REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE: THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWNS OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN ASIAN COUNTRIES

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Abstract

Emerging consumption statistics from developing Asian countries have clearly indicated the increase in waste generation over the past decades. Most of the developing Asian countries have been experiencing solid waste management problems in terms of collection, disposal, financial constraints and weak policy instuments. Unlike some developed nations, final disposal of solid waste in developing Asian countries is usually a matter of transporting the collected waste to the nearest available open space, typically called a dumpsite, for disposal. Sustainability of such dumpsites has become a challenge in Asia due to various considerations such as proper collection systems, availability of land, waste characteristics and technologies for gas capture and leachate treatment. Plastics and paper wastes are observed to be at higher proportions given the rapid change in lifestyles. Looking at waste itself as a resource is considered the first step towards managing it sustainably and conserving resources. As for the biodegradable wastes, commercially viable treatment technologies such as composting and anaerobic digestion have proved to be successful with attractive results. The non-biodegradable waste fractions are often to be managed by implementing the 3Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. This paper attempts to provide and overview of the implementation of 3R in managing urban municipal waste, healthcare waste and e-waste in some Asian countries. The paper reflects the finding that 3Rs of waste management are often in the informal sector and generally weak in implementation owing to various reason such as lack of funding, government initiation, lapse in policy and public ignorance on waste management issues.

Keywords: Urban Municipal Waste, Reduce, Reuse, Recycling, 3R, Technology Gaps

INTRODUCTION

Current pace of urbanization, consumerist societies and waste generation have challenged global sustainability in many ways. With the unplanned urbanizations and rapid growth of middle class families with changing lifestyles, most of the Asian countries are facing an enormous challenge of managing urban waste. Predictions on global waste generation levels are presented in Fig 1. A study conducted by the World Bank, reveals that urban areas in Asia generate about 760,000 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) or approximately 2.7 million m^3 per day; and in 2025 it is expected to reach 1.8 million tonnes or 5.2 million m_3 per day (World Bank 1999). According to Center for Science and Environment, India's "Down To Earth", urban India produces 120,000 tons of MSW each day (CSE 2007). Population growth along with the rapid urbanization and industrialization has created great pressure on the limited natural resources. Sustainable use and management of natural resources, therefore, have become a cause concern for governments of Asian countries. In addition, Ecological Footprint of the Asia-Pacific region has risen by more than 130% since 1961, now requiring 1.3 global hectares of biologically productive area per person (WWF 2005). From all these, it is evident that only 3R could play a major role in terms of managing the waste and conserving natural resources.

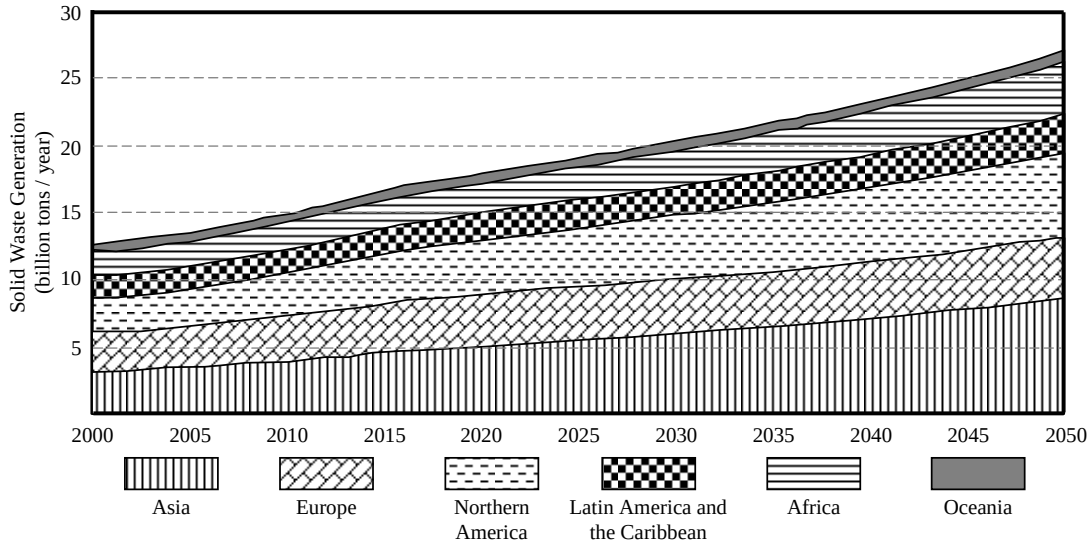

Figure 1. Predictions of global waste generation level
(Source: Yoshizawa, 2007)

In the recent decades, managing solid waste has been simply transporting the waste to distant places, out of sight, for dumping. Only fractions of the waste was properly collected and transported. Sometimes they were burnt to reduce the volume, minimize the attraction of rodents, animals and vermin and to retrieve recyclable items. However, these practices are being challenged due to the increasing value of land, inadequate space and the limited carrying capacity of the environment Many Asian countries have been facing looming waste crises with unsuitable technologies and lack of manpower to effectively treat the waste. Although some governments have recently formulated and incorporated measures and cleaner production options to tackle the waste crisis, most of these have been implemented only in the national capital cities. In the recent years, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle initiatives, replication of good practices and educational campaigns have been promoting the values of integrated waste management and resource consumption.

REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE IN ASIA

The "3R Initiative" was officially launched at the 3R Ministerial Conference hosted by the Government of Japan in April 2005, with an aim to promote global action on 3R. In March 2006, a Senior Officials Meeting on 3R was organized in Japan resulting in strong commitment of governments and other stakeholders to implement 3R at local, national, and regional level.

Current practices of 3Rs in Asia

Tackling solid waste issues in developing countries has been one of the most complicated and cumbersome taska. Without any formal source segregation and minimum public participation, almost all waste ends up in one common container or in an open backyard. Resource recovery and recycling usually takes place in all phases of the system, but, predominantly by the informal sector waste pickers or by the solid waste management crew themselves for extra income. Collecting, sorting, trading and recycling of disposed materials provides income to hundreds of thousands of people and are usually conducted under labor-intensive, haphazardous, and unhygienic ways irrespective of the toxicity. In rural and peri-urban areas, urban municipal waste generates a steady income inspite of the risks involved in treating and down-cycling them to other products. Many of these people work parallel to the formal solid waste system but in an informal manner. Recovered and recyclable products then enter a chain of dealers or processing before they are finally sold to manufacturing enterprises. However, the services of rag pickers often go unnoticed and issues concerning their livelihood are unaddressed. It has been estimated that about 20 to 30% of the waste generated in the cities of Asia Pacific region, are recycled by the informal sector. For example, in Bangladesh the informal sector is responsible for recycling about 4 to 15% of the total solid waste generated (Iftekhar et al. 2005). The situation in industrialized countries is very different, since resource recovery is undertaken by the formal sector, driven by law and a general public concern.

Recently, the importance of recycling activities in reducing waste volume, recovering resources and its economic benefits is being acknowledged. Many NGOs and CBOs are actively working on 3R related issues, often in a decentralized manner failing to fit in the bigger picture due to lack of communication, networking and other factors. As of today, a long-standing practice and a complex network of informal source separation and recycling of materials exists. In most cases, they are compelled to focus more on reusing and recycling of waste than on source reduction. Prioritizing 3R among themselves may not promise a drastic change within a short period, but will reap a significant reward in the long run.

Status and technology gaps in 3R implementation

The composition of MSW differs for different countries and regions and plays a significant role in determining and designing an appropriate technology for treatment and allocating the space needed for treatment facilities. The MSW generated in most developing Asian countries is dominated by biodegradable organic fractions (above 40%) with moisture content more than 50% (AIT 2004). Figure 2 presents the waste composition in the municipal solid waste of some Asian countries. The waste components are, in most cases, discarded or dumped without any treatment or recycling.

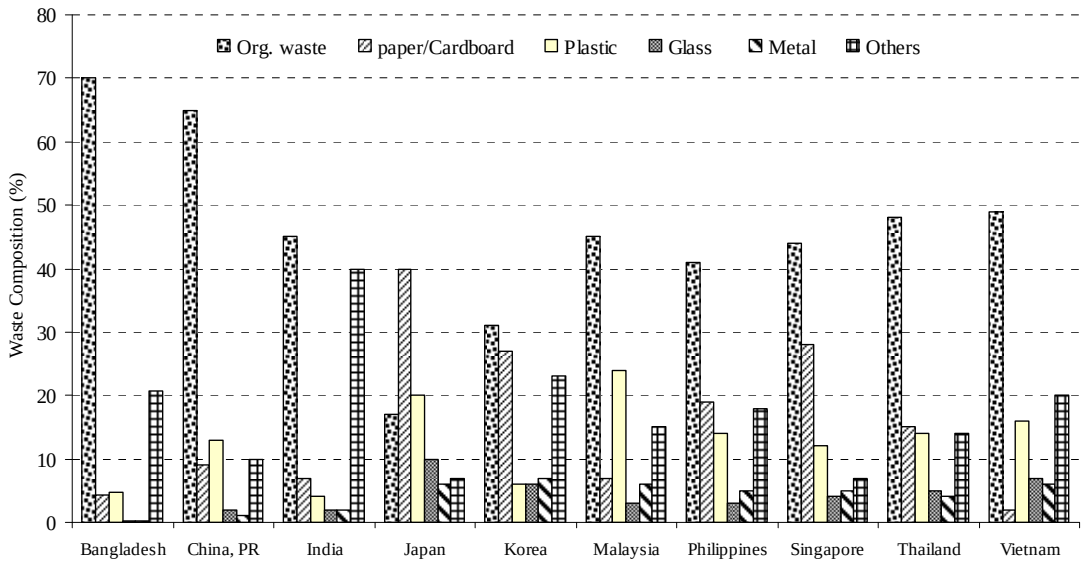

Figure 2. Composition of municipal solid waste in some Asian countries

Most of the developing Asian countries are in a budding stage when it comes to implementing 3R technologies. Such practices have been prompted by some private sector and NGOs to initiate recycling and proper waste management strategies. Waste Concern, an NGO in Dhaka, Bangladesh, for instance, has been actively involved in promoting 3R initiatives. Bangladesh has set an ideal example in successfully setting up decentralized composting systems throughout the country. Similar, but, formal approaches are also observed in China, India and Thailand; but they still lack the basic support to make it strong and successful.

