

# Support to promote ESM by BCRC China

**Ruxuan Niu**

**Technical manager**

**10 December, 2025**

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific  
Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building  
and the Transfer of Technology in Asia and the Pacific



# CONTENTS

# 目录



1

Basic Information of BCRC China

2

Work on Plaste Waste Management

3

Work on Marine Litter & Microplastic Management

# 1. Basic Information of BCRC China

BCRC



14 Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres  
Worldwide

SCRC



17 Stockholm Convention Regional Centres Worldwide

**Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Asia and Pacific (BCRC China) was established in 1997, located in Beijing. In 2009, BCRC China had been endorsed as the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRCAP China).**

# 1. Basic Information of BCRC China

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Network Award for the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in 2011



Contribution Award for the 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)



Letter of thanks from the Secretariats of the three conventions



Li Jinhui was elected as Vice Chair of the Bureau of the Scientific and Policy Committee of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG)



2011

Copper Award for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

2012



2014

Received a perfect score in the 1<sup>st</sup> assessment (<2013-2014>)

2015



2019

Received a perfect score again in the 2<sup>nd</sup> assessment (<2015-2018>)



2023

Received a perfect score in the 3<sup>rd</sup> assessment. The only regional center that received a perfect score in the assessment of both conventions (<2013-2014>, <2015-2018>, and <2019-2022>)

# 2. Work on plastic waste management

**Project title:** Testing of inventory guidance of plastic waste and testing of technical guidelines on the ESM of plastic waste

**Project founder:** BRS/UNEP

**Project period:** December 2023 - April 2025

## Objectives

- ◆ 1. Establishment of a national consultative working group and the organisation of a project inception workshop.
- ◆ 2. Pilot testing of the practical guidance on developing inventories of plastic waste, in the two target countries of Mongolia and China.
- ◆ 3. Pilot testing of selected sections of the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic waste - the version prepared for the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its sixteenth meeting in 2023 - of plastic waste in the target countries: Evaluate the status of management of plastic waste on the basis of the information and recommendations contained in the selected parts of the guidelines; Provide feedback on the usefulness and completeness of the tested parts of the document.
- ◆ 4. Organisation of a final project meeting to gather feedback from national authorities and stakeholders, on the outputs of the pilot testing of the practical guidance on developing inventories and of the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic waste.

# 2. Work on plastic waste management

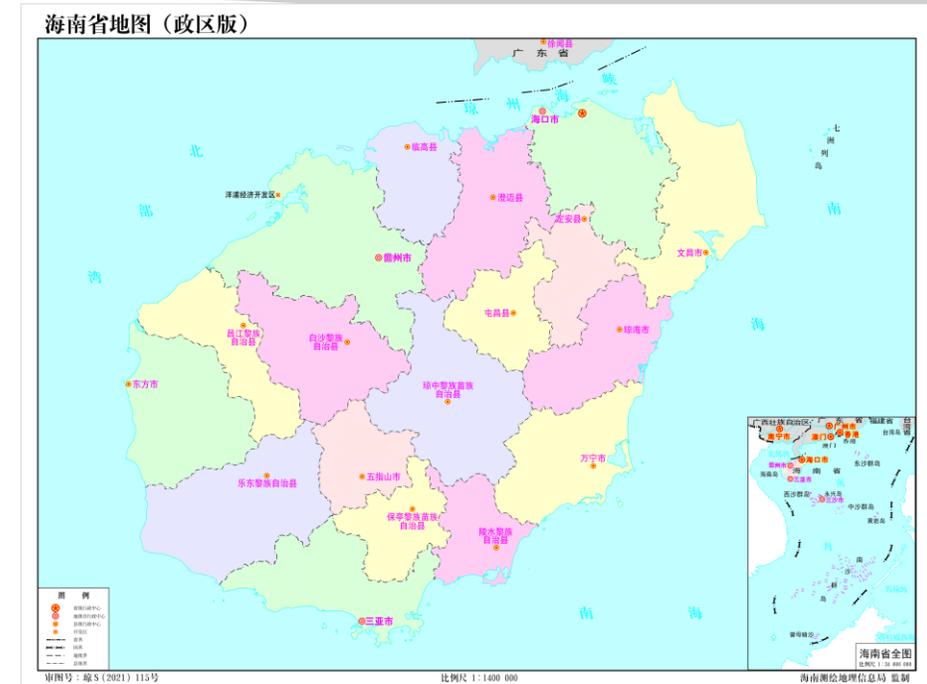
**Hainan Province** is located in the southernmost of China, and it is a famous coastal tourist city in China.

