



The League of Arab States

Economic Affairs Sector

Department of Environment, Housing & Sustainable Development

Strategies Policies and Activities of the League of Arab States Related to 3Rs

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Strategies, policies and activities of League of Arab States
Related to 3Rs

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Strategies, policies and activities of League of Arab States related to 3Rs

1. 3Rs Policy and Strategy Update

- The League of Arab States is the Technical Secretariat of The Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for The Environment (CAMRE), the regional mechanism set up to maintain coordination and cooperation among the Arab countries in all matters related to environment and sustainable development.
- LAS reported to Arab Countries, to the technical bodies and subsequently to CAMRE in its 17th session the outcome of the ministerial conference on the 3Rs (April 2005). CAMRE issued its decision no. 234 dated 21/12/2005 stating:
 - "First; encouraging the implementation of the 3Rs Initiative to manage generated hazardous and non-hazardous waste at the national level.
 - Second; calls upon the Arab countries to benefit from the support available from the developed countries and donors for the transfer of technologies and capacity building for the implementation of the 3Rs Initiative at the national level"
- LAS/CAMRE views concerning the 3Rs Initiative is to minimize waste, basically through the rational use of resources and the environmentally sound management of waste.
- Strengthening Arab capacities in this area is a major component of the Arab Initiative for Sustainable Development and its plan of implementation endorsed by the Arab Summit.
- Strengthening capacities is achieved through various activities including
 - ❖ Organizing workshops and training courses.
 - ❖ Conducting studies and preparing manuals.
 - ❖ Exchanging experiences and knowledge.

2. Good practices

2.1 Good practices on 3Rs

There are many success stories in the Arab Region. Such as;

- **Integrated Food Use**
 - ❖ There are numerous delicious dishes that are originally Arab dishes. They are now popular all over the world. These Dishes basically use the remains of food, such as the 'Paella'

which is an Arabic word meaning the 'remains', and the Pizza, originally an Arab dish, which the Romans carried with them from Levant Countries.

❖ The pattern of consumption of our forefathers allowed nothing to be wasted. For example the red part of the water melon was eaten, the white part was used for making jam, the external peel was used as food for animals and the black seeds were roasted as snacks.

- **Agricultural Waste**

❖ In some cases agricultural waste is even more profitable than the product itself. For example in Egypt sugar cane waste is used in the production of fodder, paper and furniture. Its profit covers the drop in the profitability of the sugar industry.

- **Industrial waste**

❖ The free zone area in Jabal Ali in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates covers an area of 155 sq. kilometers and accommodates 2400 companies from over 89 countries. 21 % of these companies are engaged in industrial activities, 75% in commercial activities and 4 % in service activities. The application of the technologies of cleaner production as well as international techniques and standards has rendered industrial development, the protection of the environment and a clean safe and healthy industrial environment a reality in the free zone area of Jabal Ali.

❖ Hafira Landfill Site for Industrial Waste in Bahrain has been established as a landfill for hazardous and quasi hazardous industrial waste resulting from the aluminum industry and asbestos; in addition to the amounts of such waste that has been accumulating over the years in industrial establishments or at the municipality. Hafira Landfill was opened in 2001 and its expected life span is 12 years.

❖ The reduction of industrial pollution in Egypt. It is a joint project including Egypt the World Bank and the European Investment Bank and Finland. It achieved remarkable results some of which include:

- Abu Kir Fertilizer Company.

The installation of a system for the reduction of nitro oxide emissions, lead to reducing the load of pollution resulting from oxide emissions from 550 tons/year to 55 tons/year.

- The Egyptian Company for Salts and Minerals.

The installation of a unit for washing and refining sodium Chloride, helped in rehabilitating the environment around Lake Qaroun in Fayoum Province, where the percentage of salinity rose to alarming levels in the past few years. This project also helped with the disposal of solid waste of sodium chloride salt accumulated over the years.

- Cairo Company for Chicken Slaughter House (Koki)

Treated waste water is used for the irrigation and reclamation of land owned by the company around the slaughter house.

- The General Company for Pottery and China.

The installation of a new furnace using natural gas reduced Sox+Cox, improved the internal working environment as well as the external environment around the plant.

