

IN THIS ISSUE

Contents

Dynamic of Basel Convention

- * Calling for application on drafting instruction manual for the legal profession on the prosecution of illegal traffic
- * UN study shows steady increase in global generation and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes
- * Addressing the challenges of Sound Management of Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes
- * Upcoming meetings of Basel Convention

Activities by BCRC China

- * Undertaking *Tools for Environmentally Sound Management* translation and printing
- * Participating the third consultative meeting on the strategic framework of the Basel Convention (2012-2021) on 8-9 February 2011
- * Questionnaires for the strategic framework 2012-2021
- * The 6th International Conference on Waste Management and Technology

News related to Basel Convention

- * European parliament tightens rules on electronic scrap recycling
- * Illegal E-Waste Exports Leads to Penalties from EPA
- * NGOs call on EU commissioner to fix broken ship breaking legislation
- * Hazardous Waste Facility to be Built in Delhi, India
- * Panasonic to recycle e-waste in India

Latest Research

- * Electronic Waste and Individual Producer Responsibility: The Environmental Movement and the Promotion of a New Waste Management Norm
- * International Cooperation for Metal Recycling From Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment: An Assessment of the "Best-of-Two-Worlds" Approach

CONTACTS

Basel Convention Coordinating
Centre for Asia and the Pacific
Add: School of Environment,
Tsinghua University, Beijing,
100084 China

Tel: 86-10-62794351

Fax: 86-10-62772048

E-mail: bccc@tsinghua.edu.cn

Editorial Board

Editor-in-chief: Prof. Jinhui Li

Executive Editor: Lixia Zheng

Dynamic of Basel Convention

Calling for application on Drafting instruction manual for the legal profession on the prosecution of illegal traffic

According to the decision OEWG-VII/14, the secretariat of Basel Convention is calling for application for candidates for the development of *the draft instruction manual for the legal profession on the prosecution of illegal traffic*. The task is to draft the instruction manual through SBC and submit to the small group of experts. The secretariat invites interested candidates to submit their candidature (P11 form) by 28 February 2011. More information will be available in www.basel.int

Dynamic of Basel Convention

UN study shows steady increase in global generation and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes

Waste without Frontiers: Global trends in generation and transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes, a study commissioned by the Parties to the Basel Convention, provides the most comprehensive snapshot of global trends on the generation and transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes produced under the Convention in its first 21 years of existence. The study is the first prepared to summarize and analyze these data on the transboundary movement of hazardous and “other wastes” (household waste and incinerator ash) under requirements adopted by the Parties to the Convention in 2008.

Between 2004 and 2006 the amount of hazardous wastes generated increased by 12%. Reported amounts of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes show an increase of 22% over the same period, Nearly all the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes are within countries of the same region. In total, on average over 10 million tonnes of wastes of both types were imported annually by 64 countries in the period 2004–2006 covered by the report. By comparison, the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 is estimated to have released less than 44 tonnes of oil.

The lion’s share of hazardous wastes generated – 95% of the total – is treated within the country of origin, the study found. There is no evidence that significant amounts of hazardous wastes are being transferred from richer countries to poorer countries.

Source from: www.basel.int/press/press.html

Addressing the challenges of Sound Management of Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes

In order to increasing awareness of the solutions for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes from a sustainable development perspective (Rio+20), and aiming at reduced emissions, minimum waste and minimum impact on natural resources and bio-diversity, the 26th session of the governing council/global ministerial environment forum (GC/GMEF) of the UNEP was hold from **21 to 24 February 2011** at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya.

The side event during GC26/GMEF addressed challenges as well as possible solutions for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes. The discussions of the side event will feed into key activities and events in the chemicals and hazardous waste field in 2011 and 2012, such as the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes; the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention COPs respectively; CSD 19; meetings of the Mercury INC; GEF Council meetings; ICCM-3; international Year of Chemistry, Rio +20 and others.

Upcoming meetings

- * Eighth session of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, International Environment House 1 (IEH1 / MIE1), Geneva, Switzerland, **21-23 March 2011**.
- * Second Meeting of the Expanded Bureau of COP9, International Environment House 1 (IEH1 / MIE1), Geneva, Switzerland, **24-25 March 2011**.
- * Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP 10), Cartagena, Colombia, **17 - 21 October 2011**.
- * International workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electronic and electrical products International workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electronic and electrical products, organized by the Basel Convention jointly with UNIDO and the Stockholm Secretariat. Vienna, Austria, **29 to 31 March 2011**.

