

# Progress on the Project 'the Import/Export Management of E-Waste and Used EEE'



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*13 January 2009*



# Background

- ❖ At the Regional Workshop on Preventing of Illegal Transboundary Movement for Hazardous Waste in Asia held in Beijing in March 2007, participants shared a perception that illegal traffic of hazardous waste, especially UEEE and WEEE, could be partly attributed to a different interpretation and the lack of mutual understanding among Asian countries regarding the concept of “reusable” products and/or “hazardous” waste and material.
- ❖ With the cooperation with Secretariat of Basel Convention and the supports from the Ministry of Environment of Japan and Environment Canada as well as Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, BCRC China carry out the project on the Import/Export Management of E-Waste and Used EEE, including desk study and workshop
- ❖ This project is to be undertaken within the framework of the Basel Convention Partnership on the ESM of e-waste in Asia Pacific which was launched in November 2005 in Tokyo, Japan



# Process

## ❖ 2008.01-06

- The project framework was designed through consulting Mr. Junya KIKUHARA, EX Corporation, Japan
- Presentation on project framework design, implementation framework, regional workshop arrangement, work plan and timetable, the preliminary analysis was given on the Workshop of Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes in Japan, which means a formal start of the project
- Questionnaires on distinguishing waste EEE from secondhand (Reusable) EEE were delivered to all of the participating countries on March 4, which was developed supported by Mr. Junya KIKUHARA, EX Corporation, Japan
- Five questionnaires have been returned from Hong Kong SAR, Thailand, Cambodia, Philippines and Vietnam by March 28



## Process

❖ 2008.06-12

- Consulting meeting on identification of e-waste transboundary movement participated by related ministries of China was held, including MEP, Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, the General Administration of Customs
- The Regional Workshop on E-waste Identification toward the Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement for Hazardous Waste and Other Wastes in Asia was held in Beijing, China on 3-4th November, 2008
- Representatives from China, China Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand presented their country reports. BCRC-SEA and BCRC China introduced their activities related to e-waste. Japan, Canada, NIES, AQSIQ, GACC also shared their experience on related topics.
- The outputs of the workshop was delivered on the 3rd International Conference on Waste Management and Technology, held by BCRC China on November 5-7<sup>th</sup>
- The draft report was delivered to all participated countries for suggestions and comments on December 4, after discussed in the regional workshop and modification afterwards. Suggestions was received from Hong Kong SAR, Thailand and Canada by January 13, 2009



# Main contents of draft report

- ❖ 1. Introduction
- ❖ 2. Import and Export Control of UEEE and WEEE in the Ten Selected Asian Countries
- ❖ 3. Criteria for distinguishing UEEE from brand new EEE
- ❖ 4. Criteria for distinguishing WEEE from UEEE
- ❖ 5. Criteria for distinguishing between hazardous and non-hazardous forms of WEEE
- ❖ 6. International Experience on distinguishing waste/non-waste
- ❖ 7. Conclusions
- ❖ 8. References



# 1. Introduction

- ❖ E-waste is transported illegally from developed countries to developing countries for unsound treatment
- ❖ This report reviews country approaches to controlling the import and export of UEEE and WEEE in 10 Asian countries: Cambodia, China (including Hong Kong SAR), Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam



## 2. Import and Export Control of UEEE and WEEE in the Ten Selected Asian Countries

- ❖ **All 10 countries that participated in this study are Parties to the Basel Convention and have implemented laws and regulations on the control of hazardous waste and e-waste.**
- ❖ **Generally, hazardous waste and e-waste is administrated by the Environment Administration of each country.**
- ❖ **All countries allow export of hazardous waste and WEEE and generally require permission from designated authorities prior to export. Some countries prohibit import of hazardous waste and e-waste; where import is not prohibited prior informed consent is required for hazardous waste shipments as per Basel Convention procedures.**





