

***SBC e-waste Africa Project, Component 4***

***National Training Workshop on e-Waste Ghana  
Tema, July 25-27, 2011***

***Report by Anno Loonstra, VROM-Inspectorate  
and  
Simonne Rufener, FOEN***



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## List of abbreviations

BCCC Nigeria	Basel Convention Coordinating Centre Nigeria
BCRC Nigeria	Basel Convention Regional Coordinating Centre
CEPS	Customs, Excise and Preventive Service
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEE	Electrical and Electronic Equipment
EMPA	Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology
EPA	Environment Protection Agency (Ghana)
EU	European Union
e-Waste	Waste of electronic equipment
FOEN	The Federal Office for the Environment (Switzerland)
GCMS	Ghana Customs Management System
GC NET	Ghana Community Network Services
GMT/ACS	GMT Shipping Group (Name) Africa Coastal Services
GPHA	Ghana Ports and Harbours Authorities
GreenAd	Green Advocacy Ghana
GSB	Ghana Standards Board
IMPEL	Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law
INECE	International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement
JPCU	Joint Port Control Units
MDA	Municipal and District Assemblies
MEST	Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology
MMDA	Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NACOB	National Drug Control Board
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NVMP	Dutch Foundation Disposal of Metaelectro Products
PENAF	Ports Environmental Network Africa
SBC	Secretariat of the Bases Convention
TCWSP	Technical Committee for Waste Shipment Prevention
TV	Television
UEEE	Used Electrical and Electronic Equipment
VR0M	Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (Netherlands)
WEEE	Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment



## Summary

The first African national training workshop of the SBC e-waste Africa Project (Component 4) was held on July 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> in Tema, Ghana. The workshop was mainly organised by Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Ghana in collaboration with Ghana Ports and Harbours Authorities (GPHA), Ghana Customs, Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS) and the Ports Environmental Network Africa (PENAF).

An opening statement was given by Mr D.S. Amlalo, Executive Director of EPA and Prof. O. Osibanjo from BCCC Nigeria. Ms S. Rufener from IMPEL did read the opening statement on behalf of Gerard Wolters, IMPEL Chair.

At the **first day** of the national training workshop presentations were given by different representatives of EPA, GPHA, PENAF, BCCC and IMPEL. The SBC e-waste Africa project was first introduced, and then the actual e-waste situation in Ghana was presented. Furthermore an overview of the various existing legislation, conventions and regulation on e-waste was given and the impact of e-waste on human health and the environment was presented and discussed. In addition, inspection methods and classification criteria for e-waste were shown. In the afternoon, the draft of the enforcement manual on e-waste and an overview of the enforcement structures such as interagency collaboration were given.

The draft national policy and guidelines on the importation of e-waste that are scheduled to get into force on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, was presented by EPA. Namely EPA attempts to register all e-waste dealers, they want to force the collaboration with the scrap yard dealers and they want to establish a pilot national e-waste collection and dismantling centre.

Two teams of local televisions and some other media representatives were present during the opening ceremony.

The **second day** started with a visit to the Container Terminal of Africa Container Services (GMT/ACS). A container with goods loaded at Hamburg Port has been inspected by the participants after receiving an explanation on the handling procedures of Customs at the Port. The container was loaded with many second hand electrical items: TV's, computers, sound boxes and refrigerators, some of them obsolete and some of them had cables cut off. During the inspection, we discovered that many of the refrigerators contained R12 coolant, but were stickered with R134A or R600A. After the visit to the Terminal we finalized it with a discussion with officers of GMT/ACS. In the afternoon Mr James Gaisie (GPHA) presented the EEE-chain in Ghana, Mr Lambert Faabeluon (EPA) presented the EPA-guidelines on the importation of second hand electrical and electronic equipment. The final presentation was given by Mr Tony Mensah (CEPS) on Enforcing Regulation on e-waste in Ghana.

The **third day** was started showing a shortened version of the film "toxic city" and some parts of the IMPEL training DVD.

In total four presentations were given on the topic of interventions, international collaboration and networking, communication tool such as the treatment of the fractions resulting from e-waste dismantling.

A communiqué, written by BCRC Nigeria was presented and finalised by the plenary.



As a **next step**, the Technical Committee for Waste Shipment Prevention (TCWSP) will meet on August 9<sup>th</sup> for discussing the further actions to be taken for the finalisation of the enforcement manual.

Furthermore Prof. Osibanjo (BCCC) stated that ECOWAS was showing interests in facing e-waste issues.

### **Organisation committee**

Mr John Pwamang (EPA)

Mr Lambert Faabeluon (EPA)

Mr Kwabena Biritwum (EPA)

Mr James Gaisie (CEPS)

Mr Antony Mensah (GPHA)

Mr Henry Okine (PENAF)

### **IMPEL members**

Mr Anno Loonstra (VROM)

Ms Simonne Rufener (FOEN)



## Daily reporting

### Day 1: Monday, July 25

After the registration, the national training workshop was started by opening speeches of Mr. D.S. Amlalo, Director of EPA, Prof. Oladele Osibanjo, BCCR Nigeria, Simonne Rufener, IMPEL on behalf of Gerard Wolters, IMPEL Chair. Mr. Lambert Faabeluon, EPA and Mr. James Giaise, GPHA did give some welcome words.



