## Illegal Global Trafficking in Hazardous Waste: Enforcement Issues

Richard Gutierrez, *JD, LI.M.*Basel Action Network/Ban Toxics!

REN Meeting Cebu City November 2012

### Ban Toxic's Mission

## To prevent the globalization of the hazardous chemical crisis:

- Prevent Toxic Trade the externalization of risk and costs to developing Countries.
- Promote a Toxics-Free Future -- through green design and minimizing consumption
- Promote Global Environmental Justice where all have a right to a pollution-free environment.





The Only Kind of World Worth Passing to Our Children is Toxics-Free.

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#### Recent Publications



### Chasing Mercury:

Measuring Mercury Levels in the Air Across the Philippines

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#### The Price of Gold: Mercury Use and Current Issues

### Welcome to Ban Toxics!

BAN Toxics! is an independent non-profit, environmental organization that is devoted to preventing toxic trade - wastes, goods, and technology, and upholding the rights of developing countries to environmental justice, with particular focus on the Asia-Pacific region. We achieve our goals through organization, education and advocacy.

BAN Toxics! works closely with local, national, and international environmental, academic and trade institutions using both local and international campaigning, capacity-sharing, and bridge-building between activists in the Asia- Pacific, and throughout the world.

ABOUT US

### **BT** News Headlines

### Toxic Mercury in Air, Growing Concern

Toxic Mercury in Air, Growing Concern Groups Raise Alarm After 6-month Study Reveals Extent of Pollution

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#### Resources

#### PDF Files:

- ▶ BT ASGM Information Sheet 2010.pdf
- BT Mercury Primer.2009 2.pdf
- ▶ BT.Mercury Storage 2010.RGEdit.pdf
- ▶ BT.Mercury-Free Schools 2010.RGEdit.pdf

### **Outline**

- I. The Export of Harm: E-waste on the Rise
- II. Legal/Enforcement Update
  - BAN's Container Tracking Exercise
- **III.** Recommendations

