



INTRODUCTION

We wish you all a Happy New Year!!

Highlights in this edition

- 6th REN Annual Meeting in Shenzhen, China;
- National Capacity Building workshop in Mumbai;
- Inspection App 'Watch-IT' available in the stores;
- Reported seizures and other interesting articles concerning waste and chemicals.

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 MEA's.

REN Activities

[The 6th Annual REN Meeting in Shenzhen, China](#)

The 6th Annual REN workshop, hosted by the Anti-Smuggling Bureau of China Customs in Shenzhen, was successfully organized on 21-22 November 2017. The meeting was attended by 41 participants from both customs and environment ministries in 15 countries in Asia, together with representatives from UN Environment, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, the World Customs Organization's Regional Intelligence Liaison Office in Asia Pacific, the Pesticides Action Network for Asia Pacific, the Basel Convention Regional Centers for China and South-East Asia, and the Basel Action Network. There was significant media presence and national coverage of the meeting in

China, particularly given the well-received video address by the Executive Director of UN Environment.

Beside updates from several countries and other stakeholders the meeting was an important opportunity to receive country and stakeholder inputs on the scope and design of a future project currently under preparation. Suggestions and ideas for a new project proposal were delivered by the participants.



[REN National Capacity Building Workshop in Mumbai, India](#)

On 13-15 December 2017, the National Capacity Building Workshop on the illegal trade in Chemicals and Waste was organized in Mumbai, India. More than forty enforcement officers from Customs and Police were trained on the enforcement of the Montreal Protocol and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Resource persons from Interpol, GRID-Arendal and IMPEL experts from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and The Netherlands Human Environment and Traffic Inspectorate attended the meeting and shared their practical experiences. Also the Human Rights and Gender aspects in relation to illegal trade in Chemicals and Waste were highlighted. On the third day a field trip was organised to the port of Nava

Sheva, the main port in India. Practical experiences and safety issues were shown and discussed.



Practical training in Nava Sheva port

[A new tool for enforcement officers developed](#)

In cooperation with the EU funded 'DOTCOMWASTE project' from the United Nations University, GRID-Arendal and the by UN Environment implemented REN project an application for the Enforcement of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions is developed. Due to this cooperation also, the European Waste legislation is included. There is contact database with contacts in Europe and the REN contact points in Asia Pacific. Also, special attention for safety measures regarding inspection and control of Chemicals and Waste.

The application named 'Watch-IT' is free to download for Android, IOS and Windows and available in the Google Playstore, App- store and the Windows store.

You can use the following words for an easy download: 'Watch-IT inspection tool'

The minimum system requirements are Android 5.0, IOS 10 and Windows 10.



The logo of the app

The content of the application will be updated for three years, not included major changes in legislation.

[The REN project is counting down \(3\)](#)

The project supporting the Regional Enforcement Network (REN) has ended its main activities in December 2017. UN Environment is currently preparing a proposal for a strengthened and continuing network, subject to funding.

On 1 February 2018 a stakeholders meeting is scheduled where the next phase and potential support will be discussed.

Partners' Activities

[General Assembly meeting welcomes new members and agrees on future role of IMPEL](#)

The 16th IMPEL General Assembly was held 6 and 7 December in Tallinn, Estonia. Agenda items included [IMPEL's position](#) regarding the Environmental Compliance Assurance Initiative, outcomes of a study on Implementation Challenges among environmental authorities, expanding IMPEL's membership, and approving project reports and the work programme and budget for 2018.

The meeting also welcomed two new members: the Dutch Association of Regional Environmental Inspection Agencies and the Environmental Regional Inspectorate from Azores, Portugal. Chris Dijkens remains chair of IMPEL until the end of 2018. Then new elections for the position of chair and vice-chair will be called.

And lastly the network commemorated its 25th anniversary ([special edition newsletter](#) and [infographic '25 years of IMPEL'](#)).

