



Working Group 1:
Partnership and International Cooperation
for the Promotion of the 3Rs

Asia 3R Conference
30 October – 1 November 2006
Mita Conference Hall, Tokyo, Japan

Summary of Discussion

The delegates from Asian countries and experts made presentations on the case studies of 3R implementation aimed at reducing waste generation, enhancing recycling and developing a sound material cycle society. The following points were underlined in the presentations and discussions.

1. Stakeholder Collaboration to Promote the 3Rs

- The 3Rs need to be promoted through the involvement of multiple stakeholders, including partnership with central and local governments, business, NGOs, local communities, and academia.
- Policy dialogues, incentive provisions and other policy measures are needed to facilitate multi-stakeholder involvement and partnership for the 3Rs. In the upstream of the 3R process, the role of business is particularly important.

1. Stakeholder Collaboration to Promote the 3Rs (continued)

- The appeal jointly prepared by NGOs in Japan, Korea and China was welcomed. The role to be played by civil society such as use of consumer power to promote environmentally-friendly products, participation in decision making process to reflect views of civil society, and awareness raising has been emphasised.
- It is vital to integrate the informal sector, including waste pickers, in the mechanisms for effective 3R implementation in a way that will contribute to social development.

2. Promotion of the 3Rs at the National Level

- The 3R policies are considered as a strategic avenue to pursue sustainable development, while enhancing material efficiency and reducing negative environmental impacts. The 3R policies must be further mainstreamed at the national, regional and international levels.
- The 3R policies should be supported by related policy principles and approaches such as the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Different socio-cultural and economic conditions, however, need to be fully taken into account, in developing EPR in individual countries.

2. Promotion of the 3Rs at the National Level (continued)

- National 3R strategies will provide a basis upon which coordinated measures are taken in a country. In this regard, initiatives taken by the government of Japan, in collaboration with UNEP, UNCRD, and ADB, to help a few developing countries of Asia prepare a national 3R strategy are considered timely and effective.
- National capacities need to be enhanced in terms of institutions, financing mechanisms, scientific and technical expertise. While the national governments and stakeholders need to further collaborate in this respect, international collaboration will remain essential in promoting capacity development for 3R implementation.

3. Promotion of the 3Rs at the Regional Level

- Regional systems to promote the 3Rs through international trade need to be implemented with a view towards promoting overall material efficiency, paying full attention to important principles such as those articulated in the Basel Convention and EPR.
- The need to develop more harmonised approaches (e.g. common definition of wastes and recyclables, and strengthening of export and import inspection) to promote environmentally sound regional 3R systems was raised, and in this respect, the role of international organisations to facilitate such efforts has been emphasised.

3. Promotion of the 3Rs at the Regional Level (continued)

- The regional recycling system introduced by Fuji-Xerox Co. in East Asia provides a good model in this respect. The company has developed a take back system, drawing upon their lease-based business model, which has proven effective in both developed and developing countries.
- Two conditions imposed by the Government of Thailand when the company established its recycling factory in Bangkok (i.e. (i) no import of used products for final disposal in Thailand, and (ii) re-export of hazardous elements to countries with appropriate treatment facilities) turned out to be effective.