

**Fourth Regional 3R Forum in Asia**

“3Rs in the Context of Rio+20 Outcomes – The Future We Want”

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# **Country Analysis Paper**

**(Draft)**

**<Mongolia >**

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This country analysis paper was prepared by Mongolia as an input for the Fourth Regional 3R Forum in Asia. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.

## **MONGOLIA: Waste Management Country Report**

The Government of Mongolia attaches a high priority to sustainable development and low carbon green growth. About 2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) is allocated annually for the environmental protection including energy efficiency, sustainable use of resources, and reduction of environmental pollution and promotion of environmental public education programs. In 2011, GDP was 10.8 billion USD. Even with a population that accounts for only 0.04% of the total world population, Mongolia is a leader in economic growth. Mongolia experienced the highest growth rate in GDP in 2011 recording over 17%. This is a reflection of the growing demand for commodities like coal, copper and gold, all of which are abundantly available in Mongolia. Currently 58% of the total of Mongolian revenue comes from the natural resource sectors.

Mongolia is one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world with 1.67 persons per square kilometer. Yet, the population is also remarkably urbanized. According to 2010 population census, the total population is 2.7 million. About 60 percent of the population lives in urban areas. The Capital city of Ulaanbaatar alone has over 1 million people. There are few cities including Darkhan and Erdenet have large number of population compare to other major cities. There are several highly urbanized provinces /aimags/ such as are Orkhon (91.9 percent urban), Darkhan-Uul (81.6 percent urban), Dornogobi (53 percent urban) and Dornod (50 percent urban).

Mongolia's urbanization has been both rapid and ad-hoc. The country had a majority nomadic population well into 20th century. Beginning of 1930s, a number of small towns emerged along and around railway lines, roads and power plants. Social services were provided mainly to the larger population centers. Ulaanbaatar, Erdenet, Choibalsan, Darkhan, Murun, and Khovd were among the first population clusters in the country. The socialist government provided economic subsidies to the remoter population clusters such as Khovd, and created some other larger towns such as Choibalsan as military bases, for political and military security reasons. Migration was strictly controlled until the New Democratic Constitution was approved in 1992.

In the last decade the Government of Mongolia has completed a rapid transition to a market economy, and to a democratic structure of government. As the centralized economy has fallen away, state subsidies and income supports have also declined, and this has, in part, contributed to a rapid movement of people toward urban areas. The Government has been unable to stem the flow of migrants to Ulaanbaatar and to other urban areas. Ulaanbaatar is both the political and economic capital of the country, attracting large numbers of migrants every year.

Over the past few years, Mongolia has experienced trends towards increasing solid waste output, mainly due to concentration of the population in urban areas, increased consumption and changes to economic structure. There is no proper solid waste management practice in Mongolia

yet. Therefore inadequate waste disposal system creates huge problems on the environment and human health.

There are total of 417 large and small centralized disposal sites in the country, including 5 sites in Ulaanbaatar city, 1-2 in each of 21 provinces and 329 soums and settlement centers and 1.4 million tons of waste produced annually. Almost 30 per cent of the waste is originated in Ulaanbaatar and it divides into the parts by its type including 350 thousand tons of household garbage, 50 thousand tones of construction garbage, 10 thousand tons of hazardous and chemical waste and 1 thousand tons of medical litter.

The Law on “Environmental Protection” and Government National Plan on “Waste reduction management” were enacted by the Mongolian Parliament in 1995 and 1999 respectively. Several national policies have been developed and approved by the Government such as National Policy on Ecology in 2000. In spring 2012, the Parliament of Mongolia adopted a “New Law on Waste” combining the Law on Household and Industrial Waste and Law on Hazardous and Toxic Chemicals. The new Law has introduced 3R principles. In addition a Waste Reduction Action Plan was approved by the Government.

Mongolia faces number of challenges in waste management. There is a lack of national coordination on waste management policies. The technical and human resources for the solid waste management in the country are inconsistent. Currently insufficient budget is allocated to the waste management at national as well as local level and poor public involvement, particularly private sectors and civil groups.

According to the waste management structure, the local governments are responsible for overall management of industrial and domestic solid waste in Mongolia, although most local governing authorities have limited human resources or have neither sufficient financial resources nor the machinery or technology to properly manage waste. The implementation of the Government policy has been delayed, however, in all but areas around the capital city, due to sparse population and insufficient finances, as well as lack of knowledge and technology in relation to the management of waste.

