

Workshop: Electrical/Electronic Waste Recycling

Dealing with performance deficits in e-waste management

Concept

a) Goal

The workshop aims at identifying major challenges and needs associated with the management of e-waste in countries with different cultural and economical background. The focus lies on identifying specific differences between developing and industrialized countries, further on prioritizing deficits and on elaborating strategies for the exchange of knowledge and gained experiences between North and South as well as South and South.

b) Structure

	Time	who
Introduction: Summarizing the major challenges, as laid out in the two scientific e-waste sessions of the R'07 and in scientific literature	5 min	M. Schluep
Part 1 Major challenges in e-waste management (Moderation: M. Schluep, Empa)		
Overview case studies in developing countries	10 min	H. Boeni
Lessons learnt from a case study (e.g. South Africa)	10 min	Tbd
Interactive workshop discussion (workshop tools tbd)	60 min	M. Schluep
Part 2 Global knowledge partnerships (Moderation: SteP)		
UN initiative SteP	10 min	tbd
WWW for a global network	10 min	tbd
Interactive workshop discussion (workshop tools tbd)	60 min	Tbd
Summary of the workshop outcome & closing comments	5 min	M. Schluep

Abstract

Dealing with performance deficits in e-waste management

Electrical and electronic equipment pervades modern lifestyles and its usage is growing rapidly around the world. Quick obsolescence and newer functionalities are resulting in huge quantities of these products become waste. Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), or e-waste contains both valuable and toxic materials and has been subject to regulations in most industrialized countries. Still less developed countries are subject of export of e-waste from OECD countries. Likewise, emerging economies are producing more and more of domestic e-waste. Therefore the e-waste management is becoming a major issue in transition and developing countries.

Global initiatives such as the “Swiss Knowledge Partnerships in e-Waste Recycling” (<http://ewasteguide.info>) and the UN Initiative StEP (Solve the e-Waste Problem, <http://www.step-initiative.org>) are addressing the issue. This workshop features several international experts from these two initiatives. Local experts from developing countries, who currently are implementing e-waste management systems in their countries will be attending and supporting the workshop. The workshop aims at identifying major challenges and needs associated with the management of e-waste in countries with different cultural end economical background and is structured in two parts:

Part 1: Major challenges in e-waste management

In the first part the workshop participants identify the major challenges associated with the management of e-waste as an emerging problem as well as a business opportunity of increasing significance. They analyse and compare experiences gained in the implementation of e-waste management systems in both developed and developing countries. In Part 1 lessons learnt from e-waste projects in developing countries will be introduced.

Part 2: Global knowledge partnerships

The second part of the workshop aims to identify strategies and tools to support global knowledge partnerships for e-waste management. International exchange is needed in order to close the knowledge and technology gaps and tackle the major challenges as identified in the first part of the workshop. Part 2 will be introduced by a representative of the UN Initiative StEP.

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