The first presentation was given by Prof. Oladele Osibanjo introducing the SBC e-waste Africa Project. The following studies on Ghana of the components 2 and 3 are already published:

- Prakash S., Manhart, A., Amoyaw-Osei, Y., Agyekum, O. (2010). Socio-economic assessment and feasibility study on sustainable e-waste management in Ghana. Accra.
- Amoyaw-Osei, Y., Agyekum, O., Pwamang, J., Mueller E., Fasko, R., Schlupe M. (2011). Ghana e-waste country assessment. Accra.

The main goals of component 4 of the SBC e-waste project are the finalisation of the enforcement manual on e-waste inspection, the establishment of an African enforcement network and the establishment of an enforcement tool.

Afterwards, Mr. Lambert Faabeluon, EPA Ghana, gave an introduction to the e-waste situation in Ghana. EPA is currently working on a draft national policy and guidelines on the importation of e-waste, a draft bill on hazardous waste management, and a draft of e-waste regulation.



The following national efforts on e-waste will be taken by EPA Ghana:

- The EPA attempt to register all e-waste dealers (importers of EEE, UEEE, retailers & repairers) to enhance enforcement of guidelines
- The Agency forcing collaboration with scrap yard dealers in an attempt to create awareness and stop open burning
- The restriction of the importation of unserviceable and substandard fridges and other electrical electronic equipment by the government agencies: EPA, Energy Commission, Ghana Standards Board
- Establishment of pilot national e-waste collection and dismantling centres in Tema, Accra, Kumasi and Takoradi with the support of the Netherland's government





The third presentation was given by Mr. James Gaisie of GPHA and the various legislation, convention and regulation on e-waste or used EEE.

The following challenges were highlighted:

- E-Waste legislation does not exist in most developing countries. Hence the difficulty of regulatory control of e-waste dumping
- Basel Convention ratified by many African countries but not domesticated into national laws
- Custom tariff does not differentiate between new, used and e-scrap and thus pose challenge to enforcement officers at the various entry points
- Low public awareness of high environmental and health risks from unsound management of e-waste



The fourth presentation was given by Mr Henry Okine (Penaf) on the impact of WEEE on human health and the environment. He highlighted, that every electronic item, whether imported or not,



will become e-waste someday and that Ghana is also generating its own e-waste at an alarming rate. He says that the e-waste management is inappropriate and there is a need for awareness building and education. Furthermore he stated that there is also a need for more research on long-term health and environmental effects of e-waste.

The next presentation was held by Mr Kwabena Biritwum from EPA Ghana. He gave an overview of the e-waste inspection methods such as functionality testing and the way of packaging of the items. Mr Biritwum mentioned that EPA Ghana is building up a database of people, companies, etc. that import and deal with WEEE and EEE. As a further action he suggests to build up a framework for day to day activities at the port.

Afterwards, Mr Henry Okine, Penaf, showed an overview of possible criteria on the classification of (W)EEE. The classification criteria from the EU-Guidelines were taken as a basis and furthermore completed with their own testing methods and criteria.

After lunch, Mr. Anno Loonstra from IMPEL gave an introduction to the enforcement manual drafted by the IMPEL-team. To every participant a hardcopy was handed out. Mr Anno Loonstra explained, that this manual is only a draft, which has to be finalised by the respective country. The plenary agreed that the Western African region should have one manual containing national specification. The Technical Committee for Waste Shipment Prevention (TCWSP) should take the lead for the finalisation of the enforcement manual. This committee is hosted by the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) and chaired by the EPA-Ghana. It comprises representatives of: GPHA, EPA, Standards Board, Customs, and Green Advocacy-Ghana. The first meeting is scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The final presentation of day 1 was given by Ms Simonne Rufener, IMPEL. It contained information about enforcement structure and interagency collaboration.

The day was closed after a plenary discussion.

### **Day 2: Tuesday, July 26**

At the second day of the workshop participants were invited to do some inspections at Tema Harbour. Firstly procedures concerning container handling at the Terminal Port were explained to the group. One of the constraints being explained is the fact that Customs is not able to start checking the container when there is not a representative of the owner around.



The inspection carried out concerned a container arriving from Hamburg, Germany. The container contained a mix of second-hand goods – some of them to be classified as waste (e.g. missing cables, forbidden coolant, falsified stickers on refrigerators compressors. Customs at the Port did not notice the falsification of the coolant-stickers earlier.

The owner of the container, a Ghanaian lady living in Germany answered some questions asked concerning the shipment and resell of the items.

It was explained that all the containers containing electrical goods, whether they are second hand or new, are being inspected to check whether they are in line with the declaration.

The port exercise about testing of items did not really work out as planned, as many electric and electronic items were with cut cable. Still, the discussions about port and inspection procedures were very interesting and fruitful.



After the visit to the container terminal we finalized our visit at the meeting room of GMT/ACS.

Some of the questions and observations made during this meeting are listed below:

- The role of EPA in providing environmental training to workers of GMT/ACS
- Safety issues; especially concerning the opening of the containers and possible radiation risks
- Environmental training of workers by Ghana Ports and Harbour Authorities
- As GPHA is licensing permits and organizing seminars for workers every now and then it seems as if a certain structure for educating workers is already there
- GMT/ACS was particularly curious how often EPA would visit the Terminal in future; they seem to have fear for more severe action of EPA
- The question was raised what was going to happen with the R12 refrigerators; though pretty vague it was said that they were going to be seized and taken to a recycling facility

Mr Lambert Faabeluon (EPA) was mentioning the fact that EPA is in the process of registering all the importers of used electrical and electronic items; when this project has been finalized it should be easier to make sure that importers only import tested goods.

