

Issues involving waste management

1. Prevention and minimization and environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes:

- As far as the hazardous wastes are concerned, Cambodia has seriously participated in preventing the trans-boundary trade with seriously controlling and observing in compliance with Basel Convention on the importation of trans-boundary wastes for recycling and with the ban on the importation of some hazardous wastes such as pesticide wastes or waste containing with POPs. However, Cambodia has still not been taken action on the reduction of the hazardous domestic waste generation, meanwhile the domestically- generated hazardous waste data has not been published.

- Concerning the technological transformation of the effectively hazardous waste management or the implementation of clean technology and the reduction of waste generation is undergoing but in a small scale; especially with the large-scale industries meanwhile the small and medium enterprises has not been carried out because of lacking of human resources.

- Relevant to the legal action to manage the hazardous wastes is only stipulated in sub-decree (Governmental Regulation); it is required to inform or asked permission from the Ministry of Environment for the storage, cleanness, and disposal of hazardous wastes. Regarding the polluter-pay principle is not yet officially applied.

- In order to minimization of the risks to social and environment, all the investment projects are required to conduct the environmental impact assessment.

- In term of recovery, reuse and recycling of hazardous wastes or the transformation of these wastes into the un-poisonous wastes or environmentally friendly usable waste have not been implemented; in general, all the domestically-generated hazardous wastes together with household wastes have been disposed at landfill site or burned in high temperature kiln for the hospital wastes. So far, Cambodia would like to certify that it completely lacks of human resources, equipments, experiences and finance for managing the hazardous wastes such as the identification of environmentally sound management of the waste collection, storage, treatment, and disposal. Meanwhile, the goal set to eliminate the hazardous wastes like toxic, persistent and bio-accumulation has not been considered.

- The inventory of hazardous wastes is only conducted on electronic, battery and mercury wastes in which it is undertaken under the project support. While, concerning the inventory of treatment or hazardous waste disposal and the areas affected by hazardous waste has not existed or carried out.

- There is no equipment or treatment or disposal of hazardous wastes generated by small and medium enterprises. All the hazardous wastes generated in the area (small and medium enterprises) are disposed with household waste with treatment.

- Concerning the illegal trans-boundary waste negotiation is strictly applied in border gates under inspection by the competitive customs.

2- Environmentally sound management of solid waste and sewage:

- Regarding the constantly increasing household waste generation is considered on preparing the national strategy plan to stimulate the implementation of 3Rs in order to reduce the solid waste generation, furthermore, the functional parts can be extracted for reuse that can contribute to minimize the environmental impact.
- As far as the environmentally sound waste disposal such as the use of sanitary landfill in which it is used to generate the methane gas for energy has not been considered. All wastes has been transported to Open burning dumping site, except some big cities used Controlled landfill with soil cover and no burning.