





E-WASTE AFRICA PROJECT: NIGERIA'S EXPERIENCE

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*Side-Event Presentation
at
Basel COP 10,
Cartagena, Colombia.
20th October, 2011*



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

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- ▣ PROJECT BENEFITS
- ▣ CHALLENGES
- ▣ WAY FORWARD
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INTRODUCTION



- ❑ Waste Electrical and Electronics Equipment (WEEE or E-waste) is a growing global concern because of the dangers to the environment and public health;
- ❑ E-waste is defined as unwanted, obsolete, or unusable electronic products such as computer peripherals, television, stereo equipment, hand-held cell phones, etc, that no longer satisfies the current owner for its original purpose;

The influx of e-waste into Nigeria and other developing countries is as a result of the:

- ❖ proliferation of the use of electronic devices in recent decades;
- ❖ rapid changes in technology, planned obsolescence, and low level of upgradeability and recyclability of used Electrical/Electronic Equipment (EEE);
- ❖ stricter laws and adoption of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies in some developed countries thus encouraging export to developing countries; and
- ❖ increase in trans-boundary movement of e-waste as an alternative means of disposal, due to stricter legislation and high cost of disposal in some developed countries.



INTRODUCTION ..II

- Nigeria is one of the African countries being used as a dumping ground for unserviceable Electrical Electronic Equipment (e-waste).
- As much as 500 containers of e-waste are received monthly in Lagos Port without any program for their environmentally sound management.





INTRODUCTION III

- E-waste contains many hazardous chemicals such as Lead, Mercury, Chromium IV, Cadmium, Brominated Flame Retardants (BFRs), among others;
- Part of the problem is that, these e-wastes are burnt openly in dump sites along side municipal waste;
- Scavengers recover precious metals like copper without appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
- The consequence is that, numerous toxic chemicals are released into the atmosphere, causing diseases and strange illnesses among the people.
- There has being a rise in reported cases of health related problems in communities around dump sites, such as kidney diseases, cancers, etc from unexplainable sources that are now common among adolescents.





INTRODUCTION IV

Some of the identified problems with e-waste management in Nigeria include:

- ❖ Initial lack of relevant laws to address the WEEE problems;
- ❖ Lack of capacity to manage the waste including collection;
- ❖ Lack of effective take-back and Extended Producer Responsibility programs for end-of-life EEE;
- ❖ The absence of national infrastructure for formal recycling;
- ❖ Inadequate awareness and public education on the problems associated with e-waste; and
- ❖ Inadequate synergy among relevant regulatory government Agencies to tackle the e-waste problem.





E-WASTE AFRICA PROJECT

- At the Second Session of the International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM-2) held in Geneva, Switzerland in May 2009, e-waste was one of the emerging issues proposed and discussed extensively by the African Group.
- The African Group led by Nigeria, ensured that the e-waste issue was included in the International Agenda. Since then, the subject has occupied a major point for discussion in many international fora.
- The "E-waste Africa Project" was prompted by the release of the film "Digital Dump" produced by Jim Pucket, Basel Action Network;
- Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Egypt, Tunisia and Nigeria are the countries participating in the project;
- The goal is to enhance the capacity of West Africa and other African countries to tackle the growing problem of e-waste;
- The project is sponsored mainly by the EU with additional support from UK and NVMP of Netherlands. The overall coordination is by Secretariat of Basel Convention.



THE E-WASTE AFRICA PROJECT..II

- The project aims to:
 - improve the level of information on flows of e-products and e-waste imported to West African countries and other African countries to enhance decision-making;
 - increase the capacity of participating countries to manage end-of-life e-equipment and e-waste at the national level;
 - investigate the feasibility of establishing environmentally sound materials recovery operations;
 - enhance the capacity to monitor and control trans-boundary movements of e-waste and to prevent illegal traffic.

- The project comprises of four components:
 - Component 1 - Fact Finding Study on Transboundary Movement of Used and End-of-Life EEE into several West African Countries.
 - Component 2 "Country Assessment";
 - Component 3 "Socio-Economic Assessment"; and
 - Component 4, "Control on the Trans-boundary movement of E-Waste and their illegal traffic".



PROJECT BENEFITS

- ▣ Since the Kick off of the E-waste Africa project, Nigeria has been a beneficiary in:
 - Capacity building for Nigerian inspectors through exchange programmes in the Netherlands and Belgium in 2010;
 - The training provided the knowledge for detecting, preventing and controlling illegal traffic of e-waste at the seaports and land borders;
 - Capacity building for the informal sector on sound dismantling of e-waste to retrieve valuable materials;
 - National Train-the-Trainers workshop in September 2011 organized in Nigeria with support from Basel Convention and IMPEL; and
 - Information sharing and Networking with the Secretariat of Basel Convention and IMPEL.





Arising from the Information sharing ...

❖ The National Toxic Waste Dump Watch Programme (NTWDWP) was strengthened to monitor and check clandestine importation and dumping of hazardous substances into Nigeria.

