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**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Tenth meeting**

Cartagena, Colombia, 17–21 October 2011

Item 3 (e) of the provisional agenda*

Matters related to the implementation of the Convention: capacity-building

**Progress report on the implementation of the Nairobi
Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of
Electrical and Electronic Waste**

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. Reference is made to the Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste and decision IX/6 adopted by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In decision IX/6, the Conference of the Parties adopted the workplan for the environmentally sound management of e-waste, contingent on the availability of funds. By this decision, parties, the Basel Convention Regional Centres and relevant stakeholders were invited to continue work on the development of pilot projects in support of the Nairobi Declaration. In addition, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to continue to facilitate work and activities on the environmentally sound management of e-waste and to report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting.

2. This progress report is intended to provide information to parties on the implementation of the workplan on the environmentally sound management of e-waste, focusing on the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

3. The workplan included activities in the following work areas:

(a) Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE): Information on this item is provided in document UNEP/CHW.10/INF/21 (Progress report by the Co-Chairs of the PACE Working Group);

(b) Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative activities on awareness-raising. Information on this item of the workplan is provided in document UNEP/CHW.10/INF/20 (Progress report on the implementation of the Basel Convention Partnership Programme workplan 2009-2011);

(c) Preparation of technical guidelines on transboundary movements of e-waste, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non waste. Information related to this area of

* UNEP/CHW.10/1.

the workplan is provided in documents UNEP/CHW.10/6 (Technical guidelines) and UNEP/CHW.10/INF/5 (Technical guidelines on the transboundary movements of e-waste);

(d) Programmes of activities for the environmentally sound management of e-waste in the Asia Pacific region, in Africa and in South America. Detailed information on the implementation of pilot projects in these regions is provided in this document.

I. Programme of activities for the environmentally sound management of e-wastes in the regions

A. Programme of activities for the environmentally sound management of e-waste in the Asia-Pacific region

4. Following the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, two projects under the Environmentally Sound Management of E-Waste in Asia-Pacific Programme were completed in 2009. In the same year, the Ministry of Environment of Japan kindly supported the Secretariat, in cooperation with Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia in Indonesia (BCRC SEA), the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Asia and Pacific Region in China (BCRC China) and the Government of Viet Nam, in conducting a regional training workshop aimed at building capacity of the parties and the BCRCs in the Asia-Pacific region in developing projects on the environmentally sound management (ESM) of e-waste. Stemming from the workshop, the Ministry of Japan has provided further funding for the continued implementation of the programme during its second phase. Although awareness raising and training activities, including the development of national inventories, are still recognised to be essential in many countries, the second phase of the programme emphasized more concrete implementation projects in the environmentally sound collection and dismantling of e-waste, while promoting any potential public-private partnerships as pilots. The Secretariat received eleven draft project proposals during the second phase: six of which were finalized by the proponents and qualified for implementation based on both donor's specifications and UNEP's standard requirements for project proposals while two proponents never finalized their proposal, one proponent withdrew its approved proposal, and two last proposals are still under consideration/consultation process.

5. As part of the abovementioned second phase of the programme, the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia has recently completed a project comprising of a training programme for e-wastes and a demonstration at a recyclable waste collection site. The project was developed and implemented by the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the BCRC SEA. Stakeholder representatives from throughout the country participated in the project which comprised of three training workshops and other public awareness activities. A demonstration of ESM of e-waste aiming at upgrading e-waste management practices was also undertaken at a recyclable waste management facility in Phnom Penh, where corrective actions were introduced, implemented and evaluated.

6. The Secretariat revised the basic information leaflet on the ESM of E-Waste in Asia-Pacific programme in December 2010 (please refer to: <http://www.basel.int/pub/leaflets/leaflet01012011-1.pdf>). The complete list of national and regional projects completed and currently ongoing under the second phase of the ESM of E-Waste in Asia-Pacific Programme is presented in the Table below.

Table: Project activities undertaken under the Basel Convention programme on the environmentally sound management of e-waste in the Asia-Pacific region (List of activities on the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic waste in Asia Pacific in the 2009-2011 period).

Country/BCRC	Activity/Project	Status
BCRC China	Study on the Import/Export Management of E-Waste and Used EEE in Asia	Completed, 2009
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Samoa	Pilot inventory of e-waste in five Pacific island countries	Completed, 2009
BCRC-SEA (in cooperation w/ Japan and Vietnam)	Regional Training on ESM of E-Waste Project Development	Completed, 2009