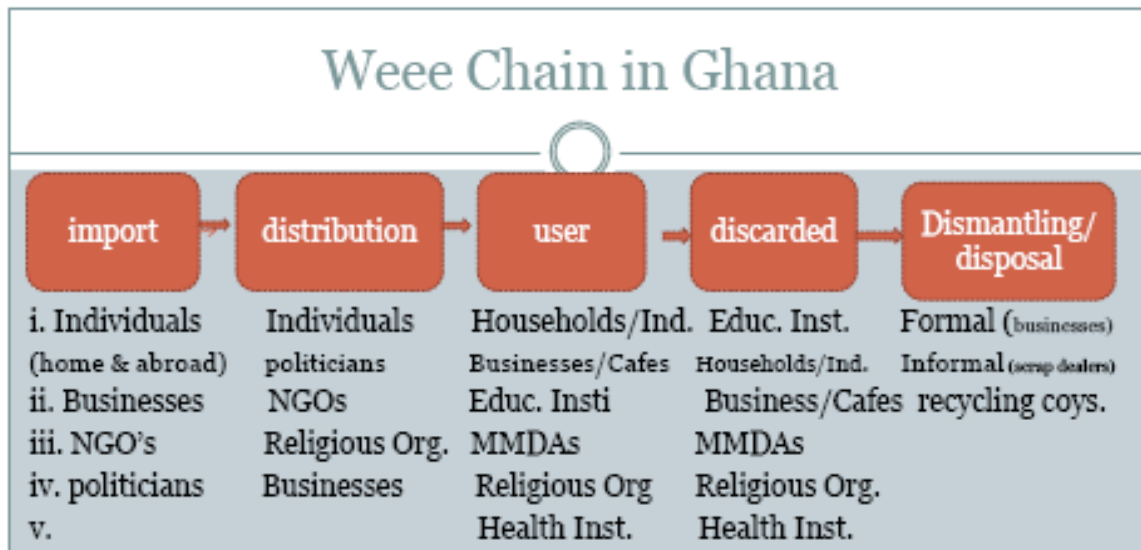
Mr Jame Gaisie (GPHA) gave the first presentation in the afternoon concerning the e-waste supply chain in Ghana.

In this presentation the following drivers and incentives for the importers were highlighted:

- Limited knowledge of the legislation on e-waste
- Limited knowledge of the hazardous nature of e-waste
- Limited knowledge of the environmental and human health risk posed by e-waste
- Huge market demand for quality second hand electronics
- Job opportunities
- Profit motivation
- Absence of national laws to regulate e-waste trade
- Low enforcement on hazardous waste generally

Furthermore it was stated by Mr James Gaisie (GPHA), that the lack of intervention from Enforcement Authorities is mainly caused due to the inadequate legal framework, logistical constraints, the lack of political will to deal with issues at hand, the inexistence of a take back system for end of life EEE, the inexistence of collection point for end of life EEE and the inexistence of recycling plants to absorb the e-waste for recycling.





Picture I WEEE Chain in Ghana

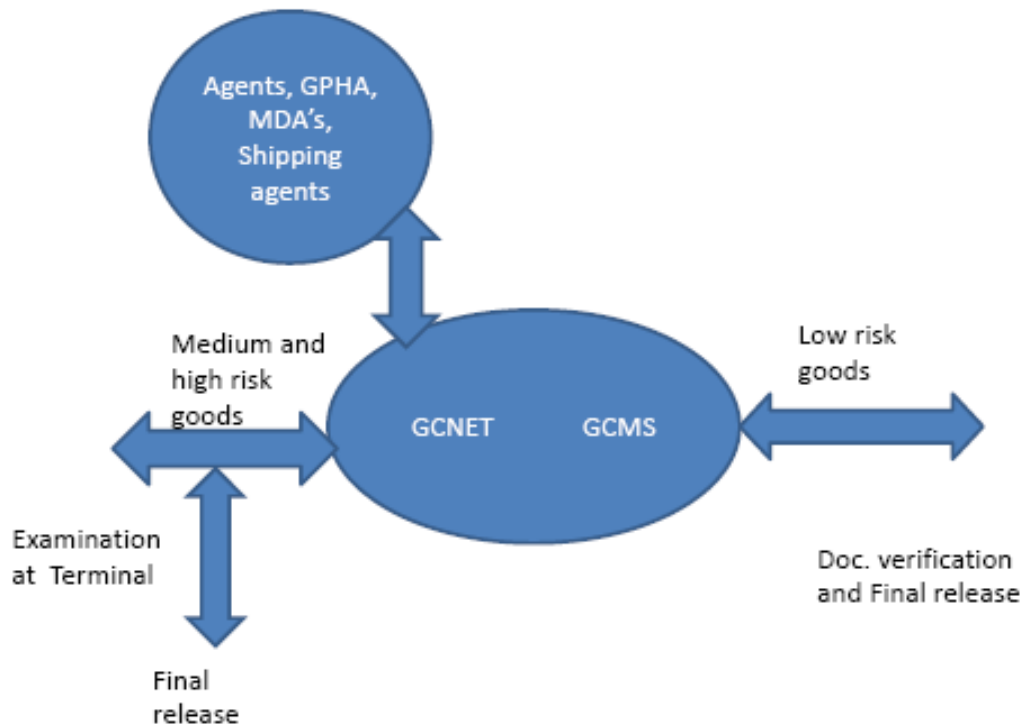
Afterwards Mr Lambert Faabeluon (EPA) presented the draft of the national legislation. A plenary discussion on National e-waste Guidelines was followed afterwards. The guidelines have been elaborated using mainly the European Guidelines.