Technology applications for thermal recovery (direct combustion of waste to recover heat) and fuel recovery (RDF and PDF production from waste) are not observed in most of the Asian countries. These technologies are found to have been best applied only in the developed Asian countries. It was noticed that in China and Thailand, these technologies do exist but with an uncertainty in their efficiency both in terms of cost and environmental factors. Material recovery and sorting in MSW remains largely unexplored in many Asian countries. Although some pilot models have proved successful in developed countries, many details are yet to be determined in terms of implementation necessitating further research. Table 1 and 2 present the status and technology gaps in 3R implementation in developing and developed Asian countries, respectively. In developing countries, a chain of informal recyclers, from waste scavengers to waste dealers, perform the task of material recovery and sorting. It is justifiable to state that their livelihood could be at stake provided such technologies are operational and commercially successful, which practically is not likely to happen at least in the coming years. Nevertheless, pondering upon the health risks and the resource conservation, providing enabling technologies or at least some formal registration and support from the governments is vital. It is undeniable that major focus should be paid to the 3R technologies associated with MSW sorting, pulverization and composting.

Table 1. Status and technology gaps in 3R implementation in developing Asian countries

Technology	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Cambodia	India	Indonesia	Malaysia	Philippines	China	Thailand	Vietnam
Thermal Recovery	⭘	☒	☒	⭘	☒	●	⭘	⭘	⭘	☒
Fuel Recovery	⭘	☒	☒	⭘	☒	●	⭘	⭘	⭘	☒
Material Recovery	⭘	☒	○	⊙	○	⭘	○	○	⭘	○
Sorting	○	⊙	○	⊙	○	☒	☒	○	☒	○
Pulverizing	⭘	☒	○	⊙	☒	☒	☒	⊙	☒	○
Composting	●	☒	☒	⭘	○	☒	☒	⭘	○	⭘
Incineration	⊙	☒	☒	⭘	⊙	●	⊙	●	⭘	⊙
Collection	⊙	⊙	⊙	○	⊙	⭘	○	⭘	⭘	○

Table 2. Status and technology gaps in 3R implementation in developed Asian countries

	Reduce	Status	Reuse	Status	Recycle	Status
Japan	Resource Conservation	●	Easier Disassembly	●	Thermal Recovery	●
	Product Lifetime Extension	●	Remaining Life Assessment	●	Fuel Recovery	●
	Waste Reduction	●			Material Recovery	⭘
					Sorting	⭘
					Pulverizing	⭘
					Composting	⭘
Korea	Resource Conservation	●	Easier Disassembly	●	Thermal Recovery	●
	Product Lifetime Extension	●	Remaining Life Assessment	⭘	Fuel Recovery	●
	Waste Reduction	●			Material Recovery	⭘
					Sorting	☒
					Pulverizing	☒
					Composting	☒
Singapore	Resource Conservation	●	Easier Disassembly	●	Thermal Recovery	●
	Product Lifetime Extension	□	Remaining Life Assessment	□	Fuel Recovery	●
	Waste Reduction	●			Material Recovery	⭘
					Sorting	☒
					Pulverizing	☒
					Composting	☒

Note on legends in Table 1 & 2

● Formal, Strong	⊙ Informal, Weak	⊠ Technology Gap
⭘ Formal but weak	○ Informal but Strong	☐ No information

- Formal and Informal denote the presence of regulations, laws and rules to govern an activity
- Strong and Weak represent the level and scale of a particular activity
- Where no law or rule exists and the practice is totally absent, it is denoted to be a gap.

LEGISLATIONS AND POLICIES

Disposing waste openly or in an abandoned site is a common practice among people of developing countries. Environmental Legislations and Policies do exist in some form to protect their natural resources and environment, but most of them are not revised or updated according to the need and prevailing situation. In most cases, they do not create complications for the implementing body, but result in duplication of task and negligence in other activities. In cases, where they do exist, its implementation fails. The possible reasons for poor implementation could be a combination of social, technical, institutional and financial issues. Awareness, political will and public participation are essential for the successful implementation of the legal provisions.

Many Asian countries have recently made progress on the legislative front and share common interest in tackling solid waste issues. Perhaps, most noteworthy is India's recent review and finalization of the National Environmental Policy which places due stress on the adoption of cleaner technologies, strengthening the informal sector in collection and recycling of various materials. The Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 was amended in 2003 and is applicable in all the States and Union Territories. In addition, strict enforcement is being ensured through the state authorities (SOM 2006).

Another noteworthy development in similar grounds is the ban on polythene bags in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The rule on ban of polythene in Dhaka has been in effect since 01 January 2002, for over 5 years now and has made remarkable improvements in city's waste condition.

