

Senior Officials Meeting on the 3R Initiative

Questionnaire on 3Rs' strategies and activities

As announced earlier, the Senior Officials Meeting on the 3R Initiative will be held from 6 March to 8 March 2006 in Tokyo, Japan. During the meeting, two working groups will be held in parallel in the afternoon of Day 1 (6 March) and Day 2 (7 March) to discuss the promotion of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle).

The two working groups will respectively discuss: (1) promotion of the 3Rs at the *national level*, and (2) promotion of the 3Rs at the *international level* (e.g., international flow of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods). Both working groups will cover the following policy issues related to the promotion and implementation of the 3Rs: (a) cooperation between developed and developing countries, (b) cooperation among stakeholders, and (c) promotion of science and technology.

As stated in the letter from the Task Force for the 3R Initiative, we sent you this questionnaire to reflect your input on the issue paper for the meeting. Also, the result of the survey will be publicly reported later.

Please provide information relative to as many of the items as possible and send it prior to 23 January 2006 by e-mail to 3R@env.go.jp or by fax to +81-3-3593-8262.

1. 3Rs policy and strategy update

At the Ministerial Conference on the 3Rs in April 2005, participating countries reported their 3Rs policy and strategies in the form of the 3Rs portfolio. Please provide us with information on the major developments of strategies, policies and activities on the 3Rs of your organization since the Ministerial Conference on the 3Rs (April 2005).

In line with the 3R Initiative launched in April 2005, as well as the UNCRD comprehensive project proposal to promote 3Rs / sustainable consumption and production in Asia, which was prepared based on a needs assessment conducted in 5 South East Asian (Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, and Viet Nam) and 5 South Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan) in 2004, UNCRD has carried out the following activities in the area of 3Rs since April 2005.

Formulation of 3R National Strategies for Viet Nam, Bangladesh, and Indonesia: With financial support from the Ministry of the Environment-Government of Japan, and in coordination with UNEP and IGES, UNCRD has initiated activities in Viet Nam, Indonesia and Bangladesh for the preparation of country specific 3R national strategies.

In Dec 2005, UNCRD organized a national workshop on 3R in Hanoi, Viet Nam, with the participation of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Industry, and other relevant government agencies in Viet Nam. The workshop discussed country needs and priorities to be reflected in the strategy, and produced a draft outline/structure for the proposed 3R national strategy for Viet Nam.

In January 2006, UNCRD held a consultation meeting with the Ministry of Environment, Department of Public Works, Department of Agriculture and other relevant agencies, industries and NGOs in Jakarta, Indonesia and discussed on 3R national strategy formulation. The meeting agreed on the formulation of national 3R strategy with the assistance of UNCRD. The meeting also discussed the establishment of the National Working Group and the possible process for the strategy formulation.

Similarly, UNCRD is in negotiation with the Department of Environment (DoE), Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and other counterparts in Bangladesh to organize a national 3R meeting possibly in late March 2006 to raise nation wide awareness on the beneficial aspects of 3Rs.

Implementation of Pilot/Demonstration Projects on 3Rs: In line with the comprehensive project proposal to promote 3Rs in Asia, UNCRD has taken steps to implement pilot/demonstration projects in the area of 3Rs. Specifically, in Dec 2005, UNCRD held consultations with a local NGO and DoE/MoEF in Bangladesh to initiate the implementation of a pilot project to promote community-based composting in Bangladesh.

2. Good practices

2.1 Good practices on 3Rs

We are going to develop a showcase of the successful activities on the 3Rs, including those of the international and national level, the municipality level, industry, and NGOs/NPOs. Please fill out the EXCEL sheet attached to this e-mail with your good practices on the 3Rs. (Note: Please provide us with detailed information on a few of the most successful cases in which your organisation is involved.)

As mentioned above, UNCRD conducted missions to 5 South East Asian and 5 South Asian countries in 2004, to assess the needs of the developing countries in the areas of 3R and sustainable production and consumption (SPC). Based on this mission, UNCRD formulated a comprehensive project proposal for possible donors' intervention, which has been strongly supported by the respective governments and is in line with the 3R Initiative.

While UNCRD has initiated activities for the preparation of 3R national strategies for Viet Nam, Indonesia and Bangladesh, and the implementation of a community composting pilot project in Bangladesh, these activities are still in the initial stages.

2.2 3Rs and governance

To promote the 3Rs, it is necessary to develop a governance system that responds to different situations and conditions. Are there any specific issues relating to institutional arrangements for the implementation of the 3Rs and environmentally-sound management of waste? For example, please explain the different roles of stakeholders in the promotion of the 3Rs activities that your organisation is involved with.