Activities by BCRC China

Undertaking “Tools for Environmentally Sound Management” translation & printing

Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) asked BCRC China to undertake “Tools for Environmentally Sound Management” translate and print work on January 1 2011.

“Tools for Environmentally Sound Management” has translated into French and Spanish, Mainly for recycling merchant provides recovery process of environmental management requirements and harmless instruction, at present, BCRC China has as translation and publication of cooperation content, budget reached a preliminary intent with BIR, the next step will discuss matters on MOU.

Participating the third consultative meeting on the strategic framework of the Basel Convention (2012-2021) on 8-9 February 2011

The executive secretary of BCRC China, Prof. Jinhui Li, was invited to participate the third consultative meeting on the strategic framework of the Basel Convention for 2012-2021 on **8-9 February 2011** I Geneva, Switzerland. This meeting was organized by the secretariat according to decision VII/1 of the seventh session of the open-ended Working Group to the Basel Convention (OEWG7). Totally 30 delegates attended this workshop which are from five UN regions delegates, Basel Convention implementation, secretariat officials, international organizations.

This meeting provided further guidance for integrating the means of implementation and indicators in the Strategic Framework, and will publish the outcome of this consultative meeting on the website of the Basel . As stated in decision VII/1 of the OEWG7, further comments will then be invited on the outcome of this meeting. The Secretariat shall then present the draft strategic framework for 2012-2021 to the conference of the parties at its tenth meeting (COP10 Cartagena, Colombia, 17 - 21 October 2011)for consideration and possible adoption.

Questionnaire for parties on the strategic framework 2012-2021

The Strategic Framework represents the basic instrument to guide Parties and others in the implementation of the Basel Convention during the period 2012-2021, and it also provides a base and agenda upon which Parties (with partners - both public and private) can implement the Convention provisions.

In order involve enough parties’ needs and wishes into the new Strategic Framework which will be submitted to COP10, the secretariat of Basel Convention arranged a set of generic and specific questions for parties especially those have not been providing SBC with inputs/comments on the New Strategic Framework.

BCRC China has delivered this questionnaire to parties in Asia and the Pacific in order to identify parties needs and wishes for the Strategic Framework and hope the answers before the end of March 2011 to SBC or BCRC China. BCRC China will transfer the answers or comments received to SBC.

The 6th International Conference on Waste Management and Technology

To promote the knowledge and experience exchanges among the international experts, and to enhance the technology cooperation among the nations, the International Conference on Waste Management and Technology (ICWMT) is held annually in Tsinghua University, Beijing, organized by Basel Convention Coordinating Center for Asia and the Pacific (BCRC China). **On August, 2011**, the 6th International Conference on Waste Management and Technology will be hold in **Suzhou China**. More information will be available in the website of <http://conf.bcrc.cn>.

News related to Basel Convention

European parliament tightens rules on electronic scrap recycling

The European Parliament (EP) has announced plans to tighten the rules for the European Union's growing generation of obsolete electronics (WEEE, or Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) while also reducing "red tape" for recycling companies. In a plenary vote made in February 2011, members of the European Parliament (MEP) have proposed new targets for collecting, recycling and re-using waste. MEPS also are recommending tougher measures to prevent the export of electronic scrap to developing countries, where it can pose a health and environment hazard.

During discussions surrounding changes to the WEEE Directive, MEPs stressed that standardizing registration and reporting is needed to lighten the administrative burden and costs on companies. A further step that is being looked at is reducing the number of electrical equipment categories. In regard to the problem with exporting waste to developing countries, MEPs have proposed stricter inspections of shipments as well as further clarifying the fact that exporters should carry the burden of proof that goods that they are exporting are re-usable.

Source from: <http://www.recyclingtoday.com/european-parliament-tightens-electronics-recycling-rules.aspx>

Illegal E-Waste Exports Leads to Penalties from EPA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking simultaneous \$31,600 penalties against two North American companies for attempting to illegally export e-waste to Vietnam.

