

**SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING ON THE 3R INITIATIVE
QUESTIONNAIRE ON 3Rs' STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES
- BRAZIL -**

1. 3Rs policy and strategy update

At the Ministerial Conference on the 3Rs in April 2005, participating countries reported their 3Rs policy and strategies in the form of the 3Rs portfolio. Please provide us with updated information on the major developments of national and international strategies, policies and activities on the 3Rs of your country since the Ministerial Conference on the 3Rs (April 2005).

- Since the Ministerial Conference on the 3Rs, the Ministry of Environment, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Cities, the Ministry of Health and NGOs dealing with garbage pickers, promoted, last year, 10 Regional Seminars on Solid Waste Management in order to inspire the municipalities to ensure the environmentally-sound management of solid wastes and to encourage the participation of garbage pickers in the process. The Seminars were directed to mayors, municipal technicians, academic staff, and non-governmental organizations.

2. Domestic 3R activities

2.1 Good practices on 3Rs

We are going to develop a showcase of the successful activities on the 3Rs, including those of the national level, the municipality level, industry, and NGOs/NPOs. Please fill out the EXCEL sheet attached to this e-mail with your good practices on the 3Rs. (Note: If you have already provided us with substantial information on good practices on the 3Rs in the form of the 3Rs portfolio in the Ministerial Conference, please provide us more detailed information on a few of the most successful cases in your country.).

- The Ministry of Environment established a Cleaner Production Unit – CPU with the mission to amplify the dissemination of concepts, to stimulate the application and the exchange of methodology of Cleaner Production, Ecoefficiency and Sustainable Production. The Ministry of Environment is promoting regional debates in order to promote the creation of state level CPUs to implement Cleaner Production in Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises as one of its top priorities. At International Level the CPU, represents the Federal Government in the International Experts Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), and in the Latin America and Caribbean Governmental Experts Meetings on SCP, promoted by UNEP. As a result of the Brazilian and Argentinean leadership, supported by others Latin American and Caribbean countries and UNEP, in the Second International Experts Meeting on SCP, promoted by UNIDO, at Costa Rica, was created a Task Force on Sustainable Consumption and Production for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs),

with the objective of ensuring that MSMEs are actively involved to contribute to the implementation of sustainable production and consumption

- Brazil drafted a bill that is being submitted to the National Congress regarding a proposal for the National Solid Waste Policy that includes basic concepts of no generation, 3R, integrated solid waste management, formal inclusion of garbage pickers organizations and logistics reversal. The proposal also includes the principles and foundations of sustainable development; participation of civil society in plans and programs; garbage pickers integration in programs with actions in solid waste flow; environmentally sound disposal of the residues and differences between solid wastes and residues. The most importance of the proposal is to bring the adoption of the 3R concepts as a common procedure.

2.2 3Rs and governance

To promote the 3Rs, it is necessary to develop a governance system that responds to different situations and conditions of each country. Are there any specific issues relating to institutional arrangements for the implementation of the 3Rs and environmentally-sound management of waste? For example, please explain the different roles of stakeholders in the promotion of the 3Rs, such as how to position the informal sector that is engaged in recycling and recovering activities under the context of national 3Rs policies.

- Many cities in Brazil are developing projects with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and with garbage pickers associations, resulting in environmental, social and economic benefits to the cities and also to the garbage pickers. They take responsibility for the collection, separation and sale of the recyclable material and for awareness raising among the population. The waste pickers collect the waste from homes and stock the recyclable material in specific locations, from where it is collected by trucks belonging to the city government and transported to the NGOs' warehouses for separation. This kind of program also has social gains, with the generation of jobs and increased income for thousands of families. One of these associations - ASMARE - Association of Paper, Board and Recyclable Materials Pickers, placed in Belo Horizonte City, in cooperation with other 8 associations of the same region, created last year the Industrial Unit of Plastic Recycling, the first in Latin America that is operated by garbage pickers. The Brazilian Government and the municipality gave a grant of 1,5 million American Dollars for the project that aims to provide an increase of, approximately, 26% in the monthly average income of the 612 garbage pickers involved in Project and The unit generated 60 new jobs right-handers.

