Citizens’ international cooperation for promoting the 3Rs in an effort to solve E-waste problem

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Exchanges between a few Japanese NGOs working on waste issues and KZWMN (Korea) started at Citizens’ Forum for 3R Initiative held on 26 April 2005
3-5 Nov. 2005

KZWMN (Korea), East Asia Environmental Information Express Messenger (Japan) and Study Group for a Sustainable Society (Japan) visited Taizhou and the suburb in Zhejiang, China to inspect their E-waste recycling practices.
PURPOSE

- Form a citizen platform to contribute to preventing environmental pollution caused by waste in Asia
- Build a zero-waste society through promotion of the 3Rs, through networking and cooperation among domestic/international citizen groups
- We survey, study, provide information and make policy recommendation on waste problems such as e-waste in Asia.

MAIN MEMBERS

- Basel Action Network  www.ban.org
- East Asia Environmental Information Express Messenger  www.eden-j.org
- Friends of the Earth Japan  www.foejapan.org
- Study Group for a Sustainable Society
Framework for international cooperation

**NGOs from three Asian countries play own unique roles**

- **Greenpeace China**
  - www.greenpeace.org/china/
  - collects and expresses on-site information of E-waste pollution and damages

- **Korea Zero Waste Movement Network**
  - 자원순환사회연대
  - www.waste21.or.kr
  - studies the generation of E-waste and secondhand appliance, makes policy recommendation for reduction of E-waste

- **Asia Waste Watch**
  - www.enviroasia.info
  - North-East Asia
  - Information Sharing Policy Discussion
Activities in Japan

1) Visited a PC recycling center/vendor of second-hand electronics to understand the actual circumstances surrounding E-waste problem

2) Actively participating the Japan’s effort to improve the laws on recycling of home appliances (ex., Conducted a street survey, participated in the public hearing)
Korea Zero Waste Movement Network (KZWMN) has been working to prohibit e-waste from being exported to other developing countries.

LONG-TERM ACTIVITIES

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SHORT-TERM ACTIVITIES

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Activities in China

**Campaign Objective**
- Exposure E-waste issue and Stop E-waste trade in China
- Phase out toxics substance in the electronics industry + Extended Producer Responsibility
- Clean production

**Two key achievements of the campaign**
- HK government amended legislation to tighten border control of e-waste.
- Now Acer/Dell/HP have committed to phase out toxic substance in their product and now 40% of the world market will enjoy toxics free computers
Citizens’ groups from China, Korea, US and Japan held the Asian Citizen‘s Forum on the 3Rs on 29 Oct. 2006 in Tokyo, to discuss roles of citizens in the global efforts to solve the e-waste issues, and concluded with the Citizen Appeal.
The Role of Citizens

- The role of citizens is crucial in fostering sustainable development and environmental conservation.
- It is important to engage citizens in decision-making processes to ensure their needs and concerns are addressed.
- Education and awareness campaigns are necessary to inform citizens about the importance of environmental protection.
- Collaboration between governments, NGOs, and communities is essential to implement effective environmental policies.
- Citizens can play a significant role in monitoring and reporting environmental issues to ensure accountability.
- Encouraging citizens to participate in green initiatives and reduce their carbon footprint is a vital step towards sustainability.
Emphasis on Environmental and Human Health Protection

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We expect that your discussion will be fruitful at Asia 3R Conference.