According to the EPA, the companies arranged for the export of a shipment of 913 discarded computer monitors to Vietnam on December 6, 2010. An average colour CRT computer monitor contains an average of four pounds of lead, as well as mercury, cadmium and arsenic. Discarded CRTs are subject to regulation under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

The EPA says that the companies failed to notify it of their intent to export the waste to Vietnam and, consequently attempted to bypass the process required for Vietnam to consent to receive hazardous wastes from the U.S. before it can leave the country.

Source from: <http://www.waste-management-world.com/index/display/article-display/3985596203/articles/waste-management-world/markets-policy-finance/2011/02/Illegal-E-Waste-Exports-Leads-to-Penalties-from-EPA.html>

NGOs call on EU commissioner to fix broken ship breaking legislation

A petition letter against current ship breaking practices signed by hundreds of European citizens was handed to Commissioner Mr Janez Potocnik by Mr Grazia Cioci, acting director of the NGO Ship breaking Platform. The petition letter urges the European Union to act quickly and either initiate EU legislation or strengthen existing European laws that would effectively prevent European ships from being sent to South Asian countries where they are cut open and recycled in extremely dangerous conditions, harming workers and heavily polluting the environment.

The European Union plays an important role in the ship breaking issue, 40% of the ships sailing worldwide are owned by EU Member States. Globally, 80% of end of life ships are simply run ashore for breaking on the beaches of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan; therefore, an important part of these ships are European owned or used to sail under European flags.

Mr Grazia Cioci said that it is necessary to move the operations off the beach and properly enforce the Basel Convention to ensure that developing countries are not used as dumping grounds of the rich, and that the workers in developing countries are given a fighting chance to survive their jobs. Anything less is a sad game of exploitation.

Source from: http://www.steelguru.com/international_news/NGOs_call_on_EU_commissioner_to_fix_broken_ship_breaking_legislation/190732.html

News related to Basel Convention

Controversy over burning trash for power, and carbon credits, in India

India is going full-steam ahead with plans to build a type of power plant that converts garbage to power, despite fears by some that it could amount to a pollution disaster in a country without strong air quality regulations. Indian developers of the plants deny such allegations and say pollutant traps will be in place.

Experts say the government could not have picked a worse location for a plant that they claim will emit dioxins, furans, nox, sox, respirable particulate matter and other toxic chemicals associated with waste-to-energy plants that are designed to run on "rubbish-derived fuel. Indresh Batra, a top executive with Jindal, dismisses those fears. He says the plant will have flue gas control systems designed to trap dioxins, furans, sox and nox, and that the fly ash and residues will be used for making tiles and bricks.

Source from: <http://solveclimateneeds.com/news/20110201/controversy-over-burning-trash-power-and-carbon-credits-india>

Hazardous Waste Facility to be Built in Delhi, India

A site to safely dispose of 50,000 tones of hazardous and electronic waste per annum is to be set up in the Kanjhawala Industrial Area of Delhi, India report in The Times of India. The Department of Environment has already paid Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) Rs 400 million (\$8.75 million) for the land acquisition, while another Rs 100 million (\$2.2 million) will be paid next month.

India's capital produces more than 5500 tones of toxic waste each year. The last waste census was carried out five years ago. The facility will be different from the landfill sites as care will have to be taken to ensure that no dangerous chemicals leach into the ground, and will be made on ground but the waste will not come in direct contact with the soil.

Source from: http://www.waste-management-world.com/index/display/article-display/1000316932/articles/waste-management-world/markets-policy-finance/2011/02/Hazardous_Waste_Facility_to_be_Built_in_Delhi_India.html

Panasonic to recycle e-waste in India

Japanese consumer durables firm Panasonic on Friday said it will reach out to its customers in India for recycling of electronic items as part of a global campaign to become the No. 1 'Green Innovation Electronics Company' by 2018. The firm's Indian arm had earlier kicked off an internal recycling programme for electronic goods in association with Bangalore-based E-Parisian, an electronic waste-recycling firm, to create awareness on the issue.

