



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Twenty-eighth Issue of **REN NEWSFLASH!**

Highlights in this issue:

- REN 2015 round-up
- China's e-waste capital disappears almost overnight
- INECE Seaports organizes training for custom officers in Haiphong, Vietnam
- Europol seizes 190 tonnes of illegal pesticides

REN Newsflash, a monthly newsletter, covers REN activities and achievements, highlights of partners' activities and general news on combating illegal transboundary movements of waste and chemicals, and synergies and linkages on chemicals/waste related MEAs.

REN Activities

[REN 2015 Round-up](#)

In 2015, the REN project continued to assist countries in Asia and the Pacific in five areas, namely: 1) Technical assistance for Problem-solving; 2) Information and intelligence sharing; 3) Enforcement operations and Environmental Enforcement Award; 4) Networking and Awareness, and 5) Partnership for Sustainability. 2015 saw countries report more than 143 seizures cases with a total of 7,829,159 kg and 18,236 pieces of seized wastes and ODS, valued more than US\$ 1,293,712.

REN further enhanced the capacity of enforcement officers of the participating countries by organizing two national training workshops in the Philippines in August 2015, and supported two regional training workshops in Malaysia in April 2015 and in Republic of Korea in November 2015. In total, more than 160 enforcement officers from 29 countries were trained on identification of chemicals and waste, risk profiling and repatriation of seized waste.

REN launched the first Asia Environmental Enforcement Award in May 2015 at the First Asia Environment Ministerial Conference and the Rule of Law Roundtable. Five individuals and eight organizations have received the award. More than 70 media outlets around the world reported the event.

REN prepared and released the Enforcement Handbook on Controlling Illegal Shipments of Chemicals and Waste in May 2015, an enforcement tool to help frontline officers in Asia countries to control illegal trade in chemicals and waste. The handbook has been translated into Chinese, Vietnamese, and Bahasa Indonesia.

REN contributed to a UNEP's report, Waste Crime, Waste Risks- Gaps in Meeting the Global Waste Challenge, which was launched in the Conference of Parties of Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm Conventions in May in Geneva. Between 12 May and 13 May 2015, approximately 350 news articles across 28 countries referenced the report, The

Guardian, NBC News, German Press Agency DPA, Swiss public broadcaster RTS all covered this report.

In order to help countries to analyze the trends of illegal trade in chemicals and waste, a desk study was conducted in 2015 with the support of participating countries. The results were shared at the 4th REN Annual Workshop.

The Fourth REN Annual Workshop organized in November 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand further enhanced networking between customs departments and environmental agencies, as well as EU, North America and Asian countries.

REN further provided technical support to countries in tackling the bottle-neck issue such as repatriation of seized shipments. In this regard, inter-agency consultations on repatriation was facilitated in the Philippines and how best address repatriation was brainstormed at the 4th REN Annual Network meeting. The meeting participants indicated a better understanding on this issue.

REN continued to serve as a platform for information and intelligence sharing among the participating countries. Intelligence is being exchanged between Asia and Europe. Especially, REN has facilitated the information exchange between EU, India and China. Twelve issues of REN newsflash were produced and circulated to update trends of illegal trade and latest enforcement activities to combat illegal trade.

The partnership was further strengthened among existing partners, and new partnership was developed with the Swedish Chemical Agency (KemI) and the GRID-Arendal, a centre collaborating with UNEP.

Partners' Activities

WCO and INTERPOL reaffirm their commitment to work together against crime

The Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WCO), Kunio Mikuriya, and the Secretary General of INTERPOL, Jurgen Stock, met at the WCO Headquarters on 12 January 2016 to advance and enhance coordination and mutual cooperation in fighting transnational organized crime. INTERPOL and the WCO routinely collaborate under a framework of cooperation formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding.

The WCO and INTERPOL have a long history of cooperation, especially in the fight against crime and cross-border criminal activities such as trafficking in drugs or fake medicines, illegal logging and illegal trade in cultural goods, and the meeting between the Secretaries General will further strengthen the partnership between Customs and Police at the international and national level.

The Secretaries General emphasized the critical requirement of Customs/Police cooperation in order to successfully combat transnational threats, coordinate border management in the fight against criminal organizations, and to impact these organizations in a manner that diminishes their capabilities.