Read more: <https://www.impel.eu/>

[DOTCOMWASTE project has ended](#)

From the very beginning, where we looked at getting a broader understanding of current trends in waste crime, we have gained a lot of momentum and are delighted to be ending the project with positive and

practical outputs. we completed a training session in Beijing, which followed a similar event in Rome, to enable stakeholders to integrate best-practices for their day-to-day operations. Participants from all stages of the enforcement cycle, especially along the Europe – China route, took part in a mixture of lectures, practical case studies, open sessions and a study visit.

Read more: <http://www.dotcomwaste.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/DOTCOM-Waste-Newsletter-December-2017.pdf>



Activities in Combating Illegal Transboundary Movement and Border Control of Waste and Chemicals or other related highlights

Leonardo DiCaprio

In Scotland, the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation (LDF), established to help protect the world's wild places and endangered species, has been recognised for its efforts on the issues of environmental crime.

The award for Outstanding Achievement was awarded to the foundation at the inaugural award ceremony of the INTERPOL Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Committee (ECEC), hosted by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in Edinburgh.

An award for Best Enforcement Initiative, was picked up by the Pollution Working Group of the ECEC for its 30 'Days of Action' operation, which has been described as the largest-ever global operation targeting the illegal transport and

disposal of waste. Police, customs, border, and environmental agencies from 43 countries participated, as well as non-governmental partners such as IMPEL and the UN Environment REN project for chemicals and waste in Asia.



Read more:

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/agencies-success-waste-crime-projects/>

Farm exporters warned on pesticides

Vietnamese exporters of farm produce must learn more about food-safety requirements and maximum residue limits (MRL) of importing countries, experts said at a workshop held in HCM City.

Read more:

<http://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/business/189574/farm-exporters-warned-on-pesticides.html>

Customs make record illegal waste haul as sweeping ban kicks in

More than 1,400 tons of imported solid waste have been seized by customs authorities in Xiamen, East China's Fujian Province, amid the country's wide-ranging ban on imports of solid waste by the end of the year.

Based on confirmation from professional solid waste certification institutions, the solid imports, labeled "zinc ore," were actually forbidden solid waste imports, according to the Xiamen Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau, China News Service reported Sunday.

It is the largest amount of illegal solid waste to be seized in the country, the report said.

According to the report, an unnamed import and export company in Xiamen declared to local customs that it was importing 1,415.5 tons of zinc ore on August 10. During the inspection, customs officers noticed that the products appeared to be brown mud with a high water content, which is not a characteristic of zinc ore. Further investigations showed the products to be smelting slag, a solid waste that has been banned from import by the Chinese government. Customs and Entry-Exit Inspection officials said that although the smelting slag could be used for recycling, it contains poisonous and harmful elements. During the production process, the contaminants will pollute water and soil.

Source: <http://www.ecns.cn/2017/11-06/279735.shtml>

[Customs officials familiarised on ozone depleting substances](#)

Bhutan is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol with its import of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) 22 being lesser than the country's quota of 3.64 Metric Tonnes (MT) this year, Ozone Project Manager with the National Environment Commission (NEC), Tshewang Zangmo said.

This was shared to more than 30 customs officials from six regional offices at the two-day annual training programme on the Montreal Protocol Enforcement in Thimphu. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer came into effect in 1987, to protect human health and the environment through the control of consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). Bhutan acceded to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of Ozone layer and Montreal on Substances that deplete the ozone layer and its four amendments in 2004.

Senior Regional Coordinator with UN Environment, Asia Pacific Office, Atul Bagai, said scientific projections show that the ozone layer would return to its 1980 levels by 2060, as the ODSs in the atmosphere have been reduced. "99 percent of ODSs are phased out, and 98 Percent of controlled uses are replaced with more effective and safer alternatives for ozone layer."

Read more: <http://www.kuenselonline.com/custom-officials-familiarised-with-ozone-depleting-substances/>

[Groups urge Trudeau anew to take back Canadian trash](#)

With Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expected to attend the Association Southeast Asian Nations Summit here this month, environmental, health and labor groups renewed their calls for him to take back trash from his country that has been rotting at the Port of Manila for several years.

