

Comparative Study of Legal Definitions and Classifications of “Waste” in AP

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1. Research background

- While reviewing the Country Reports to assess the current situation and effectiveness in enhancing 3Rs policies, we found that the **comparability of indicators was generally poor**. One reason is that **the legal definition and classification varies from country to country**.
- Under the paradigm shift **from the conventional waste management to the integrated waste management**, as well as from the local waste issue to **the global waste issue**, there is an urgent need to **harmonize the common terminology and definition of wastes**.

2. Objective & Materials & Methods

To further promote 3R policies for SDGs in AP, we

- provide an overview of the definitions and classifications of waste and MSW under the national legislative waste management frameworks
- suppose framework to classify and monitor waste stream based on 3R-related policies/strategies;

by reviewing the 12 Country Reports (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam) and a region (Pacific Island countries) on waste management and 3R policies in AP region prepared by the Drafting Committee of the State of the 3Rs in AP.

3. Fact Findings ① definition of “wastes”

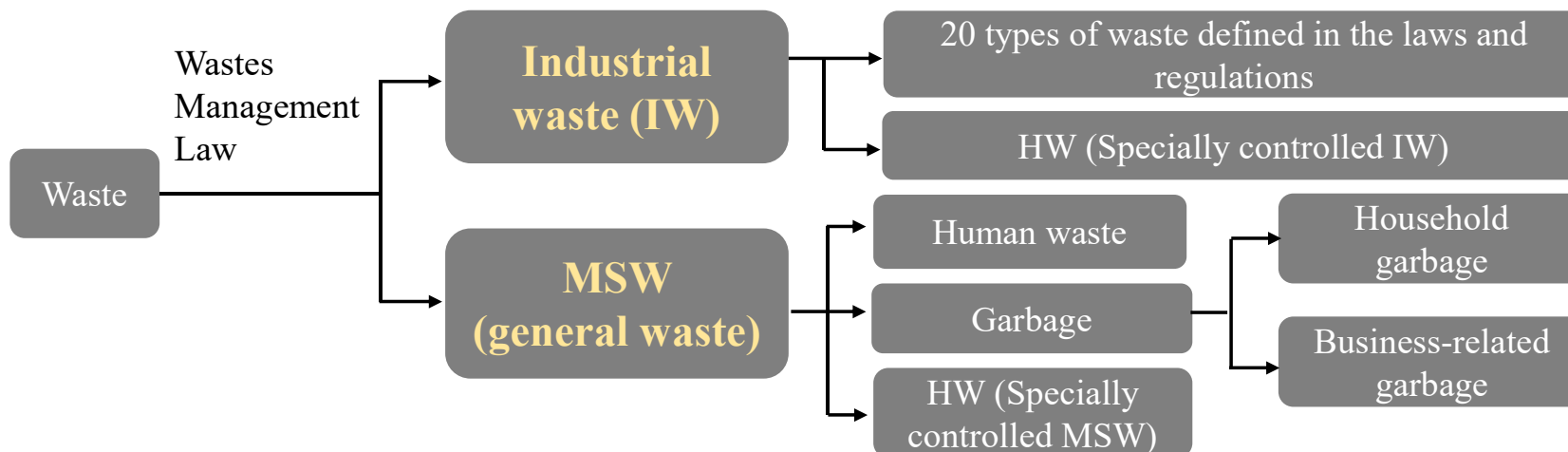
- **In a personal sense:** waste is defined as any substance or object that the generator/holder discards, intends to discard, or is required to discard; e.g. China, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia
- **In an impersonal sense,** waste refers to material that is discarded without being resold to other persons or companies, and it generates collection, transportation, and disposal costs. e.g. Singapore, Japan

3. Fact Findings ① definition of MSW

- The definition of MSW is more variable among countries. Most of countries do not use the terms MSW in their native language. Waste managed by or for municipalities is often translated as MSW in English regardless of the official wording in the native language.
- In Japan's case, "general waste" (waste other than industrial waste" is considered as municipal solid waste. However, In the case of Singapore, Bangladesh, industrial waste is considered as MSW since it is managed by municipalities.
- In the case of Japan and Singapore, the scope of MSW covers whole countries, while China, Viet Nam and others only covers urban/sub-urban area.

