

# **Asian Network Workshop for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes 2025 9-11 December 2025, Surabaya, Indonesia**

## **Issue Paper**

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### **Session 1: Country update of the implementation of the Basel Convention - *With a focus on response to e-waste amendment***

*Session Co-facilitators: Ministry of Environment, Indonesia (KLH) and Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ)*

#### **Background**

##### **(1) General update of country's implementation**

- Mindful of the growing threat to human health and the environment posed by the transboundary movement (TBM) of hazardous wastes, the Asian Network has served as a platform for sharing the latest information on national laws and regulations as well as the situation on TBM of hazardous wastes among competent authorities in the Asian region for over 20 years.
- As a standard practice, Session 1 of the Workshop 2025 will share updates on national regulations and the implementation of the Basel Convention. This includes the latest information on import/export controls for used electrical and electronic equipment (UEEE) and plastic waste, which are summarized and updated periodically by the Asian Network Secretariat.

##### **(2) Response to e-waste amendments**

- E-waste is one of the most problematic waste streams in Asia since its TBM is significant and sometimes causes serious environmental pollution and health risks. Therefore, since its establishment, the Asian Network has engaged in extensive discussions on how to properly manage import/export and ensure environmentally sound management (ESM). COP15, held in June 2022, adopted the following amendments to the Annexes regarding e-waste:
  - Addition of a new entry A1181 (Annex VIII)
  - Addition of a new entry Y49 (Annex II)
  - Deletion of B1110 (Annex IX)
- As a result, all TBMs of e-waste, regardless of their hazardousness, are now subject to the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure under the Basel Convention.
- Under the new entries A1181 and Y49, e-waste consists of the following three categories.
  - Whole equipment

- Components (e.g., battery, switch, etc.)
- Waste from processing e-waste (e.g., fractions from dismantling or shredding)

Y49	<p><b>Electrical and electronic waste:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste electrical and electronic <b>equipment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– not containing and not contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic, and</li> <li>– in which none of the components (e.g. certain circuit boards, certain display devices) contain or are contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the component exhibits an Annex III characteristic</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Waste <b>components</b> of electrical and electronic equipment (e.g. certain circuit boards, certain display devices) not containing and not contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste components exhibit an Annex III characteristic, <u>unless covered by another entry in Annex II or by an entry in Annex IX</u></li> <li>• <b>Wastes arising from the processing of</b> waste electrical and electronic equipment or waste components of electrical and electronic equipment (e.g. <b>fractions</b> arising from shredding or dismantling), and not containing and not contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic, <u>unless covered by another entry in Annex II or by an entry in Annex IX</u></li> </ul>
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A1181	<p><b>Electrical and electronic waste (note the related entry Y49 in Annex II)<sup>1</sup>:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste electrical and electronic <b>equipment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– containing or contaminated with cadmium, lead, mercury, organohalogen compounds or other Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic, or</li> <li>– with a component containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the component exhibits an Annex III characteristic, including but not limited to any of the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ glass from cathode-ray tubes included on list A</li> <li>▪ a battery included on list A</li> <li>▪ a switch, lamp, fluorescent tube or a display device backlight which contains mercury</li> <li>▪ a capacitor containing PCBs</li> <li>▪ a component containing asbestos</li> <li>▪ certain circuit boards</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<sup>1</sup> PCBs or PBBs are at a concentration level of 50 mg/kg or more in equipment, in a component, or in wastes arising from the processing of waste electrical and electronic equipment or waste components of electrical and electronic equipment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ certain display devices</li> <li>▪ certain plastic components containing a brominated flame retardant</li> <li>• Waste <b>components</b> of electrical and electronic equipment containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste components exhibit an Annex III characteristic, <u>unless covered by another entry on list A</u></li> <li>• <b>Wastes arising from the processing of</b> waste electrical and electronic equipment or waste components of electrical and electronic equipment, and containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic (e.g. <b>fractions</b> arising from shredding or dismantling), <u>unless covered by another entry on list A</u></li> </ul>
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- These amendments entered into force on 1 January 2025, which may have a significant impact on import/export control in Asia, where the e-waste trade is substantial. It would be timely to share each country's status regarding the update of national laws/regulations to respond to the e-waste amendments.
- Furthermore, among the new e-waste entries (Y49 and A1181), “components” and “fractions” are to be covered by Y49 or A1181 unless covered by other entries in Annexes II, VIII, or IX. The distinction between the new e-waste entries and the existing entries, especially those in Annex IX, which are not subject to control under the Basel Convention, will be critical to implementing the e-waste amendments on the ground. Due to the complexity of the issue, there may be room for differing definitions or interpretations. Therefore, the workshop 2025 will share each country's perspectives and aim to identify a commonly understood scope of the new e-waste entries among Asian Network countries.
- Pursuant to Decision BC-17/12, it has been decided that the Expert Working Group (EWG) for the technical guidelines (TGs) on e-waste will develop a guidance document on the identification of e-waste under the new entries adopted by decision BC-15/18, as well as on the distinction between waste that is to be classified as e-waste (Y49 or A1181) and waste that is related to such e-waste, but can be classified under another entry in Annex II, VIII or IX. The practices of Asian countries would be considered important inputs to this process.

