

Special Working Group Session **Possible Introduction of Recycling Certification in Asia**

10th July, 2012, Hanoi, Viet Nam

**Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)
Sub-regional training workshop on
building capacity to deal with the illegal shipments of
e-waste and near-end-of-life electronics**

Possible Introduction of Recycling Certification in Asia

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Purpose of the Workshop

- With the participation of experts from research institutes, governments, international organisations, businesses and certification bodies, this workshop will identify opportunities to nurture good behavior of recycling businesses and promote the proper transboundary movement of recyclables in Asia.
- Through this, the workshop will aim to exchange ideas and share experiences on how best to make use of certification systems for nurturing “good” recycling businesses.

Recycling Certification?

- The **recycling certification system** discussed at this workshop is a system that **aims to easily identify businesses that properly manage and treat resources in recycling markets, with national governments, third party certification bodies or trading companies issuing certification for qualified recycling businesses, and making information public.**
- It includes certification by affiliated industry groups (second-party certification) and third-party certification that uses standardised specifications.
- The recyclable resources targeted in this research include waste electric and electronic products.

Workshop schedule

- **Opening 9:00**
- **Session 1 Introduction 9:00-10:30**
Introduction and Objectives of the WS, Presentations by MOEJ and IDE-JETRO, and QA and discussion: 35 min.
- **Session 2 Existing Certification Scheme 10:30-12:00**
Presentations on WEELABEX, R2 (Responsible Recycling) Certification, joint standard for e-waste management of Australia and New Zealand, and QA and discussion: 45 min.
- **Lunch 12:00-13:30**

Workshop schedule

- **Session 3: Parallel Group Discussion 1 and 2 13:30-15:30**

Presentations on initial findings from the research project

Parallel Group Discussion 1 on “Purpose and Merits of Introducing International Recycling Certification”: 13:50-15:30

Parallel Group Discussion 2 on “Technical and Operational Challenges and Approaches for Effective International Recycling Certification”: 13:50-15:30

- Tea Break: 15:30-16:00

- **Session 4: Overall Discussion 16:00-17:30**

Reporting Back of Parallel Group Discussion 1 and 2

Discussion and Conclusion

Approach of the Research

Basic Survey (2011)

Issue 1. Survey on Permits and Licenses for Recyclers in 9 Asian countries/region

Issue 2. Comparison of international ESM certification for e-waste recyclers

Situation in Asian countries

Consideration for application in Asia

Examination of possible recycling certification scheme in Asia (2012)

Issue 3. Examination of Possible Introduction of Recycling Certification Scheme in Asia.

1. Survey on Permits and Licenses for Recyclers in 9 Asian countries/region

- Conducted a series of surveys in Japan, Republic of Korea, China, Taiwan, Viet Nam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines.
- The survey aims to identify items and standards specified in permits and licenses of recyclers in these countries/region.
- In addition, the study surveyed related legislations, existence of subsidies for recyclers, existence of guideline for recycling standards, and situation of recycling businesses in these countries/region.

2. Comparison of international ESM certification for e-waste recyclers

- Conducted a comparative analysis of existing certification schemes for e-waste recyclers.
- Responsible Recycling (R2), e-stewards, WEEELABEX, Recycler Qualification Program for End of Life Electronics Recycling (RQP), Collection, Storage, Transport, and Treatment of Used Electrical and Electronic Equipment (CSTT)

Existence at each domestic level

Not yet clear

3. Viewpoints to examine recycling certification

Objectives	<u>Environmental Health/ Labor Safety Management</u>	<u>To nurture "good" recyclers</u>	<u>To encourage proper transaction and trade of recyclables</u>
Encourage sound /good business conducts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Environmental Management System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Acknowledgement/commendation of "good" business conducts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Priority distribution of recyclables to "good" recyclers •Smoother transaction to good recyclers
Cutting off unsound/bad business conducts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Permits and licenses for operation •Labor safety standards •Environmental regulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •International Minimum Guideline •Monitoring, guarantee, informational feedback of proper recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Observance to Basel Rule •International guideline for sound recycling technology

