International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP)

In 2010, in an effort to demonstrate SAICM implementation via IPEN Participating Organizations, IPEN launched an International SAICM Implementation Project, also known as ISIP. ISIP aims to mobilize resources for initial enabling activities pertaining to national priorities, in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of section IV of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy.

In particular, the ISIP supports the Governance objective of SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy paragraph 26, which calls for enhanced "cooperation on the sound management of chemicals between Governments, the private sector and civil society at the national, regional and global levels."

In addition, ISIP builds on the 2008-2009 Global SAICM Outreach Campaign to raise awareness about SAICM and strengthen collaboration among the public interest, health and labor sectors.

ISIP Objectives

ISIP's four objectives include:
• Promoting the need for sound chemicals management
• Advancing National SAICM Implementation
• Promoting global SAICM implementation by global civil society
• Building capacity among NGOs developing countries and countries with economies in transition

Title of activity: E-waste Education for the Next Generation
NGO: Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO
Country: Bangladesh
Date: June, 2011

Elements of SAICM Covered:

Activities relating to identification and assessment of where issues relating to the sound management of chemicals arise during the lifespan of electrical and electronic products, including the design of such products, green chemistry, recycling and disposal, in particular in the context of the requirements of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, participation in the workshop on electronic waste be held in the margins of the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group meeting of the Basel Convention and follow up recommendations and options for the SAICM OEWG and ICCM3 (ICCM2 decision II/4)

Definition of e-waste and near end of life items and the hazardous chemicals contained in them:

The term "E-waste" means electronic wastes. It can be defined as all secondary electronic equipment, including computers, entertainment devices, mobile phones, television sets, refrigerators, etc., whether sold, donated or discarded by their original owners. It is a popular informal name for electronic products nearing the end of their "useful life." Many of the electronic equipments can be reused, refurbished, or recycled.

Description of the situation with regard to e-waste that is generated in the country vs. waste that enters the country:
Electronic and Electrical Equipment is largely refurbished and recycled in semiformal and informal sectors in Bangladesh. Re-use or recycling of equipment as well as dumping are creating risks these days very rapidly. These electronic wastes might cause environmental and health hazards. At present there is a lack of awareness and adequate information on e-waste hazards. Bangladesh imported old computers, printers and monitors in bulk quantities in the years 2002-2003. It was estimated that equipment become scrap and e-waste within the next 2-4 years.

Description of the current practices for dealing with e-waste and near end of life electrical equipment:
In Bangladesh, overall everyone just throws their wastes, including electronic wastes or even kitchen wastes. So the typical scenario or practices of dealing with electronic wastes is unsafe and haphazard. <u>Every year Bangladesh generates roughly 2.8 million metric tons of e-waste</u>. But without knowing the harmful effect of the e-waste, these are dumped into open landfills, farming land and in the open sources of water bodies.

ESDO recently conducted a study focusing on Dhaka and Chittagong city, to examine the trend of usage of electronic devises /gadgets and what's been done during the end of life of this equipment, what hazards are created from the e-waste, what are the current practices of dumping, and what rules are there for dumping this sludge. Finally, this study tried to identify the level of awareness regarding this e-waste and a way forward to reduce environmental hazards.
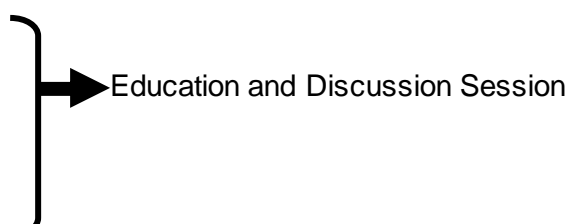
<u>**Project Outcomes:**</u>

Description of the activity conducted:
ESDO organized educational sessions at four schools, namely:
- Pallabi M I Model High School
- Wari High School
- Dhanmondi Ali Hossain Girls High School
- Lalmatia Girls High School

ESDO conducted the sessions at Pallabi M I Model High School, Wari High School, and Dhanmondi Ali Hossain Girls High School and Lalmatia High School on January 18, March 23, March 31, and April 24, 2011, respectively, to initiate and demonstrate our E-waste Education program. These were the very first attempts to educate the school students of the age group of 10-14 years in Bangladesh. The ESDO team, the headmistresses of the respective schools and honorable teachers were present to attend the programs and to motivate the students. The total sessions were completed by following the tasks given below. A rally was also organized on May 28, 2011 in Dhaka.

<u>Sessions:</u>

- ➢ Introductory session
- ➢ Briefing session
    - ○ ESDO basic
    - ○ E-waste education   → Education and Discussion Session
- ➢ Discussion with the teachers & students

- ➢ Documentary show on e-waste (Courtesy- Toxics Link)
- ➢ E-waste materials distribution
- ➢ Photography and closing session

Impact on target groups:
The target groups of this educational project were the school authorities, headmasters/principles, teachers, students and the guardians. ESDO received an appreciative response from the target groups. They asked questions and displayed curiosity at the sessions and even afterwards.

Deliverables, outputs and/or products:
1. Banner
2. Festoon
3. Flier
4. E-waste teaching manual
5. Sticker
6. Booklet (both in Bangla and English)

Communication efforts:
ESDO conducted educational sessions on e-waste at 4 schools among students and teachers in Dhaka city. Students have acquired knowledge of the dangers of e-waste and could also share information with other students and members of society. We always put emphasis on the awareness of a very general person ("layperson"), so IEC materials were also launched, like festoons, bangle booklet, leaflets, etc.

SAICM National Focal Point:
Mr. Monjurul hannan Khan
Deputy Secretary
MoEF
Tel: 880-2-7167472
Fax:880-2-7169210
E-mail: dsenv1@moef.gov.bd

NGO Recommendations for next steps:
Up until this point, there have been no effective steps made to stop the generation of e-waste in this country or to regulate safe recycling and disposal. As a way forward, ESDO suggests the following recommendations:

1. To conduct a comprehensive inventory of the level of e-waste in large cities of Bangladesh.
2. To develop an e-waste policy and guidelines in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.
3. To establish an efficient collection system for selected types of electronic waste.
4. To establish a registry of e-waste recyclers and to build their capacity development.
5. To introduce an Environmental Management System in the e-waste sector.
6. To establish an e-waste tracking mechanism in order to maintain this inventory.
7. To raise awareness of the issue in the general population and within public and private sectors.
8. To monitor e-waste trafficking and shipment into and within Bangladesh.