Controlling plastic waste

Programme

SAVE THE DATE  Side-event at the 14 Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention
6th of May 2019, 13:15–14:45  Room 4, CICG, GENEVA

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Plastic waste leakage into the marine, freshwater and terrestrial environment is increasing. Millions of tonnes of scrap including low quality plastic is traded without any particular control often to destinations where regulations are less rigorous. Can new international regulations increase accountability for plastic recycling?

Within waste management hierarchies, plastic recycling is the preferred option to replace conventional linear resource management models. Yet, it also bears environmental implications if not soundly managed. The increasing awareness of the recycling industry's negative environmental impacts prompted Chinese authorities to restrict or ban imports of various scrap materials that previously been accepted for recycling. This in turn encourages trade to other countries where environment performance of low-cost recycling facilities is high.

This side event will highlight the latest trends in the global plastic trade, bring together a broad set of actors to discuss the challenges and solutions towards securing sound plastic recycling and inform the deliberations for amendment of Annexes II, VIII and IX of the Basel Convention.

The event is hosted by the Government of Japan and Norway, in partnership with GRID-Arendal

Moderator
Jacqueline Alvarez, Head, Knowledge and Risk Unit, Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division, UN Environment

Key notes
Pål Spillum, Deputy Director General of the Section for Waste Management and Marine Litter, Ministry of Climate and Environment of Norway
Yutaka Matsuzawa, Deputy Director General, Environmental Regeneration and Material Cycles Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan

Moderated Panel discussion
Weijian Shao, First Secretary (Customs) of the Mission of the China to the EU based in Brussels.
Thilaagem Mathew, Principal Assistant Secretary Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change, Malaysia
Dimitris Dermatas, Chair of European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law
Gaël de Rotalier, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission
Martin Bourque, Executive Director, Ecology Center, with experience from entrepreneurship
Yuyun Ismawati, Goldman Environmental Prize recipient and founder of BaliFokus/Nexus3 Foundation, Indonesia
David Azoulay, Senior attorney, Director of the Environmental Health programme at Center for International Environmental Law

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