- ✓ Total land area ----- 35,400 km<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Total maritime areas ----- about 2 million km<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Population ----- 10.48 million people (end of 2024)

Hainan Province, China has over **4 prefecture-level cities**, **5 county-level cities**, **10 counties** including **6 autonomous counties**.

In 2020, China established a free trade port in Hainan Province, of which the **trade exchanges** and the **economy development** can represent the highest level of China. Hainan is the largest special economic zone and the national ecological civilization pilot zone in China.

Therefore, **Hainan Province, China** is selected for the **pilot testing** to gain experience and lessons learned in **applying the guidance on inventory of plastic waste and technical guidelines**.



# 2. Work on plastic waste management

## ◆ Pilot testing of the guidance on inventory of plastic waste

### Main Contents

1. Organise training for a national inventory team on the application of methodologies in collaboration with SBC/UNEP.
2. Estimation of plastic products **put on the market** (consumption) based on import/export and production statistics.
3. Calculation of plastic waste generated based on **the age of products** (lifespan) and the probability of such products becoming waste.
4. Data collection for assessing the **flow of plastics** in the waste management system and leakages to the environment, including on the transboundary movements (TBM) of plastic waste.



### Objective

Detailed testing of the methodologies for the plastics inventory

# 2. Work on plastic waste management

- **Advantages and Significances**

The guidance on inventory of plastic waste and its three toolkits (including **Plastic Embedded POM Calculation Tool**, **Plastic Waste Generated Calculation Tool** and **Plastic waste inventory MFA Excel tool**) are very **practical**. They can help us develop a data collection framework to quickly calculate **the generation of plastic waste** per type and per market sector and assess **the management and leakage of plastic waste**, improve work efficiency, thereby developing appropriate strategies to ensure the environmentally sound management of plastic waste.

# 2. Work on plastic waste management

## • Challenges and way forward

✓ Plastic waste generation based on product lifetime methodology

**(1) Inconsistent unit of CPC code statistical data:** Some plastic products units were inconsistent, which may lead to calculation errors. To solve this problem, this study conducted **unit conversion based on experience.**

**(2) HS Code Data Entry and Calculation Errors:** Due to missing values in the formula database, specifically the average weight values, the calculation result is empty. This study undertook a detailed investigation of the products involved and selected **more appropriate average weight values based on new empirical data and expert consultations.**

### Completion of missing values for CPC-coded data

Code	Full name	Average Weight (from PWG-anaex unitar)-Ref(kg)
38119	Other seats	10
38140	Other furniture n.e.c.	120

### Completion of missing values for HS-coded data

Code	Full name	Weight Ref(kg)
890710	Inflatable rafts	50
890790	Rafts, tanks, coffer-dams, landing stages, buoys, beacons and other floating structures (excl. inflatable rafts, vessels of heading 8901 to 8906 and floating structures for breaking up)	buoys20,beacons5,tanks40000,Rafts50=20000
960500	Travel sets for personal toilet, sewing or shoe or clothes cleaning (excl. manicure sets)	0.5
960891	Pen nibs and nib points	0.0006
960400	Hand sieves and hand riddles (excl. colanders)	0.4
901831	Syringes, with or without needles, used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences	0.015
940370	Furniture of plastics (excl. medical, dental, surgical or veterinary, and seats)	4
950669	Balls (excl. inflatable, tennis balls, golf balls, and table-tennis balls)	0.6
940130	Swivel seats with variable height adjustments (excl. medical, surgical, dental or veterinary, and barbers' chairs)	10
961380	Lighters (excl. gas fuelled pocket lighters, and fuses and primers for propellant powders and explosives)	0.05
940140	Seats, convertible into beds (excl. garden seats and camping equipment, and medical, dental or surgical furniture)	50
940180	Seats, n.e.s.	10

# 2. Work on plastic waste management

- **Challenges and way forward**

- ✓ **Plastic waste generation and flow based on MFA methodology**

(1) The classification of plastic waste management in Hainan Province, China is currently not as detailed, and **no specialized statistics** have been conducted on plastic waste, making it difficult to obtain data.

(2) The **competent authorities in Hainan Province, China has not been fully implemented plastic waste management policies**, their responsibilities are relatively scattered, and **the grassroots forces are weak**, resulting in insufficient data mastery.

(3) **Archetypes have limitations** and there are differences in economic development levels, waste management systems and practices, facility types and treatment levels.

Increase the collection and disclosure of information on the generation, collection, recycling, and disposal of waste plastics, and improve the accessibility of data.

Intensify the implementation of plastic waste management policies, increase personnel and funding investment, and effectively grasp relevant data.

The toolkit and its instructions can also be further modified and archetypes can be added to address these issues.

