

Workshop 2018 of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes

6-8 November 2018 in Akita, Japan

Chair's Summary

1. The 2018 Workshop of the Asian Network for the Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes was held in City of Odate, Akita Prefecture, Japan from 6 to 8 November, 2018. The workshop was co-organized by Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) and the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA). There were 60 participants including delegates from eleven (11) countries and one (1) special administrative region in the Asia-Pacific region, the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (BCRC China) and the BCRC-SEA. Participants also included seven (7) resource persons from international organizations, enforcement networks, and research institute and industry participants from eight (8) private companies.
2. In the opening session, Mr. Yutaka Matsuzawa, Deputy Director General of Regeneration and Resource Circulation Bureau of MOEJ welcomed participants and emphasized the importance of information exchange and continuous cooperation between and among the Competent Authorities in the region. He also noted that plastic waste is emerging issues in the region and key agenda of the workshop considering recent drastic increase of plastic waste and global problems of marine plastic litter. Mr. Ridwan Tamin, Director of BCRC-SEA also appreciated large number of participation and stated the network is a unique platform to address the emerging issues in the region.
3. Following the opening remarks, there was a round of introductions of participants. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Matsuzawa of MOEJ and invited Dr. Kudo to share and introduce the history of the Asian Network, its objectives and accomplishments since its establishment in 2003, and outlined the overall objectives of the 2018 Workshop.
4. Session 1 (*Updates of National Regulations and Implementation Status of the Basel Convention: with a focus on plastic wastes and microplastic*) was co-facilitated by Mr. Tamin, BCRC-SEA and Dr. Juliette Voinov Kohler, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat). At the beginning of the Session, the Secretariat of the Asian Network reported the outcomes of the questionnaires that were sent to each country participants prior to the workshop and explained the outlines of the Session. Then Dr. Kohler introduced major outcomes of the 11th meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG11) of the Basel Convention held in September 2018. In this session, there were updates from all the country/region representatives on their national policies, regulations and activities relating to the enforcement of the Basel Convention with focus or special attentions to plastic wastes and microplastic. New regulations on TBM and ESM of hazardous wastes were reported from some countries. Among those regulations, Japan introduced amendment of the Basel Law started to be implemented in October 2018 including simplifying the Basel procedure for the importation of hazardous wastes destined to the ESM facilities. Hong Kong SAR, China reported its new E-waste management mechanism and status of recycling facility development. Followed by country presentations, Mr. Kazushige Saito from the World Customs Organization, Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (WCO RILO/AP) provided information on cases of seizures of hazardous wastes, mainly E-wastes, reported through the customs network.
5. Through the presentations and discussions, it was found that recent China's import regulation on recyclable wastes has impacted the trend of TBM of recyclables such as plastic wastes in Asia. It was also understood that increase of importation of plastic wastes has caused some problems in some

countries, including increase of dirty (non-recyclable) plastic waste, increase of informal recycling activities, or increase of license application. Some countries reported that they plan to develop the new regulation on importation of plastic waste in response to the recent facing problems, although the approaches are different among countries. While some countries are now considering for total prohibition of plastic wastes in near future, other countries plan to develop specific criteria on importation (clarifying type of plastic waste that can be imported or clarifying requirement on importer of plastic waste).

6. On the morning on the second day, the keynote lecture was given by Dr. Takashi Nakamura, Professor Emeritus, Tohoku University. He introduced smelting technologies for E-scrap in Japan from a technical viewpoint. Followed by his presentation, Mr. Wataru Okuda, DOWA EcoSystem introduced their technology on E-waste recycling and its operation in Japan and oversea from business perspective. Questions were asked about the features of metallurgical process and its residual materials and criteria for the incinerating print circuit boards by copper smelting process and other relevant matters.
7. Session 2 (*Trend of Global TBM of Recyclable Wastes*) was facilitated by Mr. Matsuzawa of MOEJ. At the beginning, the Secretariat of the Asian Network introduced the scope of the Session and Mr. Kojima shared outcomes of his research on impact of China's new regulation on recyclable wastes on the trend of TBM and recycling business in Asia. Then, Ms. Marina de Gire from IMPEL- TFS presented the impacts of China's import regulation on plastic waste on recycling business operation in Europe. Four (4) countries (Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and Viet Nam) presented their ongoing activities to prevent illegal shipment and control of importation of plastic waste.
8. The representatives of IMPEL raised a question if IMPEL could receive detail list of plastic recycling facilities permitted by the Government of the Asian countries. In response to the inquiry, participants responded positively by stating inquiry for the destination facility's legitimacy and ESM status, while some recommendations or comments are also raised: (1) request through official channel is recommended, (2) environmental authority is not in charge of permitting plastic recycling facility since it is out of the scope of the Basel Convention, (3) there is no sufficient capacity at this stage to import plastic waste for recycling. Participants shared a view that the Asian Network is a good platform to exchange detail information of regulation and recycling facilities in the region and agreed to continue to discuss this matter in the future workshop. A proposal was made by one expert that questionnaire survey would be useful to obtain the detail information of import regulation on plastic waste and what type of plastic can be imported and what recycling operation is conducted in each country. The Workshop Chair requested the Asian Network Secretariat to prepare a questionnaire in cooperation with the experts in this field for the workshop next year.
9. Mr. Michikazu Kojima, Senior Economist, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) facilitated Session 3 (*Technologies, Policies and Practices to Promote ESM in Asia and Link with TBM*). At the beginning, the Secretariat of the Asian Network introduced the scope of the Session. Presentations were made by Dr. Kohler, the BRS Secretariat, updated guidelines and guidance to be considered or developed by the COP14 to the Basel Convention. Some questions were made by participants regarding the items to be included in Programme of Works in 2010-2021. BCRC-China and BCRC-SEA introduced their researches and projects on ESM/TBM of hazardous waste including E-waste and mercury waste in the region. ICT Group shared practices on reuse, repair and refurbishment of electric and electronic equipment promoted by industry for extending life of EEE.
10. In the closing session, Mr. Hiroki Hayata, Public Official, Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Division, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan, expressed his appreciation for active contribution of each participant and his expectation that the future workshops would foster cooperation

among countries to combat illegal traffic of hazardous wastes in the region.