncswm.mep.gov.cn>