The Secretaries General reaffirmed the roles and mandates of their respective organizations, agreed to coordinate their activities more efficiently at the international level, emphasized the need for Customs and Police to work together more closely at the national level, and committed to enhancing future cooperation and coordination between the WCO and INTERPOL.



Source: World Customs Organization (Click [here](#) to read more)

[INECE Seaports organises training for custom officers in Haiphong, Vietnam](#)

Posted by INECE-secretariat on Dec 29, 2015 in Asia & the Pacific, INECE Secretariat, News, Regions, Seaports | 0 comments

INECE Seaports organises training for Custom Officers in Haiphong, Vietnam

From 16-18 December INECE hosted a 3 day training on the detection and inspection of illegal transboundary shipments of environmentally regulated substances. The training was co-organised by the Port Control Unit (PCU) under the WCO/UNODC Container Control Program and Vietnam Customs.

Officers from the Haiphong PCU, together with other Custom officers, were informed on the backgrounds, characteristics and impact of illegal shipments of waste, electronic waste, and ozone depleting substances and were trained on the practical aspects of targeting and selection of suspicious transports, as well as on effective preparation, execution and follow-up of inspections. Due attention was also given to occupational health and safety during inspections and to risks for the environment.

Haiphong is the major seaport in the northern part of Vietnam. As a consequence of the Basel Convention, the import of hazardous electronic waste and other wastes to Vietnam is not allowed. Moreover, for a number of years Vietnam has forbidden the import of used functional electronic equipment.

Source: INECE (Click [here](#) to read more)

Activities in Combating Illegal Transboundary Movement and Border Control of Waste and Chemicals

[Lebanon Plans to Dump Garbage - But Sierra Leone Rejects Deal](#)

Sierra Leone just announced that they want no part of a reported deal with Lebanon that would export Lebanese household waste to the West African nation.

The Government of Lebanon approved a plan to export loads of household trash to a nearby African or a Middle-Eastern country. According to Lebanon, they received clearance from the Government of Sierra Leone to export the waste there. Yet the Government of Sierra Leone denies such an agreement and refuses to accept the waste.

Lebanon's plans to export the household garbage (even if it's not hazardous) falls under the control of United Nations Basel Convention. Here at BAN, we suspect that Lebanese officials are being misled by fast-talking waste trade brokers.

Along with fellow toxic pollution network IPEN and IndyACT, BAN fully supports Sierra Leone's rejection of the deal.

However, we worry, which country will Lebanon next try to export their garbage to?

Source: BAN (Click [here](#) to read more)



[China's Guiyu shifts away from crude processing](#)

A town in southern China that's known as one of the world's most notorious destinations for e-scrap is undergoing a government-mandated makeover.

According to reports last week from English-language media outlets in China, all informal e-scrap processors in Guiyu will be required to move their businesses to a newly built industrial park by the start of 2016. As of late November, 400 "large workshops" had been persuaded to make the move. Still, approximately 3,000 small businesses had yet to vacate their operations, news reports indicated.

The e-scrap watchdog group that helped bring the world's focus to Guiyu confirmed that changes are taking place there. The Seattle-based Basel Action Network (BAN) today issued a press release that noted its executive director, Jim Puckett, earlier this month made an unannounced visit to Guiyu alongside the leader of a Chinese environmental group. The release noted many former sites formerly used for crude processing of scrap electronics had been abandoned.

"This day of action at Guiyu has been promised for over a decade and it is remarkable to finally see it," Puckett stated in the release. "We are relieved that the clean-up has finally begun."

Guiyu, which has approximately 150,000 residents, is located in Guangdong Province, just outside of Puning. It has become a global symbol for the dangers and pitfalls of improper management of electronics.

Following the publication of the 2002 report and documentary "Exporting Harm" by BAN, CBS's "60 Minutes" traveled to Guiyu in 2008, dubbing it "one of the most toxic places on Earth." Since then, publications all over the world have reported on the environmental and human health dangers caused by the largely unregulated processing of scrap electronics for parts reuse, precious metals and other valuable materials.