In addition, several 3R initiatives such as Circular Economy in China, 5Rs policy in Indonesia and Zero Waste Society in Japan and Singapore have been implemented. Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong have made great strides in 3R implementation. For example, in Japan, the final disposal of waste has reduced drastically and recycling rates have gone up because of various 3R legislations. Existing legislations, polices and acts in some Asian countries is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Waste management related policies and legislations in some Asian countries

Country	Laws, Policies & Acts
Bangladesh	Urban Solid Waste Management Handling Rules of Bangladesh' (under preparation), Ban on plastic carry bags and polythene
Bhutan	Environmental Codes of Practice for Solid Waste Management
China	Circular economy policy is incorporated in China's eleventh 5-year national development plan. Cleaner production and waste management integrated into legislation
India	National Environmental Policy 2005, which incorporates the 3R concept, is currently under consideration
Indonesia	Pre-Inception meetings for the Formulation of National 3R Strategy for Indonesia conducted in September. 2006 organized by Ministry of Environment-Indonesia, UNCRD, and IGES
Japan	Amendments of the 'Containers and Packaging Recycling Law'

Rep. of Korea	Volume based waste collection. EPR implemented with mandatory targets for product recovery and recycling, regulations for promoting recycling of construction waste, reduction of food waste
Malaysia	The National Recycling Program 2000 launched in the year 2000. The National Strategic Plan for Solid Waste Management 2005 is currently being finalized
Philippines	The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act
Singapore	The National Recycling Program launched in 2000, Zero Landfill and Zero Waste Strategy. The National Environment Agency (NEA) has signed the first Singapore Packaging Agreement (June, 2007) with five industry associations for a period of five years
Thailand	National Integrated Waste Management Plan.
Vietnam	The Law on Environmental Protection, The National Strategy for Environmental Protection. The National 3R Strategy is being developed in collaboration with JICA, UNCRD, IGES, Ministry of Environment of Japan and ADB

(Source: Visvanathan 2006; 3RKH)

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF 3R ACTIVITIES ENHANCING WASTE MANAGEMENT

In the race towards urbanization, many developing countries have witnessed the overflow of waste and depletion of natural resources at an alarming rate. Governments are becoming more aware of polluting sectors, and many NGOs and private organizations have been raising their voices against violations. One recent example is the failed recycling project of French War ship Clemenceau at the Alang shipyard in Gujarat, India.

With huge investment demands from Asia's expanding cities for infrastructure investments, it will require special attention to promote various positive practices and implement new activities. Emphasis should also be laid on developing policies and mechanisms to promote 3R activities at the community and institutional level and integrating locally-tailored solid waste management systems based on upstream waste minimization and sound downstream disposal, emphasizing strong community participation throughout.

Promoting Green Procurement

New government regulations in Japan and the Republic of Korea warrant the adoption of green procurement practices, which will serve as models for other countries in Asia and the Pacific. Japan has enacted a law on the Promotion of Procurement of Eco-friendly Goods and Services by the State and Other Entities. Every ministry and agency is required to track annual purchases and report them to the Ministry of Environment. The law also mandates manufacturers and service providers to display information on the environmental impacts of items they sell. In addition, a Basic Policy on Green Purchasing was released in March 2004. About 45 types of eco-friendly goods and services have been specified in the Basic Policy along with procurement target guidelines. Similarly, The Republic of Korea introduced similar mandatory green procurement guidelines for 20,000 public institutions in 2005. The Green Purchasing Law adopted in December 2004 and enforced in 2005 obligated public agencies to purchase environmental friendly products.

The Thai Green Purchasing Network founded in 2004 under the Greening the Supply Chain Model of the Thailand Environment Institute defines concepts and definitions of Green Purchasing and Procurement and Green Product in Thailand. Besides organizing information exchange forums among members and other organizations, it also provides guidelines about Green Purchasing procedure best practices (Kataoka 2006).

Awareness activities - knowledge management

Although production and consumption is rising, awareness of citizens, corporations and governments towards waste issues is still low. Many stakeholders are involved in working toward a recycling-based society and all are needed to participate in overcoming the sheer inertia of resistance to change. Therefore, it is important to enhance public awareness of 3R issues by coordinated action through environmental education and dissemination of information on successful inter-stakeholder partnerships. Figure 3 shows snapshots of awareness activities on packaging waste by Tetra Pak, Vietnam.

Figure 3. Packaging waste awareness - Tetra Pak, Vietnam
Source: [9]

Promoting a circular economy

The concept of Circular Economy (CE) should be promoted in Asian countries not only to resolve the waste issue but also to conserve its natural resources. Developed Asian countries like Japan, China and Korea are moving forward successfully in this concept. There are a number of ways to define the term Circular Economy. The accepted working definition may be interlinked to manufacturing and service businesses seeking the enhancement of economy and environmental performance through collaboration in managing environmental and resource issues. The theme of the CE concept is the exchange of materials where one facility's waste, including energy, water, materials as well as information is another facility's input. The new terms that are widely relevant are Eco-Industrial Networking and Industrial Symbiosis. These activities, if exercised correctly, could prove to be a stepping-stone towards sustainable Asian cities and possibly the best gift for our future citizens.

