

# WORK WITH E-WASTE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

---

David Seligson

Head of Unit

Manufacturing, mining and energy unit

Sectoral Activities Department

ILO



# Labour & employment implications in e-waste

- E- waste recycling chain often a mix of formal and informal
- Complex value chain
- Labour-intensive→ potential for employment
- Often employ poor and marginalized, including women and children
- Can be dangerous



Photo: Alex Hofford



# ILO & e-waste: interventions

- Linkage to labour standards
  - E.g. core labour standards, Chemical convention, OSH conventions
- Promotion of Decent Work principles
  - E.g. No child labour, improved safety, higher incomes
- Encouraging formalization of sector
  - Capacity building & training (e.g. OSH)
  - Green jobs
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Cooperatives



# ILO & e-waste: progress

- Working papers:
  - The global impacts of e-waste: addressing the challenge (2012)
  - Tackling informality in e-waste management: The potential of cooperative enterprises (2014)
  - The Labour, Human Health and Environmental Dimensions of E-waste Management in China (2015)
- Country level activities (China, Serbia)
- Cooperation within PACE



# Thank you!

David Seligson  
seligson@ilo.org