In implementing activities for the formulation of national 3R strategies, UNCRD encourages a participatory, multi-stakeholder approach for the process. For example, in the case of Viet Nam, UNCRD is in negotiation with the Department of Environment/Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in Viet Nam, to establish a National Working Group on 3R to ensure the participation of a wide range of stakeholders.

In the case of the community composting pilot project in Bangladesh, it is envisaged that the project will be implemented through a partnership among the government, NGO, and the private sector. The NGO will take responsibility for the collection of organic waste and the production of compost, while the government may provide land or administrative supervision. The private sector will market the compost produced.

2.3 3Rs and environmentally-sound management of industrial waste

Since economic development tends to cause an increase in the amount of industrial waste generation, environmentally-sound management of industrial waste is essential to promote the 3Rs. To decouple economic development and industrial waste generation, what kind of role is expected for the industrial waste emitter, national and local governments, including municipalities? Also, please give us your views on how to share the responsibilities of construction and operation of landfill as final disposal sites among the stakeholders?

(No specific information and views)

3. International 3R policy and strategy

At the Ministerial Conference on the 3R Initiative, it was observed that the international flow of (i) goods and materials for recycling and manufacturing, and (ii) recycled and remanufactured products (hereinafter “recyclable resources and remanufactured goods”) may contribute to the efficient use of resources and the prevention of environmental pollution if proper mechanisms are in place. It may promote sustainable consumption and production affecting not only the environment but also economic development and job creation. At the same time, it was noted that for many countries the first priority should be placed on minimising the wastes within the country in which the wastes are generated. Participants at the Ministerial Conference expressed the view that the transboundary movement of wastes should only take place when safe and appropriate use and environmentally-sound management are possible in the receiving country.

3.1 Situation of transboundary movement of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods

Regarding the transboundary movement of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods, have you observed any specific problems associated with certain types of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods? What are the major reasons for the problems?

(No specific information and views)

3.2 Environmentally-sound management in transboundary movement of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods

To prevent environmental pollution caused by transboundary movement of recyclable resources, what kind of policies and measures (e.g., cooperation among international organizations, national governments and other stakeholders) are expected? If your organization has already launched such activities, please provide us with detailed information.

(No specific information and views)

3.3 Harmonization of economic and environmental benefits through the transboundary movements of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods

Please provide information on positive and negative socio-economic impacts of the increase in import and export of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods your organization observed. What kinds of policies and measures have been implemented to support the positive effects and mitigate negative effects of trade of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods?

(No specific information and views)

4. Others

If there are any other issues related to the promotion of the 3Rs which should be discussed in the Senior Officials Meeting, please provide us with your input below.

The meeting could look into how 3Rs can be integrated/introduced in the academic curriculum (starting from school level) to make 3R a culture in countries.

5. Information of respondent

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The Showcase of 3Rs Good Practices
(more accurately, good initiatives, in case of UNCRD)

Date: _____ 23-Jan-06

Country/Organisation: **Japan/ United Nations Centre for Regional Development**
(UNCRD)

No.	Name of the practice	Summary of the practice -level of implementation(national, local, industry, NGOs/NPOs) -duration -stakeholders involved	Impact: -Improvements after the introduction of the practice	Key For Success What are the major reasons for the success of the activity?
1	Comprehensive needs assessment on 3Rs and sustainable production and consumption in 5 South East Asian (Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, and Viet Nam) and 5 South Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan)	During the first half of 2004, UNCRD conducted missions to 5 South East Asian and 5 South Asian countries, to assess the needs of the developing countries in the areas of 3R and sustainable production and consumption (SPC). UNCRD consulted with key government agencies/ministries, NGOs, regional organizations dealing with environmental issues, etc. in these countries.	<p>Based on this mission, UNCRD formulated a comprehensive project proposal for possible donors' intervention, which has been strongly supported by the respective governments and is in line with the 3R Initiative. The mission also identified the following policy, knowledge, and technical gaps that needs to be addressed in developing countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of 3R orientation of the over all production and waste management policies; • waste management is mostly viewed in terms of end-of-pipe (down stream) solutions and the integration of 3R elements of waste minimization/source reduction in over all policy framework is negligible; • lack of awareness on various aspects of 3R both at consumer and producers (mainly SMEs) as well as at NGOs and media levels; and • absence of eco-labeling schemes and lack of expertise in developing eco-label criteria for various commercial products. <p>The outcome of the mission provided the firm basis for UNCRD in assiting the national 3R strategy formulation for selected countries.</p>	In conducting the assessment, UNCRD consulted with key government agencies/ministries, NGOs, regional organizations dealing with environmental issues, etc. in these countries. This enabled UNCRD to obtain a wide and balanced view on the issues discussed.
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