Creating regional recycling centers

An analysis of the present situation of waste management and the status of 3R-oriented activities has clearly indicated that recycling is often practiced in a decentralized and informal manner. Recycling activities in the developed countries, practiced in a formal manner with necessary policy, legislative and institutional support have proven to be successful. In view of this and the current situation, two possibilities arise for promoting recycling in a formalized manner. One is the promotion of regional recycling zones and second is the transfer of technology from developed to developing countries. This could eventually, be done by following an approach that first enables the creation of conducive policies and investment environment followed by regional inter-linking of the recycling zones. An inevitable component of this approach is technology transfer. International cooperation between countries, irrespective of the economic status, is essential to achieve success at a regional scale.

CONCLUSION

An overview of the current practices of waste management indicates that

- Recycling is predominantly in the informal sector and uses primitive technology
- Very little instances of promoting formal, 3R-based solutions for waste crisis exist
- Specific policies emphasizing the need for 3R are very rare in Asian countries with exceptions of some developed nations in the region.
- Technology transfer and policy reformulation are essential to promote 3Rs
- Creating linkages between the recycling zones of countries is indispensable
- Cooperative and concerted efforts between and within countries are the need of the hour to promote a 3R-based economy.

Existing technology practices are not found to be sufficient to overcome the burden of waste in a sustainable manner. Simple technologies for 3Rs have to be made formal and strong by promoting new policies, reformulation of existing policies, cooperative efforts and technology transfer. Thus, the technologies chosen for waste management have to be tested for their sustainability, in addition to being environmentally effective, economically affordable and socially acceptable. Thus filling the gaps with such design is highly indispensable to move towards 3R as a means of solving the waste management problems.

As far as the implementation of 3Rs is concerned, Reduce and Reuse highly involves changes in human attitudes towards production and consumption patterns. This change has to begin at the grassroots with the commitment of all citizens of a country.

Recycling, which often takes place outside the purview of the consumer, depends largely on the technology base of the country. Developing and transferring appropriate, proven technologies forms a key component in successfully promoting recycling.

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3Rs of Waste Management :
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

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Putra World Trade Centre,
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Contents of Presentation

- 3R Initiatives in Asia
- Sound Material-Cycle Society
- Prevailing Waste Management
- 3R Developments in Asia
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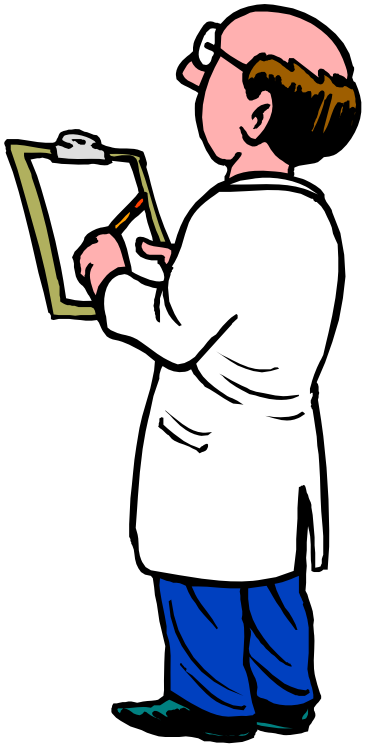
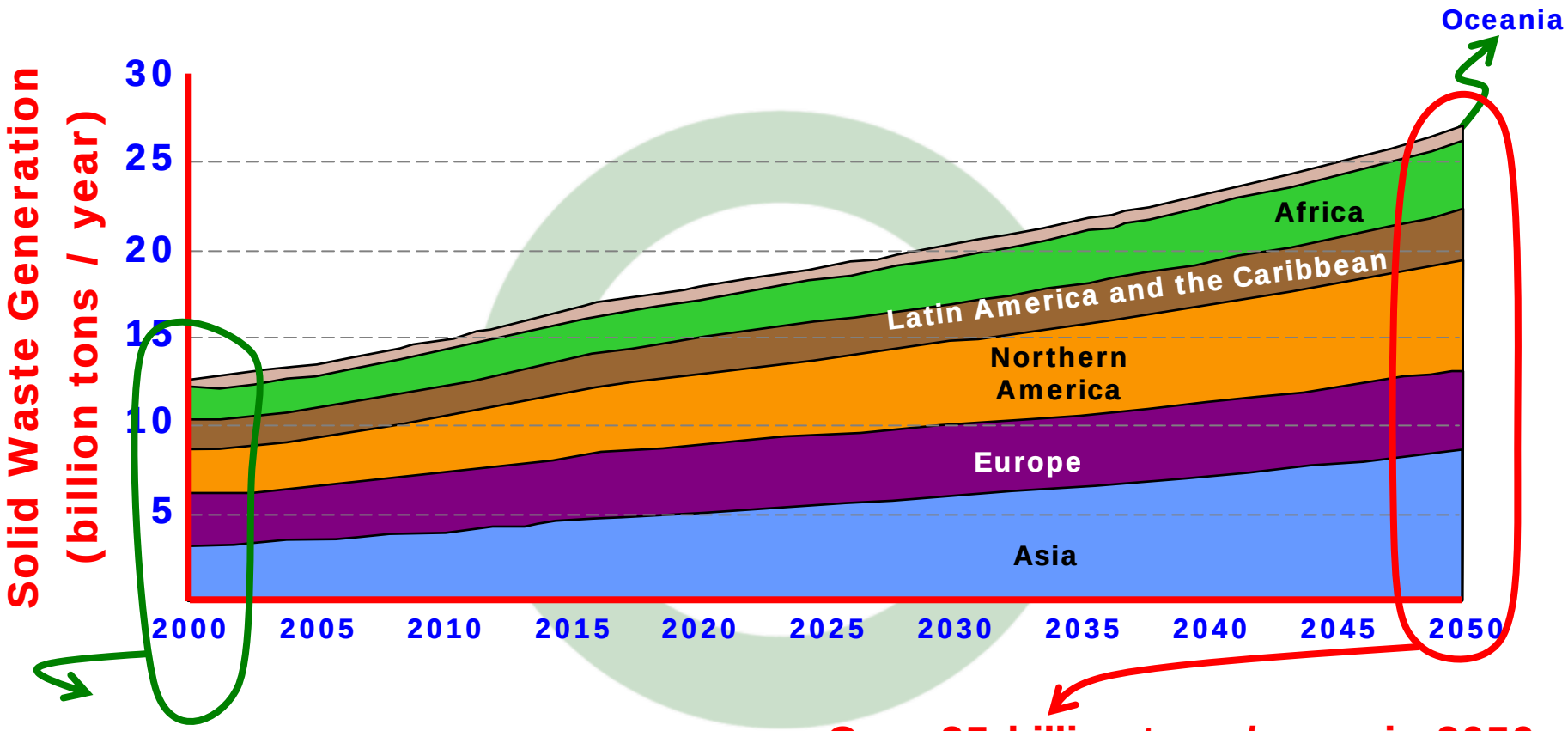
- Future Prospects of 3R Activities
- Conclusions