Source: BAN (Click [here](#) to read more)

[China's Notorious E-waste Village Disappears Almost Overnight](#)

BAN recently visited China with a reporter from Bloomberg BNA. Here's the reporter's story:
From International Environment Reporter™
By Michael Standaert

Dec. 16 — Just days after the Dec. 1 order for all 3,000 remaining unregulated electronic-waste workshops to move to a newly built industrial park or face power cuts, the smell of burning plastic from the few waste fires smouldering on the roadside still hangs heavy in the air around Guiyu.

Yet the visual reminders of the notorious village are largely absent.

Gone are the trucks loaded beyond capacity with old cathode-ray tube television sets, boulder-size burlap bags overflowing with printed circuit boards, acrid smoke wafting from improvised aluminium chimneys jutting out of the first-floor workshops where the world's electronic waste was cooked over a chemical broth in metal woks by thousands of migrant workers.

Guiyu, the village in eastern Guangdong province known infamously for over a decade as the "e-waste capital of the world," is now a ghost town.

'The Place Is Dead.'

On Dec. 8, Bloomberg BNA visited Guiyu with Jim Puckett, executive director of the Basel Action Network, a Seattle-based group pushing for better regulation and recycling of e-waste, in part to keep it from ending up in places like Guiyu where it is dismantled in ways that expose often underpaid



workers to toxic fumes and materials. Puckett was making his seventh visit to the village.

Also on the trip was Lai Yun, a campaigner for Greenpeace based out of Hong Kong.

“It is amazing how much of this has moved,” Puckett said during the drive around Guiyu, as the total transformation of the town began to sink in. “The place is dead. Boarded up.”

What at its height was a bustling yet heavily polluted town with 5,000 or more informal e-waste workshops and dismantling facilities, has been cleared out as part of China's “war on pollution” and move toward better regulating electronic waste as it becomes more of a domestic, rather than imported, problem.

Source BAN (Click [here](#) to read more)

[Global Industrial Waste Recycling and Services Market to Grow at a CAGR of over 12% During the Forecast Period, Finds New Report](#)

Lewes, DE -- (SBWIRE) -- 12/22/2015 -- The research analyst predicts the global industrial waste recycling and services market to grow steadily at a CAGR of over 12% during the forecast period. The increasing amount of waste generated due to rapid industrialization is one of the primary growth drivers for this market. This research report indicates that more than 11 billion tons of industrial waste is collected worldwide, which needs to be managed properly, or else there will be land-space constraints, resulting in illegal dumping.

Technological advances in recycling procedures, which include thermal and biological technologies, is also expected to boost the market growth during the forecast period. Waste recycling methods are chosen based on a cost-benefit analysis. By implementing cost-benefit analysis, industries get a proper perspective on the social, economic, and environmental issues involved, which can enable them to choose the most suitable technology.

Segmentation by industry and analysis of the industrial waste recycling and services market

- Construction and demolition
- Mining
- Metallurgical
- Oil and gas
- Agriculture
- Textiles
- Chemicals

The construction and demolition segment dominated the market during 2015, with a market share of around 28%. Growing environmental concerns and increasing waste management initiatives are the main factors fueling the demand for waste recycling and services in the construction and demolition segment.

Waste type segmentation and analysis of the industrial waste recycling and services market

- Hazardous
- Non-hazardous

The non-hazardous waste segment dominated the industrial waste recycling and services market and accounted for about 87% of the market share during 2015. The non-hazardous segment is expected to grow steadily during the forecast period due to the government policies, such as those set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the US.

Source: SBwire (Click [here](#) to read more)

[Europol seizes 190 tonnes of illegal pesticides](#)

Law enforcement agencies from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and the Netherlands have discovered 190 tonnes of illegal or counterfeit pesticides during an operation.



One hundred cases of infringements were also detected, which led to the initiation of further investigations by the authorities, seven of which are still ongoing.

"This is another example of efficient borderless policing encouraged and supported by Europol. Alongside its partners, our agency works with a zero-tolerance policy against criminals who choose to endanger the lives of EU citizens.

These huge seizures of hazardous substances, and the considerable number of investigations initiated, are the result of continuously developing cooperation between the European law enforcement community and the private sector," said Wil van Gemert, Europol's Deputy Director of Operations.

Operation Silver Axe focused on the sale and placing on the market (imports) of counterfeit pesticides, including infringements of intellectual property rights such as trademarks, patents and copyright, as well as targeting the illegal trade of pesticides.