Mr Anthony Mensah (CEPS) gave the third presentation of the afternoon about enforcing regulation on e-waste in Ghana. He highlighted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between EPA and CEPS would be very useful. The MoU should mainly define the tasks customs should carry out concerning environmental issues.

Mr Anthony Mensah proposed the following content of a MoU between EPA and CEPS:

- Exact definition of legislation or regulation involved
- Specify description of task of customs and enforcement
- Customs to provide specialised officers
- Customs will suspend the clearance of any illegal shipment and inform the competent agency

In addition Mr Antony Mensah explains the different steps of the custom control. The picture shows that the procedures for Customs officers are based on so called "Risk Profiling". Nevertheless we have to take into account that this risk profiles are based on the value of the goods and do not have an environmental component.



Picture II Procedure of custom officer

**Day 3: Wednesday, July 27**

The third and last day of the workshop was started showing a short version of the film “toxic waste”, cut and synchronised by Klaus Willke, IMPEL. Afterwards, some selected parts of the IMPEL training DVD were shown.

With its presentation on interventions, Mr. Anno Loonstra from IMPEL showed the possible intervention possibilities. The second presentation, held by Ms Simonne Rufener, IMPEL, was on international collaboration and networking, where the existing formal and informal networks on TBM of waste were presented.



Furthermore, Anno Loonstra presented the basecamp communication tool. Afterwards, the name of the future African network was discussed. The plenary agreed on the name “West-Africa-Network for e-waste”. Referred to EPA, there should be involved the two countries Nigeria and Ghana at a first step as they are the main receiving countries of e-waste. Afterwards, the network should be expanded to other West-African countries. Referred to EPA, the network should comprise representatives of the following authorities: EPA, Port Authorities, Customs, and National Security. It is proposed that ECOWAS should finance this network.



Therefore Prof. Osibanjo is in contact with ECOWAS. They agree that a working paper on the possible activities of the workshop should be worked out.

The final presentation was given by Mr. Kwabena Biritwum from EPA-Ghana. He gave an overview of the different treatment possibilities of different fractions gained from the e-waste dismantling.

After the presentations, an evaluation form was hand-out by EPA. Afterwards, the plenary was finalizing the communiqué on this workshop written by Ms. Bola Ajai from BCCC Nigeria, Mr. Joseph Edmund and some staff of Ghana EPA.

### **Outcome questionnaire**

In total 15 questionnaires were returned. They were filled-out by 6 people of EPA, 4 people of GPHA, 2 people from NGOs (PENAF and GreenAd), 1 person from customs and 1 from NACOB. Some selected results such as the answers about the legal framework, collaboration issues, the material available for inspections, and the legal powers and competences of the different enforcement institutions are being shortly presented in this section.

#### ***Legal framework***

The majority of the people (13) that have returned the questionnaire say that Ghana has a dualistic national legal system. This means that international conventions, such as the Basel Convention have to be transposed in a national law before it is applied.

Ten people say that there is no legal or policy framework on waste in Ghana, three say, there is one, and two did not give an answer. Nine people stated, that there is currently a law on this prepared.

Almost all of the persons (13) said that there is no legal or policy framework on transboundary movements of waste in Ghana. Eleven people stated that there is currently such a law being prepared (four did not give an answer).

12 people stated that there is a national law in place that restricts the import of personal vehicles older than 10 years, one person additionally stated that there is a restriction of the import of ozone depleting substances and three persons did not answer this question.

#### ***Involved organisations and collaborations issues***

All of the persons that filled-in the questionnaires said that there is any cooperation between the authorities that play a role in the port. Some 11 people stated that this collaboration is arranged informally, 5 say that it is arranged on a operational agreement, 4 say by an MoU and 2 say that it is arranged by law (multiple answers were possible). 15 people stated that this cooperation is done on a operational level. Only 6 people said that they collaborate with other countries, 4 said that there is no collaboration between other countries and 5 did not give an answer. The following authorities/countries/networks of international collaborations were mentioned: Interpol (3), EU (1), UK (1), Ivory Coast (1), Nigeria (1) and VROM (1).



### Legal powers and competences

There were a lot of questions not being answered by the participants. Therefore we decided to ask the plenary to give a common statement about the legal powers and competences of the different enforcement institutions. The results are presented in the table below.

4. LEGAL POWERS AND COMPETENCES									
Please indicate which powers the involved authorities have in the port (Possible answers: yes, no, unknown, not applicable in drop-down field).									
Competence	MEST	EPA	Customs	Police	Port authority	Port Health	National Security	NACOB	GSB
Stop containers or vehicles	no enf.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Open containers or vehicles	no enf.	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Inspect containers or vehicles	no enf.	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Enter port terminal	no enf.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Inspect documents	no enf.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Take samples /testing	no enf.	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Analyse samples	no enf.	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Detain shipments for further investigation	no enf.	yes	yes	yes*	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Prosecute illegal waste shipments	no enf.	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no

no enf. = no enforcement  
yes\* = by requesting customs to do it

### Inspections

Only three people say that inspections are performed in the port. These inspections seem to be rather randomly than organised in advance.