# 2. Work on plastic waste management

## • Challenges and way forward

### ✓ Comparison of plastic waste generation between product lifetime and MFA methodology

The amount of plastic waste generated in 2022 based on the product lifetime and MFA methodology is 17342.12 tonnes and 763649 tonnes respectively. The calculation results of the two methods differ by nearly 40 times. There may be three reasons:

- ✓ The **statistics rules** of domestic production data are inconsistent between China and world. The Hainan Statistical Yearbook, which records domestic production data, doesn't include all enterprises;
- ✓ The **transfer, inflow and outflow** of plastic waste **between provinces** in China is not recorded on the customs statistics website, resulting in a low amount of import and export.
- ✓ The products brought by **tourists** are not counted in **imports, exports, or production databases**, but are captured by waste collection database.

### Output of Major Industrial Products

初级形态的塑料(吨)	Primary-form Plastic(ton)	207773	220886	196690	305880	325362	348685	228273
聚丙烯树脂(吨)	#Polypropylene Resin(ton)	207773	220886	196690	218367	232855	240569	158469
合成纤维单体(吨)	Synthetic Fiber Monomer (ton)			1953442	2252290	2068413	2269531	2373008
合成纤维聚合物(吨)	Synthetic Fibre Polymers(ton)	277231	717986	1164261	1510883	1585566	1787744	1462482
聚酯(吨)	#Polyester(ton)	277231	717986	1164261	1510883	1585566	1787744	1462482
化学试剂(吨)	chemical reagent(ton)		1549	476	615	607	669	428
中成药(吨)	Traditional Chinese Medicine(ton)	444	1143	1459	1368	1508	1930	1508
塑料制品(吨)	Plastic Products(ton)	32787	24941	20356	20902	24003	21924	32343
塑料薄膜(吨)	#Plastic Film(ton)	19851	17484	10855	9902	9468	9442	7859
硅酸盐水泥熟料(吨)	Portland Cement Clinker(ton)	7780821	12206149	14302823	15184430	14535558	13855624	9251161
窑外分解窑水泥熟料(吨)	#NSP Clinker(ton)	6962369	12206149	14302823	15184430	14535558	13855624	9251161

Note: Data in this table include all industrial enterprises above designated size, that is, the annual main business income of 20 million yuan or more

## 2. Work on plastic waste management

In addition, according to the data analysis of Plastic embedded POM, plastic waste generation and flow (including management and leakage), we propose **the following suggestions for plastic waste management** in Hainan Province, China:

### Promote source reduction:

Increase efforts to promote the use of non-plastic products, Optimize product design, Encourage enterprises to actively participate in the research and development of low-carbon and environmentally friendly new materials and technologies.

### Improve the recycling system:

Carry out special actions for the construction of the recycling system, Encourage innovative recycling models, Promote the "integration of two networks" of the domestic waste classification network and the recycling network of renewable resources.

### Strengthen training and publicity:

Conduct training and capacity building activities for plastic waste management, Strengthen the supervision of enterprises related to plastic waste, Strengthen publicity and education, Encourage waste classification and advocate the green consumption.

## 2. Work on plastic waste management

### ◆ Pilot testing of the technical guidelines on the ESM of plastic waste

#### Main Contents

1. Testing and evaluating existing policy, legal framework and strategy.
2. Testing and evaluating the part of the technical guidelines on “waste prevention and minimisation”.
3. Testing and evaluating parts of technical guideline aimed for the ESM of plastic waste.



#### Objectives

Testing the pilot part(s) of the technical guideline on the ESM of plastic waste

## 2. Work on plastic waste management

Testing and evaluating existing policy, legal framework and strategy

Hainan Province has a **relatively comprehensive** plastic waste management policy, establishing the **legislative and regulatory framework** with the latest, highest and most stringent standards, and formulating a series of policies in terms of **extended producer responsibility, transboundary movement requirements, container and storage site specifications, and treatment and disposal facility requirements**. In the future, it is necessary to continue to work on the qualitative and quantitative standards and end-of-waste status for plastic waste.

Testing and evaluating the part of the technical guidelines on “waste prevention and minimization”

The “**waste prevention and minimization**” is mainly based on **regulatory instruments**. Hainan Province takes the lead in the country to implement the “**plastic ban**” through local legislation, **issue a list of prohibited disposable non-degradable plastic products, develop biodegradable green products and general standards**, and form a plastic pollution control program that can be replicated and promoted, which has important environmental protection and demonstration significance. In the future, Hainan Province can increase the market-based, information-based and voluntary instruments to encourage the “waste prevention and minimization”, such as tax exemption, increase environmental certification and so on.