Throughout the operation, which started on 16 November and ended on 27 November 2015, Europol's experts exchanged and analysed data among participating countries, and liaised with rights holders from the private sector.

Source: FARMINGUK (Click [here](#) to read more)

Banned pesticides in use!

It is extremely concerning that substandard, fake and banned pesticides are being marketed across the country, under the very nose of the authorities, at great risk to public health. Speakers at a roundtable titled "Food Safety and Responsible Use of Pesticides" highlighted that even though the government has banned as many as 195 hazardous pesticides over the last few years, many of these continue to be sold in the markets and used by farmers as a result of lack of systematic monitoring on the part of concerned

authorities. As many as 377 types of pesticides, which are already banned in developed countries, are still in use in the country, posing a serious threat to food safety.

The excessive use of pesticides on crops can have debilitating effects on public health, causing cancer, birth defects, and damages to the nervous, reproductive and endocrine systems. It is estimated that at least 2 lakh people die annually from pesticide poisoning. In addition, the use of pesticides has an irreversible effect on the environment. It is alarming that despite the severity of the threat posed by pesticides, their use has increased by a staggering six-fold in the last six decades.

It is unacceptable that no action is being taken at the national or grassroots level by concerned authorities to root out toxic and illegal pesticides from the country. Officers, who are allowing the unfettered trade of these pesticides, must be identified and punished, and stern action must be taken against traders selling these products in the market. The Ministry of Agriculture and other government bodies must raise awareness about the health hazards caused by pesticides and encourage farmers to use non-toxic alternatives.

Source: The Daily Star (click [here](#) to read more)

EPA announces 2015 Annual Environmental Enforcement Results

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today (12/16/2015) released its annual enforcement and compliance results highlighted by large cases that reduce pollution, level the playing field for responsible companies, and protect public health in communities across the country. In fiscal year 2015, EPA secured record-setting hazardous waste, Clean Air Act, and Superfund settlements, and acted swiftly to win a



large criminal plea agreement following a major coal ash spill, among other accomplishments. Additionally, EPA made significant progress on cases that will benefit communities well into the future, by pursuing a final settlement that puts billions of dollars to work restoring the Gulf and helping communities affected by the BP oil spill, and by launching an investigation against Volkswagen for illegally emitting air pollution from diesel vehicles.

Source: USEPA (Click [here](#) to read more)

[IARC: curbing illegal exports of end-of-life vehicles](#)

Germany: The 16th International Automobile Recycling Congress will be held from March 16 – 18, set in the German capital of Berlin. The anticipated event will provide an update on car dumping abroad, e-mobility and other issues that have shaped the ever-evolving automotive industry.

Experts and academia representing all areas of the industry will discuss and present the latest developments in the end-of-life vehicle (ELV) business. Notable topics that will be raised include; next generation car recycling technologies; the future of mobility; dismantling and remanufacturing; the role of the car recycling industry in the circular economy, and many more.

Source: Recycling International (Click [here](#) to read more)

[International Automobile Recycling Congress 2016: How to stop illegal export of ELVs](#)

Birrwil, Switzerland — A panel discussion on “Illegal aspects of legal export” will be one of the main issues at the 16th International Automobile Recycling Congress IARC 2016 organized by ICM AG. Delegates from industry, authorities and academia will discuss and present news and challenges of the manufacturing and end-of-life vehicle (ELV) business.

The opening of the congress will be made by Julian Allwood, Professor of Engineering and the Environment of

the University of Cambridge. He will focus his speech on “Automobiles and sustainability: Bridging the gap between environmental security and commercial reality”. The second keynote speaker, Oliver Scholz, CEO of Scholz Holding GmbH, will focus on “Stop export of end-of-life vehicles”.

The congress will bring together the various links in the ELV recycling chain such as car manufacturers, metal and plastic scrap traders, recyclers, dismantlers, shredder operators and policy-makers from around the world. A large exhibition area is integrated into the conference facilities, where vendors meet their clients. Toyota is offering test drives with their fuel cell vehicle “Mirai”.

Over 250 international industry leaders will be expected. In addition to forum and exhibition, cocktail receptions and a networking dinner create an excellent atmosphere to get in touch with business partners and colleagues.

Source: ICM AG (Click [here](#) to read more)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT

<http://www.projectren.org/>

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