3. Fact Findings ② Classification of “wastes” & MSW

➤ Japan’s case

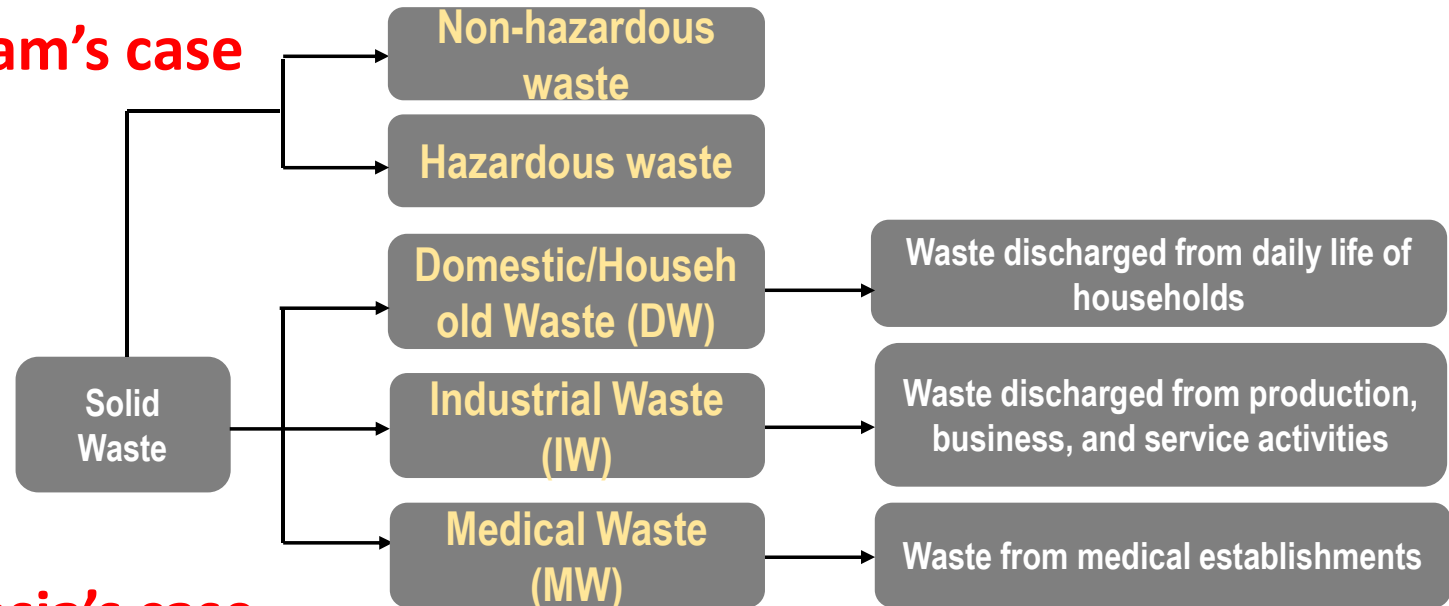


➤ Singapore’s case

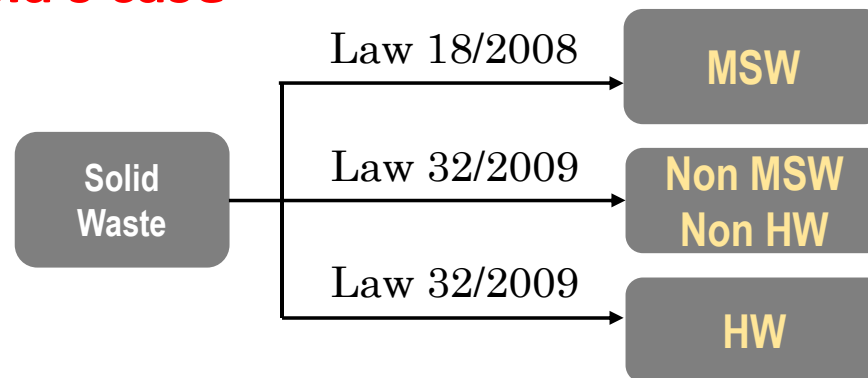


3. Fact Findings ② Classification of “wastes”

➤ **Viet Nam’s case**

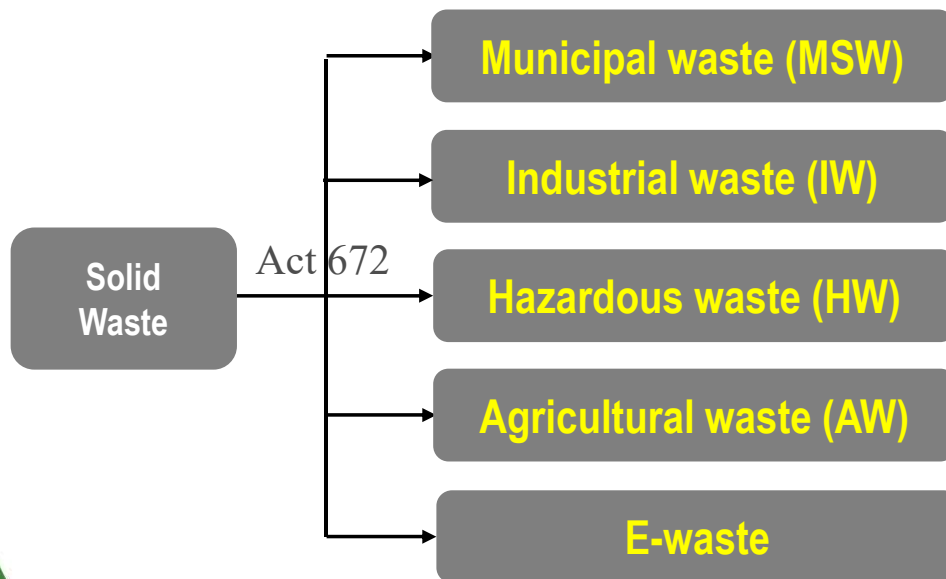


➤ **Indonesia’s case**

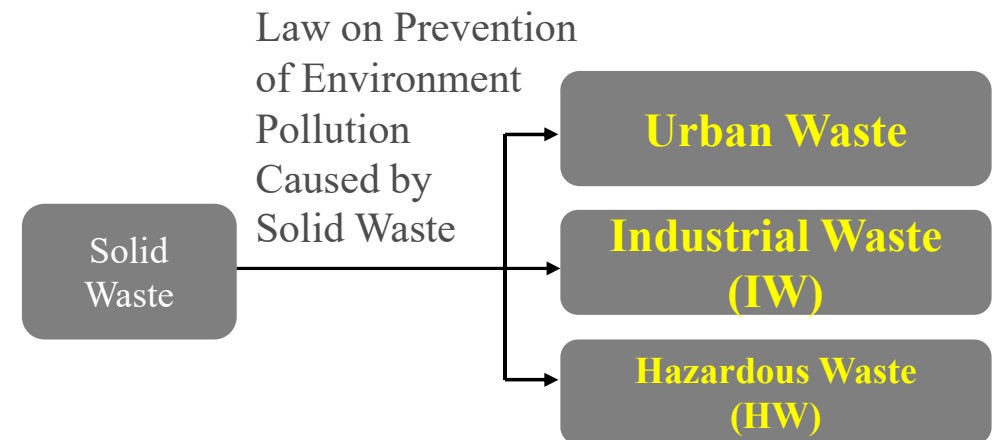


3. Fact Findings ② Classification of “wastes”

➤ **Malaysia’s case & Bangladesh’s case**



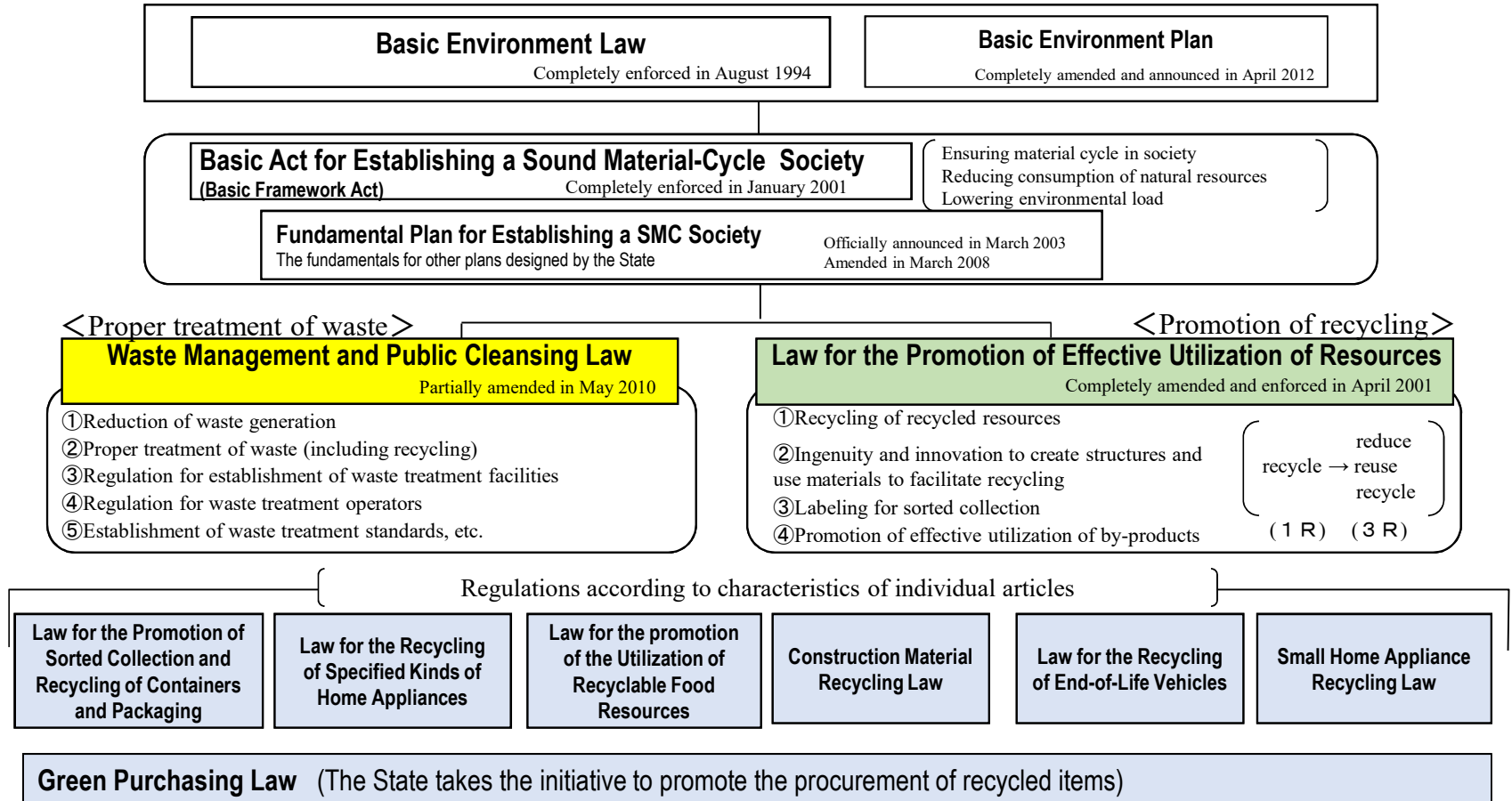
➤ **China's case**



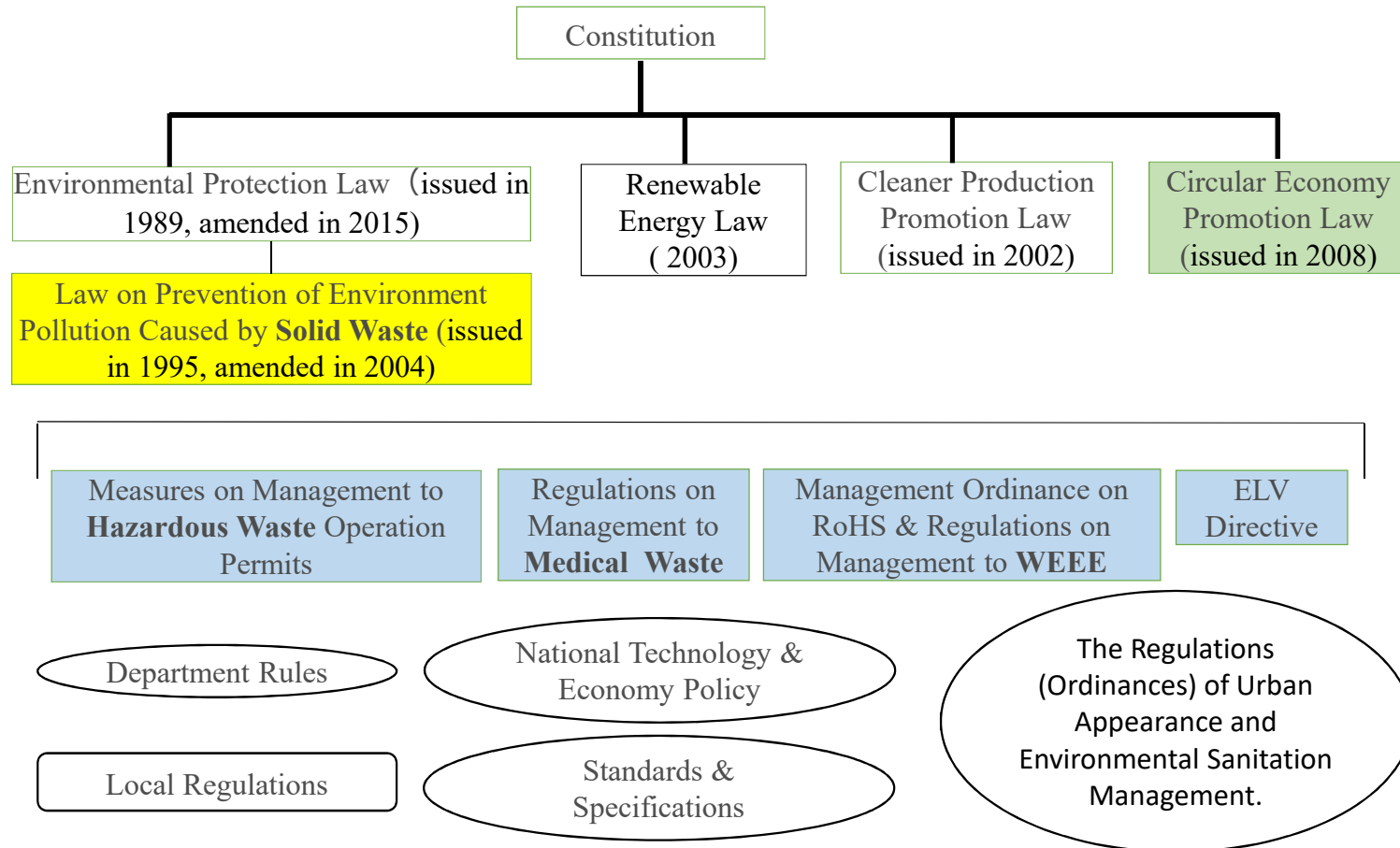
