

BASEL CONVENTION COORDINATING CENTRE FOR TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR THE AFRICAN REGION

BCCC-AFRICA WASTE NEWS

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WASTE NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

UNIDO AND DELL JOIN FORCES TO IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION FOR E- WASTE MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Dell International LLC, the multinational technology solutions company, have signed an agreement to cooperate on identifying and implementing a sustainable solution model for e-waste management for developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The memorandum of understanding signed today by LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO, and David Lear, Dell

Inc.'s Executive Director of Sustainability, commits the two organizations to work together for a period of five years, with an option to extend the partnership.

Developing countries are expected to account for the majority of discarded electronics by 2016, and twice that of developed regions by 2030. The aim of this agreement is to create awareness, build capacity, and engage in knowledge sharing and policy advocacy with regard to sustainable e-waste management; to support the creation of an operational and economically viable collection network, and dismantling and recycling facilities, to process e-waste in developing countries in a safe and environmentally sound way; and to support the development of local recycling infrastructure, contributing to the industrial development of these countries and creating sustainable, green economies.

STUDENT DEVELOPS TRICYCLE FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN AFRICA

AUAS student Arjen Reinders has developed a tricycle for charity Cycling out of Poverty (CooP-Africa). Arjen is a fourth-year Product Design student who developed the tricycle to contribute to a self-sufficient waste management system with bicycles in Uganda, Burkina Faso and Kenya: Bike2Clean.

The tricycles are used to collect rubbish and are manufactured in the workshop of a partner organisation of CooP-Africa

See more:

<http://www.amsterdamuvas.com/about-auas/news/content/news/2014/07/product-design-student-develops-tricycle-for-waste-management-system-in-africa.html>

Culled from: AUAS

UNIDO's LI Yong said, "Rudimentary recycling methods and the lack of a policy framework for e-waste management in developing countries pose a high risk to public health and the environment. UNIDO and Dell will cooperate to support developing countries to formulate e-waste related regulations and policies to ensure a long-term success of their activities related to e-waste."

See more:

<http://www.unido.org/news/pres/s/unido-asia-1.html>

Culled from: **UNIDO**

Website

Environmental Experts Task Government to Focus on Waste Management

The Nigerian population growth in the past one hundred years from sixteen million in 1914 to over one hundred and sixty million in 2014 has resulted into several activities on the Nigeria environment.

This was the submission of some experts in the field of

geography, and environmental health at a function in Ibadan to assess level of damage done on the environment as a result of oil exploration and urban development in the years.

Emeritus Professor of Geography, Akin Mabogunje explained that though Nigerian environment had witnessed development which attracted investors globally, it could be sustained if their activities were regulated for safer environment in the future.

A Professor of Environmental Health, Mynepalli Sridhhar who noted that poor sanitation and waste management were part of challenges attributed to the nation's population explosion urged Nigerian leaders to look beyond waste collection and focus on its management and recycling

Deputy Director, Nigerian Environmental Study Action Team, NEST, Professor Chinedu Nwajuba explained that human activities must be checked and controlled as it might pose threat to the nation's sustainable development.

Professor Nwajuba urged government at all levels to ensure proper allocation of lands allow space for farming to enhance food security.

See more:
<http://www.radionigeriaibadan.com/news/506-environmental-experts-task-government-to-focus-on-waste-management>

Culled from: Radio Nigeria

Toxic waste dumped into Niagara River a threat to Lake Ontario

Dump in Youngstown, N.Y., now being considered for expansion has been taking in toxic and radioactive waste since 2001. The Youngstown, N.Y., dump now being considered for expansion has been taking in toxic and radioactive waste since 2001.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

– Remember the [Love Canal](#) ?

Just up the road from that notorious toxic neighbourhood in New York state, there's a new plan to dump more poisonous waste, including radioactive material, right near Lake Ontario and on an earthquake fault line.

New York state officials are now considering whether to permit a company called Chemical Waste Management

Inc. to expand its landfill in Youngstown, N.Y., perilously close to the Canadian border — and our shared water.

Do we ever learn? The site is less than five kilometres from the Niagara River, already filled with so many chemicals that it's listed as an official area of concern by the [International Joint Commission](#) that oversees shared Canada-U.S. waters.

Even more concerning for Canadians is that at least once a year, under U.S. permit, the existing New York-side landfill is allowed to dilute the cancer-linked PCBs and other materials it collects and discharge its nasty water into the Niagara River.

- See more at:

http://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2014/09/20/toxic_waste_dumped_into_niagara_river_a_threat_to_lake_ontario.html

Culled from: [The star.com](#)

CHINA BATTLES SOIL POLLUTION CAUSED BY INDUSTRIAL WASTE; LOOKS FOR SOMEONE TO FOOT 5 BILLION YUAN BILL

Nearly four years after a massive state-run steel mill on the outskirts of [Beijing](#) was closed to help cut smog in the Chinese capital, little has been done to clean up the contaminated site.