## 2. Import and Export Control of UEEE and WEEE in the Ten Studied Asian Countries

Country/District	Import Control	
	WEEE	UEEE
<b>Cambodia</b>	<b>Banned</b>	<b>Allowed</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>Banned</b>	<b>Allowed except used TV, UEEE requires 3C certification</b>
<b>Hong Kong, China</b>	<b>Permit system</b>	<b>For the purpose of import, all UEEE is classified as WEEE</b>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>Banned</b>	<b>Used refrigerators, washing machines, and microwaves are banned for import while other devices such as air conditioner and tvs are allowed for import</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>PIC procedure</b>	<b>PIC procedure</b>
<b>Republic of Korea</b>	<b>Banned</b>	<b>Allowed</b>
<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>Banned</b>	<b>Consent by DOE</b>
<b>The Philippines</b>	<b>Permit needed</b>	<b>Permit needed</b>
<b>Singapore</b>	<b>Permit from PCD</b>	<b>Permit from PCD</b>
<b>Thailand</b>	<b>PIC procedure</b>	<b>Import of UEEE is allowed only for activities of resale, reuse, repair/ refurbish as its original purposes, disassembly and recycle/ recovery</b>
<b>Vietnam</b>	<b>Banned</b>	<b>Banned</b>





### 3. Criteria for distinguishing UEEE from brand new EEE

- ❖ The following general observations were noted regarding country criteria to distinguish UEEE from brand new EEE:
  - some countries/districts do not classify UEEE separately, such as Hong Kong SAR, because for the purpose of import, all UEEE is classified as WEEE;
  - some countries/districts have no criteria for UEEE, such as Cambodia and Indonesia;
  - others have related regulations or standards to distinguish UEEE more or less, such as Thailand and China



### 3. Criteria for distinguishing UEEE from brand new EEE

Country/District	Criteria/Import Restrictions	Summary
Cambodia	No	
China	No specific but related definition	UEEE requires 3C Certification
Hong Kong, China	No	For the purpose of import, all UEEE is classified as WEEE
Indonesia	Yes	Still proper to be used or to be reconditioned for re-function
Japan	Yes	Domestic HS coding system
Republic of Korea	No	
Malaysia	Yes	4 criteria for the purpose of import
Philippines	No	
Singapore	No	
Thailand	Yes	Electric and Electronic Equipments which were used but still be workable and keep as its original form or can be repaired, modified, reconditioned in order to be used same as original purposes
Vietnam	No	



## 4. Criteria for distinguishing WEEE from UEEE

- ❖ For distinguishing WEEE (e-waste), some countries/districts has definition or criteria of e-waste, such as Hong Kong SAR of China, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, China;
- ❖ Others do not have official definition of e-waste, such as Cambodia, Vietnam.



## 4. Criteria for distinguishing WEEE from UEEE

Country/ District	Criteria	Summary
Cambodia	Not specific	Solid waste is defined as 'hard objects, hard substances, products or refuse which are useless, disposed of, are intended to be disposed of, or required to be disposed of'
China	Yes	include discarded products or equipments from industry, discarded products and scraps, waste products or equipments from the repairing, reproducing and daily activities, and products or equipments forbidden to produce or import by law
Hong Kong, China	Yes	1) Genuine demand in HK; 2) Good conditions meeting both the technical specifications and safety standard; 3) Compliance testing results and certificates; 4) Proper and sufficient individual protective Packaging; 5) Prior contractual agreement with concerned parties.
Indonesia	Not specific	Waste is defined as the residue of a business and/ or activity.
Japan	Not specific	define "waste" as "refuse, bulky refuse, ashes, sludge, excreta, waste oil, waste acid and alkali, carcasses and other filthy and unnecessary matter, which are in solid or liquid state
Republic of Korea	Yes	"waste" means materials which have ceased to be useful for the human living or business activities; WEEE means electrical and electronic equipment which is classified as waste in accordance with the above provision
Malaysia	Yes	E-waste is defined as waste from the assembly of electrical or electronic appliances that consist of components such as accumulators, mercury-switches, etc.
The Philippines	No	
Singapore	Not specific	"waste" means a substance or object that is proposed to be disposed of; or required by any written law to be disposed of
Thailand	Yes	Several resources
Vietnam	Not specific	'wastes' are substances in form of solid, liquid, gas, which are discharged production, service, living or other activities, <sup>12</sup>



## 5. Criteria for distinguishing between hazardous and non-hazardous forms of WEEE

- ❖ Normally, WEEE is differentiated as hazardous WEEE and non-hazardous WEEE based on the materials or chemicals it may contain.
- ❖ Most countries have regulated or listed some WEEE as being hazardous under their regulations.
- ❖ Some countries have modeled definitions to coincide with the Basel Convention, and others have their developed their own definitions.