Testing and evaluating parts of technical guideline aimed for the ESM of plastic waste

There are **few enterprises** in Hainan Province that carry out mechanical recycling of plastic waste, and the market scale is generally small and the recycling capacity is limited, mainly for recycling high-value plastic waste such as waste plastic bottles, agricultural film, disposable infusion bottles, etc., which is used as recycled plastic after **sorting, cleaning, crushing, hot melt extrusion, granulation and other treatment processes**. In the future, Hainan Province needs to focus on low-value plastic waste, strengthen technology upgrading and infrastructure construction, and promote the recycling and reuse of plastic waste.

# 3. Work on marine litter and microplastic management

**Project title:** Sino-Norwegian cooperation project on capacity building for reducing plastic and microplastic pollution (SINOPLAST)

**Contents:** 1) Baseline for litter, plastic waste and microplastics established for China; 2) Environmental monitoring capacity of litter and microplastics improved; 3) Reduced amount of litter and plastics in selected catchments; 4) A management tool for plastic measures, transport and fate developed; 5) Cost-benefit and societal impacts analysis carried out for a suite of identified measures; and 6) Increased capacity and awareness on plastic waste and pollution in China.

**Countries:** China & Norway

**Timeframe:** SINOPLAST I :2019-2023, SINOPLAST II: 2024-2027



Sino-Norwegian cooperation project on capacity building for reducing plastic and microplastic pollution (SINOPLAST)  
中挪合作-海洋废塑料及微塑料管理能力建设项目 (SINOPLAST)

 Basel Convention Regional Center for Asia and the Pacific (BAPC China) 巴塞尔公约亚太区域中心	 Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) 挪威水研究所
 National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center (NMEMC) 国家海洋环境监测中心	 Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA) 挪威环境署
 China Solid Waste and Chemicals Management Center of MEE(SOC) 生态环境部固体废物与化学品管理技术中心	 State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research, East China Normal University (ECHU) 华东师范大学河口海岸学国家重点实验室

 Funded by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
由挪威外交部资助

# SINOPLAST I Goals, Impacts, Outcomes, Outputs

GLOBAL GOALS

**UNEA 3/7:** Long-term elimination of discharge of litter and microplastics to the ocean  
**SDG 14.1:** *prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution [...] from land-based activities, including marine debris*  
**NDRC policy:** By 2025, plastic waste in key cities will be significantly reduced, and plastic pollution is under effective control through multi-party governance and new technologies.

IMPACT

Improved capacity to reduce marine litter and microplastics originating from China

OUTCOMES

1. Baseline established

2. Monitoring capacity improved

3. Plastic waste reduced

4. Management tool developed

5. Social economic impacts analyzed

6. Awareness and capacity raised

OUTPUTS

- Collect basic information of plastic waste
- LCA of selected sectors
- Identify plastic hotspots
- Develop inventory of single use plastic
- Conc. & fluxes of plastic at hotspots

- Review plastic monitoring methods
- Inter laboratory comparisons
- Field training
- Establish monitoring programme for case study sites

- International experiences of plastic waste management
- BEP for key sectors
- Develop BAT/BETP for case study sites
- Awareness raising in case study sites

- Develop catchment based hydrodynamic plastic model
- Policy scenario analysis using the plastic model

- Synthesize outcomes 1-4
- Evaluate feasibilities of alternative technologies
- Cost-benefit analysis of proposed measures
- Societal impacts of proposed measures

- Develop training programme
- Develop ASEAN stakeholder platform
- Study tours
- Cross-sectorial coordination

# Outcomes of SINOPLAST I Project



- **26 reports** have been completed under the SINOPLAST I project
  - ✓ Inter-laboratory calibration (ILC) on microplastic analysis
  - ✓ Management and disposal of plastic products and waste
  - ✓ Plastic abundance and flux in marine environment and rivers
  - ✓ Feasibility study for demonstration cities
  - ✓ Monitoring methods for plastics .....



- More than **100** meetings/conferences/fieldwork organized



# Support bilateral and multilateral dialogue

... 2020.6.23

Sino-Norwegian  
Environment  
Cooperation  
Coordinators' Meeting



... 2020.6.9

Organize Sino-Norwegian Meeting on Marine Litter



... 2021

Special Report on plastic pollution prevention was appreciated and approved by the Ministers of MEE, supply information support for multilateral dialogue

