

**DISCUSSIONS POINTS OF VICE MINISTER BUI CACH TUYEN
AT THE 5TH REGIONAL 3R FORUM IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

25-27 Feb 2014, Surabaya, Indonesia

**Plenary Session 4A: Triangular Cooperation (Government- Scientific &
Research Institutions -Private Sector) for Developing Viable Business
Models in 3Rs/Waste Management**

9h00-10h30, 26 Feb 2014

1. To what extent the current policy frameworks at national and local government level are supportive to science based policy making considering all aspects of 3Rs with a view to managing (with top priority to prevention) all type of wastes in an environmentally friendly manner?

Answer:

In Viet Nam policy making process usually is science-based. When develop a law, a strategy, we usually conduct a study with 03 contents: (i) theoretical basis of the issue that the law/strategy is developed for; (ii) experiences of other countries in the world in resolving the issues; (iii) current situation in Viet Nam, what are achievements/constraints/opportunities/barriers...

3R policy in Viet Nam have also been developed by that way. For example, when develop the National Strategy for Integrated Solid Waste Management to 2025, vision to 2050, we also conduct studies on theory of integrated waste management, 3R measures; experiences of various developed and developing countries in solid waste management and 3R; assessment of the waste generation and solid waste management in Viet Nam, forecast of waste generation. Based on the results of this study, the Strategy has been formulated, specifically, the viewpoints, objectives, tasks and measures have been identified. Through development process, a wide consultation has been implemented to get comments/opinions from scientists, management bodies, ministries, localities...

In our waste management, waste prevention has been put at the top priority such as identified in the waste management hierarchy.

One weakness in our policy making is the forecast of the environmental issues and setting rational goal and objectives for the future. Sometimes their identifications are loosely related with a comprehensive review of resources.

2. How far the government policies and programs have been effective in combining the advantages of private sector investment and dynamism in 3Rs/waste management (in terms of access to financial resources and latest technologies, promoting entrepreneurial spirit, income generating opportunities for the local community, etc.) ?

Answer:

Until now the Government policies and programs in Viet Nam have not been so much effective in attracting private sector investment into 3Rs business. Private sectors mainly participated in waste collection and informal recycling.

I think that in order to make government policies and programs more effective we need active participation of all stakeholders as below:

Government (central and local): creating policy and legislations atmosphere for private sector investment.

Province/city: building legislation/policy for recycling business, waste collection and transportation; develop master plan to secure recycling factory location and space; providing preferential tax, financing, administrative support. Operate among others a pilot project which demonstrates how the private sector investment generates profits in the implementation of 3Rs. Secure stable supply of waste material and market for the recycled products.

Private sector: brings capital and technology to build and operate a recycling factory with the purpose not only the economical profits but also the corporate social responsibility (CSR).

On the other hand I think that dynamic approach is required to create synergy thru public-private partnership (PPP) in the implementation of 3Rs (Eg. the promulgation of Decree no. 25, March 29, 2013 brought about pertinent condition for the formulation of big PPP project on wastewater treatment in HCMC with the capacity of 500,000 cubic meter/day-night. It should be mutual interaction in a time series between the two parties, government and private sector.

3. Are the current government policies and programs adequate enough or effective in promoting collaboration and partnerships with private and business sector to enhance R&D and scientific knowledge-base in 3R areas [3R technologies, resource efficient infrastructure (eco-towns, eco-industrial parks, science parks), green products, waste recycling techniques, waste recovery, waste exchange programs, green procurement, etc.]?

Answer:

There several examples in Viet Nam on bringing stakeholders together.

Viet Nam has publicly advocated Green Growth Strategy: a cross-cutting strategy for responding to economy crisis, climate change and resource efficiency. This cross-cutting strategy brings ministries/sectors, universities, institutes and business sector.. together in various areas on carbon reduction, resource efficiency and 3Rs.

The Viet Nam National Cleaner Production Centre has developed from being a unit of the Hanoi University of Technology to become an autonomous business entity owned by the University and Centre staff that provides Cleaner Production and related services to businesses, ministries, chambers of commerce and international development partners.

A number of other private sector bodies assist with Government to enhance R&D and scientific knowledge-base in 3R areas, such as the Vietnam Business Council for Sustainable Development and the VCCI.

In 2011 the Government commissioned eco-city designs from Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM) for both Ha Noi and Da Nang. In 2013, the Government introduced the concept of creating the environmentally friendly cities for leaders of 13 provinces in Mekong Delta region thru the Mekong Delta Economic Cooperation Forum.

Viet Nam has introduced EPR mechanism: The manufacturers and importers must collect and recycle the waste generated out of their products after consumption by the target rate fixed by government. This indicates expansion of recycling industry, ensued by necessity of more efficient recycling technology and more scientific knowledge base and R & D.

4. What are the crucial policy/institutional measures and enabling conditions to make the triangular cooperation (Government- Scientific & Research Institutions - Private Sector) truly operational and effective in areas of 3Rs/waste management? What lessons do we learn from two cases of cooperation presented?

Answer:

3Rs are often publicly perceived as offering to turn “trash into cash” or “garbage into gold”, but this is not as easy as it sounds. Creating a 3R industry sector can require substantial investment. Venturing into this new area, businesses require a sound legal framework and a “level-playing field” on which to operate in order to be competitive, which often only Government can ensure. Governments need to play a key role in multi-stakeholder coordination. A key aspect to its success is the coordination role being played by Government and business leaders.

Managing waste is a complex task that requires changes in consumption and waste production patterns, appropriate technology, organizational capacity, and co-operation among a wide range of stakeholders. Working in partnership, Government, business and research organizations can ensure the participation of all stakeholders that are critical in a creating a green value chain. Municipal and national governments can help fill data gaps by developing waste data strategies,

and by ensuring statutory reporting requirements are met. Research institutions and universities linked to business can ensure that cleaner, greener ways to process waste and new discoveries of viable ways to extract energy from waste can be brought successfully to market profitably in a timely manner.

Besides, I think that in some countries, a research institute, such as the KEITI (Korea Environment Industry and Technology Institute) in Korea as shared by our Korean colleague in Hanoi, would play a bridging role in order to promote the triangular cooperation. The institute aims at promoting environmental industry, pioneering new environmental technology development, certifying the environmental technology developed newly and assisting in commercializing the certified technology. It also assists and finances joint research activities between enterprise and R& D institutes when tapping into new potential environmental market, technology or projects. Developing countries might study this model.

5. Is the current political framework conducive to such triangular cooperation for realizing viable and scientifically credible business models in 3Rs/waste management? What are the best examples from the region?

Answer:

According to a Korean colleague working in Viet Nam, in case of Korea, KEITI has succeeded in creating such tri-angular cooperation and contributed a lot to identifying blue ocean for environmental business in various areas as well as in 3Rs, for example:

- Water supply, waste water treatment, sludge treatment....
- Bio-energy recovery from landfill site, say at Kimpo site in Korea
- Recycling organic, and food waste into fertilizers;
- Implement CDM programs from landfill sites and others in developing countries to reduce green house gas generation.