Fact Findings ③ Legislative framework of waste management and 3R-related policies/strategies

- Japan and China have the independent basic acts on waste management as well as on material recycling of specific items.
- Emerging market economies such as Malaysia, Philippines and Viet Nam have started to develop related policies. Overall framework policies on waste management including recycling and the 3Rs exists together in their basic environmental policies.
- In Thailand's case, the 3R concept exists in the sufficiency economy.
- Most of the less developed economies have just a minor reference in waste management and basic environmental policy, and often does not have specific/special legislation.

3. Fact Findings ③ Japan's case



3. Fact Findings ③ China's case



3. Fact Findings ③ Viet Nam's case

The National Strategy for Environmental Protection Towards 2010 and Orientations Toward 2020 (QD256/2003)

The National Strategy on Integrated SWM to 2025 and Vision to 2050 (QD2149/2009)

Law on Environmental Protection
(QH13/amended 2014)

The Decree on Solid Waste Management
(ND59/2007)

The Decision on Category of Hazardous Waste
(QD23/2006)

The Decree on Environmental Protection Charges
for Solid Waste (ND174/2007)

The Decision on Management of Medical Wastes
(QD43/2007)

4. Suggestions to define/classify/monitor waste & waste stream based on 3R-related policies

- A very fine line between “waste” and “resource”. Definitions must ensure that solid waste is managed in a safe way, while not becoming a barrier to an efficient and sustainable waste management system.



Sold out



Economic goods, other than waste. However we need to monitor this stream to take measurement when they losing economic value.