## 危险废物与化学品国际观察

巴塞尔公约亚太区域中心 第 23 期 / 2021 年 12 月 24 日

关于塑料污染全球治理机制的思考

谭全银, 陈源, 赵娜娜, 李金惠\*

## 危险废物与化学品国际观察

巴塞尔公约亚太区域中心 第 19 期 / 2021 年 7 月 26 日

关于国际社会推动预防塑料污染全球协定的进展汇报

谭全银, 陈源, 李金惠\*

摘要: 2020 年底, 北欧部长理事会发布“预防塑料污染的新全球协定的可能要素”报告, 认为亟需制定一个旨在预防塑料污染的新国际协定。报告提出了关于新协定的构想, 强调在塑料

... 2022.11.18

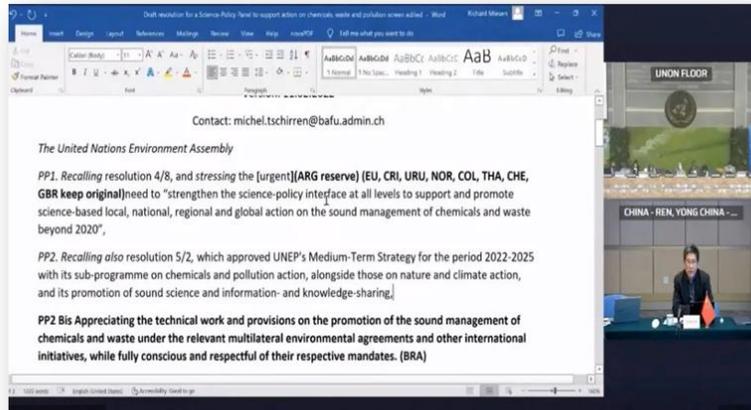
Ambassador was invited to visit Sanya and had meeting with Sanya deputy mayor



# International and regional level- Contributing to UNEA 5.2 , INCs on plastic and Basel Convention

2022.2.21-25, Li jinhui, Tan Quanyin, Zhao Nana and Chen Yuan from BCRC as the members of the Chinese delegation, other 5 staffs from BCRC China as the observer participated the UNEA 5.2 negotiation, the team contributed a lot to BCRC China have made strong contributions to reaching the global agreement on ending plastic pollution

2



1

BCRC China is nominated by MEE as the cochair to revise *“Technical Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Wastes”* under the Basel Convention which was adopted at BS COP-16 in May 2023.



3

3 staff including Dr. Chen Yuan are the members of Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP) working group under the Basel Convention. The SINOPLAST outcomes provide technical support for the PWP workshop and revision of the technical guideline.

**Plastic Waste Partnership**

**Basel Convention**

on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

# National level — Supporting China's Plastic Pollution Control Action



Supporting China's 14th Five-year Action Plan for Plastic Pollution Control



"Technical Specifications for Marine Microplastics Monitoring" will be promoted nationwide as a standard method.

Provide great support to "Technical specification for pollution control of plastic waste", which was issued by MEE in May 2021



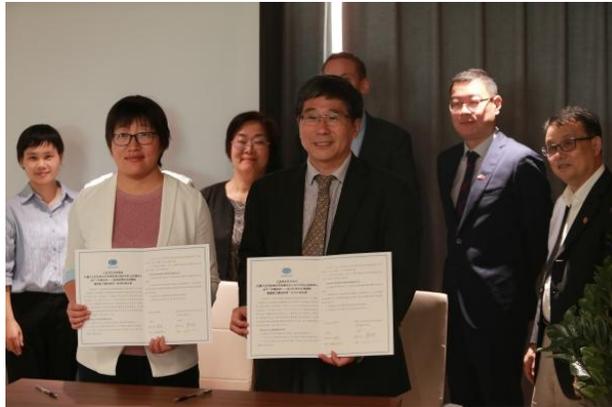
Support the "Administrative routine for the Use and Reporting of Disposable Plastic Products by Business operators" released by Ministry of Commerce on May 16, 2023.



Programme development of 3 "Zero-waste City" among the "11+5" cities, support the implementation in Shenzhen and Tianjin

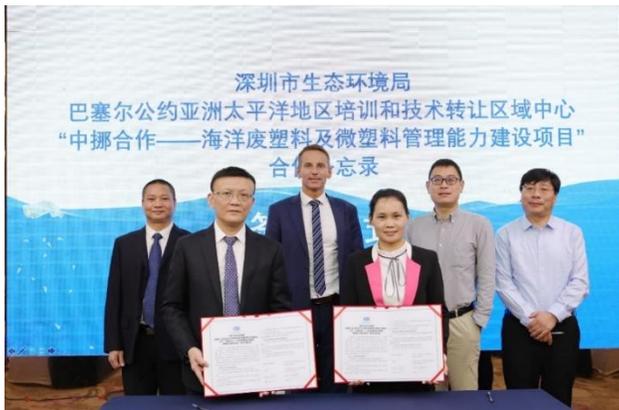
负责包头、北京经开区、三亚建设方案编制  
支撑深圳、天津生态建设工作实施和评估;担任第一技术帮扶组组长。

# Local level – Supporting “Zero-waste City” construction



In November 2021, MOU between BCRC China and Sanya Ecology and Environment Agency, BCRC China and Shenzhen Ecology and Environment Agency was signed

The project outcomes, such as microplastic monitoring method, supplied support to the detection of microplastics in water in **Beijing**.