Need to generate incentives for certification by combining with related policies

4. Typology and effective intervention to recycling processes in developing countries

	Policy concerns	
Collection, sorting and picking	<p><u>Labor safety, poverty, social problems</u> Low potential for economic growth. Low environmental concerns.</p>	<p><u>Social intervention</u> Collaboration in collection and sorting with municipalities Capacity development Collaboration with social entrepreneurship and NGOs</p>
Storage and trade (include dismantling)	<p><u>High potential for economic growth</u> Environmental concerns are low in general. Playing key role in informal recycling.</p>	<p><u>Economic incentive</u> Franchise of good recycling business Formation of union</p>
Resource recovery process	<p><u>High concern in environmental impact and labor safety</u> High potential for economic growth. But high environmental concerns.</p>	<p><u>Strengthen environmental regulation</u> Capacity development R&D Concentration and clustering of facilities</p>

5. Points for Consideration

1. Purpose

- We identify the purposes of recycling certification as follows: 1) **Environmental/Health/ Labor Safety Management**, 2) **To Nature Good Recyclers**, and 3) **To Encourage Proper Transaction and Trade of Recyclables**. Existing domestic permits and licence scheme or international certification scheme respond to purpose 1) but not so much to **purpose 2)**.

2. Target of certification

- Need to consider recycling certification **reflecting different functions (a. collection, sorting and picking, b. storage and trade (including dismantling), and c. resource recovery process)** of recycling chains. In addition, emitters plays a significant role. Thus, **emitters should be part of system.**

3. Developing countries

- Considering recycling in developing countries, we need to take the following into consideration; 1) **capacity development of existing recyclers**,. 2) **matching of emitters and recyclers**, and 3) **differences in geographic, policy and business conditions.**

4. Clues of good recyclers:

1. **Traceability of trading partners**
2. **Analytical capacity of materials in recyclables**
3. **Introduction of mass balance tool**
4. **Sound management of residues**
5. **Acceptance of recyclables based on its technical and managerial capacity**

6. Working Group in the afternoon

- Group 1: Objectives of Recycling Certification (Needs assessment)

This group will mainly discuss about objective of recycling certification and will try to identify and assess needs for such mechanism.

- Group 2: Challenges and Opportunities for Implementation/Operation (Stock-taking from existing certification schemes as well as recycling practices)

This group will mainly discuss about challenges and opportunities for improved implementation/operation of recycling activities as well as existing certification schemes.

Group 1: Objectives of Recycling Certification (Needs assessment)

Basic points

- What is the most effective definition of recyclers? Is it suitable to be categorized into different functions? Would a certification system have to cover all functions and stages of the recycling and waste management chain or would it be sufficient to certify only certain parts of the chain? Is it sufficient to certify individual treatment facilities or do certification systems need to cover whole recycling and waste management chains?
- What are the requirements and conditions for quality recyclers?

Objectives

- To what extent could recycling certification contribute to the following objectives?
 - Environmental, health, and occupational safety management
 - Development of quality recyclers
 - Ensuring appropriate domestic transaction/international trade

Asian Context

- In your opinion, how feasible is the idea to establish regional recycling centers or international recycling hubs based on a harmonized certification system?
- What are the key factors that influence whether such an initiative would succeed or fail?
- How to reflect diversity of recycling market in Asia?

Group 2: Challenges and Opportunities for Implementation/Operation (Stock-taking from existing certification schemes as well as recycling practices)

Lessons from existing certification systems

- Are the requirements in existing certification systems reasonable and effective?
- What are the weakest or most critical parts of existing systems?
- Who would be certifiers for effective and reliable certification mechanism? Can private organization operate and implement such certification mechanism?
- What motivates recycling companies to become certified and why do certain emitters prefer to contract with certified recyclers? How can these drivers be strengthened?
- How we can ensure chain of custody? Are ensuring “traceability” and “mass-balance accounting” enough for this purpose?
- In addition to certification mechanism itself, what kind of additional measures are needed to ensure quality recycling?

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