Aileen Lucero, coordinator of the EcoWaste Coalition, said "Trudeau's action is crucial to remove all barriers to Canada's re-importation of its own garbage that were exported to our country not for recycling, but for disposal."

"We're running out of room for our own garbage and the dumping of waste from overseas is only making the situation worst. Canada is rich and undeniably capable of handling its own refuse in a safe manner," she said.

"The prolonged delay in returning the reeking trash to Canada is patently unjust for our country and people," Dr. Leah Paquiz, former Ang Nars representative, said.

She said it was time for Trudeau to "decisively act to stop waste dumping, including ratifying the Basel Ban Amendment, which prohibits the movement of hazardous waste from developed to developing countries for any reason even for recycling."

Read more: <http://www.interaksyon.com/groups-urge-trudeau-anew-to-take-back-canadian-trash/>

[Fake, low quality pesticides 'out of control'](#)

A severe shortage of funds and personnel has resulted in such loose management of pesticides in the southern region that most of the market is "out of control," agriculture officials say.

Each province has just two inspectors working for the Cultivation and Plant Protection Division. These two are responsible for managing and inspecting hundreds of small and big pesticide traders and thousands of products in the market.

In Binh Thuan Province alone, there are 780 shops and agents selling plant protection drugs spreading over nine cities, districts and towns.

The inspection office gets VND100 million (US\$4,400 approx) every year for inspection of production and trading of pesticides and fertilizers. This allows for just two inspections a year, covering about 200 to 300 shops.

The remaining is "out of control," a Nong Nghiep (Agriculture) newspaper report says.

It cites Do Van Bao, head of the province's Cultivation and Plant Protection Division, as saying that the cost of testing a sample is about VND550,000 (\$24.4). At each inspection, depending on the State fund for management of "plant protection products," about 12 to 15 samples are taken for testing.

Given that there are at least 1,700 products sold at the market, the number of samples taken for testing are insufficient to definitively ascertain if counterfeit or poor quality drugs are being stored and sold.

"Since we have a very limited budget, we only take a few samples for testing. We chose samples with suspicious signs of bad quality like curdled powder, sedimentation or precipitation," Bao said.

Dong Nai Province has a large agricultural area and diverse crops, so the demand for pesticides is large.



Customs officials checking pesticides with unclear origin

[Read more:](#)

<http://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/society/190144/fake--low-quality-pesticides--out-of-control-.html>

[Supreme Court seeks reply from Centre on plea to ban harmful pesticides](#)

The Supreme Court on Monday sought the Centre's response to a plea seeking a ban on all pesticides that have been prohibited by other countries.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud issued notice to Centre and the Ministries of Chemicals and Fertilisers and Agriculture on the plea, which has also sought banning of advertisements and unacceptable practises of marketing and promoting such pesticides.

The petition, filed through advocate Prashant Bhushan, also sought a direction to set up an expert committee of individuals with unimpeachable integrity to examine the issue of phasing out all chemical pesticides in a time-bound manner.

Read more:

<http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/supreme-court-seeks-reply-from-centre-on-plea-to-ban-harmful-pesticides-2437505.html>

[Shanghai couple arrested for dumping chemicals in soil after refining gold from used phones](#)

What do you do with your old cell phones? Just let them sit on the shelf collecting dust? Well, it turns out that you're overlooking a potential goldmine.

Shanghai police recently busted an illegal workshop on the outskirts of the city full of buckets of chemicals emitting noxious odors. The workshop belongs to a couple who run a precious metal recycling shop. In April of this year, they rented the place to refine gold from used phones, making 20,000 yuan (\$3,000) via the process. According to experts, you can get a gold ring from about 100 cell phones. However, the couple never actually bothered to acquire a license from local officials for their workshop nor did they have any equipment to process the chemicals used in gold refining. Instead, they simply dug a hole in the ground and dumped the chemicals straight into the soil. They also dumped more chemicals into a creek behind the

workshop. The couple has been arrested for illegal dumping and polluting the environment.

