

**Statement**  
**by**  
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**Deputy Director General of the Pollution Control Department,**  
**Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand**  
**on**  
**“Policy Options and Actions for Expediting Progress in**  
**Sustainable Waste Management”**

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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Thailand wishes to thank the panelists for their contributions and would like to align our statements with the Group of 77 and China.

As we all are aware that waste management is one of the key factors contributing to sustainable development. Ineffective waste management could lead to loss of necessary resources, as well as causing pollution problems that affect human health and the environment.

Similar to most developing countries, Thailand is facing a growing waste volume of both solid and hazardous waste due to growing economies and rapid urbanization. Our current policies have put emphasis on integrated waste management and are shifting towards more holistic and innovative approaches with some key strategies, including

- Applying the Reduce Reuse & Recycle (3Rs) principle by promoting recycling businesses, creating tax incentives for using recycled materials in production process, and promoting recycling markets at community level;
- Promoting waste to energy program to utilize organic and agricultural waste.
- Promoting cleaner production and technology to minimize pollution and waste from the production lines and industrial activities; and
- Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility and Public-Private Partnership initiatives, such as a Waste Exchange Program and a waste take-back system for hazardous and recyclable waste materials.

The national policies also focus on capacity building of communities and municipalities in waste management by promoting the reduction of household waste and segregation of generated household hazardous wastes at the sources. In addition, the establishment of centralized facilities is promoted for treatment of community hazardous waste and infectious waste, with encouraging investment from the private sectors. The development of a drafted law on environmental economic instruments is also underway.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand believes that sustainable waste management can be advanced by further strengthening the policies on economic instruments and the polluter pay principles to take into account the responsibilities of producers, importers and consumers in waste management. The use of incentive and financial instrument is a vital tool to encourage the change in consumption behavior as well as to create a sustainable financial mechanism for waste management.

Systematic and reliable waste-related databases, including the information on environmental and health risks resulted from solid and hazardous waste are essential to facilitate formulation of policies and in designing appropriate systems for effective waste management.

Environmentally sound management system of electronic and hazardous wastes should be strengthened in respond to an increasing trend of those waste streams, and to ensure that they are properly managed. Investment and technology transfer for the development of appropriate recycling and disposal infrastructure are also required.

The implementation of the Basel Convention and enforcement of coherent regulatory framework, including capacity building of customs and boarder control officials, should be further strengthened to prevent and control unwanted imports and illegal trafficking of hazardous waste.

In closing, Thailand would like to stress once again that successful waste management requires cooperation from individual citizens. Effective waste management would not be possible without the change of unsustainable consumption and disposal behavior. The waste issues, hence, need to be further addressed in conjunction with the SCP and other MDGs issues, particularly education and poverty reduction.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.