Country/BCRC	Activity/Project	Status
Cambodia	National Training and Demonstration on Environmentally Sound Collection and Dismantling of E-Waste	Completed, 2011
BCRC-SEA	Development of Regional Database on ESM of E-Waste; and Regional Technical Training in the ESM of E-Waste Part 1 (Environmentally Sound Collection and Dismantling of Used EEE)	Started in March 2010. Training Part 1 completed (2010), database development still ongoing
BCRC China	Pilot Public Private Partnership in the Collection of E-Waste in Suzhou, a Pilot City in China	Ongoing (started in July 2010)
Thailand	National Training Manual Development, Training Workshops and Development of Demonstration Units on ESM Practices and Technology.	Ongoing 2010 (started in September 2010)
Viet Nam	Development and Demonstration of E-Waste Collection Scheme in the Northern Key Economic Zone of Viet Nam.	Ongoing (started in October 2010)
BCRC-SEA	Regional Technical Training in the ESM of E-Waste Part 2 (Environmentally Sound Repair, Refurbishment and Reconditioning of Used EEE and Recycling and Disposal of E-Waste)	Completed, 2011
Cambodia	ESM of E-Waste Legal Framework Assessment and Development of Relevant Regulations	Under preparation
BCRC China	Development of Regional Information System and Network (Regional Database) on ESM of E-Waste	Proposal under development

7. Coordination of implementation through the BCRCs in the Asia-Pacific Region is the preferred scheme under the regional plans of the ESM of E-Waste in Asia-Pacific programme. As an effort to achieve the abovementioned scheme in the immediate future, the Secretariat has started collaborating with the regional centres to explore the management practices, issues and current needs of developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region in the ESM of e-waste, in line with the initial national and regional plans of the ESM of E-Waste in the Asia-Pacific programme. It is expected that the collaboration will result in capacity building project development in the areas of priority, while exploring more public-private partnership schemes.

8. In addition, the Secretariat, with the support of the Government of Japan, is preparing for a formal evaluation of the effectiveness of all completed projects at both the national and regional levels under the ESM of E-Waste in Asia-Pacific programme. It is expected that the results of the evaluation will help the Secretariat, the regional centres and other key stakeholders to improve the design and implementation of the programme in a more integrated, effective and efficient manner.

B. Programme of activities for the environmentally sound management of e-waste in Africa

9. Activities for the environmentally sound management of e-waste in Africa are implemented in the framework of the e-waste Africa project which is a comprehensive programme aiming at enhancing the environmental governance of e-wastes and at creating favourable social and economic conditions for partnerships and small businesses in the recycling sector in Africa. The timeframe of the project is from November 2008 to March 2012. The financial support for the project was kindly provided by the European Commission, Norway, the United Kingdom and the Dutch Recyclers Association (NVMP).

10. The project is implemented by the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre based in Nigeria and the Basel Convention Regional Centre based in Senegal, in cooperation with partners including: the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (EMPA), the Institute for Applied Ecology (the Öko Institute), the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL), and the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE). The

Secretariat of the Basel Convention is responsible for the overall project coordination. The partner countries in which activities are taking place include Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Tunisia (Please also refer to: http://www.basel.int/techmatters/e_wastes/AfricaProject.pdf).

11. This project has the overall objective of enhancing the capacity of West African and other African countries to be able to tackle the growing problem of e-waste imports coming from the industrialized world and thereby protect the health of citizens, particularly children, while providing economic opportunities in the recipient countries.

12. As one of the first project activities, a fact-finding study on flows of used and end-of-life e-products and e-waste imported into West African countries by land and by sea, in particular from European countries, has been carried out. In preparation for the study, EMPA, Öko-Institute and BCRCs organized kick-off meetings in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Liberia. Local personnel were trained by international experts to undertake field research and the collection of data. In addition to African partner countries, two export ports in Belgium and the Netherlands were included in the study.

13. On the basis of the results from the fact-finding study, i.e. the volume and type of imported end-of-life e-products and re-exportation in the sub-region, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria undertook national assessments of used and end-of-life e-equipment and e-waste and the preparation of national e-waste strategies. The country assessments encompass (i) the description and review of e-waste management practices in the formal and informal sectors, including their economic and social impacts and potential impact on human health and the environment, (ii) an assessment of needs to ensure environmentally sound management, and (iii) a detailed description of the legal and regulatory systems in place. The results of the country assessments were shared with national multi-stakeholder groups composed of governmental officials, representatives from the recycling sector and civil society and were used for the preparation of national e-waste strategies. The methodology used for the national e-waste assessments was provided by EMPA. After testing in the partner countries, the methodology will be refined and finalized and made available for use in other interested countries.

14. Social and economic issues related to e-waste have a significant impact in developing countries. The project provided for the development of an in-depth socio-economic study on the operation and sustainability impacts of the e-waste sector in Nigeria. The focus of the study is on both the positive and negative impacts of the sector, including the identification of meaningful improvement options in environmental, social and economic terms. International co-operation between African small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and recycling companies operating in industrialized countries by combining their specific competitive advantages in e-waste disassembly and material recovery has been explored. The study includes recommendations to policy-makers and the recycling industry, as well as to other interested stakeholders, with a view to developing new market niches for the African e-waste recycling sector.

15. In preparation of this study, BCCC-Nigeria organized a stakeholder meeting in July 2010 in Nigeria where local companies and the informal sector met and discussed the possibilities at hand. All key stakeholders were present at the stakeholder workshop, including 60 persons from civil society, administration, government, private sector and the media. As a key outcome of the meeting, the participants agreed to establish five working groups in such thematic areas as policy and legislation, business and finance, technology and skills, monitoring and control and marketing and awareness. The recommendations of these groups were fed into the national e-waste strategy.