Source: <http://shanghaist.com/2017/11/16/phone-refine-gold.php>

[Govt to revoke permits of companies not complying with plastic waste importation](#)

The government will immediately cancel the approved permits (AP) of companies which failed to comply with regulations on the importation of plastic wastes said Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar.

He said the move was decided after the ministry found that several companies had violated the rules by bringing in solid wastes apart from those approved by the government.

He said as much as 400,000 tons of plastic wastes were brought into Malaysia in a year, thus making the country a dumping ground for solid wastes.

"Recently, 40 containers were detained by the Royal Malaysian Customs Department for transporting prohibited solid wastes.

"Do not turn Malaysia into a landfill and do not manipulate the rules for quick profits. This act will not be forgiven," he told reporters after launching the National Recycling Day here today.

Noh said the National Solid Waste Management Department had been instructed to review on the issuance of approved permits to 149 companies which were allowed to import plastic wastes from foreign countries including China, Hong Kong and Singapore.

He said the department was also reinforcing and updating on the Plastic Waste Import Regulations to ensure that the rules were effective in controlling entry of prohibited wastes.

"With this new ruling we may check on the source of the plastic wastes and revoke the licenses if the permit holders are caught cheating," he said.

Read more:

<http://www.theborneopost.com/2017/11/18/govt-to-revoke-permits-of-companies-not-complying-with-plastic-waste-importation/>

[House panel berates Customs over Sokor trash](#)

The House ecology committee on Tuesday grilled the Bureau of Customs for failing to prevent the entry of 5,000 metric tons of trash from South Korea in Mandaue, Cebu. The mixed waste was delivered in January to a warehouse in Barangay Guizo and an open dumpsite in Barangay Tingub. It was shipped back to Jeju, South Korea in February after the local government discovered the irregular disposal of plastics in Tingub. Deputy Speaker Gwen Garcia of Cebu initiated an investigation into the issue, saying the illegal exportation of trash would be impossible without the connivance of government officials. During the resumption of the probe, ecology panel chair Estrellita Suansing dubbed BOC-Cebu as the "gatekeeper" of the province's port and asked if they personally checked the shipment. Jessica Delgado of the Cebu port said her office checked the documents of the shipment, which was declared as "recycled synthetic resin," not waste. Delgado however admitted that she did not check the shipment's harmonized system (HS) or tariff code, which Suansing said could have shown that the shipment contained garbage.

The port official later explained she was not well-versed in the HS code system.

Suansing then told her, "Di ako dapat magalit dito pero napaka-inconsistent mo." (I shouldn't be angry here, but you are so inconsistent.)

This is not the first time that imported trash was dumped in the country. In 2013, Ontario-based private firm Chronic Inc shipped to the Philippines at least 55 containers filled with trash, including household waste.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said last week that his government is working to take back the garbage, some of which are languishing at a landfill in Capas, Tarlac.

Source: <http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/22/17/house-panel-berates-customs-over-sokor-trash>

Civic body blames PPCB: Collapse due to chemicals stored in factory

A day after a five-storey building of a factory collapsed after a massive fire, Ludhiana Municipal Corporation blamed the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB), saying the disaster happened not because of the faulty construction, but due to hazardous chemicals stored inside the factory. But locals claimed the factory owner kept on adding floor after floor, and also hazardous chemicals and drums of diesel were stored inside in huge quantities. They said the MC never carried out any inspection of the site or took any action.

Read more;

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ludhiana/civic-body-blames-ppcb-collapse-due-to-chemicals-stored-in-factory-4949121/>

NGO calls for action on illegal refrigerant trade

Illegal trade in HCFCs is increasing and there are already signs of an illegal trade in HFCs, the Environmental Investigation Agency warned at an ATMOSphere Network event in Montreal. As global efforts to phase down production and use of f-gases pick up pace, illegal trade in HCFCs is increasing and there are already signs of an illegal trade in HFCs, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) warned at an ATMOSphere Network event at the 29th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP 29) in Montreal, Canada on Tuesday.