### Structure of Session 1

- The Secretariat of the Asian Network will review discussions from past workshops, as well as recent trends in the TBM of plastic waste and e-waste, based on publicly available statistical data. The Secretariat will also share the results of Parts 1 and 2 of the questionnaire survey as background information for the discussion.
- The Secretariat of the BRS Convention will introduce the decisions adopted at COP17 and ongoing inter-sessional works toward OEWG15 to be held in 2026.
- All participating countries will be invited to deliver a country report during this Session, which

includes, but is not limited to, the following topics. It is encouraged to include their responses to Parts 1 and 2 of the questionnaire survey, which was sent by the Secretariat prior to the workshop.

- Updates on national laws/regulations for the implementation of the Basel Convention, including the following:
  - Updates of national laws/regulations on the import/export of UEEE, if any.
  - Updates of national laws/regulations on the import/export of plastic waste, if any.
  - Status of responses to the plastic waste amendments under the Basel Convention.
- Challenges and good practices in the implementation of the PIC procedure
- Status of responses to the e-waste amendments under the Basel Convention and the types/scopes of waste to be covered by the new e-waste entries (Y49 and A1181).
- Followed by the country reports by participating countries, the Session will also invite presentations from non-Asian region.
- Surabaya Customs (TBC) will be invited to present its practice to combat illegal shipment and challenges for enforcement.

### **Point of discussion**

Mainly a Q&A session

### **Expected outcomes**

- Countries share updated national laws and regulations for the implementation of the Basel Convention.
- The national situation regarding the implementation of the amended annexes to the Basel Convention will be shared.
- Countries understand commonalities and differences regarding the scope/categories of waste to be covered by the new e-waste entries (Y49 and A1181).
- Countries understand the latest situation of TBM of hazardous waste and other waste, particularly trends in plastic waste and e-waste.

## **Session 2: TBM control and ESM of plastic waste**

*Session Facilitator: BRS Convention Secretariat*

### **Background**

- Since the Workshop in 2017, the Asian Network has provided an opportunity for the discussion regarding the impacts of China's import regulations on plastic waste on other Asian countries. Notably, it was confirmed that imports of plastic wastes mixed or contaminated and not suitable for recycle have significantly increased in other countries since China's import ban. An increase in applications for the import license and informal recycling was found to be another illustration of such impacts.
- The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP14), held in May 2019, adopted a decision to amend Annex II, VIII and IX of the Convention, which entered into force in January 2021. Because some terms in these annexes are difficult to interpret, the workshops in 2020 and 2022 discussed the status of each country's response to the plastic wastes amendments and shared some common difficulties for the implementation. The Workshop in 2022 also continued the discussion on this topic, as it has significant implications for the Asian region.
- With regard to plastics, negotiations for an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution are underway within the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), as mandated by UNEA Resolution 5/14.
- Under the Basel Convention, discussions have been ongoing on further activities to address plastic waste. Taking into account the views expressed at COP17 on the need to conduct an effectiveness evaluation of the plastic waste amendments, it was decided to invite Parties to submit information regarding their implementation, challenges and impacts of the amendments for consideration by the OEWG15.
- Also, the updated TGs on the ESM of plastic waste were adopted at COP16. Sharing domestic experiences and initiatives among Asian countries on the ESM of plastic waste would be considered beneficial.
- Making nearly five years since the plastic amendments took effect, it is timely to hold this discussion in Asia, a major hub for the global plastic waste trade.