### **Material available for inspections**

The table below gives an overview on the statements which material for inspections ins available at the port.

	protection gear	camera	computer	internet	manuals	copy machine	electricity	container chains	sampling material	secure area
available	8	10	7	7	4	5	6	3	6	6
not available	4	2	5	5	8	7	6	9	6	5
no answer	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4

### **Next steps**

The Technical Committee for Waste Shipment Prevention (TCWSP) will meet on August 9<sup>th</sup> for discussing the further actions to be taken for the finalisation of the enforcement manual. Therefore comments on the manual should be sent to Mr. Pwamang or Mr. Lambert (EPA) before August 9<sup>th</sup>. Beside the TCWSP, other organisations such as the National Security should be involved. Timeframe for the finalisation of the enforcement manual is four weeks.

EPA mentioned that on the first of August 2011 there will be a report in the gazette about the actual status of the Ghana e-waste legislation.

Prof. Osibanjo (BCCC) stated that ECOWAS was showing interests in facing e-waste issues. He will follow-up on this.

Within the attachment programme at Green Advocacy Ghana (GreenAd) the environmental impact and the different interests and needs of the various sectors caused by the national e-waste strategy and legislation are being analysed.

### **Lessons learnt**

European Trainings:

- We had the impression, that most of the trainees from Ghana that were trained in Netherlands and Belgium last September by IMPEL picked up very much of the training and included it into the workshop.

Presentations by IMPEL:

- The following IMPEL presentations were used for the national workshop in Ghana: Introduction to the enforcement manual, Enforcement structure and interagency collaboration, Interventions, International collaboration and networking, and communication tools and enforcement network.
- All the other presentations were not used.

Questionnaire:

- If it's not possible, to send out the questionnaire before the workshop takes place, the questionnaire can be filled-in during the workshop, right after the enforcement structure presentation.



- If a lot of information is missing on the filled-in questionnaires, then the gaps can be filled-in by the plenary, especially the table of legal powers and competences

Port exercise / simulation exercise:

- None of the prepared exercises was used during the workshop

Enforcement Manual:

- The manual should be handed out 1-2 weeks before the workshop takes place
- A translation of the enforcement manual into French is urgently needed
- During the workshop a bigger focus on the manual should be put
- The IMPEL presentations should be adapted in a way that a direct link can be made to the enforcement manual

Dates of the workshop:

- For a next workshop we would welcome to start the workshop on Tuesday instead of Monday

Name badges:

- There were no name badges available for the participants. This would be of good use to have for the next workshop

## **Annex**

- I Programme of national training workshop Ghana
- II Participants list
- III Communiqué
- V Pictures
- V Press



## Annex I Programme of national training workshop Ghana

**National Training Workshop on Monitoring and Control of Transboundary Movements of E-wastes and Used E-equipment to Africa and the Prevention of Illegal Traffic, Hotel Majorie Y, Communite 5, Tema – Ghana, 25-27 July 2011**

### Programme

Day	Time	Activity	Responsibility
Monday 25th July	08:30 - 09:30	Registration of participants	
	09:30 - 10:15	Opening Statement by SBC Statement by IMPEL Opening Statement	Prof. Oladele Osibanjo, BCCC-Nigeria Mr. Anno Loonstra / Mrs. Simone Rufener, IMPEL Mr. D. S. Amlale, Ag ED, EPA-Ghana
	10:15 - 10:35	Presentation - Overview of the SBC E-waste Africa Project	Prof. Oladele Osibanjo, BCCC-Nigeria
	10:35 - 11:00	The E-waste situation in Ghana	Mr. Lambert Faabeluon, EPA-Ghana
	11:00 - 11:15	Coffee Break	
	11:15 - 11:35	WEEE, the various legislation, convention and regulation on E-waste or used EEE	Mr. J. B. Gaisie, GPHIA, Tema
	11:35 - 12:00	WEEE and its impact on human health and the Environment	Mr. Kwabena Britwum, EPA
	12:00 - 12:30	Inspecting and identifying E-Waste/inspection Methods	Mr. Kwabena Britwum, EPA
	12:30 - 13:00	Testing EEE for functionality	Mr. Kwabena Britwum, EPA
	13:00 - 14:30	Lunch Break	
	14:30 - 15:15	Introduction to the Enforcement Manual	- Mr. Anno Loonstra / Mrs. Simone Rufener, IMPEL
	15:15 - 16:15	Enforcement structure and Inter-agency collaboration	-Mr. Anno Loonstra / Mrs. Simone Rufener, IMPEL
	16:15 - 17:00	General discussions	
	17:00	End of Day 1	
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	09:00 - 09:45	National Guidelines on E-Waste in Ghana	Mr. Tony Mensah - Ghana Customs
	09:45 - 10:00	E-Waste Supply Chain in Ghana	Mr. J. B. Gaisie, GPHIA, Tema
	09:45 - 10:00	Coffee Break	
	10:00 - 10:45	Enforcing Regulation on E-Waste in Ghana	Mr. Tony Mensah - Ghana Customs
	10:45 - 11:30	Inspection Procedures at the Ports	Mr. Kwabena Britwum & Mr. Tony Mensah
	11:35 - 16:30	Inspections at Tema Harbour	Mr. Tony Mensah, Mr. Kwabena Britwum and Mr. Henry Okine
	09:00 - 10:30	Plenary discussions on National E-Waste Guidelines	Mr. John Pwamang and Lambert Faabeluon, EPA, Ghana
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	10:30 - 10:45	Coffee Break	
	10:45 - 11:45	Interventions / International collaboration and networking / Communication tools and Enforcement Network	Mr. Anno Loonstra/ Mrs. Simone Rufener, IMPEL, Mr. Lambert Faabeluon, EPA, Ghana
	11:45 - 12:30	Existing opportunities for trading in functional used EEE	Mr. Henry Okine, Penaf
	13:00 - 14:30	Lunch Break	
	14:30 - 15:30	Workshop evaluation, next steps and wrap up	
	15:30 - 16:00	Closing of workshop	EPA and the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Africa