16. Another important element of the socio-economic aspects of the e-waste sector is the role of the informal sector. For this reason, three technical trainings were organized in December 2010. Training was given to a total number of 70 persons of which 40 came from the informal e-waste refurbishing and recycling clusters in Lagos, Nigeria. The training was organized in the form of practical exercises with technical guidance. The participants also received relevant practical and scientific literature supporting the design of environmentally and socially sound e-waste recycling facilities. The outcomes of the socio-economic study and related activities mentioned above were presented to the public in Nigeria through a workshop held in December 2010 in Lagos, Nigeria.

17. The implementation of an enforcement programme for key importing states on the monitoring and control of transboundary movements of used and end-of-life e-equipment and e-waste and the prevention of illegal traffic commenced in 2010 and is still ongoing. A training curriculum aimed at port and customs authorities, government officials and accreditation authorities was developed by IMPEL in consultation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. The curriculum addresses tools for customs control, characterization and classification of used and end-of-life e-equipment,

institutional coordination, regulatory framework development, and criteria for the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life e-equipment.

18. The enforcement-related activities of the project were launched at a workshop where the five participating countries, namely Benin, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, and Tunisia, discussed their needs to enhance the enforcement of the Convention at the national and regional level. The workshop took place in Accra, Ghana from 25 to 26 November 2009. Representatives of four IMPEL member countries (Norway, The Netherlands, Germany and the UK), participated in this project component. Some of the needs identified include the active participation of African and European countries; an efficient national coordination mechanism to be put in place and operationalised; and an increase in efforts and resources allocated to the monitoring and prevention of illegal traffic.

19. As effective enforcement requires international collaboration between enforcement agencies, an exchange programme was carried out for African and European enforcement authorities. The exchange programme took place in Belgium and the Netherlands from 13 to 24 September 2010. To increase the impact of this activity, it was agreed to carry out the training programme in Europe as a train-the-trainer programme prior to the training courses planned in the countries participating in this component. Nineteen government officials representing Ghana, Benin, Egypt and Nigeria, as well as the representatives of BCCC Nigeria, BCRC Senegal, and BCRC Egypt were trained. The programme consisted of a combination of theoretical sessions on issues such as port procedures, legislation, inspection methods, collaboration, practical exercises and field trips to the ports of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Antwerp, and e-waste collection and treatment sites. The national training workshops on enforcement are to take place in the second half of 2011. For this purpose, an e-waste inspection and enforcement manual and other training materials were developed by IMPEL, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

20. The Secretariat of the Basel Convention convened the meetings of the project steering committee composed of EMPA, the Öko-Institute, IMPEL, BCCC-Nigeria, BCRC-Senegal, SBC and AIDCO to supervise the implementation of the project. The project steering committee holds annual meetings and regular consultations, via teleconference and other means, with the objective to secure good coordination of efforts, monitor implementation of activities, and create a forum for exchange of views on the main issues addressed by the project. The Secretariat organized back to back with the steering committee meeting a project stakeholder group meeting to present the results achieved under the project to a larger group of countries, International Organizations, NGOs and private sector organizations. So far, two meetings of the project steering committee and the associated stakeholder group meetings have taken place. In 2011, the project steering committee and stakeholder group meetings, which will be the last for this project, are planned for November 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya.

C. Programme of activities for the environmentally sound management of e-waste in South America

21. Faced with the need for the environmentally sound management of e-waste, a number of Latin American countries have undertaken various actions such as the development of analyses, refuse collection activities, campaigns to educate the population, meetings, seminars, collective round tables, policy proposals, and even the enactment of legislation, specifically aimed at addressing issues associated with waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). As there were very limited funds made available through the Basel Convention Trust Fund, most of these initiatives have been established as independent events, in response to local contexts, needs and developments. However, in the different countries in the region there is a common standard for the design of proposed solutions for the management of WEEE: the principle of extended producer responsibility (EPR).

22. A Regional Platform on E-Waste from Computers in Latin America and the Caribbean (RELAC) was initiated to promote initiatives in the Latin America and Caribbean region looking for solutions to prevent the development of e-waste, and to manage and finally dispose of end-of-life computing equipment in an environmentally sound manner. As a result of a Latin American public-private round table, guidelines for WEEE management in the region were developed in 2011. In this context, it has been necessary to reconcile approaches and proposals to be able to respond to the need for definitions regarding a number of key concepts, fundamental elements of a WEEE management system, protocol for handling WEEE during its life cycle and a proposed harmonized regional framework. This document was prepared in the context of the Regional Project on Harmonization of Electronic Waste Management in Latin America, implemented by the RELAC with support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

23. The Secretariat held meetings with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and presented topics and potential means of cooperation with the Basel Convention in the Latin American region. The bank is interested in developing its portfolio further on hazardous waste-related projects, in particular e-waste, and in benefiting from technical input from the Secretariat and the BCRCs in the region with respect to methodologies, technical guidelines, tools and project management. Identification of cooperation partners and implementing agencies, as well as the development of concrete project proposals in cooperation with the IADB, is ongoing through the BCRCs in the Latin American region.
