

BCRC-SEA'S NEWS

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WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN OUR REGION RECENTLY?

Workshop 2009 of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 20 -22 January 2009

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA), in cooperation with Department of Environment (DOE) Malaysia and Ministry of the Environment of Japan co-organized the Workshop 2009 of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 20 – 22 January 2009.



The Workshop was hosted by DOE Malaysia and attended by 26 participants from competent authorities and focal points to the Basel Convention from 11 countries and one special administrative region, BCRC-SEA, the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Asia and the Pacific in China (BCRC China), and 6 observers from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC), Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law Transfrontier Shipments of Waste (IMPEL-TFS), government and semi-government organizations, researchers, and consultants from member countries.

The following issues were discussed by the participants:

- 1) Update on Enforcement Activities of the Basel Convention,
- 2) Good Practices for Effective Implementation, including import/export application handling, collaborative efforts with customs, cooperation among relevant stakeholders and awareness and training,
- 3) Asian Situation in Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes
- 4) Toward Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Secondhand EEE and E-wastes.

A Site Visit was also conducted to Kualiti Alam Sdn. Bhd, an integrated hazardous waste treatment facility in Bukit Pelandok, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia.

As stated in the Final Chair's summary, each member country is supposed to share more than one email address to ensure the receipt of electronic notification without delay. The participants are also encouraged to set a performance pledge for the notification processing time.

The 3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee of BCRC-SEA

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 23 January 2009

The Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia was held on 23 January 2009 at Concorde Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was attended by the Steering Committee Members from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, country representatives of Steering Committee Members from Cambodia and Thailand and a representative from the Secretariat of Basel Convention. A representative from the Philippines also attended the Meeting as an observer. The Meeting discussed overview of the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting Result. Following presentation of implementation of BCRC-SEA's Business Plan 2007 / 2008 by BCRC-SEA, the Meeting had discussion on BCRC-SEA's Work Plan 2009 / 2010, BCRC-SEA's operations and the effectiveness of the Steering Committee.



The E-Waste Training Workshop for Asia and the Pacific Hanoi, Vietnam, 10 – 14 August 2009

The E-Waste Training Workshop for Asia and the Pacific was held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 10 – 14 August 2009. The Workshop was hosted by the Vietnam Environment Administration (VEA) and funded by Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan (MOEJ). The organisers of the Workshop were VEA, MOEJ, SBC, BCRC-SEA, and BCRC China. There were 71 participants from the participating countries in the Basel Convention Partnership on the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Electrical and Electronic Wastes for Asia Pacific Region (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam), Japan, SBC, United Nations Environment Programme, International Environmental Technology Centre (UNEP-IETC), BCRC-SEA, BCRC China, 16 resource persons from private companies which operate facilities for e-waste and/or hazardous waste and research institutes, and 15 observers from Pakistan, several departments in Vietnam, private companies and universities.

The objectives of the workshop are : 1) to assist governmental officials in charge of the implementation of the Basel Convention and the management of E-waste, in developing national strategic framework and measures for ESM of E-Waste; 2) to facilitate them to keep up with the ip-to-date and practical approaches and techniques in the E-waste management; and 3) to encourage the participating countries to undertake further policy actions in the field.



9 (nine) programs were carried out during the workshop, which are on project development, country presentations on project proposal/plan, ESM of collection, separation, repair, refurbishment, reconditioning, material recovery and recycling, other elements for ESM, overall discussion, revision of project proposal/plan and country presentations on the revised proposal/plan. Each participating country had a meeting with SBC, MOEJ and BCRCs to pre-finalize their project proposals/plans on e-waste management.

On the fifth day, the site visit was held at Namson Solid Waste Treatment Complex of URENCO. The participants visited several facilities, such as E-waste treatment facility, the secured landfill site and incinerator.

EU Conference for the Safe -Thai Project :Awareness Summit for Promoting International Regulations

Bangkok, Thailand, 7 – 8 September 2009



BCRC-SEA participated in the EU Conference for the Safe – Thai (Safety and Environmental Best Practises Exchange for Transportation of Hazardous Substances in the Industry) Project in Bangkok, Thailand on 7 – 8 September 2009. The Safe Thai Project is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by The Hazardous Substances Logistics Association (HASLA) of Thailand and Adelphi Research of Germany. The purpose of this conference was to have sessions on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) on the transportation, storage and handling of hazardous materials, to increase awareness of EU directives, in which the Basel Convention, along with the Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention, are very important in creating better awareness among the hazardous material transportation companies in Thailand. BCRC-SEA presented topic on “Overview of the Basel, Rotterdam and the Stockholm Conventions.” More information can be found at : http://www.safe-thai.net/eu_conference/eu_conference.html.

Mr. Dadan Wardhana H.S, Senior Technical Adviser of BCRC-SEA, resigned from his position



Jakarta, Indonesia, May 2009

Senior Technical Adviser of BCRC-SEA, Mr. Dadan Wardhana H.S resigned from his position in May 2009 to take up his new position as Programme Officer in the UNEP/SBC in Geneva, Switzerland.

BCRC-SEA expresses its deepest thanks to Mr. Dadan Wardhana H.S for his excellent service and great contribution to the Centre during his work in BCRC-SEA and wishes him success in his new position.