**Annex II Participants list**

**National Training Workshop On Monitoring And Control Of Transboundary Movements Of E-Wastes And Used E-Equipment To Africa And The Prevention Of Illegal Traffic, Hotel Majorie Y, Community 5, Tema-Ghana, 25-27 July 2011**

No.	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Name	Organization	Telephone Number and E-mail Address	signature
1	X	X	X	Simonne Rufener	EPA Switzerland	0242229382 simonne.rufener@gmx.ch	
2	X	X	X	Anno Loonstra	VROM Inspectorate	+31621228085 anno.loonstra@minvrom.nl	
3	X	X	X	Henry A. Okine	PENAF	0243575890 hokine@penaf.org	
4	X	X	X	John A. Pwamang	EPA Ghana	0242803284 jpwamang@epaghana.org	
5	X			Mrs. Angelina Tutua Mensah	EPA Ghana	0244379159 tutua2@gmail.com	
6	X	X	X	Lovelace Sarpong	EPA Ghana	0249113845 lsarpong@epaghana.org	
7	X			Daniel S. Amlalo	EPA Ghana	0302662693 damlalo@epaghana.org	
8	X	X	X	Sebastian Adda	B.N.I.	0244386578 sabastian.adda@yahoo.com	
9	X	X	X	Bolanle Ajai	Basel Center Nigeria	2348023228544 bolanleajai@yahoo.com	
10	X	X	X	Kwabena Biritwum	EPA Ghana	0242650644 kwabenabiritwum@hotmail.com	
11	X	X	X	David Halm	GPHA Takoradi	0244575090 dihalm@yahoo.com	
12	X	X	X	Nbelayim Pascal	Ghana Standards Board	0243903366 sugril2002@yahoo.com	
13	X	X	X	Joseph C. Edmund	EPA Ghana	0208168907 jedmund@epaghana.org	
14	X	X	X	Lambert Faabeluon	EPA Ghana	0264641002 lfaabeluon@gmail.com	
15	X	X	X	James B. Gaisie	GPHA Tema	0244529011 jgaisie@ghanaports.net	



No.	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Name	Organization	Telephone Number and E-mail Address	signature
16	X	X	X	Irene Heathcote	EPA Ghana	irene_heathcote@yahoo.co.ulc	
17	X		X	Joachim Davies	GRA	02082335773 jimnana@yahoo.com	
18	X	X	X	Obed Opoku Agyekum	Green Advocacy	0284273436 opokuagyekum@consultant.com	
19	X	X	X	Bright Andy Berko	GPHA	0244069793 bandyberko@yahoo.com	
20	X	X	X	Professor Oladele Osibanjo	BCCC Nigeria	08033013378 oosibanjo@yahoo.com	
21	X	X	X	Anthony A. Mensah	CEPS Ghana	0244077729 mensahanthony77@yahoo.com	
22	X		X	Cindy Badoe	EPA Ghana	0243745745 cuidyakuab@yahoo.com	
23	X	X	X	Joseph Hans-Cole	JPCU	0244933355 josephhanscole@yahoo.com	
24	X	X	X	Edmund Landy Tei	JPCU	0202021101 landytei@rediffmail.com	
25	X	X		Yaw Amoyaw-osei	Green Advocacy	0244656632 <a href="mailto:mikeanane@yahoo.com">mikeanane@yahoo.com</a>	
26	X	X	X	Mary Tegah	EPA Ghana	0249246599 jetema8899@yahoo.com	
27			X	Prince I.K. Arthur	Ghana Standards Board	0244569198 pikarthur@hotmail.com	





**National Training Workshop On Monitoring And Control Of Transboundary Movements Of E-Wastes And Used E-Equipment To Africa And The Prevention Of Illegal Traffic, Hotel Majorie Y, Community 5, Tema–Ghana, 25–27 July 2011**  
**ATTENDANCE – MEDIA – 25th July**

No.	Name	Organization	Telephone number and E-Mail Address	Signature
1	Josephine Frempong	TV3	0243876718 josephinefrempong@yahoo.com	
2	Richard Opare	TV3		
3	Kafui Atsu	TV3		
4	Na-Illatu iddirisu	Punch	0244587896 naillatuiddirisu@yahoo.com	
5	Blay Gibbah	G/Times	0277606100 <a href="mailto:blaygibb@yahoo.com">blaygibb@yahoo.com</a>	
6	Justina Aya Somuah	Metro TV	0244667220 <a href="mailto:ayasomuah@yahoo.com">ayasomuah@yahoo.com</a>	
7	Justice Mensah	Metro TV		
8	Tayudeen Alhassan	Metro TV		



9	Roseline Abban	Graphic	0244267439	
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**Communiqué**  
**SBC E-Waste Africa Project :**  
**National Training Workshop on Monitoring and Control of Transboundary**  
**Movements of E-Wastes and Used Equipment to Africa and the Prevention of**  
**Illegal Traffic 25-27 July 2011 Tema Ghana**

**Introduction**

Information technology and the electronic industry has recently been regarded as the world's largest and fastest growing manufacturing sector. As a result of this remarkable growth, combined with the phenomenon of rapid product obsolescence, discarded electrical and electronic equipment or e-waste is now recognized as the fastest growing waste stream.

