



BASEL CONVENTION



National Institute for
Environmental Studies, Japan



*Asia-Pacific Regional Inception Workshop
on the Environmentally Sound Management of
Electronic and Electrical Wastes
Tokyo, Japan, 21 - 25 November 2005*

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Introduction

In recent years, significant international transboundary movement has evolved in used refrigerators, other electrical appliances, personal computers and associated hardware, used electronic equipment and used cellular telephones for the removal of usable parts, for refurbishment and reuse and for processing for the recovery of raw materials. Import and export statistics provided by Parties to the Basel Convention for the year 2000 show that there were imports of more than 17.5 million tonnes and export of 1.6 million tonnes designated as used electrical and electronic assemblies or scrap. Transboundary movement of these goods is forecast to increase significantly as more and more countries produce electrical and electronic equipment and tighten control over acceptable disposal methods, adopt processes to recover valuable constituents and use safe practices to deal with the hazardous constituents in e-wastes (e.g. cadmium, lead, beryllium, CFCs, brominated flame retardants, mercury, nickel and certain organic compounds). While offering some economic benefits, massive import of e-wastes coupled with such wastes being generated locally is placing a heavy health and environmental burden, in particular to developing countries.

Electrical and electronic wastes (e-wastes) are classified in the Basel Convention as Annex VIII entries A1180, A1150 and A2010 as well as under Annex IX as B1110. Basically, e-wastes are characterized as hazardous wastes under the Convention when they contain components such as accumulators and other batteries, mercury-switches, glass from cathode-ray tubes and other activated glass, PCB-capacitors or when contaminated with cadmium, mercury, lead or PCBs. Also, precious metal ash from incineration of printed circuit boards and glass waste from cathode-ray-tubes and other activated glasses will be characterized as hazardous wastes. In order to address environmental issues related to the increasing transboundary movements of these wastes, and to ensure their storage, transport, treatment, reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal is conducted in an environmentally sound manner, a proactive approach is essential. Through concrete and well-targeted national efforts supported by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and other partners, these wastes can be managed in a manner that promotes economic, social as well as environmental objectives.

The countries in Asia and the Pacific Parties to the Basel Convention have identified e-waste as a priority. They emphasized the need to obtain the latest and relevant information on environmentally sound management of e-waste, inclusive of information regarding know-how on cleaner technologies or processes used in the repair, refurbishment, recycling or recovery of used or end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment.

To respond to the needs and concerns expressed by countries in Asia and the Pacific, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention in partnership with the Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs), UNEP and other organizations, has developed a programme in pursuance to decision VII/3 adopted by the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for which financial support is sought. The goal is to ensure that

e-waste generation in the region is minimized and what is generated is managed in an environmentally sound manner consistent with the Basel Convention and with other international obligations, with consequent benefits both to the environment and economies of participating countries.

Regional Inception Workshop

The purpose of the Regional Inception Workshop is to bring together major stakeholders (e.g. Governments, intergovernmental organizations, BCRCs, industry and businesses, NGOs, municipalities) to exchange information and share their experience in dealing with e-wastes. The idea is to set up a network on e-waste information which will feed one or more databases that would be accessible to national authorities, BCRCs, economic operators, United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organizations, civil society, municipalities and academia. The project will include the establishment of a network on e-waste in Asia and the Pacific; review and finalize generic guidelines and methodologies for the undertaking and conduct of baseline studies including inventories at the national level; preparation of national strategies for the handling of e-wastes; establishment of a knowledge base in the region on e-waste issues. The BCRCs, in particular the BCRC-China, will be a key delivery regional mechanism for the promotion of the network and the knowledge management system. The regional workshop shall provide outputs regarding harmonization of reporting on e-waste issues e.g. generation, import/export; prevention; management; best practices; technology transfer; legal measures; administrative measures; training needs; awareness; gaps; estimation of the current status of e-waste; capacity- building needs to address current and forthcoming e-waste issues; promotion of quantitative data on e-wastes; and guidance for handling of e-wastes.

