

**Asian Network Workshop for Prevention of
Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes
12-14 November 2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

Issue Paper

Session 1: Country update of regulations and implementation status of the Basel Convention: *with a focus on the control of TBM of plastic wastes*

Session Coordinator: BCRC-SEA

Background

- Mindful of the growing threat to human health and the environment posed by the transboundary movement (TBM) of hazardous wastes, the Asian Network has been served as a platform in sharing the latest information on national laws and regulations together with the situation on TBM of hazardous wastes among competent authorities in the Asian region over the years. The fundamental principle of this network is to promote the region-wide understandings about the TBM of hazardous wastes on the ground with relevant measures for the protection of human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from thereof.
- Since the Workshop in 2017, the Asian Network has provided an opportunity for the discussion regarding the impacts of China's import regulation of plastic wastes on other Asian countries. Notably, it was confirmed in the last workshop that the import of plastic wastes mixed or contaminated and not suitable for recycle has been significantly increased since China's import ban. The increase of application for the import license and informal recycling were found to be another illustration of such impacts.
- Taking into account that countries have taken different measures against the current situation (e.g. total import ban, license system and regulation by item) participants agreed to conduct a questionnaire survey to get to know each other what types of measures are taken into place. Such information can be a useful reference in developing additional national measures and instruments for the effective implementation of the Basel Convention.
- In this regard, given the enhanced economic and environmental implication, the workshop in this year also deserves to pay a special attention to the TBM of plastic waste and its related aspect.
- It should be underscored that in the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention held in May 2019, a decision to amend Annex II, VIII and IX of the Basel Convention was adopted, which are of entry into force in January 2021. Since the interpretation of these annexes in each country has a region-wide implication, this Workshop can be a great opportunity to exchange such information.
 - Annex II: Contaminated plastics not suitable for recycle (PIC required)
 - Annex VIII: Hazardous plastics (PIC required)

- Annex IX: Clean plastics (PIC is not required)
- In addition, the update of the technical guidelines on plastic waste and the establishment of a working group of the plastic waste partnership were also decided in COP14. Given the import of plastic wastes in Asian region is predominant among all regions, such experiences and lessons learned can be great inputs for the effective implementation of the Basel Convention at the global level. It should also be highlighted that China and Japan are co-leading the updating the technical guidelines on plastic waste together with United Kingdom.

Structure of the Session

- The Secretariat of the Asian Network will briefly report the result of questionnaire survey.
- The Secretariat of BRS Convention will introduce the overview of relevant decisions adopted at COP14.
- All the countries and Australia & IMPEL will be invited to provide the latest information relevant to the national implementation of the Basel Convention and the import regulation on plastic waste, in particular current measures to regulate those subject to control under the Basel Convention from January 2021.

Point of discussion

Mainly Q&A session

Expected outcome

- Countries can understand the latest situation and challenges in implementing the Basel Convention, in particular the regulation on import of plastic wastes.
- The national situation for the implementation of amended annexes of the Basel Convention can be shared.
- Practical information to be included in the technical guidelines on plastic waste can be identified

Session 2: Experience and challenges for the implementation of the Basel Convention Technical Guidelines

Session Coordinator: BRS Secretariat

Background

- Many technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes have been developed under the Basel Convention. These guidelines provide the best knowledge and techniques of which countries are encouraged to use for the implementation of the Basel Convention.
- In this Workshop, the experiences and challenges in using the technical guidelines on E-waste have been shared, confirming that countries have taken different approaches for its implementation (e.g. establishment of the criteria for lifespan, packaging and functionality). Sharing such national approaches together with challenges on the ground are expected to help identify necessary measures at the national, bilateral and regional level.
- The recent COP14 adopted the technical guidelines on E-waste on an interim basis, and countries were invited to use and test, on a pilot basis, and to submit comments on the results of using and testing the guidelines. It is important to bear in mind that the national and regional experiences of using the guidelines would also help further refine the guidelines in the future.

Structure of the Session

- The Secretariat of the Asian Network will briefly report the result of questionnaire survey on the national implementation of the import regulation on UEEE.
- The Secretariat of the BRS Convention will introduce how the E-waste guidelines have been developed and the relevant outcome at the COP14.
- Some countries will share experiences and challenges in implementing the E-waste guidelines.
- ICT group will, on behalf of an industry, introduce experiences of repair/refurbishment activities beyond the border in accordance with the E-waste guidelines.

Points of discussion

- The recent trend of E-waste trade.
- The national challenges and important elements in implementing the E-waste guidelines.

Expected Outcome

- Possible measures for the effective implementation of the E-waste guidelines can be identified based on the lessons learned and challenges shared by users of the guidelines.
- Regional inputs to the Basel Convention for the further refinement can be identified

Session 3: Policy framework of promoting the ESM and possible regional cooperation in Asia: with a focus on plastic waste and E-waste

Session coordinator: Department of Environment-MESTECC, Malaysia

Background

- There are increasing needs for the environmentally sound collection, recycle and disposal of plastic waste and E-waste, together with an appropriate trade control at the national level in response to the recent increase of such wastes.
- Although great efforts have been made to establish the recycling scheme such as the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), it has also be confirmed in the Workshop that each scheme has different approaches depending on the national interest (e.g., targeted items and cost sharing system). Some countries have put in place advanced initiatives toward the introduction or implementation of the scheme, and the information on the successful mechanism and challenges are of great use for the Asian region.
- Mindful of great importance in addressing the marine litter and plastics at the global level, an integrated approach is necessary to tackle with plastic wastes. This approach includes, but not limited to, the minimization of generation, the sound recovery and recycle, creation of demand for recycled materials and prevention of flow into ocean. Recognizing the Asian region is deemed to be the largest contributor to the plastic waste in the ocean, it is important for the region to share best practices and experiences in addressing this issue in a collective manner.

Structure of the Session

- The Secretariat of the Asian Network will explain the overview of the session and discussion in the past.
- ERIA will make a presentation on the practice of sound/unsound management of E-waste and plastic waste in the Asian region.
- Some countries will be invited to introduce the latest initiatives being undertaken, including the development of regulations to promote the recycling of plastic waste and E-waste at the national level and technical cooperation projects as well as associated challenges, followed by IMPEL introducing relevant initiatives undertaken in European countries.
- The initiatives to promote the ESM undertaken by an industry will be introduced.
- BCRC-China and BCRC-SEA will be invited to report the current progress on the projects related to the promotion of the ESM.

Points of discussion

- What are the important elements in promoting the ESM in each country based on the recovery, recycling and disposal of plastic waste and E-waste?
- How can we enhance the engagement of private sector in pursuing the ESM of plastic waste and E-waste?
- How can the Asian Network contribute to this issue?

Expected Outcome

- Gaps and necessary measures can be identified in setting up the legal and institutional basis, including EPR, which leads to the ESM of plastic waste and E-waste.
- The future role of Asian Network in promoting the ESM at the regional level can be identified.