“Countries must introduce customs codes for HFCs and HFC blends,” said Clare Perry, the EIA’s climate campaign leader.

Read more:

http://www.r744.com/articles/7983/ngo_calls_for_action_on_illegal_refrigerant_trade

Pharma firms drum up toxic scare with chemical dumps

Telangana Pollution Control Board Laboratory scientists who analysed the hazardous chemicals in the drums that were dumped around the city, found that the origin of these solvents and semi-solid waste were from pharma and chemical industries. The increasing cases of illegal dumping

of hazardous wastes revealed that the transporters were blatantly violating the rules and posing a major health and fire risk to humans as well as causing soil and water pollution. At least 10 cases of dumping of chemicals in drums were reported across the city, six of them in Yadadri and one each in Ghatkesar, Cherlapally, Sangareddy and Gaganpahad.



Source:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/pharma-firms-drum-up-toxic-scare-with-chemical-dumps/articleshow/61873085.cms>

Some Fijians found using illegal fishing methods

The Fisheries Ministry has discovered that some people are still using illegal fishing methods despite numerous warnings and bans that have been put in place.

Fisheries Officer, Meli Raicebe says most of these people live along the coastal areas.

Raicebe says they have resorted to dynamite fishing and are also using poisonous chemicals and underwater breathing apparatus.

“Some are using prohibited chemicals for example Janola or some traditional methods like Duva to actually harvest certain species and the down part or the negative side of this.

Read more: <http://www.fbc.com.fj/fiji/57155/some-fijians-found-using-illegal-fishing-methods->

Vietnam launches e-system for declaring imported chemicals

Vietnam’s Ministry of Industry and Trade (Moit) and its General Department of Customs have officially

launched an electronic declaration system for chemicals imported into the country.

Companies must now use a national single window, to declare imported substances under Article 27 of the Decree 113/2017/ND-CP.

The decree took effect on 25 November. It sets out a number of new rules, including the import declaration as part of the chemical law.

The system aims to make the process more cost- and time-effective. It was previously conducted manually on paper.

Source: <https://chemicalwatch.com/62122/vietnam-launches-e-system-for-declaring-imported-chemicals>

China's Qingdao seizes over 1,700 tonnes of zinc waste

Customs in China's eastern port city of Qingdao seized 1,762 tons of smuggled zinc waste last week in the country's campaign against the import of "foreign garbage." China told the World Trade Organization (WTO) in July it would stop accepting shipments of rubbish such as waste plastic and paper as part of a campaign against "foreign garbage". The zinc slag was found in 88 containers during a spot check in Qingdao on Dec. 1 and assessed to be a prohibited solid waste, according to a statement posted on the General Administration of Customs website on Monday. The statement did not say where the waste had come from. Smelting this material would have produced "a large number of harmful polluting gases and wastewater," and been detrimental to the environment and human health, the statement said.

In the first 10 months of this year, Qingdao customs organised three campaigns to tackle waste smuggling, which led to the opening of 26 criminal cases, seven administrative filings and the arrest of 43 suspects, the statement said.

Source: <http://www.kitco.com/news/2017-12-04/China-apos-s-Qingdao-seizes-over-1-700-tonnes-of-zinc-waste.html>

NGOs call on the Bangladesh government and ship owning nations to hold business accountable

Until September the NGO Shipbreaking Platform had observed a decrease in the number of accidents in the

shipbreaking yards in Chittagong, Bangladesh. Now, however, the accident rate for the three first quarters of 2017 has surged with 8 injuries and 6 deaths recorded in ten separate incidents in the last two months alone.