Modern Lifestyle

Business As Usual – Waste Generations



12.5 billion tons / year in 2000

Over 25 billion tons / year in 2050

We will be doubling our waste generation in 50 years time…

How are we going to tackle the issue…?

Source : Yoshizawa, Tanaka et al. Research on estimation of world waste generation amount and future prospects

What have we been doing is…

- Trying to manage waste after it is generated
- Searching for technologies
- Spending millions of $
- Pointing fingers at the municipal and urban authorities
- Talking about lack of governmental policies for waste management

An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure

In essence,

We create the problem and look for solutions…

Is there a proactive solution to this issue…

What is the proactive solution…

- Is there something called "proactive"
  - Foresee the issue and try to avoid it
- What if it cannot be avoided at all
  - Try to minimize the severity of the issue

Reduce

…the amount of waste you generate

Reuse

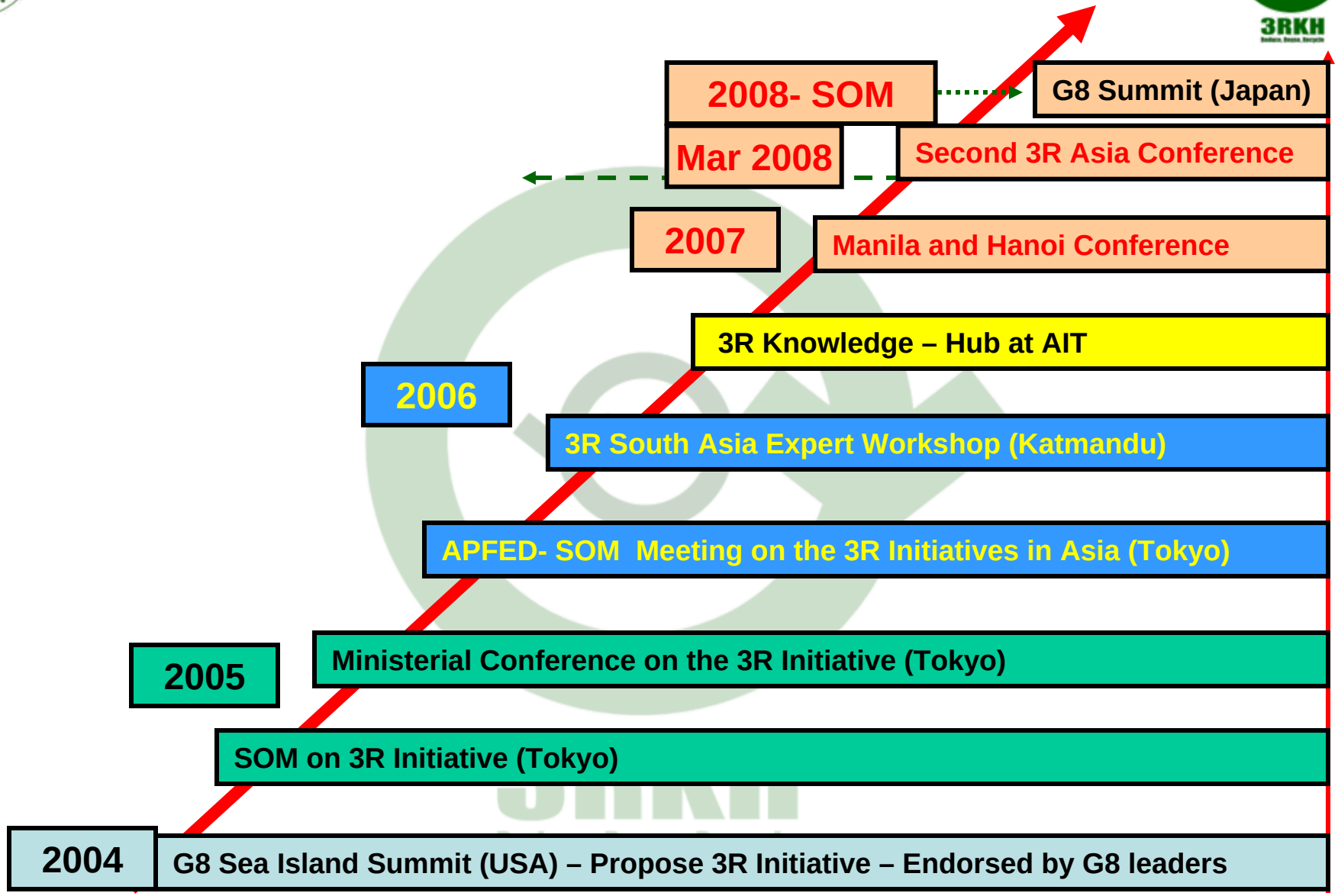
…things as much as possible

Recycle

…materials systematically, wherever possible

The 3Rs of Waste Management…!!!

