Global Recycling and Waste Trafficking

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ISWA is the leading International Association representing all aspects and partners within the waste industry. It collaborates with National and International Organisations in research, studies and proposals to fulfil its declared mission:

“To Promote Sustainable Waste Management Worldwide”

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Challenges of these times
## Consumption and waste

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>TV’s per 1,000 inh.</th>
<th>Waste generation (kg/inh)</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0.9 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.1 billion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>1.3 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>64 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>127 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>813</td>
<td>302 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economic importance and supply risks

- Low economic importance / low supply risk
- High economic importance / low supply risk
- High economic importance / high supply risk
Global recycling – historical aspects

- International secondary materials trade - not a new phenomenon
- Cullet moving 4000 years by ship
- Metals probably even earlier movements
- Movement of secondary raw materials/waste undertaken over centuries
- Recently scale and types of material moving became greater
- Short distance transfers became increasing greater distances
- Movement intercontinental – Europe to Far East Asia especially but first North America to East Asia and Australia to Asia
Main drivers promoting movement

- Push factors – promotion of recycling in North America & Europe
- Pull factors – older and more significant are mainly industrial demands for materials
- Linkage only possible through ever cheaper (reverse) logistics
- Emergence of China as the new workshop of the World
- Other SE Asian Tiger economies emerged subsequently
- Therefore huge increase in amounts of waste traded
- Also types of waste traded – plastics and even glass cullet
Waste trafficking: local and global

- Waste trafficking – difficulty of definition…..
- Mainly local – sites without permits, movement by unregistered carriers, fly tipping by organised criminals
- Internationally – examples of toxic waste to developing countries
- Main emphasis now is on Waste Electrical and Electronics (WEEE)
- Examples of west Europe to Africa, Japan to SE Asia
- But closer examination shows issue of exports of used/second hand equipment very complex
- Illegal movements of waste damage waste industry reputation and creates an unlevel playing field penalising legal operators
Waste inspections

21,670 units physically checked
3,897 (18%) units contained waste
Violations

- 340 Administrative Violations
- 225 Illegal shipments
- 92 Other waste related violations

Total: 833 (21%)
Illegal waste shipments

High score of:

- Household related & non-hazardous wastes

- Waste types for which EPR is applicable
  (WEEE, ELV, Packagings)
Packagings
Basic principle of a trader

- Prevent that the producer and final recycler know each other

ANNEX VII
EUROPEAN WASTE SHIPMENT REGULATION

1. Person who arranges the shipment
   Dutch scrap services
   Industry park 2, Rotterdam
   Netherlands

2. Importer/consignee
   Shanghai Plastic trade Ltd.
   WTC Building, Shanghai
   China

3. Actual quantity:
   Tonnes (Mt): 21
   m³:

4. Actual date of shipment:
   12 November 2009

5(a) 1st carrier
   Dutch Truck transport B.V.

5(b) 2nd carrier
   Asia Shipping Ltd.

5(c) 3rd carrier

6. Waste generator
   Dutch scrap services
   Industry park 2, Rotterdam
   Netherlands

7. Recovery facility X
   Shanghai Plastic trade Ltd.
   Shanghai, China

8. Recovery operation
   R3

9. Usual description of the waste:
   LDPE Plastic films

10. Waste identification
    Basel Annex IX: D310

11. Countries/States concerned:
    Export/Dispatch
    Transit
    Import/destination
    Netherlands
    France
    China

12. Declaration of the person who arranges the shipment:
    Name: Mr John
    Date: 11 November 2009

    Signature: [Signature]
    Printed name: [Printed name]
If treated correctly

- WEEE – 20/50 million tons/year
- Prevents hazardous substances to harm humans and ecosystems, 3% Heavy metals, POPs in WEEE
- Brings scarce and valuable materials back into the resource flows, 60% METAL CONTENT
- Decreases the negative effects to the environment and the energy demand from mining activities, contains by weight: 10x gold of ore
  8x copper of ore
If not

- Causes serious harm to humans and the environment
  - Endangers the health of workers and residents
  - Contaminates soil, water and ecosystems
- Leads to low-yield material recycling
- 70% of WEEE goes to China

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Legislation

International

- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary of Hazardous Wastes

Regional

- European Waste Shipment Regulation
Actions have to be taken

In the long-term

- Reduce the probability of improper handling in the receiving countries
  - Strengthen environmental legislation and enforcement capabilities
  - Build appropriate treatment facilities
  - Develop domestic waste management know-how

Meanwhile

- The responsibility for securing sound and environmentally friendly ee-waste handling must be laid upon the exporting countries in cooperation with the relevant international bodies
Making it easier to do right

- Raise awareness on the problems related to waste trafficking and improper handling in the receiving countries as well as on the criminal structures involved and criminal methods used for waste trafficking.

- Making information and counseling on the rules and regulations related to proper waste management in general and transboundary shipments of waste in particular easily accessible to waste producers.

- Making the regulations of transboundary waste shipments more clear, understandable and coordinated.

- Providing means for waste producers to more easily identify and get in contact with serious, law-abiding waste brokers and handlers (for example through a waste brokers’ certification or accreditations system).
Making it harder to do wrong

- Introducing means securing better traceability of exported waste
- Providing resources needed for training and education of inspectors as well as for efficient and effective enforcement of the legislation
- Establishing better coordination on national, regional and international level
- Using intelligence-based methods to turn the enforcement activities from being reactive to becoming proactive
- Establishing a formal international body for the coordination of enforcement and intelligence initiatives related to waste trafficking (for example organized under the auspices of Interpol or UNEP/the Basel Secretariat)
- Changing regulation to make it harder for exporters to claim end-of-life products as products instead of wastes
THANK YOU

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