E-waste & Policy – Aspects & Impacts

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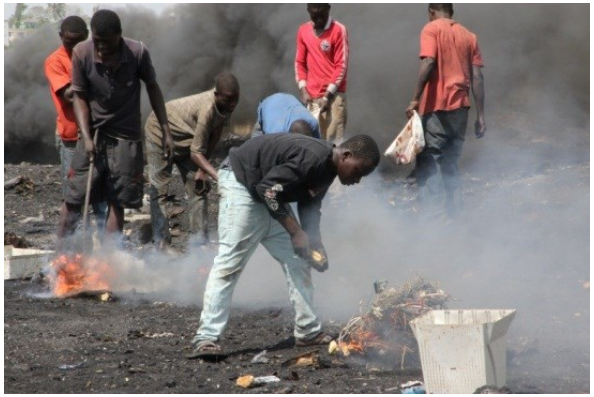
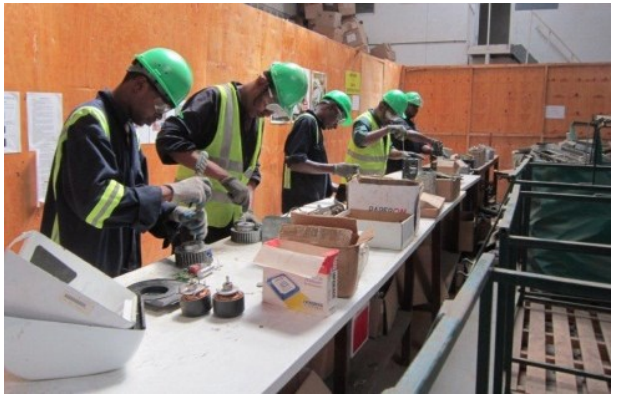
ITU Eighth Symposium on ICT's, the Environment and Climate Change – Turin, Italy. 7 May 2013

Using policy effectively as a change enabler



HOW?



"There have been a lot of quotes [in the world press] about the West dumping its e-waste into Africa," says Tatiana Terekhova, an electronics waste expert at the United Nations. She suggests that shipments can be both legal and illegal. While some of the arriving goods are simply junk, she says, most have been working appliances that have fed a demand for consumer electronics from Ghana's rising middle class.

Yahoo! News – Christian Science Monitor – Thu, Apr 25, 2013

Placed on the market policy - Aspects & Impacts

Policy Option	Aspect	Impact
Import ban of used IT product	Only new IT available for purchase, delay of e-waste volumes	Low value market not enabled, all will become e-waste eventually , no import for dumping
Age restriction of imported IT product	Higher quality IT available for purchase, delay of e-waste volumes	Difficulty to enforce, all will become e-waste eventually, no import for dumping
Taxes or import fees	Requirement for import of IT, taxes can stifle market competition	Taxes or fees can produce funds for recycling, funds may not always be accessible by responsible agencies
Import of new & used IT product	Controls needed for used IT	Markets enabled for new & used products, no import for dumping

- All new product will become e-waste eventually
- The critical development area is end of life policy and infrastructure to reduce environmental impact

End of life policy

- Framework regulation that enables a sustainable solution
  - Producer Responsibility (PR) – Where producers take responsibility for product they place on the market.
    - Extended (EPR) - *65% of EPR policies are take-back, *80% of policies outside US are take-back
    - Individual (IPR) - Producers own take back should always be counted. Works alongside EPR systems
  - Hazardous fractions being treated properly – reduces environmental impact
  - Development of green industry – new jobs! Collectors, recyclers etc.
- Need infrastructure to deliver, should be scalable
- Standards and Governance are essential for success
- Producer responsibility solutions are self sustaining

*Colorado School of Mines – Kaffine, 2013

Conclusion

- Policy needs to address the environmental issues
- Policy should deliver a self sustaining solution for long term success
- EPR solutions deliver both above points

Thank you

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