

THE TOKYO 3R STATEMENT

Towards the Establishment of the *Regional 3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) Forum in Asia*

The participants, who are representatives of Asian countries (Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, People's Republic of China^{*}, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam), international organizations and aid agencies (Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED), Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Basel Convention Regional Coordinating Centre for Asia and the Pacific (BCRC China), Global Environment Facility (GEF), German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), International Labour Organization (ILO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)), and experts in the area of 3R/waste management, having met in Tokyo, Japan on 11-12 November 2009, for the Inaugural Meeting of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia, to agree on a statement on the establishment of the Forum, for the promotion of the 3Rs in the Asia region,

Reaffirming and building upon the international agendas and processes such as the Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), in which the need for reorienting production and consumption patterns at all levels towards sustainability have been highlighted, with emphasis on waste management and giving the highest priority to waste prevention and minimization by encouraging the production of reusable consumer goods and biodegradable products and developing the infrastructure required to reduce, reuse, recycle, and dispose in an environmentally sound manner, in line with the goals and objectives of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, in particular capacity building on prevention of

^{*} China reserves the right to provide additional comments that can be put as an annex to the Statement.

illegal transboundary movement of hazardous wastes,

Reconfirming the important linkages between the beneficial aspects of the 3Rs and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the significant contributions that could be made in achieving the MDGs by promoting the 3Rs and sound waste management, while being mindful of, and striving to eliminate, the negative consequences of improper waste management and recycling practices,

Recognizing the 3R Initiative launched at the G8 Sea Island Summit in June 2004, and the subsequent processes including the Ministerial Conference on the 3R Initiative held in April 2005, the senior officials meetings held in March 2006 and October 2007, the 1st and 2nd Asia 3R Conferences held in November 2006 and March 2008, and the Kobe 3R Action Plan agreed at the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting in Kobe, Japan in May 2008,

Acknowledging themes of sustainable consumption and production and waste management, among others, that will be addressed at the 18th and 19th sessions of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in 2010-2011, and **noting** that the 3Rs can make significant contribution to shifting Asia towards patterns of sustainable consumption and production by improving resource productivity and efficiency as well as by decoupling economic growth from resource consumption and environmental degradation,

Reaffirming and building upon the Decision GC 25/8 of UNEP's Governing Council, which in paragraph 7, specifically recognizes the need for more intensive awareness-raising designed to change the attitude of waste generators, particularly industries, consumers, and the informal sector with regard to the "3Rs" concept, environmentally sound waste management and, where appropriate, the need for final disposal of wastes in the countries in which they are generated,

Understanding both the main benefits of the 3Rs and the co-benefits in the forms of improvement of environmental management and competitiveness in the industrial sector, achieving resource and energy efficiency, and climate change mitigation,

Recognizing the importance of comprehensive and integrated national 3R strategies and also noting that the development of such strategies can be a positive step towards mainstreaming the 3Rs in overall policy, planning, and development at the local,

sub-national, and national levels,

Underscoring the importance of cooperation and partnership with international organizations, and bilateral and multilateral donor communities towards training and capacity development, research networking, development and implementation of 3R-related projects, including CDM, and transfer of environmentally sound technologies on various aspects of the 3Rs,

Recognizing that improved awareness in civil society on the social, economic, and environmental benefits of the 3Rs is critical to realizing its effective promotion and implementation towards establishing a sound material-cycle society,

hereby announce the following as their common intention:

1. Unanimously endorse and welcome the inauguration of the *Regional 3R Forum in Asia*, with the overriding objectives to:
 - (a) Facilitate high-level policy dialogues on 3R issues, challenges, and opportunities;
 - (b) Facilitate improved dialogue and cooperation with international organizations and donor communities for materializing and implementing 3R projects, including 3R and waste management-related projects and programmes at the local and national levels identified through national 3R strategies;
 - (c) Provide a strategic and knowledge platform for sharing experiences and disseminating among Asian countries best practices, tools, technologies, and policy instruments on various aspects of the 3Rs;
 - (d) Provide a platform to develop multilayered networks of stakeholders such as national and local governments, academia, scientific and research community, the private sector, media community, NGOs, and the informal sector;
 - (e) Generate regional consensus and understanding on the beneficial aspects of the 3Rs in the context of achieving the MDGs, resource and energy efficiency, resource-efficient economy, and climate change mitigation;
 - (f) Provide a platform for the proliferation of national 3R strategies; and
 - (g) Promote awareness among the general public, including schoolchildren, on the beneficial aspects of the 3Rs.