The factory's idled chimneys dominate a landscape of rust-encased piping and rail tracks that once fed 8 million tonnes of steel into [China's](#) economy each year. The 95-year-old former mill, owned by the Shougang Group, China's fifth biggest steel producer, is one of thousands of sites across China where soil has been polluted by industrial and agricultural waste.

Blocking any meaningful action is the question of who pays - the state, which owns all land in China, or the company. The cost of treating the land alone was an estimated 5 billion yuan (US\$ 816 million), said Gong Yuyang, managing director of ESD China, a land treatment firm which has been involved in talks on cleaning up the 8.6 square km (3.3 square mile) facility.

What worries environmental experts is that if it's this hard to deal with contaminated land in

Beijing, where there is greater political will to tackle pollution, it will be even more difficult to detoxify farmland in poorer rural areas.

"The real issue is that there is no incentive for a company like Shougang to spend a huge amount of money cleaning up this site," Gong said in an interview with Reuters.

Shougang, parent of Shenzhen-listed Shougang Corp, declined to comment.

According to a survey published by the Ministry of Environmental Protection in April, 19.3 % of samples taken from Chinese farmland showed excessive levels of heavy metals or [chemical](#) waste. In central Hunan province, government research seen by Reuters showed more than three quarters of its ricefields had been contaminated.

Farming on 3.3 million hectares (8.15 million acres) across China has already been banned indefinitely. According to Reuters calculations, the cost of making all that land fit for crops or livestock would be around 5 trillion yuan (US\$ 813 billion), based on average

industry estimates to treat one hectare.

In its soil survey, the Ministry of Environmental Protection blamed industrial firms for failing to deal with mine tailings or chemical waste. But it also cited the use of wastewater for irrigation and the overuse of pesticides and fertilisers, which often contain heavy metals.

"Liability is hard to determine, and they aren't going to make farmers pay the bill," said Gong.

Polluter Doesn't Pay

China's government declared war on pollution in March in a bid to head off rising public anger over the environmental costs of rapid growth. It is under particular pressure to reduce the risk of contaminated crops entering the food chain.

The government is drafting laws that will allow the state to decide who is responsible for contaminated land, as well as create new financing mechanisms to pay for the clean-up, according to Gong and others who have been consulted on the legislation. Such mechanisms are expected to

involve the establishment of dedicated new [funds](#) for cleaning up, as well as subsidy and loan facilities to help cover treatment costs.

See **more:**
<http://www.dnaindia.com/world/report-china-battles-soil-pollution-caused-by-industrial-waste-looks-for-someone-to-foot-5-billion-yuan-bill-2019280>

Culled from: dnaindia.com

COMMISSIONER CALLS FOR EUROPEAN WASTE TRADE LIBERALISATION

The DG Environment director general has called for the freer movement of certain marketable waste streams around Europe

Energy-from-waste would be a crucial part of Europe's circular economy, but barriers to cross-border waste trade must be lowered, says the director general of DG Environment.

Karl Falkenberg, speaking at the 7th CEWEP WtE conference in Brussels, said: "There are market prices for separate waste streams. They

are marketable goods and have the right to be freely traded in the European Union." But he argued that a lack of clarity between EU states on when waste became a resource was damaging for businesses and needed to be addressed.

Mr Falkenburg added that waste for energy exports should take place between neighbouring countries. "The old view was that waste should be produced locally and used locally. Now in a circular economy, we need to rethink a little bit." He stressed that the incoming Commission was committed to reindustrialising Europe and doing this through a circular economy.

See **more:**
<http://www.endswasteandbioenergy.com/article/1314447/commissioner-calls-european-waste-trade-liberalisation>

Culled from: Ends waste and bioenergy

ABOUT BCCC-AFRICA

The Basel Convention Coordinating Center for Training and Technology Transfer for the African Region (BCCC-Africa) was established on 20th Of September 1994 by the defunct FEPA (which has been absorbed into the Federal Ministry of Environment in June 1999) following Basel Convention COP2 approval. The Center has a dual mandate to serve as a National Institution as well as a Regional Institution. As a National Institution, it serves as Federal Ministry of Environment linkage center with the University of Ibadan. This linkage center has a mandate for Cleaner Production Technology and Hazardous Waste Management. The Center also, as a Regional Institution, has the mandate to serve as the Basel Convention Coordinating Center for the African region, to assist African Countries implement the 1989 Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their disposal. The Centre also coordinates the Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) for Arabic-speaking African countries based in Egypt, French-speaking African countries based in Senegal and English-speaking African countries based in South-Africa respectively. This is the only Linkage Center of the Ministry that is a United Nations designated capacity building center with mandate to service Wastes and Chemicals Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), these are the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

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