

# **Improving communication and collaboration**

## **EU-Asia Collaboration**

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European Union Network for  
the Implementation and Enforcement  
of Environmental Law

# Outline:



- IMPEL-TFS projects 2010
- IMPEL-TFS Asia Collaboration project
- Bilateral cooperation between China and the Netherlands
- Expected cooperation with the Asian Network (ideas for improvement)

# IMPEL-TFS projects 2010



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- Enforcements Actions II
- Exchange days
- IMPEL-TFS Conference 2010
- African Collaboration
- Asia Collaboration

# Asian collaboration project Objectives



- Raise awareness of the problem and impacts of waste shipments arriving in Asian destinations
- Establish a simple but robust contact regime so as to better deal with illegal traffic –through National Contact Points
- Begin to build better communication between customs, police and environmental authorities in all affected countries.
- Share experiences between the IMPEL-TFS programme in Europe and the experience in Asia.
- Clarify the national laws and requirements of respective importing and IMPEL-TFS cluster exporting States for waste imports and exports, and to make these requirements available to all National Contact Points.
- Arrange exchange visits and participation in IMPEL -TFS training/inspection projects

# Asian collaboration project Products



- Annual attendance each other meetings
- Establishment of National Contact Points with Asian Networks.
- Linking websites
- A standard format for questions and verification
- Set up a database with answers to verification requests via IMPEL-TFS website-to prevent double questions from different countries.
- Training and exchange programmes as possible
- Project Report
- Project to run for 5 years from 2010 to 2015 and be reviewed in 2012

# Sino-Dutch Collaboration



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## China mainland- one of the largest importers

- imported about 42.24 millions of tons of non hazardous waste as raw materials in 2007

## EU- one of the largest exporters

- about 1/3 of the shipped waste to China are from European countries;
- in 2007: 50,3 % imported paper scrap, 16,8 % plastic scrap and 32,4% mixed metal scrap were from the EU;
- 50% of all exported waste out of Europe via the port of Rotterdam

# Sino-Dutch Collaboration



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## Main activities

- Building information exchange structure: formalization of *information exchange* in procedures, appointing staff members as *national contact points*, describing information structure
- Developing a Sino-Dutch method of establishing priorities for inspections of waste transports: *joint verification of waste shipments*
- Understanding of each others laws and break down language barriers: *website construction and translation work*
- Improving and capability construction: *proposed staff exchange, training course and workshop*

# Results



- Sign MoU and Working agreement
- A website built by SenterNovem of VROM for CA and companies
- 13 verifications
- Translation of legislation
- Staff exchange and training course in China and the Netherlands (November 2009 Dutch officers (also custom officers) were trained in China in 2010 vice versa
- Sharing experience and knowledge out of this project with IMPEL and the EU