- **Solid Municipal Waste.**

- ❖ The experience of Tunisia in this respect is exceptional, as municipal waste is sorted at the source. The experience is ten years old and the area covered is continually increasing.
- ❖ Tunisia has also a good success story in the collection and recycling of plastic bottles. The project is called ‘Chab’ meaning Youth. It created job opportunities for the idle unemployed youth helped them have heir own small outlets to collect plastic and transfer it to recycling plants.
- ❖ The establishment of a plant for the production of organic fertilizers with capacity of 150 tons/day with an average rate of operation of 300 days/year in Mansura - Dakahleya Governorate - Egypt. The plant has been established through the joint financing of Dakahleya Governorate and the British

(Seam) project with a total cost of L.E.24 million. This is quite a low cost when compared with other plants.

The estimated waste generated in the urban areas of Mansura and the near by city of Talkha is 305 tons/day in addition to another 150 tons generated in the rural areas affiliated to these two major cities. The organic content of the urban waste ranges between 60% and 70%, while the organic content of rural waste is 50%.

The plant produces good quality organic fertilizers that are used to improve the quality of soil in newly reclaimed lands in the Governorate amounting to about 55 thousand feddans. Recyclable contents are recovered and sold as well.

- ❖ The management of solid waste in Noweiba, Sinai Governorate, Egypt.

The Number of hotel rooms available in 2003 was 4161, and is expected to rise to 37,890 by the year 2017.

The increasing amounts of waste spoil the scene and harm coral reefs. The city council collects the garbage, 'Hemaya Society' a non governmental organization operates the plant for the recycling of waste. Organic waste is separated from non organic waste, and organic waste is given free of charge to the Bedouin settlements for use.

Different types of recyclable material is separated and recovered at these paration plants. The glass bottles are sold and other waste is pressed in pales.

- ❖ The National Regional Program for the management of solid waste:

This project has been implemented through the collaboration of non governmental organizations from four countries, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco. It started in October 2000 and continued for 32 months, and was financed by the European Union.

It aimed at promoting public environmental awareness in general and awareness of the problem of solid waste in particular through:

- ☒ Propagating the concepts of management of solid waste and sound and safe handling of it.
- ☒ Activating the role of women, children and youth and enhancing their feeling of responsibility towards the

problem of solid waste, training them to apply the principle of sorting of waste at the source.

- ☒ Encouraging the spirit of participation and promoting the role of citizens in the community.
- ☒ Developing the concept of partnership between the government, the non governmental organizations and the citizens.

The project was executed in one densely populated district in each country.

2.3 3Rs and governance

3Rs is a permanent item on the agenda of CAMRE and its affiliated technical bodies namely JCEDAR (the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region). It is a regional forum that includes all stakeholders and proved to be highly effective for exchanging experiences on best practices, setting policies and activities, and defining roles of different stakeholders.

2.3 3Rs and environmentally sound management of industrial waste

The role of LAS/CAMRE in this respect is to enhance Arab capacities through joint action involving all stakeholders particularly through

- Organizing training workshops on environmental management systems in industry and on environmental sound management of industrial waste, (in 2005 two workshops).
- Preparing manuals, by December 2005, eleven manuals were completed on monitoring covering specific manufacturing industries, in addition to guidelines on environmental management in industrial areas and environmental impact assessment in industry.

3. International 3 R policy and strategy.

There are concerns regarding the concept of international flow of “Recyclable resources and remanufactured goods”

- It is a loose phrase that could mean anything and everything. Agreement on a definition of the phase is an imperative prerequisite to any action.

- It is not evident that it would not have an adverse impact on health and environment in the receiving country. A vivid example is the roaming battleship 'Clemenceau'.
- It may also have an adverse impact on economic development and job creation. Imported remanufactured goods, will definitely compete with similar domestically manufactured products in the receiving country and result in the closing of ventures and raising the unemployment levels. It could also have an adverse impact on export opportunities of developing countries.
- The receiving countries are probably developing countries and there is no evidence that they possess the safe and appropriate technologies for the environmentally sound management of imported “recyclable resources”. Thus there is a need for a mechanism to determine whether the receiving country is eligible for such international flow. The same would also apply to the need for a mechanism that would ensure the safe and appropriate use of remanufactured goods in the receiving country.
- There is a possible effect on the implementation of the relevant MEAs, in particular, the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions. Therefore the impact of the international flow of the 3Rs should be studied in depth to determine the repercussions on the implementation of these MEAs.

4. Others:

The senior officials meeting should also discuss ways and means to build and enhance, as appropriate, capacities of developing countries for the implementation of the 3Rs Initiative.
