Workshop on Sound Management of Used Lead Acid Batteries
26-27 November 2015, Osaka, Japan
Concept Note

1. Background and Context

Lead is a cumulative toxicant particularly hazardous to young children and pregnant women. Currently more than 80% of the global demand of lead is for batteries. Many reports exist which provide examples of health and environmental damages from inappropriate recycling of used lead acid batteries (ULAB) in developing countries. Therefore, international action is needed to achieve environmentally sound management of ULAB to reduce the risks of lead globally.

UNEP has been engaged in action to address the environmental and health risks posed by lead, focusing to date on the phasing out lead in fuels and paints. For example, UNEP, in cooperation with WHO, supports the Lead Paint Alliance, a global partnership aiming at phasing out the use of lead in paint by 2020. UNEP stands ready to support international action to promote environmentally sound management of lead acid batteries.

2. Goal and Objectives of the Workshop

The overall goal of the workshop is to advance international analysis, commitment and action to address the challenges associated with the management and recycling of ULAB.

Specific objectives of the workshop are the following:

- Review the current situation on the international movement, management and recycling of ULAB, and associated environmental and health risks.
- Exchange information on the government policies and stakeholder actions to address these risks.
- Identify potential future UNEP activities towards the environmentally sound management of ULAB.
- Finalize a draft report on proposed UNEP action to promote sound management of ULAB.

3. Participants

The workshop will bring together a small number of global experts, with a focus participants from the Asia-Pacific region. Participants include:

- Experts on global trade and management of ULAB
- An expert on health impact of lead, nominated by WHO

- Government officials and policy experts from Cambodia, Indonesia and Japan.

4. Methods

The Workshop will be highly interactive in nature and is organized around a series of presentations experts have prepared in advance, followed by focused discussions convened by UNEP. Due to the small number of participants, the discussion will be in a plenary round-table format. The workshop is preceded by a preparatory meeting taking place on the day before to discuss and further develop a workshop document which reviews the international trade, management and recycling of ULAB and their environmental and health impact on the first day. The draft report was prepared by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico (BCRC/CAM). The review will also include skype conversation with experts and stakeholders who cannot attend in person.

5. Programme

The workshop consists of four sessions. During Session 1 a workshop document on the current situation of ULAB is presented and discussed. The second session will review and discuss the challenges and policies of countries, based on presentations by participants. The third session will discuss possible future UNEP activities based on the experiences presented by participants. The final session will summarize the discussion and include a workshop evaluation. The draft programme of the Workshop is attached as an Annex.

6. Partners

This workshop is organized through cooperation among the following partners:

- **UNEP** contributes through its Chemicals and Waste Branch (CWB) and the Economy and Trade Branch (ETB) and provides perspectives on the management of environmental and health risks of lead and the international trade of ULAB and their recycling respectively. CWB is contributing through the Geneva-based *Technology and Metal Partnership Team* (overall coordination) and the *International Environmental Technology Centre* (IETC) based in Osaka.
- **WHO** nominated an expert to address the human health dimension and will author a part of the report.
- **Basel Convention Regional Center for Central America and Mexico** prepares the draft workshop document and finalize a report on ULAB management with the help of experts.
- **Global Environmental Centre Foundation** compiles a report with input from these partners and experts, and makes practical arrangements for the Workshop.

7. Evaluation

At the end of the workshop, a workshop evaluation will be conducted to assess the extent the workshop achieved its objectives, to identify lessons learned, and to obtain feedback that will help the organizers in designing future events.

8. Logistics

The two interconnected meetings start on Thursday 26th November 2015 at 10h00 at the International Environmental Technology Centre (2-110, Ryokuchi Koen, Tsurumi-ku, Osaka, Japan), and close the following day at 17h30. The logistics of the workshop are handled by the Global Environment Centre Foundation.

Provisional Programme

Thursday 26th November 2015: Preparatory Meeting

10:00-11:00	Review of Trade Assessment
11:00-12:00	Review of ULAB management and recycling practice
12:00-13:00	Review of environmental and health impact
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:00	Preliminary discussion on UNEP activities
16:00-17:00	Skype Conference with UNEP Economics and Trade Branch
17:00-18:00	Any other issues and conclusion.

Friday, 27th November 2015: Workshop

Session 1: Opening and Introduction *Objective: Develop shared understanding of global challenges of ULAB management and recycling*	
09:00-09:30	**Introduction on the background and objectives** *Mr. Eisaku Toda,* Chemicals and Waste Branch, UNEP
09:30-10:00	**Trade of ULAB and environmental impact** *Mr. Brian Wilson*, International Lead Management Centre
10:00-10:15	**Health impact of ULAB recycling** *Mr. Terrence Thompson*, Water & Environment International
10:15-10:30	**Environmentally sound management and recycling of ULAB** *Mr. Brian Wilson*, International Lead Management Centre
10:30-11:00	**Discussion:** How can we manage and recycle ULAB in an environmentally sound manner
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
Session 2: Challenge in Asian Countries *Objective: Provide national perspectives and identify good practices for designing policy*	
11:30-13:00	**Presentations by participants on environmental and health risk of:** *Mr. Arata Abe*, Yamaguchi University, Japan *Mr. Chanthan Thol*, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia *Ms. Qurie Purnamasari*, Ministry of the Environment and Forestry, Indonesia **Discussion:** What are current situations and challenges on lead?
13:00-14:00	Lunch
Session 3: Future UNEP activities on lead batteries *Objective: Identify and design possible UNEP activities: what, who, where, when and how*	
14:00-15:30	**Proposals for a certification scheme for ULAB recycling** *Mr. Miguel Araujo*, Basel Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico **Case example and low-cost model for sound management of ULAB** *Mr. Luis Marroquin*, Basel Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico **Better Environmental Sustainability Targets (BEST) for Lead Battery Manufacturers** *Mr. Perry Gottesfeld*, Occupational Knowledge Network **Discussion:** How can we design a pilot scheme for promoting environmentally sound management of ULAB?
15:30-16:00	Break
16:00-17:20	**Link with the e-waste projects supported by IETC:** *Mr. Mushtaq Memon and Mr. Shunichi Honda*, UNEP IETC **Discussion:** How can we implement sound management of ULAB as part of E-waste?
Session 4: Summary, conclusions and evaluation *Objective: Agree on course of action*	
17:20-17:30	*Mr. Eisaku Toda,* Chemicals and Waste Branch, UNEP