Social and economic study in Sanya and Shenzhen: conduct Key Informant Interviews and questionnaire survey



# Sino-Norwegian cooperation project on capacity building for reducing plastic and microplastic pollution (SINOPLAST) II 2024-2027

OBJECTIVE

*Improve the capacities of plastic management in China and thus increase China's preparedness for upcoming international agreement on plastic through development of necessary tools.*

IMPACT

Reduced plastic waste and marine litter originating from China

OUTCOMES

**Establish whole life-cycle framework of plastics for policy makers**

**Improved capacity for integrated land-ocean management of plastic**

**Improved knowledge of plastics from a global perspective**

**Awareness raising, training, mutual learning and dissemination**

OUTPUTS

- Identify life cycle of selected plastic products, and develop a toolkit to quantify plastic materials flows in whole life cycle.
- Exchange of international experience in life cycle management of plastic for selected polymers.
- Develop policies options for recycled plastics from the perspective of circular economy

- Field training
- Establish monitoring programme for selected case study sites.
- Further develop the catchment plastic management tool to integrate the plastic waste streams from land to ocean.
- Assess the reduction potential of plastic waste from land to ocean based on the plastic-related policies for selected catchments.
- Develop the standard on microplastic detection

- Study on the interaction of Chinese plastic policies with relevant multilateral environmental agreements
- Exchange on European experiences of plastic related policy development and implementation
- Study on the potential impacts of plastic policies on the carbon emission policies

- Contribute to international conferences on plastic and marine debris
- Organize study tours to Norway and EU
- Improve participation of various stakeholders
- Share experience on science-policy communication in the form of policy briefing to policy makers

# Progress on Outcome1: Establish whole life-cycle framework of plastics for policy makers

中挪合作-海洋废塑料及微塑料管理能力建设项目（二期）

SINO-NORWEGIAN COOPERATION PROJECT ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR REDUCING PLASTIC & MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION

## 中国塑料制品回收再生性设计及再生塑料含量要求研究报告

Research Report on China's Requirements for Plastic Products Recyclable Design and Secondary Plastic Content

(提交稿/Final Draft)

生态环境部固体废物与化学品管理技术中心项目组

Project Team, SCC, MEF

2025年10月 October 2025

### Chapter 1.2: Disposal and management policies and practices related to EPS packaging and HDPE bottles in the EU<sup>1</sup>

By Eléonore Maitre-Ekern and Rachel Karasik<sup>2</sup>

Date: 11 September 2025<sup>3</sup>

#### 1. Introduction<sup>4</sup>

This chapter presents a comprehensive overview of the policies and practices governing the disposal, collection, and recycling of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) packaging and High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) bottles in Europe. It examines the regulatory framework at the EU level, as well as illustrative examples from four countries – Norway, France, Germany, and Sweden – highlighting national approaches, implementation pathways, and various practices in managing these two materials.<sup>5</sup>

The chapter starts with a short introduction, including some background about the evolution of waste management and circular economy policies in Europe, and definitions of and data on EPS packaging and HDPE bottles. The next section introduces the methodology used in this report as well as considerations about scope and limitations. The following sections review existing EU policies and laws, and the national level legal framework of selected countries in Europe to demonstrate their implementation. A final section proposes some reflections about current practices and highlights needs for further research.<sup>6</sup>

#### 1.1. Background<sup>7</sup>

Plastics play an essential role in Europe's economy and daily life, but current value chains are unsustainable, driving waste, emissions, and pollution. According to the European Environment Agency (EEA), only about 8% of plastics used in 2020 came from recycled material, well below circularity levels for other materials.<sup>8</sup> While EU recycling capacity has grown significantly and exports of plastic waste have declined due to stricter rules, overall consumption remains very high at around 107 kg per person per year. Persistent losses in recycling processes, combined with the environmental impacts of litter, microplastics, and greenhouse gas emissions, underline the urgent need for systemic change in how plastics are designed, used, and managed across Europe.<sup>9</sup>