On 23 October, Jalal, who worked as a cutter man, died struck by a cable at Arafin Enterprise, the yard where the product tanker LOBATO, owned by Petrobras, is currently being scrapped. Despite early warnings to the Brazilian government, the vessel was illegally exported from Brazil for dirty and dangerous scrapping on the beaches of South Asia and arrived in Chittagong in October. Shipbreaking worker Khalil died while working on an oil section of the Indonesian-owned tanker ECHO, beached at Ferdous Steel shipbreaking yard. One more worker was injured in that accident. Mizan, employed by Fahim Enterprise shipbreaking yard, lost his life on 14 November. He fell from the ship LABRI, sold for breaking by the Greek Polys Haji-Ioannou Group, after a fire broke out on the upper deck. Four more workers, who are now supposedly receiving treatment in the BSBA Hospital, suffered injuries due to a fire at Tania Enterprise shipbreaking yard. Moreover, during a nightshift on 4 December, Mojammel suffocated from inhaling toxic gases and then fell, dying on the spot. He was working at the SN Corporation yard on the ship INOX, owned by the Hong Kong-based HNA Group International. According to local sources, Mojammel and his colleagues were oddly sent to start breaking the vessel just a few hours after its beaching.



Read more:

<http://www.shipbreakingplatform.org/surge-in-umber-of-accidents-in-bangladesh-shipbreaking-yards/>

[China to Ban 10 More Highly Toxic Pesticides](#)

Agricultural authorities in China are speeding up the phaseout of highly toxic pesticides, announcing Dec. 5 that another 10 pesticides will be eliminated by the end of 2022. China will ban the production and use of aldicarb, phorate, and isocarbophos by the end of 2018; ethoprop, omethoate, methyl isothiocyanate, and aluminium phosphide by the end of 2020; and chloropicrin, carbofuran, and methomyl by the end of 2022.

The move follows the State Council's release of its Pesticide Management Regulations that went into effect June 1, and a July announcement that it's prohibiting the use of pesticides endosulfan and methyl bromide as of the end of 2019.

Read more: <https://www.bna.com/china-ban-10-n73014472829/>

[Pesticides worth Rs 4 lakh seized](#)

Officials of Vigilance and Enforcement and Agriculture departments conducted raids at two places and seized pesticides worth `4 lakh in Guntur on Tuesday. Agriculture officer K Venkat Rao said a few unidentified persons were supplying pesticides worth `1.5 lakh to Ramakrishna Agencies of Nagarampalem and pesticides worth `2.5 lakh to Hanuman Agencies of Patnam Bazar through Kranti Road Transport Pvt Ltd.

A few unidentified persons procured pesticides from Crystal Crop Protection Private Limited, Tamron Astra Bio-Chemicals Private Limited and Sudarshan Chemical Industries Ltd. Criminal cases were booked against unidentified persons for failing to produce the bills when demanded by officials.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2017/dec/13/pesticides-worth-rs-4-lakh-seized-1725881.html>

[New plant to recycle harmful chemicals in Bahrain](#)

A \$600,000 recycling centre to treat harmful chemicals that can contribute to ozone layer depletion will start functioning soon in Bahrain, it was revealed.

The facility in Tubli, under the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), is supported by the United Nations

Industrial Development Organisation (Unido). It is funded from the Multilateral Fund (MLF), the financial aid mechanism set up for developing countries for their projects in line with the Montreal Protocol. The protocol is a global treaty aimed at protecting the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for ozone depletion.

"We use hydrochloroflourocarbons (HCFCs) and hydroflourocarbons (HFCs) in refrigeration and people are complaining that because we are reducing the import amount of these chemicals (in compliance with the Montreal Protocol), there are concerns that the prices of these chemicals might go up," SCE chief executive Dr Mohammed Bin Daina told the GDN.

Read more:

https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/story/New_plant_to_recycle_harmful_chemicals_in_Bahrain-SNG_105665069/

[Customs to carry out the largest scale fight against foreign rubbish](#)

On the early morning of December 19, the General Administration of Customs conducted a unified command of 19 Customs and carried out the fourth round of special operations against blue sky in solid waste smuggling in 13 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government) in Guangdong, Zhejiang, Hebei, Liaoning, Tianjin and Jiangsu. Focus on combat. By 10 am, 47 criminal gangs for smuggling solid waste were successfully destroyed, 127 suspects were arrested and all the major target persons were present. All these involved the inspection of 323,000 tons of solid waste, including waste plastic and waste slag. Customs preliminary investigation found that the smuggling criminal gangs involved in illegal smuggling of smuggled scrap plastic into China by smuggling the scrap slag and rubbish into the country for illegitimate interests through smuggling

or using the way of renting, borrowing or purchasing other people's licenses.