Till date, 700 kilograms of material have been recycled as part of the internal recycling process. This includes items such as phones, fax machines, televisions, air conditioners, fans and compressors, it added. The company said the programme will roll out in Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad. Later on, it is likely to move to Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai. "E-waste is currently estimated to be 800,000 metric tones in India. With the growing use of electronics, it becomes imperative that safe and reliable methods are introduced and adopted for the disposal of e-waste," Panasonic India director (Operations and Planning) Arjun Balakrishnan said.

The company also said it plans to promote factory waste recycling in India. "In the process, they aim at triggering a series of environmental awareness building campaigns in India," it said.

Source from: <http://www.livemint.com/2011/02/18152155/Panasonic-to-recycle-ewaste-1.html>

Latest Research

- * Huizhen Li, Li et al. Short-range transport of contaminants released from e-waste recycling site in South China. *J. Environ. Monit.*, 2011. (paper)
- * Yu-qi Jin et al. Conversion of bromine during thermal decomposition of printed circuit boards at high temperature. *Journal of Hazardous Materials*, 2011 (paper)
- * Jack Caravanos et al. Assessing Worker and Environmental Chemical Exposure Risks at an e-Waste Recycling and Disposal Site in Accra, Ghana *Journal of Health and Pollution*, 2011 (paper)
- * JL Edge. Electronic Waste and Individual Producer Responsibility: The Environmental Movement and the Promotion of a New Waste Management Norm (Conference paper)
- * Guan Hua Xing et al. Exposure to PCBs, through inhalation, dermal contact and dust ingestion at Taizhou, China – A major site for recycling transformers *Chemosphere*, 2011 (paper)
- * Andreas Manhar International Cooperation for Metal Recycling From Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment: An Assessment of the “Best-of-Two-Worlds” Approach *Journal of Industrial Ecology*, 2011: 13–30 (paper)
- * Huang K et al. Enhancement of the recycling of waste Ni–Cd and Ni–MH batteries by mechanical treatment *Waste Management*, 2011 (paper)

Electronic Waste and Individual Producer Responsibility: The Environmental Movement and the Promotion of a New Waste Management Norm

A global network of environmental NGOs has promoted the norm of individual producer responsibility (IPR) to address the problem of electronic waste (e-waste). IPR occurs when a producer takes responsibility for the end-of-life management of their own products. It encourages more environmentally sustainable product design. In 2002, the EU passed e-waste take-back legislation that included IPR. The majority of electronics manufacturers opposed the legislation, but a small group of manufacturers joined with NGOs to lobby for IPR. This coalition, IPR Works, ensured the EU's legislation included IPR. The existence of the EU's legislation together with a successful global e-waste campaign run by NGOs is spreading the norm of IPR globally amongst both governments and electronics manufacturers.

This paper argues environmental NGOs together with IPR Works are the primary reason for the diffusion of the IPR norm. The role of NGOs as the norm entrepreneur has been bolstered by the reputational concerns of manufacturers. The paper also discusses what the IPR Works coalition suggests for NGO efforts to promote other norms through corporate campaigns. The promotion of the IPR norm has broad significance as NGOs wish to diffuse it to other industries

International Cooperation for Metal Recycling From Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment: An Assessment of the “Best-of-Two-Worlds” Approach

This article addresses a market-based management concept for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) known as the “best-of-two-worlds” approach. The concept is based on the idea that recyclers in developing countries and emerging economies can cooperate with technologically advanced refineries in industrialized countries to facilitate efficient recovery of valuable metals, such as gold and palladium, from e-waste. The article provides an overview of technical and environmental concerns underlying the concept and sheds light on the political framework, the waste-related trade issues, and the resource economics that need to be considered for further decision making. Building on this synthesis, I conduct a qualitative assessment of sustainability impacts of the proposed concept by analyzing two scenarios and their associated risks.

The analysis suggests that, under certain preconditions, the best-of-two-worlds concept could yield significant improvements in terms of management of hazardous substances, resource efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions, income generation, and investments into social and environmental standards. Generally, two potential implementation scenarios were identified: Whereas under Scenario 1 only WEEE generated within developing countries and emerging economies is managed through the best-of-two-worlds approach, Scenario 2 additionally incorporates WEEE imported from industrialized countries. Although both scenarios can yield a variety of benefits, Scenario 2 might cause a net flow of hazardous substances from industrialized countries into developing countries and emerging economies, thus leading to less beneficial sustainability impacts.