Mr. Dadan Wardhana H.S can now be contacted at dadan.wardhana@unep.ch

Project of Collection of Existing Information and Guidelines for the ESM of asbestos wastes

Jakarta, Indonesia, August – November 2009

BCRC-SEA in cooperation with UNEP/SBC conducted a project on collection of existing information and guidelines for the ESM of asbestos wastes. This is in line with the requests by Parties at Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) 6 and Conference of the Parties (COP) 8 of the Basel Convention that guidelines and a lot of information on ESM of asbestos waste are already available, and therefore new guidelines do not need to be developed.

This activity was conducted in order to compile the existing information on the ESM of asbestos waste. The information was collected by researching national and international sources.

Sources of information were validated and the information was organized in a database.

The results of compilation of the existing information and guidelines of the ESM of asbestos waste, the database and a note of compilation were then published on BCRC-SEA's website. In order to enable wider public access, SBC's website also provides a link to the BCRC-SEA's webpage on the publication of the Project results. The consultant for the project is Ms. Séverine Cattin from Geneva, Switzerland, with work period of August – November 2009. During her stay in BCRC-SEA, she also assisted BCRC-SEA in designing layout of BCRC-SEA's leaflet and research of a document management tool.



The result of the project can be seen at :

<http://bcrc-sea.blogspot.com>

The Joint Workshop of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional and Subregional Centres

Geneva, Switzerland, 28 September – 2 October 2009

BCRC-SEA participated in the The Joint Workshop of the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention Regional and Subregional Centres, which was held between the 28th of September and 2nd of October 2009 in Geneva.

Over the course of the week, participants recognised various areas of future cooperation and coordination and emphasis was laid on 'training the trainers' where the secretariats provided practical information and tools to the Centres to improve their delivery in their respective regions.

Active participation by the Directors and Centre's staff further enhanced the quality of the workshop.

<http://www.basel.int/centers/wrkshop280909/index.html>



The 3rd MEA-REN Workshop Chiangmai, Thailand, 12 – 15 October 2009

The 3rd MEA-REN Workshop was held in Chiangmai, Thailand, on 12 – 15 October 2009. The Multilateral Environmental Agreements Regional Enforcement Network (MEA-REN) project was funded by the Sida (Swedish International Development Agency). The Workshop was organised by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP ROAP). It was attended by around 90 customs officers, environmental officers from 24 Asia Pacific countries and experts from international organizations and NGOs.



Photo credit : UNEP ROAP

The MEA-REN workshop in Chiang Mai, 12-15 October 2009, analyzed the smuggling trends in harmful chemicals and wastes and shared the best practice in fighting against the crime. The participants further discussed how to improve communication channels for informal information exchange and the progress of the development common tools for data management and collaboration. Informal Prior Consent on Import and Export of ODS (iPIC), application of communication tool, ENVIRONET and desk study of movements of chemicals and wastes have been highlighted in the meeting (http://www.mea-ren.org/news_event_list.php?id=8).

During the Workshop, BCRC-SEA presented the topic of “A Case Study of Import of Hazardous Wastes and Ways to Cooperate with Networking Countries.”

More information can be found at www.mea-ren.org



The 3rd MEA-Regional Enforcement Network Workshop
Chiang Mai, Thailand
12- 15 October 2009

SEI STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE Sida UNEP

Photo credit : UNEP ROAP

The 3rd International Symposium - Regional Integration and Sustainable Development in Asia

Tokyo, Japan, 4 December 2009

BCRC-SEA presented the topic of “Environmental Cooperation and Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention) in South-East Asia” at the 3rd International Symposium – Regional Integration and Sustainable Development in Asia, which took place in Tokyo, Japan, on 4 December 2009. The Symposium was organized by Waseda University Global COE : Global Institute for Asian Regional Integration (GIARI) and co-organized by Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies, Waseda University.



Photo credit : Waseda - Giari

The objectives of the symposium were to consider the current status and future prospects of regional integration in Asia. Participants also discussed disparities in development and environmental problems among Asian countries as well as policy directed at finding solutions to these issues.

For more information please see :
<http://www.waseda-giari.jp/eng/events/221>.



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About BCRC-SEA

The BCRCs were established in accordance with Article 14 of the Basel Convention. In Article 14, the Parties to the Convention agreed to establish regional or sub-regional Centres for training and technology transfer regarding the management of hazardous and other wastes and the minimization of their generation. The BCRCs were created to address specific regional or sub-regional needs by delivering training, dissemination of information, consulting, awareness raising activities and technology transfer on matters relevant to the implementation of the Basel Convention and to the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes in the countries they serve. The specific activities are training workshops, seminars, pilot projects on the management of priority waste streams, the production of information material and guidelines. (www.basel.int).

The Decision III/19 at Conference of the Parties III in 1995 selected Indonesia to host one of BCRCs. The Government of the Republic of Indonesia then signed the Framework Agreement on BCRC for Southeast Asia (BCRC-SEA) with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on 29 October 2004 in Genève. The Framework Agreement was later endorsed by Presidential Regulation No. 60/2005 on 12 October 2005. The BCRC-SEA is supported by 10 countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. []