The used equipment are mostly exported to developing countries from advanced countries for many reasons which may be social, economic, and educational among others. The concern about the increasing volumes of these equipment imported into developing countries has been widely expressed and with the increasing awareness of the illegal shipment of these materials into some developing countries such as Ghana, countries have taken steps to assess the situation and to find ways to control the environmental and health menace posed by the influx of these equipment.

Consequently, from January 2009, with the assistance of the secretariat of the BC, the SBC E-Wastes Africa Project, funded by the EU, Norway the UK and NVMP, was initiated in Sevenscountries of Africa namely Benin, Nigeria, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Tunisia and Egypt.

The project has the following objectives:

- Enhance environmental governance of e-wastes in African countries;



- Build capacity to monitor and control e-waste imports coming from the developed world, including Europe;
- Protect the health of citizens;
- Provide economic opportunities.

The project which is being implemented by, BCRC-Senegal, BCCC-Nigeria and BCRC-Egypt, IMPEL, EMPA and the Oko-Institute has four components namely

1. Study on flows in used and end-of-life e-products imported into: Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, from European countries
2. National assessments on used and end-of-life e-equipment; National environmentally sound management plans
3. Socio-economic study on the e-waste sector in Nigeria and Ghana
4. Enforcement program on the monitoring and control of transboundary movements of used and end-of-life e-equipment and the prevention of illegal traffic in five African countries

Among the expected results of component four of the project is the training of enforcement officers on the monitoring and control of imports of e-waste at the ports of entry and to establish a network which would facilitate joint cooperation between enforcement authorities in exporting States in Europe and importing States in Africa.

Consequently, a kick – off meeting in Accra, Ghana in November 2009 with the theme “Clamping Down on Illegal Waste Shipments to Africa” with technical support from IMPEL, provided the platform for Needs Assessment on the control of illegal traffic of used and end of life e-products in the West African sub-region. This was followed by a two week training of 19 regulatory officers in Europe during which the idea of training at the national level in participating African countries in 2011 was discussed.

Cognisant of the importance and urgency to move the discussion into practicality, concerned to protect human health and environment from the menace of WEEE and determined to halt the practise of using Ghana as a dumping ground for



WEEE, Ghana with the assistance of IMPEL, and in collaboration with the SBC and BCRC, organised a 3 day national training workshop

For enforcement officers on the monitoring and control of imports of e-waste at the ports of entry and to establish a network which would facilitate joint cooperation between enforcement authorities in exporting States in Europe and importing States in Africa.

The main objective of the workshop was to develop strategies for the implementation of enforcement program in the 5 countries and was held in Tema Ghana from the 25-27<sup>th</sup> July 2011. In attendance were regulatory and enforcement officers representing the main stakeholder institutions such as the EPA, CEPS, GPHA, GSB, Police, Civil Society groups including International Experts from Basel Convention Coordinating Center for the African region and IMPEL.etc.

### **Deliberations:**

- ✚ Participants shared their views on recent developments in progress made to tackle the e-waste menace following the inception workshop and e-waste Africa project in Ghana. They applauded efforts made by Ghana led by the EPA to address the waste menace working in partnership with stakeholder institutions to facilitate the development of guidelines and policies, legislations to address the e-waste problem.
  
- ✚ Participants deplored the lack of capacity, infrastructure and institutional mechanisms to support the process.
  
- ✚ Participants noted that crude E-waste management occurs in the informal sector of the economy involving people who may be ignorant of the hazards of exposure to toxins in e-waste with children and women being the most vulnerable group





- ✚ Participants observed that there is inadequate public education and awareness on the problems associated with the uncontrolled importation of near-end-of-life and end-of-life EEE into the country, and the lack of clear distinction between e-waste and used EEE.
- ✚ Participants welcomed efforts made on information exchange on the transboundary movement of e-waste and the outcome of the collaboration between Ghana and its sub-regional neighbors as well as international partners in Europe, the USA and Canada.
- ✚ The meeting welcomed the training provided for the African team on e-waste management in the EU in 2010, and agreed to continue efforts against the illegal transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, especially e-waste, through the continued dialogue among the implementing partners

## Recommendations

- i. Enhance collaboration to implement the Basel Convention to meet the objectives set out therein.
- ii. There is need to domesticate relevant international laws and treaties, such as the Basel Convention.
- iii. The need to expedite action on the development of policies, guidelines and regulations on WEEE as well as a continued need for capacity building within relevant stakeholders and to enhance cooperation on E-Waste management and the exchange of information.
  - i. Government should commit resources to support regulatory authorities to effectively operationalize the National E-waste Strategy and other relevant interventions aimed at curbing the WEEE menace.
  - ii. There is a need for cooperation between all relevant national agencies on ESM of e-waste in the country
  - iii. Workshops/Fora should be convened regularly for sharing of experiences among regulatory and enforcement officers both locally and abroad.
  - iv. Promote policies which would encourage the use of ‘Green EEE’ in order to minimize the health and environmental impacts posed by WEEE.
  - v. The need to promote activities that would foster regional cooperation, and facilitate the formation of common understandings.



