

Surabaya Declaration¹

on

Promotion of Multilayer Partnerships and Collaboration for the Expansion of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (3Rs) in Asia and the Pacific

We, the representatives of Asia-Pacific countries², city government representatives, international organizations, bilateral and multilateral agencies, scientific and research organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector and industry groups, and professionals in the field of 3Rs and waste management, having met at the Fifth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific, held in Surabaya, Indonesia, from 25 to 27 February 2014,

Reiterating the importance of renewing commitments towards effective implementation of 3Rs (reduce, reuse, and recycle) through various forms of partnerships and collaboration in achieving a resource efficient society and a green economy,

Recognizing the critical challenges (institutional capacity, financing and technology needs) the Asia-Pacific region is faced with in integrating resource efficiency and 3Rs in overall policy, planning and development, given the fact that many countries have become net importers of raw materials (fossil fuel, metals, timber, and other natural resources) with rapidly increasing volume and changing characteristics of urban and industrial waste, rising population and rapid urbanization along with increasing consumption and per capita waste generation that pose serious challenges for the people and the sustainability of the region,

Noting the recommendations in the Rio+20 Outcomes Document – The Future We Want, thereby the call of the Heads of States and Governments at Rio+20 for the development and enforcement of comprehensive national and local waste management policies, strategies, laws and regulations, and new and innovative public-private partnerships among industry, governments, academia and other non-governmental stakeholders, aiming to enhance capacity and technology for environmentally sound chemicals and waste management, including waste prevention,

Recalling the objectives and goal of a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns which the 10-year framework should affirm a common vision that promotes a whole of life cycle approach including resource efficiency and sustainable use of resources, as well as science-based and traditional knowledge-based approaches, cradle to grave, extended producer responsibility and the 3R concept and other related methodologies, as appropriate,

Reaffirming the recommendation made by United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012, where countries agreed to adopt the 10-Year Framework of

¹ Surabaya 3R Declaration is a voluntary and legally non-binding Declaration

² Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cook Islands, People's Republic of China (hereinafter, China), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand³, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam

³ Thailand reserves the right to join the Declaration at a later date

Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP),

Reaffirming resource recirculation in accordance with mutual respect to environmental concerns of each country,

Taking into account the outcome of the Fourth Regional 3R Forum in Asia held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam in 2013 and the Ha Noi 3R Declaration – Sustainable 3R Goals for Asia and the Pacific (2013–2023) that provides an important basis and framework for Asia-Pacific countries to urgently voluntarily develop and implement 3R policies and programmes,

Recognizing the issues and challenges faced by and specific capacity needs of small island developing states (SIDS) in implementing 3Rs especially emphasizing the importance of the “Return” concept in terms of the process for “Recycling” in achieving sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, including their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and import base, and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks, including a large range of impacts from climate change and potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters, and the increasing impacts of tourism activities, and thereby the need for increasing international and regional cooperation among Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and between PICs and other countries,

Recognizing the complex and daunting nature of waste management challenges faced by local authorities and municipalities in today’s world in view of the diversification of waste streams region-wide, the growing presence of chemicals and hazardous and toxic elements, including e-wastes, in the general waste stream, the increasing presence of waste, in particular plastics and disaster waste in coastal and marine environment that increasingly demand science-based decision-making and solutions within multilayer partnerships and collaboration,

Recognizing the specific challenges and needs of mountainous countries with regard to environmentally sound management of waste generated from the tourism sector,

Underscoring the fact that moving towards a resource efficient and sound material cycle based society will require considerable and sustainable investment and resource mobilization, including technological interventions, institutional capacity-building, and development of 3R infrastructures, programmes and projects (eco-industrial zones, science parks, eco-cities, waste recovery facilities, waste-to-energy schemes, greening small and medium enterprise (SME) operations, green products and eco-labelling schemes, biomass to composts and energy in rural areas, etc.), which is inherently a multi-stakeholder process calling for multilayer partnerships and collaboration within and between communities, businesses, industries, all levels of government, scientific and research institutions, international organizations, development banks, academia and the United Nations system,

Recognizing the significance of resource efficiency and 3Rs in the post-2015 development era, and thereby the important role private, industry and business sectors can play in providing 3R and green business based solutions, as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), to many sustainability challenges,

Reaffirming that enhancing connectivity among Asia-Pacific countries would benefit all Asia-Pacific countries through promotion of multilayer collaborative efforts, and the need to strengthen cooperation towards effective implementation of 3Rs (reduce, reuse, and recycle) through various forms of partnerships and collaboration in achieving a resource efficient society, including the following, but not limited to:

- (i) **country-country cooperation** in exchanging valuable experiences and ideas, transferring knowledge and technologies, including development of collaborative projects on 3R infrastructure development, such as eco-industrial zones, science parks, eco-towns, waste-to-energy schemes, waste recovery and recycling schemes, composting schemes in rural areas, etc;
- (ii) **south-south cooperation** to strengthen exchange and collaboration between countries, and increase the flow of information, resource, expertise, and knowledge among Asia-Pacific countries;
- (iii) **city-city and inter-municipal cooperation**, both at national and international levels, in exchanging practical experiences and ideas in realizing sustainable and liveable cities with efficient waste management system through public-private partnership (PPP) and sister city cooperation;
- (iv) multi-sector partnerships and collaboration in policymaking and promotion of **sustainable business models**, involving the public, private and business sectors, and Scientific and Research Institutions; including exchange of information on sustainable financing models for 3Rs;
- (v) **industry-industry cooperation**, both at national and international level, with an objective to create local and regional markets towards regional development and employment creation;
- (vi) **government-NGO/CSO cooperation** with an objective to reduce waste management costs and increase municipal cost savings to divert for other essential socioeconomic priorities such as – access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation, better health care and education facilities, and improved public transportation facilities, etc.;
- (vii) a **regional cooperative framework among SIDS/PICs** to develop self sustaining 3R activities and easily adaptable technologies, including a pool of well-trained 3R practitioners, to collectively address issues of common concern and develop viable business models through multilayer partnerships for local employment creation; and
- (viii) a **multilayer partnership** in the area of disaster waste management among countries, businesses, academia, local authorities, international organizations and NGOs in order to provide capacity-building for disaster response and strengthen community resilience,

express our resolve to promote multilayer partnerships and collaboration for the expansion of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle in Asia and the Pacific by adopting 3R practices.