

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 organisation since the Ministerial Conference on the 3Rs (April 2005).

- **Development of the UNEP 3R Platform:** The UNEP 3R Platform is an implementing mechanism for developing countries that provides support for concrete 3R activities, by building on experiences in Japan and other countries, and tailoring them to the needs and specific conditions of each country. The Platform will have two key objectives, sustainable production (for example, how can the private sector take the initiative to implement sustainable practices in the entire life cycle of their products and services?) and sustainable consumption (for example, how can consumers, as trend-setters, create a demand for products that are environmentally friendly?).
- **Projects on sustainable production and consumption:** A number of projects on issues related to the overall theme of sustainable production and consumption have been developed and are in the process of being implemented in developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

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.)

- *Please see attached Excel sheet*

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.

- Drawing its mandate from the outcomes of the 2002 Jo'burg Summit-WSSD (specifically related to the 10-Year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production), and from the subsequent 2004 Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, UNEP has developed a comprehensive programme on sustainable production and consumption. The implementation of this programme focuses on the three key stakeholders of governments, private sector and the consumer/community. In partnership with UN-DESA, UNEP is spearheading the Marakkech Process. The second international meeting on this

subject in Costa Rica in September 2005, identified the need to focus on national level implementation. A number of task forces at international level have been formed to facilitate the national implementation process. Focusing on management systems related to governance, capacity building and technology, UNEP advocates integrated waste management systems that are based on the application of 3R concept covering the whole gamut of waste – from reduction at source of generation through segregation, recycle/reuse, transportation, treatment and safe disposal.

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?

- UNEP's approach to the issue is intrinsically linked to its programme on sustainable production and consumption, in looking at the issues of polluter-pays principle, and in minimizing waste and processing waste in an environmentally sound manner. A draft methodology for 'Sustainability Assessment of Technologies' has been prepared which is now under testing in actual live situations to provide a scientific tool in decision-making process on selection of environmentally sound technologies. The methodology has been developed to facilitate the decision makers in different spheres of economy e.g. national and local governments, business, financial institutions etc. UNEP's intention is not to propose a rigid set of criteria of assessment but to provide a flexible framework that can be adapted to suit the local situation. By encouraging active participation of national and local governments, as well as private sector in the entire waste management process, from minimization to final disposal, including construction and management of landfills, UNEP's projects on waste management promote ownership of all stakeholders in the waste management process.

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?

- One of the key issues to be kept in mind is the compliance and congruence with the provisions of Basel Convention. For example, transboundary movement of several hazardous and toxic wastes is specifically banned under the Basel Convention. Associated to this problem are the issues of adequate information disclosure on hazardous and toxic materials, lack of skills and capacities, financial and technology resources to handle such materials etc. Lack of technical knowledge to handle hazardous wastes in an environmentally friendly and socially acceptable way, is also a problem frequently encountered. A number of options still have to be explored and implemented nationally as a priority,

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 organisation has already launched such activities, please provide us with detailed information.

- UNEP has implemented supportive activities to facilitate implementation of trade-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), particularly the MEAs of Ozone, Basel, Rotterdam and CITIS conventions. For example, the Green Customs programme trains customs officers in environmental aspects that can be integrated into their work.

3.3 Harmonisation 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 organisation 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?

- UNEP has not worked in this area.

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.

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