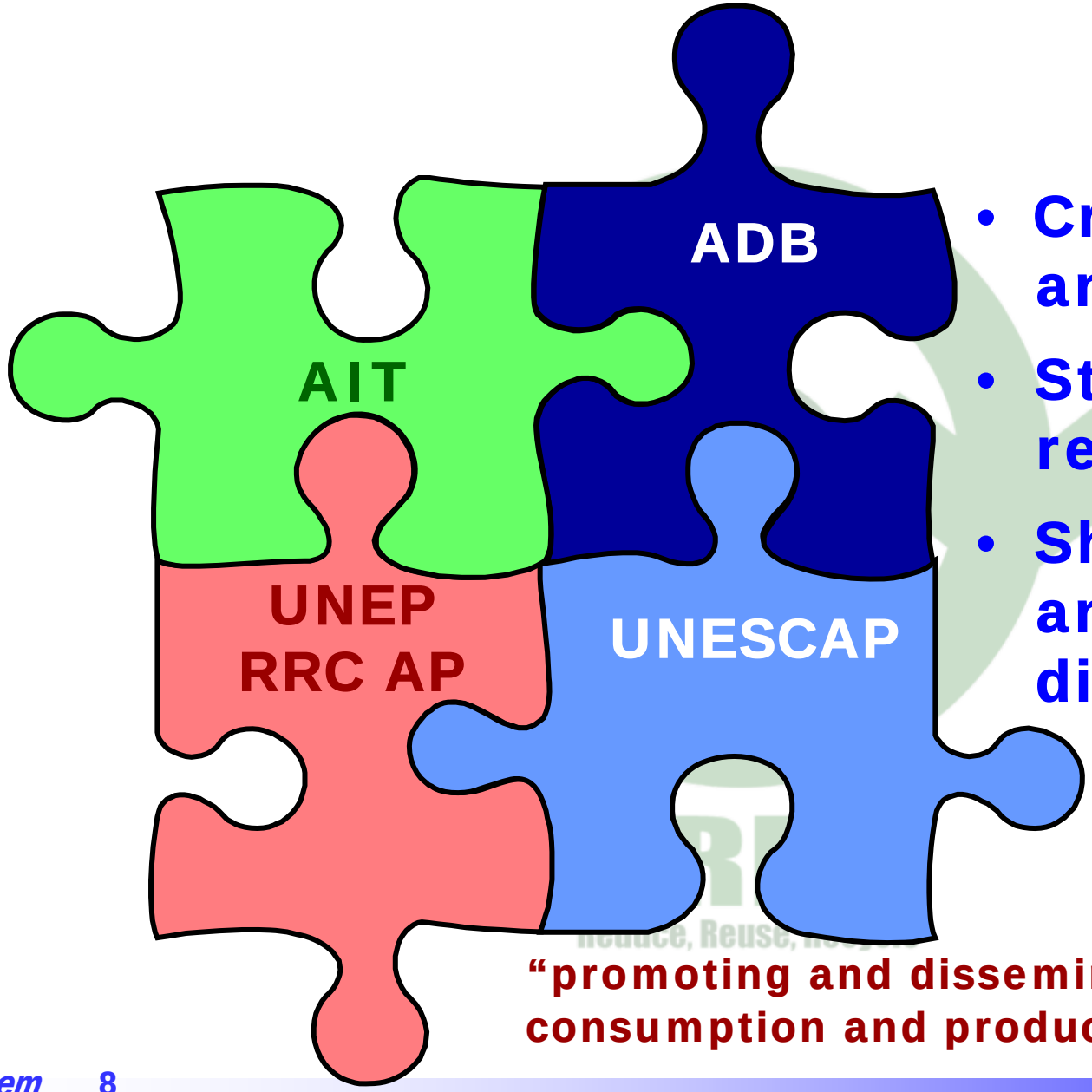
Genesis of 3R Initiatives in Asia



SOM: Senior Official Meeting

APFED: Asia Pacific Forum for Environment and Development

3R Knowledge Hub