# **Exporting Harm: E-Waste on the Rise**



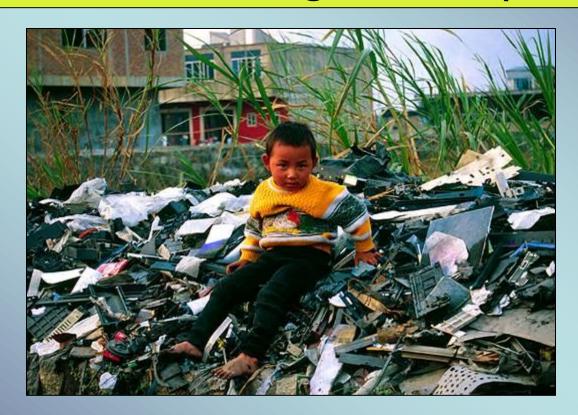


## Guiyu, China 2001



## **Exporting Harm:**

## The High-Tech Trashing of Asia (2002)



Available from: www.ban.org

## Lagos, Nigeria 2005









## The Digital Dump:

### **Exporting Re-use and Abuse to Africa (2005)**



Available from: www.ban.org

## Guiyu, China 2008/2009





Accra, Ghana 2009

## Legal/Enforcement Update



## Container Tracking: BAN's Citizen Enforcement





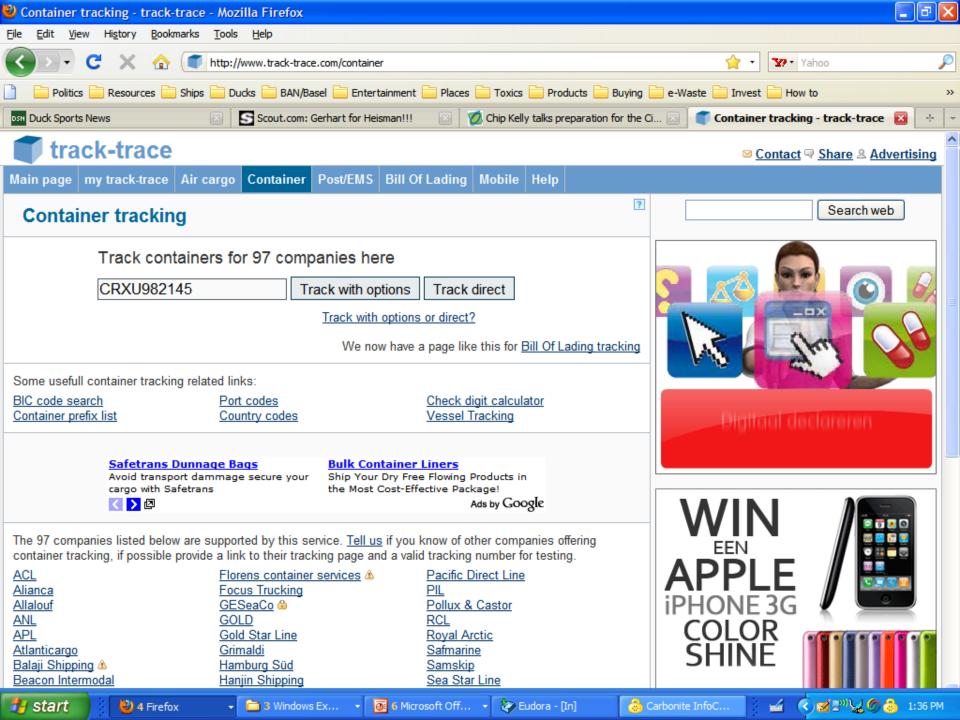




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### **BAN Container Tracking in North America**

Port	2008	2009-2010	Total
Hong Kong	52	58	110
China	10	5	15
Vietnam	6	6	12
Malaysia	0	8	8
China-Taiwan	5	1	6
Indonesia	4	1	5
Pakistan	4	1	5
Thailand	3	1	4
South Korea	0	3	3
<u>India</u>	2	0	2
Other countries receiving only one container: South Africa, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Peru, Japan, Honduras, Egypt, Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium			9
			179

## Some Conclusions From Tracking Exercise

- Some jurisdictions fail to respond, others are very responsive (HK).
- No evidence that shipments are diminishing, some evidence that CRT rules are increasingly being followed (loopholes exploited)
- 96% going to Asia
- 70% going to China (including HK)
- 61% going to Hong Kong

























## Guiyu, China



## Recommendations



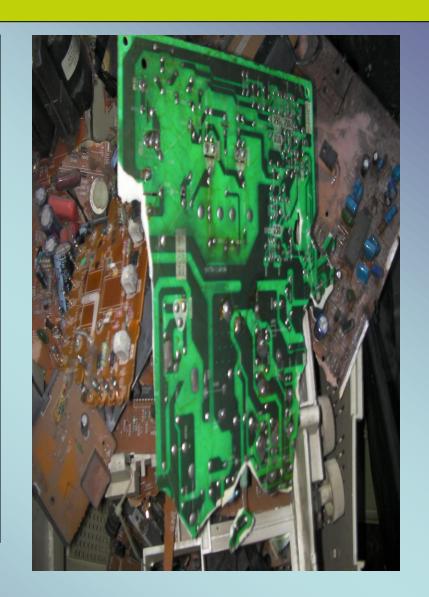
## **Legal Recommendations**

a. USA and Other Developed countries must ratify and implement both Basel Convention and Basel Ban Amendment (Decision III/1).



## Legal Recommendations

- b. USA must ban export of hazardous electronic waste to developing countries, including for reuse.
- c. **Developing countries**must implement the
  Basel Convention with
  National legislation.



## **Legal Recommendations**



e. All countries must create rules nationally that non-functioning and "near end-of-life" electronic equipment is hazardous waste.

### **Enforcement Recommendations**

- **a. All countries** must prosecute illegal traffic as a criminal act and impose far stiffer penalties, including prison sentences.
- **b.** All countries and agencies should work more closely with NGOs, public, journalists, stakeholders.
- c. Shipping Companies to be approached to cooperate with enforcers (e.g. examining bills of lading, keeping a watch list of suspected smugglers, etc.)

### **Enforcement Recommendations**

d. All countries to organize trainings for customs and police on the Basel Convention and especially on electronic waste. Trainings to bring customs, police and environment officials together.

e. All countries to organize port inspection programs, globally and regionally, to educate stakeholders and prosecute violators. Oasel
Ciction
Cetwork

turn back the toxic tide



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