2.3 3Rs and environmentally-sound management of industrial waste

Since economic development tends to cause an increase in the amount of industrial waste generation, environmentally-sound management of industrial waste is essential to promote the

3Rs. To decouple economic development and industrial waste generation, what kind of role is expected for the industrial waste emitter, national and local governments, including municipalities? Also, please give us your views on how to share the responsibilities of construction and operation of landfill as final disposal sites among the stakeholders?

- The Brazilian Business Commitment for Recycling (Cempre), as we stated last year in our Portfolio, is a non-profit association dedicated to the promotion of recycling within the scope of integrated waste management. Cempre is maintained by private companies from various sectors (Daimler Chrysler, Nestlé, Coca-Cola, Pepsico, Procter & Gamble, etc.) and tries to increase the social awareness of recycling, and wastes in general, through publications, technical research, seminars and data banks. The awareness raising programmes are directed principally at those who influence public opinion, like mayors, company executives, academic staff, and non-governmental organizations (NGO's). Since the work developed by Cempre in Brazil has been very successful, China has recently created the Circular Economy Committee (CEC) and Thailand is also creating its unit in Bangkok, the Thailand Institute of Packaging Management for Sustainable Environment (TIMPSE). Both will follow the Brazilian Cempre model and will be maintained by private companies and try to increase the social awareness of recycling, and waste in general.

3. International 3R policy and strategy

At the Ministerial Conference on the 3R Initiative, it was observed that the international flow of (i) goods and materials for recycling and manufacturing, and (ii) recycled and remanufactured products (hereinafter "recyclable resources and remanufactured goods") may contribute to the efficient use of resources and the prevention of environmental pollution if proper mechanisms are in place. It may promote sustainable consumption and production affecting not only the environment but also economic development and job creation. At the same time, it was noted that for many countries the first priority should be placed on minimising the wastes within the country in which the wastes are generated. Participants at the Ministerial Conference expressed the view that transboundary movement of wastes should take place only when safe and appropriate use and environmentally-sound management are possible in the receiving country.

- Brazil has still a long way to go to promote the 3R nationwide, reducing, reusing and recycling the goods generated in its own country. As the Brazilian Constitution establishes that municipalities are responsible for urban solid waste management; and that the States are responsible for authorizing the final disposal of these solid wastes and also of industrial wastes, we believe the barriers to international flows of used goods are, in fact, only measures to protect the environment and public health.

3.1 Situation of transboundary movement of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods

Regarding the transboundary movement of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods, what are the major recyclable resources observed in exports from and imports to your country? Are there any specific problems in relation to exports and imports of these recyclable resources and remanufactured goods? What are the major reasons for the problems?

3.2 Environmentally-sound management in transboundary movement of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods

To prevent environmental pollution caused by transboundary movement of recyclable resources, what kind of policies and measures (e.g., cooperation among national governments and other stakeholders) are expected? If your country has already launched such activities, please provide us with detailed information.

Brazilian legislation bans the importation of used or remanufactured goods. Before thinking about reduction of the barriers, there must be a priority for strengthening and expanding cooperation programmes between developed and developing countries to provide technical, financial and capacity building support, so that developing countries may: (i) Operate environmentally-sound management of wastes; (ii) Establish separated collection systems and plants; (iii) Establish conditions for reusing and recycling products generated in their own countries; and (iv) Establish sites for environmentally-sound disposal (landfills).

3.3 Harmonisation of economic and environmental benefits through the transboundary movements of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods

Please provide information on the positive and negative socio-economic impacts of the increase in import and export of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods in your country. What kinds of policies and measures have been implemented to support the positive effects and mitigate negative effects of trade of recyclable resources and remanufactured goods?

- Brazil and the country Parties of MERCOSUR (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay) are discussing the creation of an agreement to develop environmentally sound management, particularly of solid wastes and for post consumption, incorporating the principles of prevention, responsibility, cooperation between each Party, access to information and participation.

4. Others

If there are any other issues related to promotion of the 3Rs which should be discussed in the Senior Officials Meeting, please provide us with your input below.

- The participating countries and international organizations of the 3R-SOM

should to institute a home page with the purpose of disseminating and exchanging 3R experiences, updating information, policies and activities on the 3Rs.

5. Information of respondent

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