In response to these challenges, the European Union (EU) started introducing ambitious measures to boost recycling capacity, set binding recycled content targets, and accelerate the transition toward a more circular economy. Over the last two decades, it has moved from end-of-pipe waste control to a life-cycle model that governs product design, market access, use, and end-of-life. The pivot began with the launch of the Integrated Product Policy in 2003,<sup>10</sup> with the stated purpose of shifting environmental policy from regulating only the end-of-life stage (waste, disposal) to a life-cycle perspective on products, i.e. from design and production, through distribution and use, to reuse, recycling and disposal. This was followed by the adoption of the

<sup>1</sup> European Environment Agency (2024). The role of plastics in Europe's circular economy. Briefing no. 05/2024.<sup>11</sup>

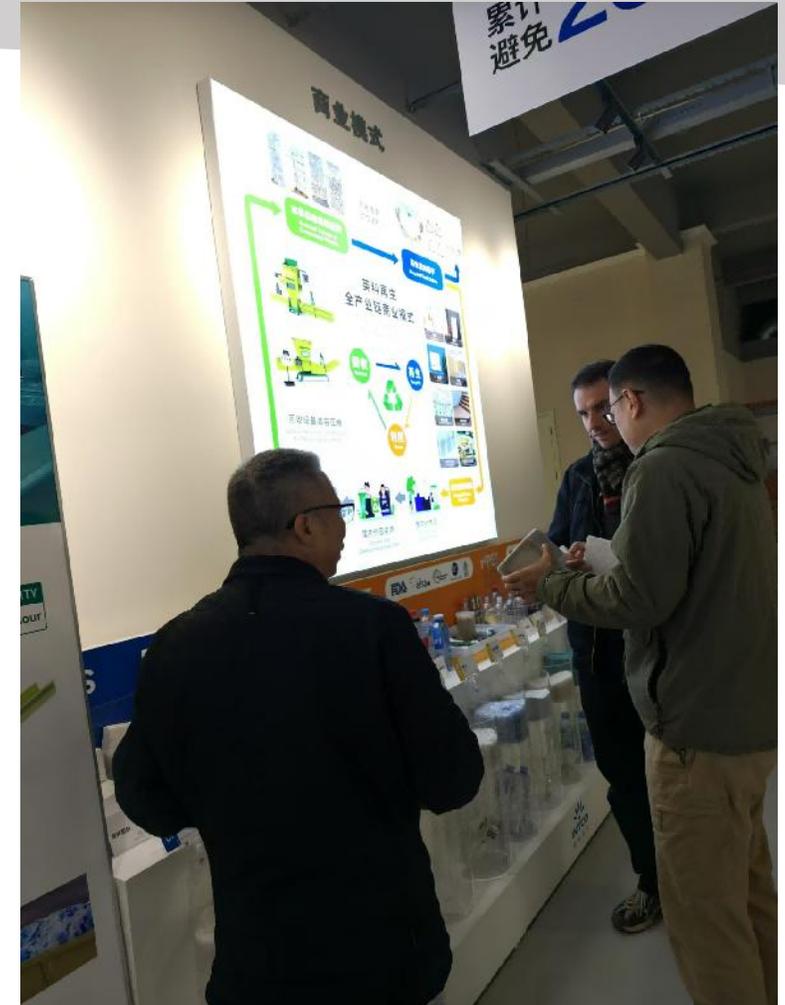
<sup>2</sup> EU Commission Communication, Integrated Product Policy Building on Environmental Life-Cycle Thinking, COM(2003) 302 final.<sup>12</sup>

- Report presented and shared by NIVA, currently under review by the Chinese side – expected to be finalized this year
- Includes an overview of policies and practices on EU level, plus on the national level in France, Germany, Norway and Sweden
- Demonstrates a very rapid development on plastic policies in Europe
- Most regulations are so new that it is early to measure their effectiveness

# Progress on Outcome 2: Improved capacity for integrated land-ocean management of plastic



On December 16-20, 2024, Project team under outcome 2 gathered in Shanghai to discuss the model optimization.



# Progress on Outcome 3: Improved knowledge of plastic from a global perspective



## •1. Draft Report on Plastic Related Content in the Basel Convention

- implication on plastic waste
- synergies, how to avoid duplication, how to contribute incrementally
- document analysis, interviews, meetings



## •2. Draft Report on Plastic Related Content in the Basel Convention

- impact on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) from plastics.
- data from ongoing projects and studies related to POPs and plastics.
- synergies, how to avoid duplication, how to contribute incrementally

### Chemicals in Plastics and Screening Criteria: Research and Analysis — Implications for the Negotiations of the Global Plastics Treaty

#### I. Background and Overview

Chemical additives and residual monomers in plastic products have become a focal concern for the international community, given their potential impacts on human health and the environment. In the ongoing negotiations of the International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution ("Plastics Treaty"), the provisions on chemicals management have emerged as one of the most contentious issues. Countries are divided over questions such as: Which and how chemicals should fall within the scope of the treaty? What screening criteria should be applied? How can environmental ambition be balanced with industrial feasibility?

