

Introduction of the Session 1 & Summary of the Questionnaire

6-8 November 2018

Akita, Japan

The Secretariat of the Asian Network



Background (1)

- The Session 1 of the annual workshop is to share updated national policy for the implementation of the Convention of each country. It is beneficial to share updated information of each country.
- At the workshop 2017, we focused on the transboundary movements (TBMs) of three waste streams, (1) E-waste, (2) Used Lead-Acid Battery (ULAB) and (3) Mercury Waste.
- Participant exchanged information on policies & legal frameworks and the current status of import/export as well as recycling & treatment of these wastes.



Photo: SBS
<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2017/01/15/mountains-electronic-waste-asia-danger-health-un-study>



Photo: Bioenergy Consultant
<https://www.bioenergyconsult.com/recycling-lead-acid-batteries/>



Photo: UN Environment Chemical & Waste Page

Background (2)

- In July 2017, China has announced to control import of recyclable wastes including plastics waste, and it has greatly changed the trend of import/export of recyclable wastes, especially plastic waste.
- In addition, plastic litter in the ocean has been recognizing as a big global agenda.
 - UNEP has initiated discussion on this matter since 2014 and an ad-hoc expert working group was established.
 - At the OEWG11 of the Basel Convention held in September 2018, possible further actions on marine plastic litter and microplastic within the scope of the Basel Convention were discussed.
- The collection and recycling of plastic waste have become quite important recently, and it is timely to discuss the impact of this issue on Asian countries and to consider what the Asian Network can contribute to this issue.



Photo: UNEP
<http://web.unep.org/unepmap/undeclares-war-ocean-plastic>



Photo: National Geographic
<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2015/01/150109-oceans-plastic-sea-trash-science-marine-debris/>

Scope of the Session 1

- Session 1 aims to exchange updated information of national policies and implementation status of the Basel Convention, **with paying a special attention to plastic wastes (including the issue of marine plastic litters and microplastics),** and facilitate the exchange of following information:
 - Trend of import/export of plastic wastes
 - Status of recycling facility development and the challenges
 - Regulations and policies for the control of import/export and/or the promotion of plastic waste recycling
 - Problems of marine plastic litters and microplastics that has already surfaced
 - Efforts made by countries to address the problem of plastic wastes

Outline of Questionnaire

- Questionnaire survey was conducted prior to the workshop in order to collect the basic information relevant to the theme of the Sessions.
- **9 out of 11 countries** have responded to the questionnaire.

Questionnaire consists of the following parts;

- 1. Updates on National Laws/Regulations relevant to the implementation of the Basel Convention**
- 2. TBM and ESM of plastic wastes**
 - (1) The import/export and control regulations policies
 - (2) Current status of recycling and treatment of plastic waste in countries
 - (3) Marine plastic litter and microplastic
- 3. Improvement of Asian Network Website**

Please see **“Summary of Questionnaire” (EXCEL file)** saved at online storage for details. The file contain more comprehensive and detail information.

Summary of Questionnaire (1)

- Many countries reported the huge increase of importation of plastic waste in recent years.
- Problems faced by countries include:
 - Increase of dirty (non-recyclable) plastic.
 - Disruption of plastic market (large volume of imported cheap plastic vs. small volume of expensive domestically collected plastic)
 - Increase of informal recyclers
 - Many application for licensing (too much pressure to Authority)
- In response to problems, some countries plan to develop new policy regulating importation of plastic waste:
 - Ban (prohibition) of importation of plastic waste
 - Clarifying types (or standard) of plastic wastes that are allowed to be imported
 - Clarifying the requirement of importer/recycler that can handle imported plastic waste

Outcomes of Questionnaire (2)

- Some news reported that investment on plastic recycling has been active in recent years in Asian countries, however, there are no clear baseline data.
- It was found that many countries have made efforts to reduce single use of plastic and promote collection/recycling of plastic, including:
 - Encourage/promote at-source separation
 - Create incentive for collection
 - Charge/price plastic bag
 - Organize awareness raising event such as no-plastic day/weekend
 - Mandate reporting of packaging waste

Summary of Questionnaire (3)

- Marine plastic litter/pollution can be observed in territorial sea of AN countries (although there is lack of scientific evidence how much land source plastic contributed to the problem).
- Efforts have been made by some countries in response to marine plastic litter issue:
 - Conduct marine monitoring
 - Develop baseline data for material flow of plastic
 - Develop guidance on marine plastic litter management
- Areas that the Asian Network could contribute to this issue include:
 - Exchange of experience, challenges and policy
 - Provide inputs to the technical guidelines to be developed under the Basel Convention

Outline of the Session 1

Structure of the Session

- The BRS Secretariat will introduce major outcomes of the 11th meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG11) relevant to the theme of the Workshop 2018.
- All countries/regions will deliver presentations including;
 - (1) Updates of national policies and the implementation status of the Basel Convention;
 - (2) Information related to plastic wastes, marine plastic litters and microplastics (upon request in the questionnaire)
- World Customs Organization (WCO) will share the recent trend of illegal traffic and ongoing efforts made by Customs to combat illegal traffic.

Expected outcome

- The latest information for the implementation of the Basel Convention will be shared.
- The current status and challenges on the plastic waste, marine plastic litter/microplastic in the Asian region will be understood.
- Matters to be addressed in the future Asian Network will be identified.

Thank you
very much!!