Read more:

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/C7xVmpiDAD2iUQAmpcnwPA>

[China no longer dumping ground for foreign waste](#)

The fear that the United States and European countries may soon face their own piles of waste plastics should not be blamed on China. If anything, the developed world should be grateful that China has been, to the detriment of its own environment and people's health, taking their garbage for years. 2017 marked the year China's ban on imports of 24 types of solid wastes took effect. News headlines such as "Recycling chaos in US" (NPR) and "Impending crisis for UK waste recycling" (The Independent) have inadvertently revealed the enormous environmental cost for China as the global waste recycling center. Few Europeans and Americans are aware that one of their largest exports to China is solid waste. Every year, millions of tons of unsorted scrap paper, discarded textiles and other items are shipped to China for recycling. As a poor economy short of resources in the 1980s, China accepted the solid waste but over the years paid a heavy price as environmental damage and health problems resulted from the process of recycling them. Meanwhile, some entities in and outside China illegally smuggled sub-standard garbage with no recycling value, adding insult to injury.

Read more:

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1082694.shtml>

[Customs officials among 8 booked by CBI for e-waste imports through Kochi port](#)

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday booked eight persons including four senior Customs officials for facilitating import of electronic waste (e-waste) through Kochi port. These consignments were imported as computer spares and new photocopiers, but later it was found they were e-waste containing hazardous substances such as cadmium, according to the probe agency. Exposure to cadmium in high doses over short periods can cause respiratory irritation, but over a long period of time, it can cause lung and kidney disorders. The CBI found 25,000-odd used multi-functional photocopiers, mainly from US and Germany, came through the Kochi port in the last three years. The directorate general of foreign trade stipulates a licence for importing second-hand photocopiers, classified as hazardous waste. The CBI found some of the Customs officials were aware of the fraud and they issued certificates saying they were all brand new items.

Read more: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/customs-officials-among-8-booked-by-cbi-for-e-waste-imports-through-kochi-port/story-fALvskxQfQIQs6G5IH34AN.html>

[Eight arrested over solid waste smuggling in Hebei](#)

Eight suspects have been arrested for smuggling about 20,000 tonnes of solid waste, said hijiazhuang customs of north China's Hebei Province.

The customs said the suspects purchased waste plastics and scrap metal in the United States and Canada, and imported them using invalid permits via ports in Tianjin and Guangzhou before reselling to domestic buyers for profit starting in May 2016.

In December, Shijiazhuang customs sent 48 anti-smuggling police officials to several Chinese cities and arrested eight suspects, detaining about 20,000 tonnes of solid waste so far.

The customs seized a total of 2,362 tonnes of imported waste plastics and 2,225 tonnes of scrap

metal in nine separate cases from January to November 2017.

Source: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/06/c_136876238.htm

FDA cracks down on unregistered dyes, chemicals vendors in Yangon

After ridding the market of food that contain harmful dyes and preservatives, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) shifted its campaign to shops that are selling unregistered dyes and chemicals used as food preservatives.

On Friday, an FDA team, backed by other related government agencies, conducted a surprise inspection on chemicals and dyes shops at Theingyi market to determine whether or not they are selling illegal and unregistered products, and banned cosmetics.

The FDA team collected samples of the chemicals sold in the market and will be conducting tests on these items to determine their safety.

Read more: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/fda-cracks-down-unregistered-dyes-chemicals-vendors-yangon.html>

China highlights regulatory measures

Tackling pollution has been listed as one of “the three tough battles” for China in the next three years, according to the Central Economic Work Conference

In July, noted the Xinhua agency, China issued a plan for banning “foreign garbage”. According to the plan, China will ban imports of 24 types of solid waste, including plastic waste, unsorted paper waste, and crude textile waste by the end of 2017.