❖ The National Toxic Waste Dump Watch Committee has repatriated several containers with e-waste in the past one year; and

❖ NESREA has synergised with the Nigeria Customs Service and has been connected to the Automated System of Customs Data (ASYCUDA) to profile the goods that are considered hazardous to the environment





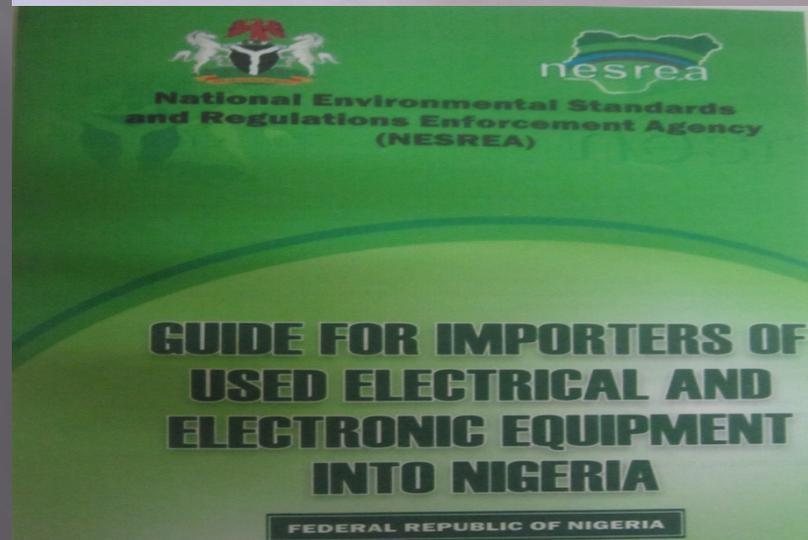
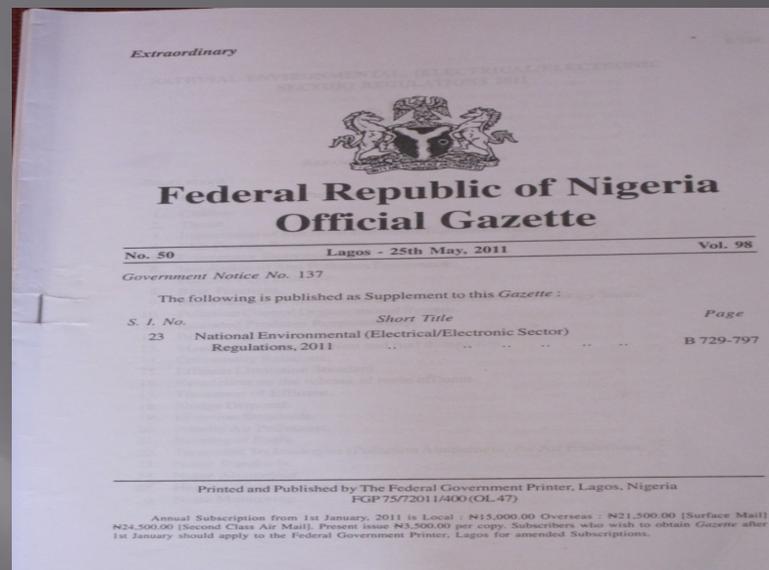
Arising from the Information sharingII



❖ Nigeria has developed Regulations the- "National Environmental (Electrical Electronic Sector) Regulations," to prevent and minimize pollution from all operations and ancillary activities of the electrical and electronic sector with input from relevant national stakeholders and foreign environmental partners including Basel Convention Secretariat and IMPEL;

❖ Developed Guidelines for importers on the importation of UEEE. The guidelines highlight some of the "dos" and "don'ts" of shipment of UEEE into Nigeria; and has been posted on NESREA website (www.nesrea.org); and

❖ Nigeria has commenced registration of all importers of used EEE in the country with the aim of tackling the indiscriminate importation of e-waste into the country.





CHALLENGES

Despite all this efforts, Nigeria still has many hurdles to cross, some of these challenges include:

- ▣ The lack of operationalisation of the Take-back and the Extended Producer Responsibility Programme;
- ▣ Lack of basic and/or state-of-the-art recycling and waste disposal facilities;
- ▣ Inadequate capacity of the informal sector to deal with e-waste in an environmentally sustainable manner; and
- ▣ Inadequate awareness of the public on the dangers and problems associated with e-waste.





WAY FORWARD

- There are many resources that are contained in the e-waste dumped in the country;
- Continuous training of the informal sector is required considering the large informal materials recovery going on in the country;
- The extraction of valuable secondary raw materials in an environmentally sound manner from wastes will create green business opportunities and sustainable decent jobs for several unemployed youths in Nigeria;
- Nigeria is presently negotiating for a reputable recycler to establish a recycling plant to take care of WEEE, including those generated locally;





WAY FORWARD ..II

- ❖ Manufacturers of electronic goods should invest in research and development, so as to design products that can be easily upgraded, reusable, disassembled and recycled;
- ❖ The multinational companies should assist developing countries in operationalizing the Take-back and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programmes at national level;
- ❖ There should be strict enforcement of all relevant conventions, laws and regulations on trans-boundary movement of hazardous wastes and control of illegal traffic;
- ❖ There should be continuous regional and global cooperation and partnership particularly in the areas of technology transfer, timely information sharing and networking; and
- ❖ Exporters and importers of UEEE should be fully aware of the implications of any e-waste in the UEEE as well as the laws and regulations of the exporting and importing countries.



CONCLUSION

- ❖ E-waste has become a global emerging issue that requires a collective global effort to address because pollution goes beyond borders;
- ❖ E-waste shipment to developing countries is an environmental crime that each of us (Government, Non-Governmental Organization and Citizens) should resist in order to leave the world better than we met it;
- ❖ The theme of the Basel COP 10 - Prevention, minimization and materials recovery, is therefore apt and timely to the plight of developing countries especially Nigeria, to further promote environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes generated locally and illegally transported;
- ❖ It is important to note that Nigeria has not banned the importation of used Electrical Electronic Equipment (EEE) but the importation of non-functional used EEE into the country; and
- ❖ The Nigerian government as part of its transformation agenda in the environment sector, is focusing on turning various waste into wealth/resources and promoting sustainable livelihoods by creating green jobs with adequate environmental safe guards.



THANK YOU

NESREA

- ▣ *... ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment for Nigerians*