

**Workshop 2015 of the Asian Network for Prevention of  
Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes  
23-25 November 2015, Singapore**

**ISSUES PAPER**

***Session 1: Updates of National Regulations, Implementation Status and Import/Export Statistics (November 23<sup>rd</sup>)***

**Background Information**

- Asian Network is a platform for exchanging the information among competent authorities and focal points to the Basel Convention in Asia. In this year's workshop, we will focus on sharing the updated legal systems, policies on transboundary movements (TBM) and enforcement measures to enhance the mutual understanding for the effective implementation of the Basel Convention.
- Under the Basel convention, E-wastes and Used Electrical and Electronic Equipment (UEEE) have been noteworthy issues in recent years. Some Asian countries have established or planned to establish new legal systems or guidelines for the import control of E-wastes and UEEEs, such as import regulations of E-wastes and criteria for distinguishing UEEEs from E-wastes. It is timely and worthwhile to share those recent policy developments in Asia.
- It is likely that the trend of transboundary movements (TBM) has been evolving in Asia, hence it is beneficial for countries and Parties to the Basel Convention to understand and share information about items that are subject to TBM and the cases of take-back (or ship-back, repatriation) between countries.

**Structure of the Session**

- Secretariat will report the summary of questionnaire on the updates of national regulations and enforcement, which are sent to each country with invitation letters in advance. After the report, all participated countries will make presentations about their updates of regulations, implementation or trend of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes. Presenters should cover and reflect the contents of the questionnaire and explain the detailed information of it.

**Expected Goals**

Throughout the discussions, participants are expected to:

- Share the latest information on rules and regulations on hazardous wastes, particularly E-wastes and UEEEs.
- Understand the recent trend of TBM of E-wastes in the participated countries.

## **Session 2: Outcomes of the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP12) and Inter-sessional Work toward COP13 (November 23<sup>rd</sup>)**

### **Background Information**

- The 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP12) was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 4 to 15 of May, 2015. Important agenda which relates to implementation of the Basel Convention were actively discussed.
- Among many decisions adopted at the COP12, following items are particularly important (ongoing inter-sessional works currently undertaken for some of them), which should be clearly understood.
  - ✧ E-waste Guidelines<sup>1</sup>
  - ✧ Expert Working Group on Environmentally Sound Management (EWG on ESM)
  - ✧ Legal Clarity
  - ✧ The Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE)
  - ✧ The Implementation and Compliance Committee (ICC)
- It would be a good opportunity to exchange views of Asian countries in order to provide inputs which reflect the current situations in Asia to the discussions under the Basel Convention.

### **Structure of the Session**

- BRS Secretariat will explain major outcomes of the COP12 and ongoing inter-sessional works. Afterwards, the representative of IDE-JETRO will give a presentation about the updates of Expert Working Group on ESM (EWG) after the last Asian Network workshop. Following the series of presentations, discussions among the participants will be held.

### **Discussions**

- Among decisions adopted at the COP12, which items would give effect on implementation of the Basel Convention in Asia and how?
- How can individual Asian country, BCRCs or the Asian network contribute to the ongoing inter-sessional work?

### **Expected Goals**

Throughout the discussions, participants are expected to:

- Understand clearly the decisions adopted at the COP12 and the ongoing inter-sessional work.
- Exchange views on implementation of the Basel Convention in Asia and discuss possible inputs from Asian countries that can be provided to the ongoing discussions under the Basel Convention.

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<sup>1</sup> *Technical guidelines on TBMs of E-waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non waste under the Basel Convention*

## ***Session 3: Implementation of E-waste Guidelines in National Policies/Regulations on Control of UEEE and E-waste (November 24<sup>th</sup>)***

### **Background Information**

- Following the interim adoption of the “Technical Guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention” (E-waste Guidelines), Parties are now presented with a set of guiding principles to shape their national policies/regulations on the transboundary movement of UEEE and E-waste.
- It will be beneficial to understand the progress of Parties in the region towards harmonizing its national policies/regulations with the guidelines, and knowing any challenges faced in implementing the guiding principles in the guidelines.
- The session will further discuss how the BRS Secretariat can play a role in facilitating the dissemination of information about national legislations or regulations on UEEE and E-waste in a coordinated and organized manner, and how Asian countries can incorporate the essences of the guidelines.

### **Structure of the Session**

- At the beginning of the Session, the BRS Secretariat will explain the outline of the COP12 decision and adopted interim E-waste guideline and how it would affect the transboundary movement of UEEE and E-waste between Parties, and how Parties can work with the BRS Secretariat to lodge national legislations or regulations to the Basel Convention.
- Following an introductory presentation by the BRS Secretariat, 2 countries with experience in implementing policies/regulations in regulating the transboundary movement of UEEE and E-waste will make a presentation on their experiences and/or difficulties in drafting or updating policies with reference to the E-waste Guidelines and implementing them. Besides, a presentation will be given by industry representative regarding their practices for ensuring environmentally sound repair or refurbishment through TBM.

### **Discussions**

- How would the BRS Secretariat, BCRCs or Asian network work with Parties to implement guidelines and to share information of national definitions or regulations on the transboundary movement of UEEE and E-wastes, with reference to Articles 3 and 13.2?
- Is there any part of the existing guidelines and issues discussed in Appendix V of the guidelines (Issues for further work) that would be challenging for countries to implement?

### **Expected goals**

Throughout the discussions, participants are expected to:

- Understand the implications of the E-waste Guidelines on the control of transboundary movement of UEEE and E-waste.
- Share views or experience in implementing rules and regulations on the control of UEEE and E-waste.

## **Session 4: Measures for Strengthening Border Control Activities for Combating Illegal Traffic in Asia (November 24<sup>th</sup>)**

### **Background Information**

- In the past Asian Network workshops, we discussed measures for strengthening the border control. The following are identified as the key elements for strengthening the border control through the discussions:
  - ✧ Close cooperation between competent authorities of the Basel Convention and customs, port authorities or police departments
    - ✓ Joint inspections of suspicious cargos
    - ✓ Risk profiling and intelligence sharing (e.g., list of companies, HS code, destinations with high risk of false declaration)
  - ✧ Awareness raising of exporters/importers of HWs
- Importance of implementation of take-back (or ship-back) has been recognized in the past workshops as it could prevent pollution derived from illegally imported HWs in the State of import. However, many countries have faced difficulties for implementing take-back.
- Common difficulties of the border control and the implementation of take-back were shared among the participants in the workshop in 2014. More intensive discussions is expected be held in the workshop in 2015.

### **Structure of the Session**

- Secretariat will report the summary of questionnaire on good practices and challenges for the border control and take-back, which are sent to each country with the invitation letter in advance. After the report, 3 countries will give presentations.
- After lunch, the session will be continued and other regional enforcement networks and international organizations which would be related and beneficial to the Asian Network will give presentations. Afterwards, discussions among the participants will be held.

### **Discussions**

- What are the essential measures for implementing and strengthening the border control? How can they be achieved?
- What kind of information would be useful if they are shared among the competent authorities and customs? How can the Asian Network contribute to this issue?
- What are the major difficulties for the implementation of take-back? What measures should be taken to overcome these difficulties?
- What kind of practices or initiatives of other regions or international organizations could be referred to in the Asian Network to strength the border control? How can we collaborate with such regions and organizations?

### **Expected goals**

Throughout the discussions, participants are expected to:

- Learn good practices to strength the border control carried out by Asian countries or other regions.

- Understand the difficulties of arrangement of take-back and learn some practices conducted by Asian countries.