Recycling Policy and Activities

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Challenge

- Import of e-waste, under the guise of second hand electronic goods, for re-export is a potential problem.

- Uncontrolled import of e-waste will result in Singapore becoming a disposal ground for other countries' e-wastes

Facilitate recycling programmes VS placing stringent controls that deter the industry

Controls

- Classify used e-appliances as HW only if such appliances are not in good working order and cannot be re-used

  (2nd hand e-appliances in good working order and meant for re-used are not classified as HW and do not require PIC for import/export)

Controls

- Control import/export of used electronic and electrical appliances (including second hand electronic and electrical appliances) through TRADENET system

  (Under TRADENET control system, all declarations for import/export of used electronic and electrical appliances will be routed to NEA for processing and clearance)

Controls

- Third-party surveyor certification is required for import of second hand electronic and electrical appliances

- PIC from importing/ exporting country required for import/export of electronic and electrical appliances that are meant for recycling/recovery

Consultation with Stakeholders

- NEA has consulted stakeholders (importers & exporters, recyclers, customs, etc) to –

    - evaluate the implications; and
    - see if the proposed tightening of controls need to be further refined

- NEA has informed traders of the controls via

    - briefings
    - circular to all traders through the TRADENET system
    - NEA's website on "Control of Hazardous wastes"

Import for Reuse

- Third-party surveyor certification to prove good working condition is required for import of second hand electronic and electrical appliances meant for reuse

Import for Recycling

- Need to notify NEA prior to import

- Importer shall have approved e-waste recycling facility

- More than 95% recycling

- May seek PIC from competent authorities in country of export

- Depending on the nature of the e-waste, and the requirement of the country of export, the waste may be imported under Basel procedure

Import for Repair and Refurbishment

- Importer has contractual agreement with EEE manufacturers to repair and refurbish their equipment e.g. Import of defective hard-disks under Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA)
  - Local repair facilities have contractual agreement with hard-disk manufacturers for repair services
  - Defective hard-disks imported from Asia Pacific region
  - Repaired hard-disks are re-exported back to customers

- Importer shall have repair facility

- Market for repaired / refurbished equipment (charitable organisations, less privileged)
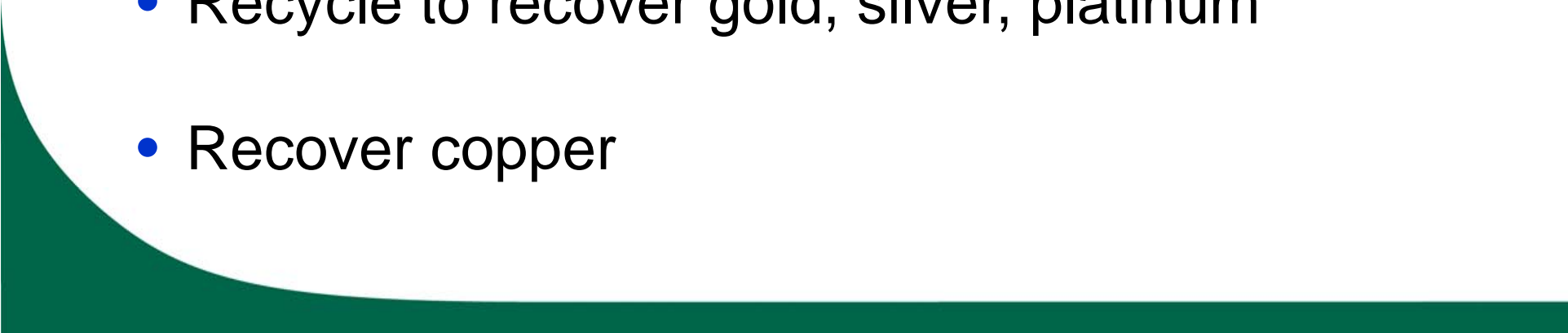
Exports

- Export of used electronic and electrical equipment for reuse
  - Require surveyor's certificate to prove good working condition
  - Declaration form for personal use (< 5 pieces)

    (eg. transfer of office equipment to foreign branch)

- Export of e-waste for recycling
  - Require PIC from importing country
  - Basel permits required if importing country regards e-wastes as hazardous waste

    (eg.printer cartridges for recycling in Canada)

E-waste Recyclers in Singapore

- 5 e-waste recycling plants in Singapore

  - M/s Centillion Environment & Recycling Ltd

  - M/s Cimelia Resource Recovery Pte Ltd

  - M/s SPM Recycling Pte Ltd

  - M/s Advance SCT Ltd

  - M/s TES-AMM Singapore Pte Ltd

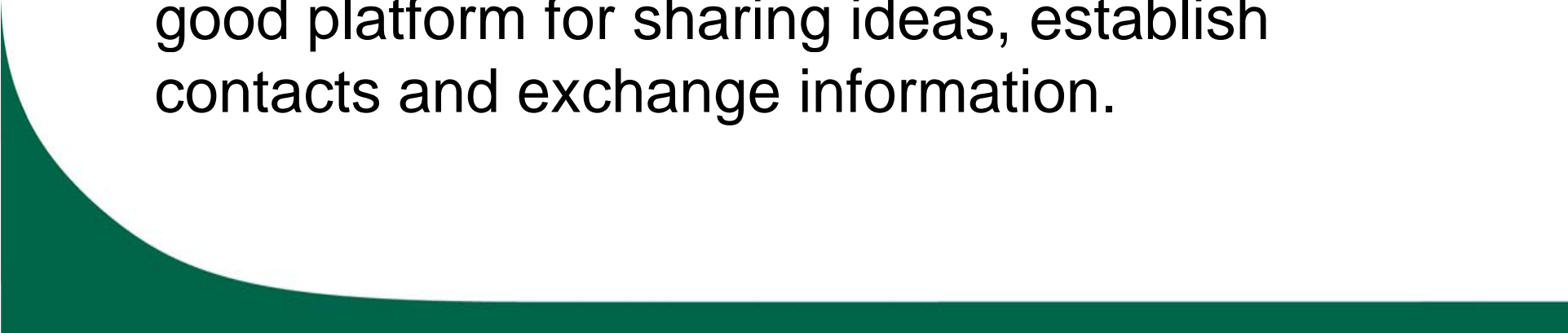# E-waste Recyclers in Singapore

- Refurbish

- Repair

- Demanufacturing to recover good parts eg. IC chips, motherboards and other components that have no IP concerns

- Recycle to recover gold, silver, platinum

- Recover copper

E-waste Take Back Scheme

- Singapore implemented a voluntary take back scheme since 2005

- Dell, Nokia and HP set up take back centers to take back used printers / handphones

- Will study the experiences in Japan and the EU and improve our scheme in Singapore

The way forward

- Merits of e-waste reuse, recovery, recycling industry.

- Consider take-back scheme like the WEEE Directive.

- Continued participation in network activities - a good platform for sharing ideas, establish contacts and exchange information.

Thank You