Who should attend

- Recycling, recovery and refurbishing companies
- Electrical and electronic manufacturers
- E-waste management companies
- Associations in the field of e-waste management
- Financing organizations
- Environmental and enforcement authorities
- Universities and research institutions
- Consultants
- Civil society involved in waste management
- United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organizations

Papers

Papers are invited from experts and interested representatives of business, researchers, governments and civil society, with a particular emphasis on design for environment, life-cycle analysis, product take-back system, extended producer responsibility; management options; best practices; technology transfer; recovery and recycling technologies; economic, legal and institutional measures.

Instructions for submission of papers and key dates

All papers should be written in English. Speakers should inform the Organizer (SBC) of their interest in submitting a paper with the full title at the latest by **7 October 2005**. Abstracts of presentation (maximum 1 page A4 size, single lines) should be submitted to the Organizers by **15 October 2005**. The Organizer will allocate the time for presentation, which will be informed to speakers by 21 October 2005.

Full papers in Microsoft Word should be submitted electronically by **1 November 2005**. Power Point presentation materials should be submitted electronically by **17 November 2005**.

Organizers

The Workshop is organized by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan and National Institute for Environment Studies, Japan. Full contact addresses are as follows:

For submission of papers:

Secretariat of the Basel Convention/UNEP
15 chemin des Anemones
1219 Chatelaine, Geneva
Switzerland
e-mail : ibrahim.shafii@unep.ch
tel. +41 22 917 8218
fax : + 41 22 797 3454

For registration of participants, air tickets (for sponsored participants), hotel booking and local transport:

On behalf of the Ministry of the Environment Japan:

Mr. Junya Kikuhara or Mr. Shinsuke Okamoto or Ms. Kaoru Oka
EX Corporation
2-17-22 Takada
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Japan
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Email: kikuhara@exri.co.jp
okamoto@exri.co.jp
oka@exri.co.jp

Venue and Dates

The Inception Workshop will be held on 21, 22 and 24 November 2005 at:

Mitakaigisho (Mita Common Conference Hall)
International Conference Room
Address: 2-1-8 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Tel: +81-33455-7591
Fax: +81-33455-7595

Lunch will be provided to the participants on 21, 22, 24 Nov. If you are planning to have lunch at the workshop venue, and if you need a vegetarian meal, please check the corresponding boxes on the Registration form.

Workshop Language

The workshop will be conducted in English (with simultaneous interpretation in Japanese at International Conference Room).

Field Trip to E-Waste Recycling Facility (Optional)

Guided field trip to one of the leading home appliances and PC recycling facility will be provided as a part of the Workshop. Please be sure to register as soon as possible.

Date: 25 Nov (departing the Hotel by chartered bus, plan to be back around 15:00)
Facility to visit: Higashihama Recycle Center (Chiba, Ichikawa-city, approximately 1h30 bus ride)

Accommodation

The following hotel have been reserved for workshop participants:

Hotel Villa Fontaine Shiodome
1-9-2 Higashishinbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0021, Japan
Tel. No.: +81-3-3569-2220
Fax No.: +81-3-3569-2111

Free Internet access is available. No LAN/PC card is ready at the Hotel so please bring them if you wish to use the service.

Room Rate (per night)

Single: 10,000JPY (with breakfast, tax included)

Twin: 16,000JPY (with breakfast, tax included)

Direction to Hotel:

Take a limousine bus bound for Ginza&Shiodome Area or Conrad Hotel (closest stop, only a few services operated a day) from Narita Airport, and get off at Shinbashi-station or Conrad Hotel. Walk to the hotel (about 5 minutes from Shinbashi-sta bus stop) which is connected to Shiodome subway station (OhEdo Line).



Registration

Deadline for registration (including accommodation) of participants is **15 October 2005**. Please fill out the Registration form attached and send by fax or e-mail to Mr. Junya Kikuhara, EX Corporation, Japan.

*After receiving your Registration form, we will send you a receipt confirmation. PLEASE TRY AGAIN, if you receive no confirmation within 3 working days from EX Corporation.

Programme (see attached Provisional Agenda)