
All Sector Participatory Management of Hazardous Waste from Communities

The Second National Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on All Sector Participatory Management of Hazardous Waste from Communities;

Realizing that community hazardous waste, such as used light bulbs, used batteries, waste from electrical and electronic equipment, has become an important national and local problem, in terms of effects on the health of the population and the environment, as well as increasing the severity of the problem;

Acknowledging that management of community hazardous waste which is under the responsibility of local government organizations is still not effective, even though laws and strategic plans on management of such waste do exist. This ineffectiveness is due to lack of progress in many aspects of the problem such as lack of substantive understanding on the part of people in the community, the understanding which would lead to better cooperation in the management of community hazardous waste, and this would in turn lead to success in solving the problem;

Acknowledging that incorrect management of community hazardous waste such as waste from electrical and electronic equipment results in damages to health and environment, increases the risk of contracting severe diseases, both which results in enormous loss in human resources, in the economy and society, and also leads to a loss in the balance of nature;

Anxious about the increase in community hazardous waste, especially waste from electrical and electronic equipment, the lack of standard waste management establishments, and its resultant negative effect on the health and well-being of the people and environment knowing that it arises from inefficient management of community hazardous waste;

Realizing that solving this problem requires an integrated management approach in areas of campaigning to build up knowledge and consciousness; promoting the use of products that is durable and friendly to the environment;

promoting the separation of waste so that some can be reused and recycled; drafting laws to facilitate the establishment of mechanisms for efficient waste management; and supporting local administrative organizations to manage waste with the objectives of such management being defined as to decrease the amount of waste at the production end and also at the consuming end, and to manage such waste in a correct and efficient way;

Realizing also that participation by all parts of society is at the heart of efficient management of community electronic and electrical waste and hazardous waste,

Hereby adopts the following resolutions:

1. Requesting that the National Environmental Committee should consider establishing a committee comprised of responsible state agencies, representatives of local government organizations, of business enterprises, of academics, of non-governmental organizations, and of civil society, to:

1.1 coordinate efforts, review, and push for further movement in the implementation of existing plans and policies on community hazardous waste management of the various responsible agencies such as Department of Health of the Ministry of Public Health, Department of Pollution Control of the Ministry of National Resources and Environment, Department of Industrial Works of the Ministry of Industry, and local administrative organizations of the Department of Local Administration, the Ministry of the Interior;

1.2 prepare Community Waste Management Policy including setting targets for promotion and control measures for decreasing the amount of hazardous waste from electronic and electrical equipment. For example, using the principles of Extended Producers' Responsibility (EPR) and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) which are principles to support the design and promotion of electronic and electrical equipment products that take into consideration its effect on the environment.

2. Requesting that members of the Assembly including government, private sector, NGOs, academics, local administrative organizations, media and communities to:

2.1 Campaign so the public realizes the importance of managing in a correct way dangerous waste from households or communities, especially electrical and electronic equipment waste;

2.2 Campaign on sufficient consumption and consumption of products that reduce pollution or waste from operations, such as green products, using the 3Rs principle (reduce, reuse, recycle) which follows the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and can save natural resources;

2.3 Promote private sector to design and produce products that reduce pollution or waste from operations, including to purchase back used products for further appropriate management process;

2.4 Widely promote the appropriate waste management to public and various communities;

2.5 Participate in establishment of community education package on waste management that could be varied according to different communities;

2.6 Follow up, be vigilant, and check on management of community hazardous waste by government agencies, local administration organizations and relevant private sector;

2.7 Promote research and development on community waste management;

2.8 Promote incentive or reward measures for any successful waste management;

2.9 Promote strict law enforcement by responsible agencies.