

**Workshop 2022 of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal
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**Hazardous Waste Management
in Lao PDR**

Prepared by: Mr. Chongnengxiong NENGXAY
Department of Natural Resource and Environment Inspection (DNEI)
Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment (MONRE)
Lao PDR



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I. Policy and regulation of Hazardous Waste

Management

- The basis for policy and regulation of hazardous waste management refers to environmental protection law and chemical management law, regulation and technical guidelines concerning
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and the Ministry of Industry and Commercial (MOIC) is together to develop policy and regulation to control the transboundary movement of hazardous waste





- Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment is the national focal point for Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam Convention (DNEI)
- The Ministry of Industry and Commercial is responsible for and certifies for import/export of plastic waste and hazardous waste for recycling facilities



National Laws/Regulations

1. Decision on Pollution Control (7th April 2021)
(Published by MONRE)
2. Decision on Management and Disposal of Toxic and Hazardous Chemical Wastes (3rd August 2021)
(Published by MONRE)

1. Decision on Pollution Control

Chapter 2: Survey, Create List of Pollution Sources, Pollution Control Map and Hazardous Waste and Toxic Chemical Import

Article 8 Waste and Hazardous Chemical Import

- Toxic and hazardous waste that is contaminated with chemicals and radiation, electronic waste, old batteries, as well as waste under the Basel Convention shall be prohibited import into Lao PDR territory for using or recycling.
- Importation of hazardous chemicals must comply with the Law on Chemicals Management.

2. Decision on Management and Disposal of Toxic and Hazardous Chemical Wastes

Chapter 3: Storage, Movement, Treatment and Disposal of Toxic and Hazardous Chemical Wastes

Article 9 Moving of Toxic and Hazardous Chemical Wastes

- A person who moves toxic and hazardous chemical wastes shall assure the safety and protection against the impacts on lives, health of humans, animals, plants and ecosystems along with posting warning signs outside the vehicle that are visible during the transportation of such wastes and shall comply with the regulations of relevant sectors.
- Prior to moving toxic and hazardous chemical wastes, an entity or organization shall present comprehensive details to the District Office(s) of Natural Resources and Environment five working days in advance. In the event that the assessment finds possible risks of serious impacts from the moving, there will be monitoring and checking of preparedness in order to prevent an environmental emergency.



II. Responses to the amendments of the Basel Convention Annexes regarding plastic waste and E-waste

1. The current situation of Lao's responding to the plastic amendments

The MONRE is ongoingly finalizing the Development on **National Plastic Action Plan (NPAP)** of Lao PDR

(The next step for the NPAP is on finalization and approval, Last update 16 June 22).

Waste management in the Lao PDR at the central level has two main participating ministries:

- (1) The MONRE is responsible for management, policy and planning; and
- (2) The Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) to provide technical supervision and infrastructure inspection, for waste collection and disposal services that are the responsibility of local, provincial and district governments.

The objectives of NPAP (Draft version)

Goal 1: Reduce and end the use of single-use plastics and promote the use of alternative products that are environmentally friendly and reasonably priced.

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Goal 3: The plastic waste management system in the country is highly effective, reducing leakage to nature, the environment and safe for humans.

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The Lao PDR's national plastic action plan (2022-2030) has 3 specific goals:

Goal 2: Plastic products can be recycled based on the 3Rs principle and add value to plastic based on the circular economy principle.

2. Imports and exports of plastic waste

- Lao PDR has not issued the notification to prohibit the importation and exportation of the plastic waste completely.
- Imports and exports of plastic waste tend to increase steadily in factories demand after the covid-19 outbreak situation began to unravel in 2021.
- The type of those plastic waste imported is almost the thermoplastics elastomers (TPE) that are generated from processes other than product manufacturing.

Statistic of Importation of Plastic Waste for Recycling in 2021

- 81 times imported of plastic waste including Pre-production plastic pellets, CPE 135 A Resin, PVC Resin, Paper core, Low-density polyethylene (LDPE), Transparent pet bottle flakes, polypropylene etc.
- Total weight is 1.914.647 kg
- Imported from Thai land, China and Vietnam

The plastic Scrap imported to Lao each year

Year	Times of Imported	Volume (Kg)
2016	12	310,308
2017	27	2,932,763
2018	57	4,198,278
2019	73	162,619,073
2020	16	3,602,782
2021	81	1,914,647

Data from Department of Import and Export, MOIC

3. Response to the E-waste amendments

- The government of Laos has issued the notification no. 1855/PM, dated 17 Nov 2017 to banned the importation of e-waste,
- the new investment of e-waste recycling is not allowed,
- and existed e-waste recycling factories were ordered to improve their pollution treatment system and conduct the environment impact assessment (EIA) and use domestic e-waste (raw material).

4. Challenging of Plastic Waste and Hazardous Waste Management

- Collaboration with line Ministry concerning to control the import and export of hazardous waste is needed improving;
- Lack of the experience, knowledge skill and human resource on hazardous waste management;
- Some recycling factories are careless of pollution control measures

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