## 5. Criteria for distinguishing between hazardous and non-hazardous forms of WEEE

Country/District	Criteria	Summary
Cambodia	Yes	PCB waste from use of PCB contained in discarded air conditioners, TVs and microwaves; 2) Metal waste; 3) Wastes from production or use of battery
China	Yes	Waste electronic and electric products and equipments generated from industrial production and other activities; the electronic components, including lead acid battery, Ni-Cd Battery, mercuric oxide (HgO), mercury switch, CRT, and the capacitors which contains polychlorinated biphenyls, are collected from dismantling, crushing and separating processes, and waste printed circuit boards
Hong Kong, China	Yes	waste cathode ray tubes (CRTs) used in computer monitors and televisions, accumulators, batteries, mercury-switches and capacitors containing polychlorinated biphenyl
Indonesia	Not specific	define hazardous waste as the residue of a business and/or toxic material which due to its nature and/or concentration and/or amount, directly as well indirectly, can pollute and/or damage the environment, and/or endanger the environment, health, the continuation of human life and other living creatures
Japan	Not specific	materials which are exported or imported for the disposal operations listed in Annex IV of the Basel Convention <a href="http://www.bcrc.cn">http://www.bcrc.cn</a>



## 5. Criteria for distinguishing between hazardous and non-hazardous forms of WEEE

Country/District	Criteria	Summary
Republic of Korea	Not specific	
Malaysia	Not specific	Hazardous characteristics of waste include corrosivity, ignitability, reactivity, and toxicity
The Philippines	Not specific	Include the basic characteristics such as ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and toxicity and also under Basel Convention Annexes I, II, III, and VIII
Singapore	Not specific	used EEE are classified as hazardous wastes if they are not in working order and cannot be reused
Thailand	Not specific	Used EEE and its parts imported for dismantling, disposal or recycling
Vietnam	Not specific	wastes which contains substances or compounds/mixtures having one of directly hazardous characteristics (flammable, explosive, poisonous, corrosive, infectious or other toxic characteristics) or which, by interaction with other substances, harm the environment and human health





## 6. International experience on distinguishing waste/non-waste and hazardous waste/non hazardous waste

- ❖ Council of the European Communities
  - 'WEEE' means electrical or electronic equipment which is waste within the meaning of Article 1(a) of Directive 75/442/ EEC, including all components, subassemblies and consumables which are part of the product at the time of discarding
- ❖ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
  - 'Waste' is defined in the OECD Decision C(2001)107/FINAL (as amended in 2001 and 2002) as "materials other than radioactive materials intended for disposal for reasons specified in Table 1." "Disposal" means any of the operations specified in Table 2 of the Decision.



## 6. International experience on distinguishing waste/non-waste and hazardous waste/non hazardous waste

### ❖ Canada

- Hazardous Waste is defined in Canadian Environmental Protection Act and in Export & Import of Hazardous Waste & Hazardous Recyclable Material Regulations:
  - Destined for disposal operations
    - Produces leachate exceeding prescribed constituent limits;
    - Meets hazard classes (e.g. explosive, flammable, corrosive);
    - Meets HW criteria (in Schedules); OR
    - Defined as HW under law by the receiving country *and* prohibited for entry by that country

### ❖ Australia

- “the Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989” defines the definition of waste
- The fourth edition of “Information Paper No 2 Distinguishing Wastes from Non-Wastes under Australia’s Hazardous Waste Act” in 2001 provide OECD definition and criteria on distinguishing waste and non-waste



## 7. Conclusions

- ❖ All participated countries have enacted laws or regulations related to hazardous waste. And several countries have specific rules corresponding to e-waste.
- ❖ In principle, all participated countries prohibit import of WEEE, but several countries allow import of UEEE for the purpose of resale, reuse, recycling etc.
- ❖ For the purpose of import control, most countries have no specific identification rules or standards between WEEE and UEEE.
- ❖ The regulations or criteria in each country are of great difference, so a common guidance document on distinguishing waste from non-waste, hazardous e-wastes from non-hazardous e-waste might be necessary for the control of illegal traffic of e-wastes



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