

2017 Workshop of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes

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Session 1: Updates of National Policies and Implementation Status of the Basel Convention: focusing on E-wastes, ULABs, and mercury wastes

Session coordinator: MONRE-VEA (TBD)

Background

- Asian Network is an informal platform to exchange information on the latest national laws and regulations among competent authorities and focal points to the Basel Convention in Asian region. It is beneficial to share updated national policy for the implementation of the Convention of each country.
- In the last few workshops, it has been confirmed that the transboundary movement (TBM) of E-waste and Used Lead-Acid Battery (ULAB) have been significant issues to be addressed, especially in Asian countries. In response to this, each country has been establishing import/export regulations and criteria for distinguishing wastes from non-wastes. Technical Guidelines on TBM of E-wastes were also adopted under the Basel Convention and each country is now developing national legal framework to ensure the provisions of the guidelines.
- Recognizing that the Minamata Convention on Mercury entered into force in August 2017, it will be necessary to consider regional approaches/measures to ensure the environmentally sound management (ESM) of mercury wastes generated in Asian region.
- Based on the above, Session 1 of this year's workshop would pay special attention on three waste streams, namely **E-waste, ULAB, and mercury wastes**, and facilitate the exchange of following information:
 - Present status of recycling and treatment facilities development;
 - Actual cases for contamination derived from inappropriate treatment and recycling;
 - Import/export statistics and control measures;
 - Challenges on border measures; and
 - Case for takeback.

Structure of the Session

- The Secretariat of the Asian Network will share the results of questionnaire distributed prior to the workshop.
- All countries/regions will deliver presentations including (1) updates of national policy for the implementation of the Basel Convention and (2) information related to three waste streams (E-waste, ULAB and mercury waste).

Points of discussion

- The Q&A session will follow country presentations

Expected outcome

- The latest information for the implementation of the Basel Convention will be shared.
- The current status and challenges on three waste streams in Asian region will be clarified.
- What to be addressed in the future Asian Network will be identified.

Session 2: Emerging Issues and Good Practices for the Implementation of the Basel Convention in Asia

Session coordinator: the Secretariat of the BRS Convention

Background

- The Asian Network has shared each country's good practices for the effective implementation of the Basel Convention in the past. In particular, it has been reiterated that the cooperation in national level between competent authorities and other relevant ministries/agencies such as customs and polices play a crucial role.
- Many countries faces challenges for the implementation of takeback and some pointed out the necessity to formulate harmonized approach for the implementation of takeback in the region. At the workshop 2016, small group consisted of countries where face with challenges on takeback discussed this issues intensively and summarize common difficulties, elements necessary for the successful implementation, and possible future activities under the Asian Network.
- Several guidelines for facilitating/supporting actions against illegal traffic were developed under the Basel Convention. In addition, activities conducted outside of the region and World Customs Organization (WCO) would be a good reference to consider measures in Asian region.
- There has been a change in trend of the TBM of hazardous wastes. Nowadays, some Asian countries have been imposing stringent regulation on import of hazardous wastes and State of destination has been changed to countries which have relatively loose import control, leading to the occurrence of different types of illegal traffic from the past. The information exchange on such trend is becoming more and more important.

Structure of the Session

- At the beginning, the Secretariat of the BRS Convention will introduce Guidelines adopted at COP13 to the Basel Convention, especially on the facilitating/supporting actions against illegal traffic. Then, three countries will present following good practices for the implementation of the Convention, including the following (but not limited to):
 - Collaboration with Customs
 - Intelligence sharing
 - Awareness raising of importers/exporters
 - Communication with CAs in other countries/regions
 - Guidance on distinguishing waste from non-waste
 - Guidance of takeback procedures
 - Streamlining of the Basel procedures (robust implementation & simplified process)
- IMPEL and WCO-RILO/AP will report a recent activities conducted in European countries and by WCO.

Points of discussion

- What is needed for the effective implementation of the Convention?
- Have there been changes in trend of the TBM in Asia lately?

Expected outcome

- Good practices in and outside of Asian region will be shared.
- Recent trend of the TBM will be identified.

Session 3: Development of Legal Framework for ESM of E-waste including EPR

Session coordinator: Institute of Developing Economies (IDE), JETRO

Background

- Recently, many Asian countries have introduced the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in the course of establishing recycling systems of E-waste. It is timely to discuss this issue since many countries have showed great interests in and explained how EPR is to be in place at the workshops in the past.
- There are common and different elements in each country's framework, especially on the idea of cost-sharing and targeted items. Lessons learned from countries who have already introduced and those who have been introducing EPR system will be a good reference for Asian countries.
- Expert Working Group (EWG) on the Environmental Sound Management (ESM) under the Basel Convention established manuals on EPR and financial scheme. These resources can also be a good reference for each country to take measures.

Structure of the Session

- At the beginning, the Secretariat of the Asian Network will share the results of questionnaire distributed prior to the workshop. Mr. Michikazu Kojima from IDE-JETRO, session coordinator, will then introduce a manual prepared by EWG on ESM and his study on several countries' EPR systems.
- Four countries who have already introduced or have been introducing the EPR system will share the framework of systems, collection scheme, and financial scheme.
- IMPEL-TFS will explain framework in European countries and ICT group will introduce practices on takeback scheme led by industry.

Points of discussion

- What are common elements of EPR introduced in Asia and what are differences?
- What are challenges in planning and introduction of the EPR system?
- What is important in promoting the EPR, considering current status of the recycling and treatment of E-waste in Asian region?

Expected outcome

- Information and challenges on EPR systems already introduced or planned in each country will be shared.
- Important viewpoints in promoting the EPR system will be shared.