#### Challenges in waste management system

- Waste collection and transportation system is not operating adequately because of insufficient supply of waste collecting vehicles and garbage bins.
- Enforcement of laws is low and people ignoring the law requirement because there is not effective punishment mechanism that causes fear for those people.
- Despite of the legal framework system, there is no scheduled educational program for youth and children for sound management of waste.
- Waste collection fees are not collected fully to cover the transportation cost. Fee collection system is based on number of person per family that is not encouraging the reduction of waste amount.

- 3R”concepts are not recognized and utilized because of poor awareness and monitoring process. In addition there is little incentives are created through deposit refund system which is used for collection of bottles in a few dedicated shops.
- There are large portion of wastes 60.2 percent is ash which generated mainly in Ger areas from burning coal and wood for heating in wintertime. It needs to be reused for construction material production.

Country specific measures to be considered as important policy actions:

- Fee collection system in ger area needs to be improved through better legal system
- More involvement and participation of private sector into waste management system
- Promote educational activities to increase environmental and health awareness of population
- Establish economic incentives to encourage recycling and recovery techniques and methodologies
- Better legal and enforcement framework for ensuring safe environment and sustainable development

The followings are reference and input to policy consultations and panel country roundtable discussions at the Forum:

- a. List major initiatives and achievements in the areas of 3R policies, programmes, and institutional measures;
  - ✓ Waste management framework is not adequate yet, however there are number of laws and national programs are in place. These are the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes” in 1996, "Rotterdam Convention on Trade in Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides" in 2001, “The Stockholm convention on persistent organic pollutants” in 2004, National program on Reduction waste 1999 and a New Law on “Waste management” approved by the Parliament introducing 3R concepts in 2012.
  - ✓ A number rules and procedures have been enacted at Ministerial levels such as Regulation on classification, collection, temporary storage, transportation, treatment of hazardous wastes (2002),“Regulation and procedures on disposal and landfill of hazardous waste of business entities, and requirements on waste containers and waste disposal sites”(2006), Methodology for calculating waste norms”(2006), Payment calculation methodology for hazardous waste”(2006), Classification and characteristics and hazard level of waste” with joint order No. 324/318/336 of Ministers for Environment, Health, and Education, Culture and Science (2006), Regulation on labeling hazardous waste”(2006), Regulation on national reporting and inventory of hazardous waste(2009).

- ✓ Master plan on the solid wastes of Ulaanbaatar city was developed and activities to landfill solid wastes in the natural environment friendly method and implement management of 3R have been organized
- ✓ Over the last 5 years the projects to furnish centralized disposal site and introduce landfill methods have been implemented in 21 provinces. Small scaled factory was established to conduct activities to reutilize and process waste. As well as Battery Factory to restore and repair batteries and factory to produce pressed hose tile crushing used tires, were established to conduct its activities by know-how and patent of Battery Equalizer International.

b. List major initiatives and achievements in promoting 3R technologies and infrastructure development;

- ✓ National 3R Conference was organized in Ulaanbaatar city, in October 2010.
- ✓ JICA project with City Government; 3R principle management at individual, households and business entity levels and promoting reduction excess consumption by supporting products reuse practices based on certain economic incentives.
- ✓ Feasibility Study project on “Darkhan city waste management” was completed jointly with the Ministry of Environment of Korea.
- ✓ Feasibility study on asbestos containing waste coming from south east regional power supply of Mongolia 2010 with the support of Republic of Korea “Mireco MGL”LLC

c. List examples of specific policy initiatives or measures in dealing with new emerging waste streams such as - e-waste, plastics in coastal-marine environment, chemicals and hazardous wastes;

- ✓ Increased foreign trade in electronics and cars new emerging waste substantially increased over the last decade. Most computers are imported from People’s Republic of China, Singapore, Republic of Korea and the United States. Cars mostly exported from Japan, Republic of Korea and the United States. In 2011, 362.9 thousand used tires and 2.8 thousand cars are imported to Mongolia.
- ✓ Feasibility study for Hazardous and Chemical waste processing plant is completed with support of Kornezet Co.Ltd of Hungary.
- ✓ No proper actions are in place for e-waste management.
- ✓ Small scale hazardous waste processing plant is built for medical waste.

d. List specific policy initiatives or strategies for promotion of 3Rs in industry and business sectors, including small and medium size enterprises (SMEs);

- ✓ Small and medium enterprises development national fund is established to promote business sectors including waste management system
- ✓ Small enterprise is established with direct investment and collaboration of Battery Equalizer International (BEI) to reuse batteries used in Mongolia.

- ✓ Private sector also engaged into processing of used tires. First productions are rubber mat and sport centers floor mat

e. List specific policy initiatives or strategies for promotion of 3Rs in agriculture and rural sector in support of rural livelihood generation.

- ✓ Currently 52.6 thousand solid wastes annually have been recycled in 8 provincial centers.
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