



REWAS 2008

Global Symposium on
Recycling, Waste
Treatment and
Clean Technology

October 12-15, 2008

Hilton Cancun Golf & Spa Resort
Cancun, Mexico

TMS

 **waste**
swiss e-waste programme

plataforma
RELAC 

 **StEP**
SOLVING THE E-WASTE PROBLEM

Workshop October 14 2008, 10.30 - 18.00

**Challenges and Strategies for the
Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste
in Latin America and The Caribbean (LAC)**

www.tms.org/meetings/specialty/rewas08

About the Workshop

Context

Electrical and electronic equipment pervades modern lifestyles and its usage is growing rapidly around the world. Quick obsolescence and newer functionalities are resulting in huge quantities of these products becoming waste. Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), or e-waste, contains both valuable and toxic materials and has been subject to regulations in most industrialized countries. Emerging economies are producing more and more of domestic e-waste.

The sound management of e-waste, particularly the reuse of electronic equipment and the recycling of e-waste, is of increasing significance in almost all countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Costa Rica is the most advanced country in this respect, but countries like Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Argentina, Venezuela, Chile and Uruguay are taking up the issue and are on their way to assessing the problem and discussing possible solutions. In March 2006, the Environmental Ministers of the countries of Mercosur adopted the policy principle of extended producer responsibility as a guiding principle for the management of special waste. This principle is discussed widely. The Regional Office of the Basel Convention in Buenos Aires (BCRC) (<http://crsbasilea.inti.gov.ar/>) has taken up the issue and is implementing pilot project activities in the region. Global initiatives such as the "Swiss Knowledge Partnerships in e-Waste Recycling" (<http://ewasteguide.info>) and the UN's "Solving the E-Waste Problem (StEP) Initiative" (<http://www.step-initiative.org>) are addressing the issue. The International Development Research Center (IDRC) of the Government of Canada (www.idrc.org) is building up the Regional Platform on Electronics Waste in LAC (Platform RELAC). The platform RELAC is coordinated by the NGO SUR in Santiago de Chile (www.rrrtic.net).

Goal

This workshop aims to identify major challenges and strategies associated with the management of e-waste in Latin America under the policy principle of Extended Producer Responsibility. The focus will be on facilitating discussion among workshop participants to enable analysis of existing experiences and identification of suitable approaches to deal with challenges, including exploring the potential of regional solutions and the role of public-private partnerships.

Concept

The workshop will be implemented by three of the aforementioned initiatives (Platform RELAC, EMPA, and StEP Initiative) and will gather major stakeholders in the region including producers, importers, branch associations related to ICT, government, and academia. Several experts from the organizing initiatives and local experts from developing countries, who currently are implementing e-waste management systems in their countries will be attending and supporting the workshop.



Programme

MODULE 1:	Situation and Challenges of e-waste Management in Latin America and The Caribbean	10.30-12.30	Chair: Heinz Böni/Empa
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Input presentations (15 minutes):

- General overview on the e-waste situation in LAC
Uca Silva, Regional Platform on e-waste RELAC – SUR/IDRC, Santiago/Chile
- E-waste situation and trends in OECD countries
John Dickenson, AER Worldwide, StEP Initiative, Fremont/USA
- Legal framework and the role of governments
Dr. Leila Devia, Basel Convention Regional Centre South-America, Buenos Aires/Argentina
- EPR and private sector involvement
Ricardo Gonzalez Llera, IBM, New York/USA
- Regional example: México
Dr. Guillermo Román, Instituto Politécnico Nacional México, México D.C.
- Refurbishment and reuse for the civil society
Martha P. Castellanos, Computadores para Educar, Bogota/Colombia

MODULE 2:	Challenges and Strategies	14.00-16.00	Chair: Uca Silva/RELAC
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Moderated group work

- Group 1: Challenges and strategies for Governments (Illegal dumping, public education, collection infrastructure, transboundary movements, treatment standards, etc.)
Moderator: *Dr. Carlos Gregorio, Instituto para la Investigación de la Justicia, Montevideo/Uruguay*
- Group 2: Challenges and strategies for Industries and Recycling (Organization, system financing, system coverage, historical e-waste, recycling challenges etc.)
Moderator: *Ricardo Gonzalez Llera, IBM, New York/USA*
- Group 3: Challenges and strategies for the Civil Society (Bridging the digital divide, consumer behaviour etc.)
Moderator: *Victoria Rudin, ACEPESA, San Jose/Costa Rica*
- Group 4: Challenges and strategies for Research (Research deficits and needs)
Moderator: *Jeremy Gregory, MIT, StEP Initiative – Regional Focal Point for Northern America, Cambridge/USA*

Presentation and discussions of group work

- Match action items from Module 2 with high-priority challenges
- Prioritize challenges to be addressed
- Assign leaders to create action plans for projects
- Establish regional partnerships to support projects
- Discuss possible coordination and funding strategies for all projects
- Create charter summarizing outcomes from workshop and the path forward

Simultaneous translation English Spanish will be available during the workshop

Responsible Organizations

EMPA / Swiss e-waste Programme

Heinz Böni

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Regional Platform on e-waste in Latin America and The Caribbean

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StEP Initiative - Solving the E-Waste Problem

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