Xinhua said: “Importing garbage that can be replaced by domestic resources will be phased out by the end of 2019.

The types and amount of garbage imports will be cut down steadily.”

According to Guo Jing, chief of the International Department at China’s Ministry of Environmental Protection, “imported garbage” played a part in making up for a domestic shortage of resources in the past, but as the economy and society have developed, the drawbacks of this practice have

emerged, including environmental pollution and health threats.

And, Xinhua said despite the strict control, some companies still take risks to make profits by importing foreign garbage illegally.

The General Administration of Customs, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Public Security, and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, have acted together to strengthen regulation and crack down on illicit garbage imports.

From February to December, it is reported that customs across China filed 298 criminal cases against garbage smuggling, investigated and verified 866,800 tons of garbage involved, and detained 421 suspects.

Meanwhile, alongside proposals to restrict imports, China has been incentivising its residential communities to sort their recycling and waste separately.

Read more:
<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/china-regulatory-measures/>

Plastics exports rise to non-China destinations

Exporters of plastic waste for recycling have stepped up the volumes sent from the UK to Turkey, Taiwan, Vietnam and Malaysia, Michael Gove, Secretary of State for the Environment, has told Parliament.

And, Mr Gove has also cautioned against burning plastic for energy recovery as an alternative to recycling, saying that the waste hierarchy should be followed.

In a detailed written answer on waste to Parliament, yesterday (8 March), Mr Gove – who kept his job in the Cabinet reshuffle – also said that there had been an increase in exports of paper to Turkey, Taiwan and Vietnam. He did not mention India although waste paper merchants have said that India is a destination for some material as is Cambodia.



The growth in export to Turkey, Taiwan, Malaysia and Vietnam

Mr Gove told Parliament that “On 1 January 2018 China imposed a ban on the import of certain types of waste including mixed paper and post-consumer plastics (plastics thrown away by consumers). In addition, some other types of waste, including all other paper and plastics exports, will have to meet a reduced acceptable contamination level of 0.5% from March 2018.”

Read more: <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/plastic-exports-rise-to-non-china-destinations/>

EPD strictly combats illegal collection, handling, import and export of hazardous electronic waste

An electronic waste (e-waste) collector, a recycling site operator and two traders, who illegally collected, handled and imported and exported hazardous e-waste respectively, were convicted and fined a total of \$96,000 at Fanling Magistrates' Courts on January 2 and today (January 9) respectively for contravening the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO) and the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) conducted a series of enforcement operations last May and June to combat illegal collection, trading, handling and import and export of various types of hazardous e-waste. During the period, EPD staff intercepted a collector who was illegally collecting chemical waste including waste printed circuit boards (PCBs) at Lung Kwu Sheung Tan in Tuen Mun; illegal handling of waste PCBs by a recycling site at San Tin in Yuen Long; a truck illegally transporting chemical waste including waste lead-acid batteries (LABs) at Tai Shu Ha Road East in Yuen Long, which were intended for export

illegally to Malaysia; and, in an operation in collaboration with the Customs and Excise Department, hazardous e-waste including waste flat-panel displays (FPDs) illegally imported from Poland at Kwai Chung Container Terminals.

The total market value of the hazardous e-waste intercepted in the above operations was about \$1.4 million. Upon in-depth investigation and evidence gathering, the EPD initiated prosecutions against the responsible person of the recycling site, the e-waste collector and the traders. An EPD spokesman said that the department has all along been taking stern enforcement action in accordance with the WDO in combating illegal collection, handling and import and export of hazardous e-waste. In 2017, 231 successful prosecutions were made against such offences, with one of the offenders being sentenced to two weeks' imprisonment. The total fine for the prosecution cases was over \$1.6 million.

All illegally imported containers intercepted were returned to the states of origin following international practice.

Read more:

http://7thspace.com/headlines/539403/epd_strictly_combats_illegal_collection_handling_import_and_export_of_hazardous_electronic_waste.html

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Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste (funded by Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and implemented by UN Environment)

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