Separated /Collected



Waste that recycled as second material/energy

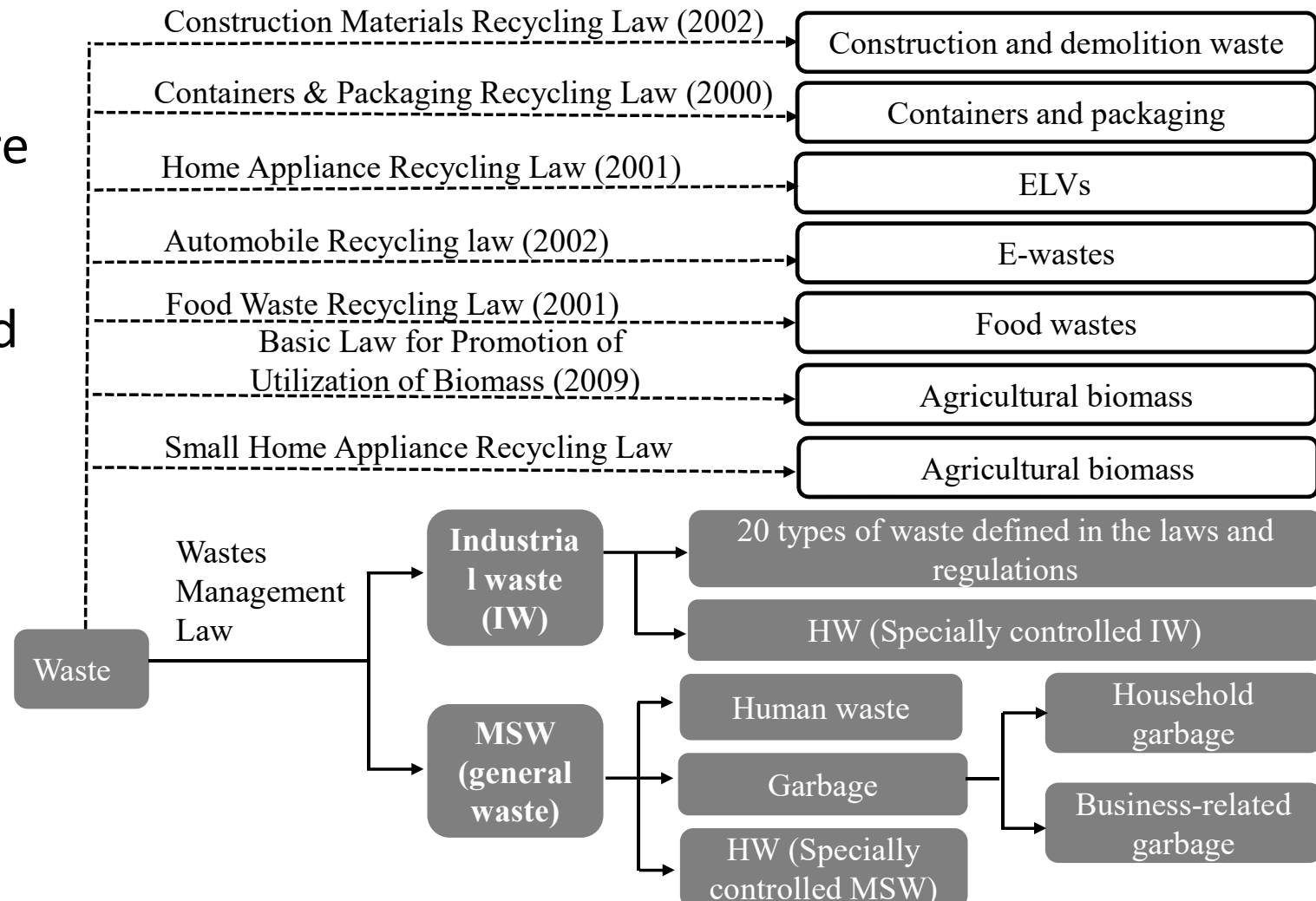
Un-separated



Waste with risk to environment and human health

4. Suggestions to define/classify/monitor waste & waste stream based on 3R-related policies

When new 3R-related policies are issued, a new stream of recycled waste is separated from mainstream of waste.



5. Conclusion

- The definition of waste depends on each country's political, historical, socio-economical, cultural and geographical context. It is difficult to suggest a single unified definition that could apply in all countries. However, it is necessary to clarify the definitions and classifications of waste and MSW in different countries, in order to better investigate and monitor the status of the flow of waste/resource stream.
- How to innovate the conventional waste management by introducing 3R policies is a big challenge for sustainable development in AP region.