

REPORT ON SCOPING WORKSHOP FOR e-WASTE MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA

Date : 21st September 2007

Time : 9.30 AM

Venue : Annex – Room iii, India International Centre, New Delhi, India.

1. Introduction

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in collaboration with the Development Alternative organized a workshop for e-Waste Management in South Asia in New Delhi last September 2007.

2. Attendance

The Workshop was attended by National Representatives from the following Member Countries: - India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

It was also attended by resource persons from World Bank, GTZ, UNDP and Representatives from Universities, Local NGO's like Centre for Environment Education, Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health, Green Peace India, Toxics Link, and Representatives from the region from Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Nepal, Central Environmental Authority, Sri Lanka, Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development, Nepal and Local Ministries like Ministry of Information Technology, Ministry of Environment and Forest and also some representatives from leading Manufactories.

The List of Participants is in **Annex 1**.

3. Introductory Remarks

Dr Ashok Khosala, Chairman Development Alternatives welcomed the participants and on his speech mentioned that the e-waste has become a serious issue to South Asian region. The need of better policies in controlling e- waste and the collaboration in Government Sector and NGO's in controlling the issue and taking the region towards the sustainable development was also mentioned.

Dr Arvind Boaz from South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme made his welcome speech highlighting the issue of South Asia becoming the biggest dumping site of e-waste imported mostly from the developed countries. And he also mentioned the least developed poor countries have greater impact since these countries have very little or no facilities to overcome the issue of e-waste.

Dr Laxmi Ragupathy, Additional Director from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India in her speech gave the country capacity on controlling the e- waste.

Dr U P Phadke, Advisor, Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India highlighted the projects they are working on controlling the e- waste issue.

4. Introduction to Workshop & Presentation

Dr Vijaya Laxmi, Senior Programme Director from the Development Alternatives briefly outlined the objectives of this workshop followed by Mr Arupendra Nath Mullick, Environmental Scientist also from DA made a power point presentation on the Concept Paper drafted by SACEP and DA.

5. Country Presentations

In these presentations the current status of the countries regarding the e-waste were highlighted.

The presentation for Nepal was presented by Ms Roshani Shrestha, Under Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Nepal.

Presentation for Sri Lanka was presented by Ms Sarojinie Jayasekara, Assistant Director, Central Environmental Authority, Sri Lanka.

6. Technical Session

After the country presentations on current practices, legislative frameworks and issues of concern in e-waste management by the region and with the Panel discussion focused on Aspects of e-waste management followed by a group discussion these conclusions were made,

7. Outcome of the Workshop

A. Key Needs

i . Awareness

- There is poor understanding in general among the public, policy makers, business community (in general) and media. To maximize use of and benefits from proper e- waste management. These categories need to know about e- waste, what we could do with e- waste, and be made aware of the state of the art in this sphere.

ii . Enhancement of the Technology

- Most of the countries in the region are poor and developing the technology to recycle e-waste is lacking. It varies from Equipment to skilled staff. Technical knowledge and enhanced in country capacity on e-waste management technologies in poor and lesser developed countries of the region is in need.

B. Recommendations

i . Formation of a Task Force

- There should be a well established forum of regional experts in e-waste management to meet periodically to exchange views and update knowledge (i.e. training projects, overseas exchange visits, etc.). This Task Force could also be used for regional expertise to meet and share their ideas; especially those from technology advanced countries can share the knowledge with others. It can comprise of expertise representing all the governments of the region and the industrial sector, recyclers, NGO's and observers from well recognized international organizations. SACEP can act as the secretariat for this Task Force.

ii . Co- ordination

- There is a need for good coordination among the region for the transfer of technology and for the exchange of information. For the purpose of recycling of the e-waste trans boundary movements can be carried out with a better co ordination. Developing of policies and alternatives can be done without any over lapping in this way.

iii . Legal Knowledge and Application

- Existing laws or new laws can be developed for the trans boundary movements of the e- waste within the region for the purpose of recycling. In this way the countries with better technology can help the least developed countries to over come the issue. E-waste getting collected from the highly developed countries to the region should be controlled by the enforcement of laws.

8. Concluding Session

The workshop ended with thanks to the all the participants and for their contribution.