

Workshop 2013 of the Asian Network for Prevention of  
Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes in Thailand  
Chair's Summary

1. Workshop 2013 of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 19th to 22nd November 2013. The workshop was attended by representatives from the Competent Authorities and the Focal Points to the Basel Convention of the participating countries, the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (BCRC China), and the Basel Convention Centre for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA). The workshop was also attended by observers from other countries, international organizations, and private sectors.
2. A part of the workshop was organized as a joint meeting with meetings of two other relevant networks, namely the 1st meeting of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE) and the 2nd Network workshop of Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste (REN). The joint meetings with these two networks were organized on 19th and 20th November.
3. In the opening session of the joint meeting with ENFORCE and REN, Dr. Leila Devia (Chair of ENFORCE and Director of BCRC of South America), Mr. Masashi Hiroki (representative of the Asian Network and Director, Policy Planning Division, Waste Management and Recycling Department, Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ)) and Mr. Masa Nagai (representative of REN and Acting Deputy Director of DELC United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)) made opening remarks on behalf of each network. Mr. Tarcisio Hardman Reis of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention (BRS) introduced the agenda and objectives of the joint meeting with ENFORCE and REN.
4. The joint session with the two networks was facilitated by Dr. Shunichi Honda of MOEJ. The representatives from each network introduced its activities and proposed possible collaborative activities with other networks. The session was followed by a discussion among participants where some participants stressed the need for technical assistance for identifying non-hazardous from hazardous wastes under the Basel Convention.
5. The following session was a panel discussion on the challenges and opportunities of collaboration for illegal traffic on waste and chemicals with the seven panelists, namely Dr. Leila Devis, Mr. Geri Geronimo R.Sanez of DENR Philippines, Mr. Huib van Westen of ILT, Netherlands, Ms. Zhao Nana of BCRC-China, Mr. Chris Dijkens of IMPEL-TSF, Dr. Shunichi Honda, and Mr. Jim Packett of Basel Action Network.
6. In the panel discussion, several panelists and participants from the floor pointed out the importance of formulating domestic mechanisms including regulations for controlling illegal trade of hazardous wastes and other wastes as well as harmonizing the national system with the

multilateral environmental agreements. The importance of promoting domestic collaboration among the environmental authorities, customs and relevant enforcement entities was also stressed, as this could serve as a good basis for international collaboration. Some panelists also highlighted the point that there are many tools and resources that are useful for efficient control for the illegal transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes offered by BCRCs and the BRS Secretariat.

7. The joint meeting with REN was held on 20th November. In the opening session, Ms. Sunee Piyapanpong (Director, Pollution Control Department (PCD), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand), Ms. Naoko Moritani (MOEJ) on behalf of Mr. Masashi Hiroki (MOEJ), Dr. Young-Woo Park (Regional Director of UNEP/ROAP), and Dr. Ridwan Tamin (Director of BCRC-SEA), made opening remarks. The Secretariat of the Asian Network introduced the agenda and objectives of the joint workshop with REN.
8. Session 1 was facilitated by Mr. Nagai of UNEP with the objective to share among participants the recent activities of border control. First, the BRS Secretariat updated the participants on recent enforcement activities of the Basel Convention. BCRC-SEA then introduced the outcome of its questionnaire survey which was carried out prior to the workshop regarding the latest national regulations and border control activities. The recent transboundary movements of wastes as well as the on-going enforcement activities were introduced by different participants, namely World Customs Organization, Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (WCO RILO A/P), Basel Action Network (BAN), Customs representative from China, and two government representatives from Thailand and Japan.
9. Session 2 was facilitated by Dr. Honda of MOEJ with the objective to promote the collaboration between national Competent Authority and Customs. The European Network for Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law Transfrontier Shipments of Waste (IMPEL-TFS) introduced its multi-agency approach for enforcement. Representatives from Customs of India, Malaysia and Fiji made presentations on the good practices in their countries with regard to collaboration with the Competent Authorities.
10. Session 3 was facilitated by Mr. Nagai of UNEP, and a panel discussion among experts from Environmental Protection Department (EPD) of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), China (Mr. Gary Tam), the BRS Secretariat (Ms. Juliette Kohler), Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) Intelligence and Investigation Service (Mr. Huib van Westen), and IMPEL-TFS (Ms. Marina de Gier) was organized.
11. In the panel discussion, the panelists introduced different policy measures and enforcement practices regarding seizure and take-back of illegal shipments as well as practical guidance regarding these issues introduced in some regions. BRS Secretariat explained the current status of the take-back guidance being drafted by Implementation and Compliance Committee under the Basel Convention and invited participants to provide comments on the draft. Active

discussion was made on how the seized shipment should be dealt with including how to ensure its return to the original exporting country. Some panelists and participants from the floor introduced the specific take-back cases and the difficulties involved such as identifying the origin of the shipment and notifying all countries involved. Possible effective measures were also discussed and proposals were made such as to establish an international platform for facilitating effective take-backs and to establish a proper monitoring mechanism for ensuring the return of the shipment. The participants agreed that continuous discussion is important and necessary for promoting relevant actions.

12. At the closing session of the joint meeting with REN, Ms. Moritani of MOEJ and Mr. Nagai made closing remarks, and they acknowledged the importance of continuous cooperation between two networks and appreciated the active contribution of the participants.
13. The Workshop for the Asian Network as an independent meeting was organized on 21st November and was attended by 51 participants. Dr. Honda of MOEJ facilitated the workshop. Followed by the introduction of the scope of the session by the Secretariat of the Asian Network, country representatives from Philippines and Malaysia and experts from the private sector (Mitsui Bussan Metals, IRG System South Asia, and ICT Group) made presentations regarding the recent trend of transboundary movements (TBM) of wastes, on-going study on E-waste recycling facilities, region-wide ICT equipment repairing activity, and importance of promoting proper TBM and environmentally sound repairing and recycling activities.
14. A panel discussion on the correlation between environmentally sound management of wastes (ESM) and TBM was also organized. Seven panelists consisting of two country representatives (Ms. Zuraini Ahmad Tajudin of DOE Malaysia and Mr. Geri Geronimo R. Sanes of DENR Philippines), five representatives from the private sector (Ms. Chinatsu Masuda of Mitsui Bussan Metals, Mr. Amit Jain of IRG System South Asia, Mr. Francis Cheong and Mr. Klaus Hieronymi of ICT Group, Ms. Cori Ong of TES-AMM Singapore, and Ms. Rose Kuan of Shan Poornam Metals) joined the discussion.
15. In the discussions, importance of controlling informal E-waste buyers and recyclers and promoting region-wide repairing and recycling system for cost efficiency and promotion of ESM were emphasized. Some panelists also pointed out the importance of promoting ESM domestically including establishment of ESM promoting mechanism and its implementation before heavily relying on TBM, proper management of ESM facilities including its residual materials at downstream facilities as well as the importance of differentiating second hand electrical and electronic equipments (EEE) from E-wastes. Through the discussion, participants shared the view that continuous discussion on this topic among various stakeholders such as governments, EEE producers, recyclers and the experts is important.
16. In the closing session, Dr. Honda of MOEJ, Dr. Tamin of BCRC-SEA, and Ms. Pornpimon Chareonsong of PCD, Thailand made closing remarks, and they acknowledged the active

participation of all attendants. They also acknowledged the importance of continuing the discussion and the collaboration among the various stakeholders and experts regarding the regional ESM and TBM.