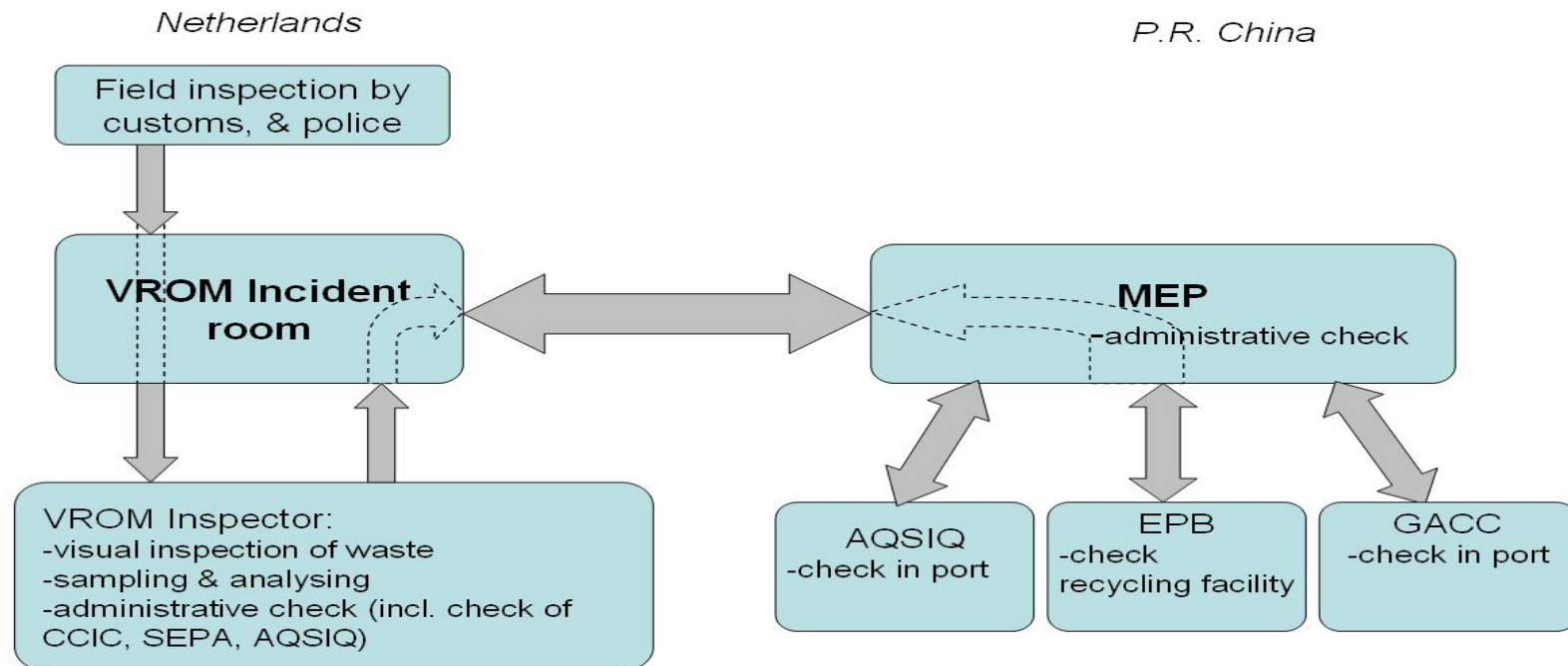


# Verification procedure



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## Exchange of information of illegal waste movements investigations



# Verification result



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## Case:

- Waste flow: Plastics from Germany via the Netherlands and Hong Kong to China mainland
- The receiver's name, contact information and photos of the waste were sent to MEP
- Requests from VROM:
  - Does the receiving company in China exist
  - Is the company allowed to receive and recover the waste
  - Whether the imported waste is compliant with Chinese legislation

# Verification result



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## Verification results

- From the photos attached by VROM, MEP and AQSIQ believed the waste plastic was not compliant with Chinese standards
- MEP requested local EPB to check the receiver and found the factory does not have MEP import license. Furthermore, a deal of foreign plastic waste was recycled and some toxic chemicals was stored at the factory illegally, so the local EPB began to prosecute the factory.
- The HK EPD blocked the container and contacted with the consignee in HK which denied to accept it, so the concerned container was directly shipped back via Rotterdam to Germany
- The Dutch authority conducted further investigation to the exporter (more containers of the exporter were stopped by Dutch and Belgium authorities)

# Some export figures NL- Asia in 2008



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Eurostat Kton	Malaysia	HK	India	China	Indonesia	Vietnam
glass			1			
paper	6	6	226	1.751	167	5
plastic		157	20	40		2
metals			93		3	39

# Number of verifications NL-Asia in 2009



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Total 53:

Hong Kong: 43

China: 6

Malaysia: 2

India : 1

Vietnam: 1

# Expected cooperation: Ideas for improvement



## What is already quite good:

- we know how to find each other, there is a network of contact points;
- there is a referral form for verification;
- there are more and more verifications between Europe and Asia;
- we get a better understanding of each other legislation;
- we exchange experiences and attend each other meetings;
- more involvement of customs and police.

# Expected cooperation: Ideas for improvement



## What must we improve:

- mutual understanding if the imported waste is compliant with the legislation in the receiving country (green listed waste paper, plastic and metals, which percentage of contamination is allowed?);
- a list of licensed companies in the receiving countries;
- within Europe sharing information (e.g the results of verification);
- and more involvement of customs and police;
- and more verifications and a response a.s.a.p;
- the return of illegal shipment to the country of origin via the NCP and develop a procedure for this.

# Ideas for improvement



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## Other suggestions?







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- **Collaboration is needed**
- **to stop Illegal shipments**
- **&**
- **To prevent environmental damage**