- vi. Promote the establishment of WEEE recycling facilities in compliance with national environmental regulations;
- vii. The resources dedicated to combating the e-waste menace, should also be extended to chemicals management. Establish an African network on the control of illegal traffic of e-waste in partnership with INECE
- viii. Establish a sub-regional ECOWAS network like IMPEL on the control of illegal traffic of e-waste and transboundary movement of waste within the sub-region.

### **Conclusion**

Participants expressed satisfaction with the fruitful outcome of the training workshop. The EPA on behalf of the Government of Ghana, expressed gratitude to the SBC, IMPEL, BCRC, EU for the assistance in organizing the workshop.



## ***Annex IV Pictures***

### Opening Ceremony



Prof Osibanjo, BCCR Nigeria



Mr. Amlalo, Dir. EPA



Ms Simonne Rufener IMPEL/FOEN  
(on behalf of Mr Gerard Wolters)

### Press



Mr. Amlalo, Dir. EPA



Mr. Anno Loonstra, IMPEL/VROM

### Port visit



Importing Refrigerators from Germany



Mr Anthony Mensah, Ghana Customs



Faked stickers on compressors of refrigerator



Mr. Henry Okine, Penaf



Questions and answers at the Golden Jubilee Terminal, Tema



## Workshop



Group pictures





# EPA intensifies fight against e-waste import

From G.B. Gibbah, Tema

**T**HE Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set up a unit at the Tema Port to test all imported electronic equipment to ensure their functionality for those not functioning to be returned to their exporters.

The move, according to Daniel S. Amlalo, acting Executive Director of the agency, was in line with the agency's effort at eliminating the dumping of e-waste in the country.

Mr Amlalo said this yesterday when opening a three-day national training workshop on monitoring and control of trans-boundary movement of electronic waste and used electronic equipment to Africa and the prevention of illegal traffic.

The workshop, being organised by the Basel Convention in Collaboration with the European Union network for Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPCL) and the EPA, is among other things to set up a network of enforcement agencies in Africa to effectively control illegal traffic of electronic waste and develop an instruction manual on inspection and detection electronic waste.

Participants were drawn from the EPA, customs division of the Ghana Revenue Authority, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority, Narcotics Control Board, Police Service, Ghana Standards Boards among others.

Mr Amlalo called on importers of second-hand electrical and electronic equipment to ensure that items brought into the country were actually usable to check the country from becoming a dumping group for the developed countries.

He said the amount of electronic waste products discarded globally, had sky rocketed recently with approximately 20 to 50 million tones being generated every year.

He said the importation of obsolete electrical and electronic equipment from industrialised countries, had worsened e-waste control and management in Ghana and many other African countries.

"They come with containers filled with old and often broken computers, monitors, television, mobile phones labeled 'second hand goods' he said.

Mr Amlalo noted that even though exporting e-waste from Europe was illegal, the exporting of old electronics for reuse allowed unscrupulous traders to profit from dumping old electronics in Ghana.

The EPA, he said, had set up cleaner production centre in Tema to assist various companies to recycle electronic waste and others in the regional capitals.

Mr Amlalo said under the e-waste Africa project, the EPA had conducted a comprehensive national assessment of the e-waste situation and prepared a national strategy and had started implementing components of the strategy.

He said the EPA was currently working with the Ministries of Environment, Science and Technology, Justice and Attorney-General's Department as well as Communications to prepare the necessary legislation to control the trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste including e-waste.

He said the first draft of the bill was ready but an addition of work was required before it could be subjected to wider stakeholder consultation.

Mr Amlalo said the European Union guidelines on electronic waste had been adopted.

Professor Oladele Osibanjo, Director of Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Africa, called on agencies concerned with entertainment to work as a team to reverse the dumping of e-waste in Africa.

Mr Lambert Faabeluoi of the EPA, said 100-container loads of electronic equipment, were imported to Ghana every month out of which 75 per cent were unusable.

Mr Gerard Wolters, chairman of the Board of IMPEZ, called for a stronger networking mechanism to combat the illicit shipment of wastes.

"E-waste trafficking is an international problem and it is by international operation and coordinated actions only that we can effectively address this issue and stamp it out".

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## Workshop held on e-waste imports

MR Daniel S. Amlalo (left), Ag Executive Director of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) speaking to some participants during a three-day workshop on Monitoring and Control of Transboundary Movements of E-Waste and used E-equipment to Africa and the Prevention of illegal Traffic at a ceremony at Tema.

The Acting Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Mr Daniel Amlalo, revealed that by 2013, Ghana would cease the

importation of refrigerators into the country.

To this end, he has cautioned importers of electrical equipment to ensure that what they import could be used and not waste from Europe and America.

Mr Amlalo was speaking at the opening of the three-day training workshop.

He noted that the EPA, under the E-waste Africa project, was discussing with the Ministries of Environment Science and Technology, Justice and Attorney General's Department and Communications to

adopt a legislation on the importation of E-Waste. He said even though the first draft was ready, some additional work was required before it would be subjected to the share holders consideration.

He lamented that the amount of electronic products discarded globally had skyrocketed, with approximately 20-50 millions tonnes being generated every year.

The workshop is aimed at discussing the development of the enforcement network and the communication and information exchange tools.

