

Work Plan –Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Solid and Hazardous Waste

1. Background: Regional Issues and Challenges

Asia is now growing up rapidly in economics and population. The rate of economic growth is now 7.4% (2005, ESCAP) and population is increasing by 1.1% (2006-2010, United Nations Population Fund, “State of World Population 2006”). While Asia has been experiencing a rapid increase of population and economic development, waste problem has been becoming common to all countries in Asia. The growth have led to the waste related issues such increase of volume and variety of solid waste, qualitative diversification of solid waste, transboundary movement of 3Rs-related goods, materials and products, and soaring price of resources.

In many developing countries in Asia, open dumping is incorporated for waste disposal which often leads to environmental problems such as water contamination, air pollution, odours, health problem, and hygiene problem. In addition, heavy metal contamination, increase of hazardous substances in industrial waste, mixing in of infectious waste with municipal waste, and environmental burden and health problems derived from inappropriate treatment on E-waste have been the significant and emerging issues to be tackled at a regional level as well as at a national level in Asia.

Based upon the highlighted above issues in Asia, the Asia 3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) Conference held on October 30–November 1, 2006 in Tokyo, Japan discussed four topics including “Partnership and International Cooperation for the Promotion of the 3Rs”, “Medical Waste Management”, “Municipal Organic Waste Management”, and “E-waste Management “. The conference was the first opportunity to deal with above topics comprehensively, and concluded that the 3R Knowledge Hub for Asia and the regional Initiative on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries could be the candidate mechanisms for a follow up to the conference.

In this context, the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Solid and Hazardous Waste (SHW) deals with municipal waste and medical waste which are common issues to the member countries. There are a total of twelve member countries in SHW: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

2. Objectives

The following objectives are generic and apply to the subgroups:

- (1) To ensure environmentally sound management of solid and hazardous waste, in particular municipal waste and medical waste, and promote the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) in Southeast and East Asian Countries.
- (2) To prioritise issues by analyzing status-quo of municipal waste and medical management in the member countries
- (3) To provide useful information to raise policymakers' awareness on the importance of, to increase investment addressing to, and to mobilize the bilateral and multilateral assistance for the importance

of linkages between waste and health.

3. Activities and timeline

Please Note: Timing has been provided for ongoing activities in which the TWG can play an important role. Timing for newly proposed activities should be considered in the process of reviewing and finalizing the plan. Thus, no specific recommendations have been made yet.

Activity codes used in the planning table			
a	Knowledge management and technical support	c	Coordination and advocacy
b	Progress reporting to the regional forum	d	Resource mobilization

Activity		Cat.	Timing
<u>1: TWG establishment</u>	(1) Develop an initial work plan through a participatory process	c	Q3/2007
	(2) Finalise membership and develop mailing list	c	Q3/2007
<u>2: Municipal waste management</u>	(1) Develop a checklist sheet of municipal waste management in the member countries	a, c	Q4/2007-Q1/2008
	(2) Compile the checklist sheets filled out by the TWG members, and provide information on status-quo and issues of municipal waste management in the member countries	a, b	Q1/2008-Q4/2008
	(3) Collect information on good practice for municipal waste management and the 3Rs, such as composting of organic waste	a, b	Q2/2008-Q4/2008
	(4) Provide the above information for the 3R Knowledge Hub	a	Q1/2009-Q2/2009
	(5) Recommend necessary actions to address the issues in the compiled list	d	Q3/2009-Q4/2008
<u>3: Medical waste management</u>	(1) Formulate a questionnaire to ask status-quo and issues of medical waste management, in particular separation, collection and treatment of medical waste, in the member countries	a, c	Q4/2007-Q1/2008
	(2) Compile the answers filled out by the TWG members, and provide information on status-quo and issues of medical waste management in the member countries	a, b	Q1/2008-Q4/2008
	(3) Provide the above information for the 3R Knowledge Hub	a	Q1/2009-Q2/2009

	(4) Recommend necessary actions to address the issues in the compiled list	d	Q3/2009-Q4/2009
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4. Outputs and Indicators

Outputs		Indicators
1: TWG establishment	Work plan, including a meeting schedule, reporting schedule and budget	Plan approved and published
2: Municipal waste management	(1) Checklist sheet of municipal waste management	Checklist sheet approved and published
	(2) Report on status-quo and issues of municipal waste management in the member countries	Report published
	(3) Report on good practice for municipal waste management and the 3Rs	Report published
	(4) Contribution to the 3R Knowledge Hub	Web-site updated
	(5) Recommendation on necessary actions	Recommendation compiled
3: Medical waste management	(1) Questionnaire of medical waste management	Questionnaire approved and published
	(2) Report on status-quo and issues of medical waste management in the member countries	Report published
	(3) Contribution to the 3R Knowledge Hub	Web-site updated
	(4) Recommendation on necessary actions	Recommendation compiled

5. Monitoring and reporting

The monitoring and reporting of the progress of implementing the work plan will be carried out by contacting the TWG members on-line and holding TWG meetings subject to availability of resources.

6. Resources

Outputs	Resource required
1: TWG establishment	-
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2: Municipal waste management	(1) Checklist sheet of municipal waste management	-Experts to draft the checklist sheet -Cost of the employing the experts
	(2) Report on status-quo and issues of municipal waste management in the member countries	-Experts to draft the report -Cost of the employing the experts
	(3) Report on good practice for municipal waste management and the 3Rs	-Experts to draft the report -Cost of the employing the experts
	(4) Contribution to the 3R Knowledge Hub	-Experts to provide the information -Cost of the employing the experts
	(5) Recommendation on necessary actions	-Experts to draft the recommendation -Cost of the employing the experts -Cost of the TWG meetings
3: Medical waste management	(1) Questionnaire of medical waste management	-Experts to draft the questionnaire -Cost of the employing the experts
	(2) Report on status-quo and issues of medical waste management in the member countries	-Experts to draft the report -Cost of the employing the experts
	(3) Contribution to the 3R Knowledge Hub	-Experts to provide the information -Cost of the employing the experts
	(4) Recommendation on necessary actions	-Experts to draft the recommendation -Cost of the employing the experts -Cost of the TWG meetings

7. Secretariat

UNEP/ROAP serves as the secretariat of the TWG on solid and hazardous waste.