

Highlights of Experts Workshop VIII

Event Title: Experts Workshop VIII Chemical and Hazardous waste

Date: 28 September 2021

Co-organizers/Supporting Organizations: Co-Organized by Ministry of the Environment, Japan and UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA.

Number of participants: 24

Number of participated countries: 8

On 28 September 2021, DSDG/UNCRD organized an Experts Workshop (online) on the thematic chapter – Chemical and Hazardous waste - of the 2nd State of 3R and Circular Economy in Asia-Pacific. The 2nd State of 3R and CE is scheduled to be launched in 2023. The workshop, which was attended by 24 participants from 8 countries, including senior government officials and experts from MoE-Japan, MONRE-Viet Nam, NEPA-Afghanistan, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of the Government of India, OECD, ICWMT-PR China, BCRC-PR China, UNEP-IETC, UNITAR, UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA and private sector, was organized under the aegis of the UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA led Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific. The objective of this workshop was to receive inputs, feedbacks, and suggestions from the experts on the scope and content of the thematic chapter on Chemical and Hazardous Waste. Some of the critical issues and challenges raised by experts are the need for harmonization of proper definition of chemical and hazardous waste in line with the Basel Convention, mercury pollution and persistent organic pollutants (POPs), transboundary movement of hazardous and chemical waste, classification based on source of generation and chemical characteristics, lack of comprehensive national policies, legislations and standards, lack of clear roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and institutional framework, unauthorized scrap yards or dumping sites, inappropriate methods of handling and disposal, lack of infrastructure such as testing facilities, lack of technically skilled human resources, among others. The experts laid emphasis on the need for developing and strengthening national inventories on hazardous and chemical waste in line with Basel Convention, Minamata Convention and Stockholm Convention on POPs, green and sustainable chemistry, non-toxic circularity through industrial symbiosis, emerging technological policy options such as nano-technology and others. The meeting also underscored the importance of Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) as a policy framework

to promote sound and safe management of chemicals throughout their life cycle to minimize all adverse impacts on the environment and human health. It was recommended to look into some of the reports such as the Global Chemical Outlook 2019 and UNEP's Global Mercury Assessment. The representative of National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) of Afghanistan underscored the need for capacity building on hazardous and chemical waste management as currently no programs and projects are implemented in this area with international support.