This report systematically compares the regulatory frameworks and screening approaches of the European Union, the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and China in managing chemicals in plastics. It analyzes their respective policy orientations and provides recommendations for China's engagement in the treaty process.

#### II. Comparison Between International and Chinese Systems

Globally, most jurisdictions manage chemicals through a "standard + inventory" model. The EU operates under REACH — the most comprehensive system for Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals. The U.S. TSCA focuses on assessing whether a chemical presents an "unreasonable risk," while Japan's CSCL and Korea's K-REACH combine exposure assessment with toxicity testing. China has developed an environmental risk assessment framework centered on the *Technical Guidelines for Screening of Priority Assessment Chemicals* and the *Guidelines for Assessment of Chemicals of High Concern*.

### Rethink Plastic Treaty: How We Can Reflect

#### from Basel Convention and China Single-Use Plastic Policy

#### Background

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal is a global treaty adopted in 1989 and entered into force in 1992. It aims to regulate the international trade of hazardous and other wastes, prevent illegal waste dumping, and promote environmentally sound waste management. Over time, the Convention has expanded its scope to include stricter controls on plastic waste, particularly through the Plastic Waste Amendments proposed by Norway in 2018 and adopted in 2021, which introduced a prior informed consent (PIC) system for many types of plastic waste shipments. In the meantime, China, as one of the largest producers and consumers of plastics, has progressively strengthened its plastic waste regulations. Since 2017, China's policies have evolved from banning plastic waste imports to comprehensive "whole-chain" domestic plastic pollution control, demonstrating a long-term commitment to sustainability and circular economy development.

The ongoing negotiations for a Global Plastics Treaty under the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) seek to create a legally binding framework to address plastic pollution across its entire lifecycle. While the Basel Convention mainly focuses on waste trade and management, the Plastics Treaty aims to cover a broader scope, including upstream measures targeting plastic products.

As many The Basel Convention and the Global Plastics Treaty can be complementary, with Basel providing a foundation for regulating plastic waste trade and the treaty potentially introducing broader, systemic changes to plastic production and pollution control. A well-designed plastics treaty can reinforce Basel's waste management efforts, while Basel's existing infrastructure can support treaty implementation, particularly in waste tracking and trade enforcement. Together, they could create a stronger international framework for tackling plastic pollution across its full lifecycle.

# Progress on Outcome 4: Awareness raising, training and mutual learning and dissemination



- Meetings with the European Commission



- 15-16 October, 2024, Project workshop was held in Haikou, the results framework and workplan for 2025 was discussed and determined.



- Organize symposiums at ICWMT2025 by BCRC China in July, 2025

# International Zero-waste City Network

- From 29 to 31 March 2025, **BCRC China and UNEP co-hosted** the **2025 International Day of Zero Waste Celebration in China**, as Flagship event. It attracted over 5,000 participants from 34 countries. A total of **12 cities and 5 provinces in China** showcased their good practices and achievements through online videos.
- During the 2025 BRS COPs in Geneva, BCRC China and Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Republic of Türkiye co-hosted a **side event** on "**Innovative Zero Waste Solutions: From Policy to Action**".



Group Photo of the Webinar



Side Event

- As of Nov. 2025, the total membership is 74. While BCRC China initiate the Network, seven other BCRCs serve as **Network Co-sponsors**.
- Seven special issue **newsletters** have been compiled based on the Network to share zero waste news, good practice and to circulate the key information and outcome of its activities.

Region	Country	Members	Observers	
Asia/57	Cambodia	1		
	China	1	1	
	Lebanon	7		
	Malaysia	6		
	Maldives	1		
	Mongolia	3		
	Myanmar	1		
	Nepal	25		
	Philippines	1		
	Sri Lanka	10		
	Africa/1	Tunisia	1	
	Europe/3	Malta	2	
Slovenija		1		
Latin America and the Caribbean/4	Uruguay	3		
	Colombia	1		
Oceania/1	New Zealand		1	

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific  
Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building  
and the Transfer of Technology in Asia and the Pacific

---

Address: School of Environment, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

Tel: +86 10 62794351

Fax: +86 10 62772048

Website: <http://www.bcrc.cn/>

Email: [bccc@tsinghua.edu.cn](mailto:bccc@tsinghua.edu.cn)

# Thank You



BCRC China Website



SCRCAP Website



BCRC China WeChat