2. Agree on the following long- and short-term priorities of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia in consideration of the current situation in Asia (socioeconomic conditions and culture, etc.).
- (a) **Mainstreaming the 3Rs** in the national development agenda, including environmental and economic policies and programmes;
 - (b) **Mobilizing financial resources in cooperation with bilateral and multilateral aid agencies** for the **implementation of 3R measures and activities** at both the national and local levels, involving key stakeholders including the **private sector**, in particular, exploring how to promote 3Rs through pilot projects towards achieving more sustainable production and consumption patterns, resource conservation and environmentally friendly society,
 - (c) Developing **human resources** to overcome waste management issues, including technical barriers and technological gaps, to achieve **waste prevention, minimization, and reduction** at the source of waste;
 - (d) Promoting better understanding on the overall benefits of the 3Rs, including the **co-benefits**, which will lead to better implementation of the 3Rs with the broader scope of **achieving resource efficiency, energy efficiency, and climate change mitigation**;
 - (e) **Developing and implementing effective policy mechanisms** such as EPR, which will help provide the incentive to minimize waste and redesign products for easier recycling. **Experience and knowledge accumulated** in the countries implementing such mechanisms **shall be transferred and shared among participating countries**;
 - (f) Building adequate **capacity for collection and safe treatment of hazardous waste**, including those from household waste and **e-waste**;
 - (g) Developing, where appropriate, **industrial capacity for sound recycling**, including the formation of **eco-industrial zones** and clusters, with support from source segregation activities, efficient collection systems, and upgrading of existing facilities;
 - (h) Developing the necessary organizational framework and support to deal with the **informal sector**, which plays an important role in the waste chain, but generally operates without proper health care and labour policies;
 - (i) Developing and **transferring environmentally sound technologies**, including cost- effective and feasible technologies that meet the needs of the developing countries, for waste management and the 3Rs;
 - (j) **Empowering cities** to build themselves into becoming core clients for

financing and investment towards implementation of the 3Rs as well as to enable them to *cope with critical and emerging issues* such as open dumping and burning, hazardous wastes, diversification of waste streams, and climate change; and

- (k) *Information sharing and research networking* focusing on generation of data, technical capacity development, and policy analysis towards achieving *sustainable resource management*.

3. Accept the following as an initial possible set of activities that will be implemented under the umbrella framework of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia, in order to address the priorities agreed to above.

- (a) *Hold high-level policy dialogue on a regular basis*, to promote participating countries' efforts to achieve the common objectives of the 3Rs by sharing and discussing a wide range of policies and activities on the 3Rs, with a focus on material and solid waste flow as well as on regional cooperation. National government representatives, being the most important constituent of the high-level policy dialogue, will actively participate and play a central role;
- (b) *Facilitate implementation, replication, and scaling up of 3R-related pilot and demonstration projects and other good practices* in close collaboration with donor agencies. Pilot interventions will be identified and will be supported in collaboration with the existing and newly mobilized financial mechanisms. The forum will provide a platform for consultations among governments and bilateral and multilateral development banks and agencies and enlist their support for the implementation of 3R projects;
- (c) *Collaborate with the existing 3R information/research networks at both the national and international levels*, so that they will serve as strategic and knowledge platforms for sharing experiences and for disseminating among Asian countries best practices, tools, technologies, and policy instruments on various aspects of the 3Rs. Collaboration will be extended to a wide range of existing information/research networks related to the 3Rs such as, but not limited to, the 3R Knowledge Hub, the Thematic Working Group on Solid and Hazardous Waste (Waste TWG) of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian countries and similar forums in other parts of Asia, the Basel Convention Regional Coordinating Centres (BCRCs), Society of Solid Waste Management Experts in Asia and Pacific Islands (SWAPI), and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and

East Asia (ERIA) working group on the 3R Policy. Dissemination of scientific knowledge will be regionally promoted through international academic journals and conferences in particular;

- (d) *Promote 3R business feasibility studies* involving both public and private sector financing and participation, keeping in mind the needs of developing countries, by facilitating mutual and bilateral consultation among countries;
 - (e) *Conduct international collaborative, advanced policy-relevant scientific research on sound material cycles in Asia* on a continuous basis, for better data gathering, which evaluates the economic and environmental impacts of the 3Rs and the effectiveness of 3R policies, and examines available policy options and their combination for strategic implementation of the 3Rs; and
 - (f) *Capacity building* through means such as international training programmes focusing on the 3Rs for human resource development, which targets government officials. Such programmes may be initiated as part of the international cooperation activities of relevant donor agencies such as JICA and others.
4. Welcome other countries and organizations to join the Regional 3R Forum in Asia for greater proliferation of the 3Rs as well as stronger networking in the region.
 5. Welcome the establishment of the Subsidiary Expert Group (SEG) under the Regional 3R Forum in Asia. The SEG members will support the high-level policy dialogue by providing substantive technical input, and by sharing opinions, ideas, and information on best practices and effective policy instruments among the participating countries in the area of the 3Rs. The SEG members will provide policy and technical advice to international collaborative research undertaken, as mentioned in 3 (e) above. They will also provide relevant policy and technical advice and practical suggestions to the developing countries during the implementation of various 3R activities.
 6. Request UNCRD, in cooperation with other relevant organizations and initiatives, to take the lead role in: (a) facilitating intergovernmental and interagency coordination for the implementation of the Forum; and (b) facilitating an interface or platform between the Governments and the expert group for active policy consultations and dialogues.
 7. Welcome Japan's initiative to launch the international collaborative research

activity, coordinated by IGES, in line with 3 (e) stated above.

8. Recognize the progress in various 3R-related projects and programmes being undertaken by international organizations and aid agencies participating in this Forum, and request bilateral and multilateral development banks and donor agencies to facilitate the use of their financial and technical assistance programmes, and to consider, as appropriate, the development of new funding mechanisms for 3R-related project implementation and/or investment.
9. Request UNCRD, in consultation with other relevant organizations, to explore and identify suitable modalities for facilitating multilayered networks of stakeholders such as governments, academia, scientific and research community, private sector, and NGOs, under the umbrella framework of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia (as mentioned in 1 (d)).