### **Structure of Session 2**

- The Asian Network Secretariat will report the results of Part 2 of the questionnaire survey and introduce the scope of the Session.
- Major importing and exporting countries of plastic waste in the Asian region will be invited to share their initiatives or efforts related to the TBM and ESM of plastic waste, including the following:
  - Trends in plastic waste generation, import and export

- Implementation of the plastic waste amendments, good practices and challenges
- Illegal traffic of plastic waste
- Policies to promote ESM of plastic waste
- Followed by the country reports, the Session will also invite a presentation from non-Asian region.

#### **Points of discussion**

- Are the plastic amendments being effectively implemented in the Asian Network countries?
- What are the major challenges that countries are facing in the implementation of the plastic amendments?
- Has the import (particularly illegal shipments) of plastic waste in Asia decreased since the plastic amendments entered into force? If not, what are the main barriers?
- How can the Asian Network contribute to enhancing the implementation of the plastic waste amendments in the region?

#### **Expected outcomes**

- Understanding on the current status and challenges in implementing the plastic waste amendments in each country will be enhanced.
- Best practices on the domestic collection and recycling of plastic waste will be shared.
- The trends in the trade of plastic waste in Asia and the impacts of the plastic amendments since their entry into force on 1 January 2021 will be clarified.
- Views on potential activities to be conducted in Asia to improve the capacity for implementing the plastic waste amendments will be exchanged.
- A summary of key discussion points and findings from the Session will be prepared by the Secretariat and, if agreed by participating countries, submitted to the BRS Secretariat as an input to the information collection mandated by Decision BC-17/11.

## **Session 3: Policies and technologies for developing and promoting ESM**

*Session coordinator: BCRC-SEA*

### **Background**

- At the Asian Network Workshop 2024, solar panels and lithium-ion batteries were identified as waste streams facing challenges in recycling and disposal due to high volumes of TBM in Asia, which led to active discussions.
- Furthermore, the 17th Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention (COP17), held from April to May 2025, adopted the Decision BC-17/21, which decided to review the status of TBM of used textiles and textile waste as part of the work programme of the OEWG for the biennium 2026-2027.
- Although great efforts have been made to establish recycling schemes such as the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), it has also been confirmed in past workshops that each scheme takes a different approach depending on national interests (e.g., targeted items and cost-sharing systems). Some countries have put in place advanced initiatives toward the introduction or implementation of the scheme, and information on successful mechanisms and associated challenges is of great value for the Asian region.
- Many TGs on the ESM of specific waste streams have been developed under the Basel Convention. These guidelines provide best knowledge and techniques which countries are encouraged to use to promote ESM. In this Session, participants will share their experiences in applying the TGs in national contexts.

### **Structure of Session 3**

- BCRC-SEA will introduce the current state of recycling of plastic waste, e-waste, and other emerging waste streams in Asia in recent years and outline the scope of the Session.
- Selected countries will be invited to introduce their latest initiatives, including the following:
  - Technologies, infrastructures and policies related to ESM
  - Status of emerging waste streams (e.g., solar panels, lithium-ion batteries, and textiles)
- BCRC-China will be invited to report on the progress on projects related to the promotion of the ESM in Asia.
- Followed by the country reports, the Session will also invite a recycling company in Surabaya to deliver its recycling practices or initiatives to contribute to the ESM in the country.
- A Japanese electrical and electronics industry association will be invited to present its initiatives to ensure the ESM of e-waste, including the implementation status of TGs on e-waste.

### **Points of discussion**

- What are the important elements in promoting ESM in each country?

- Do the challenges in promoting ESM vary depending on the type of waste stream?
- Could successful cases in one country be replicated in other countries or regions? How can good practices be applied in a national context, given that legal systems and technology levels differ across countries?
- How can we enhance the engagement of the private sector in pursuing ESM of plastic waste and e-waste?
- How can the Asian Network contribute to addressing these issues?

#### **Expected outcomes**

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