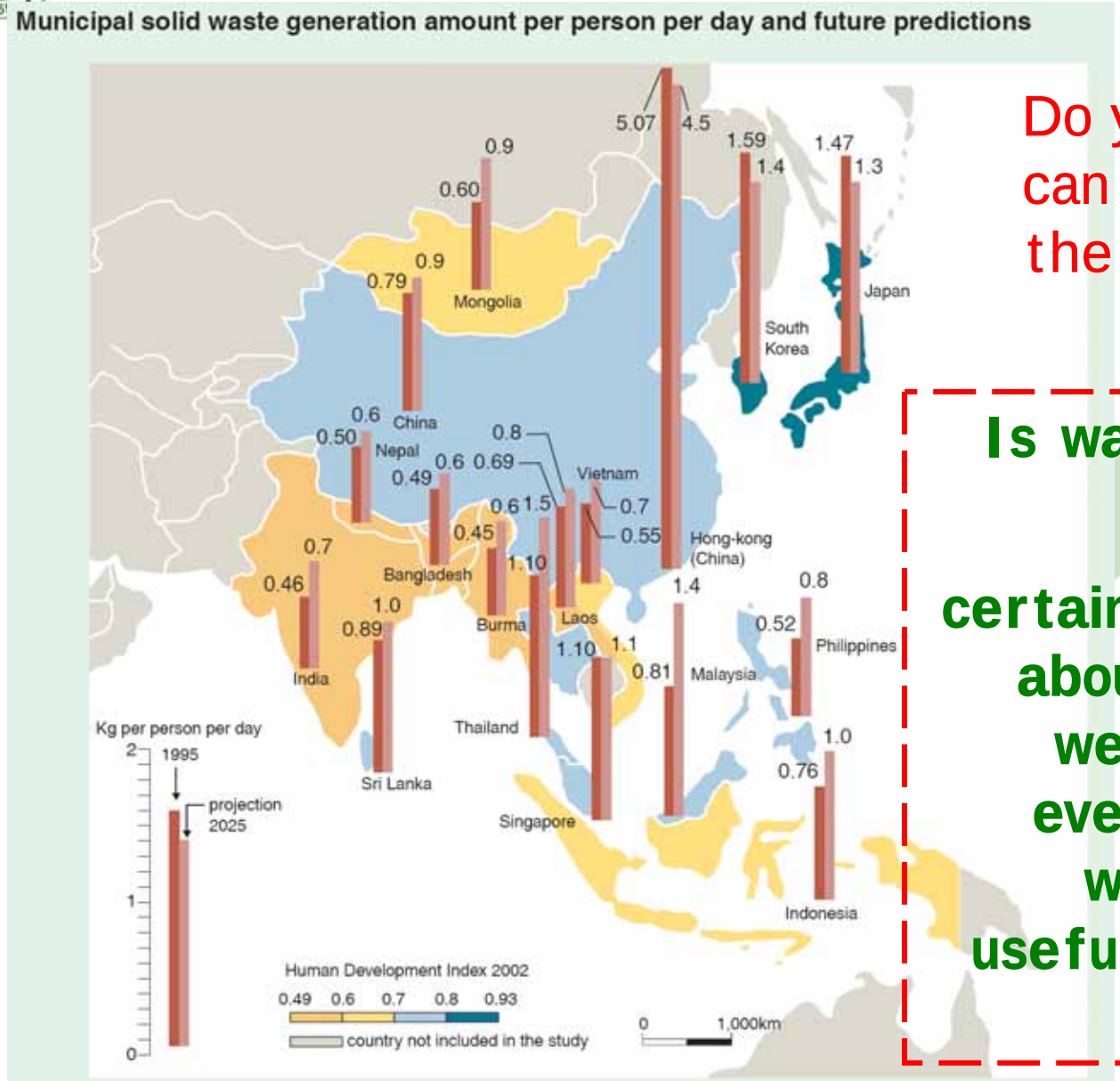
- Create, collect and capture
- Storage and retrieval
- Share, enrich, and disseminate

"promoting and disseminating sustainable consumption and production through 3R"

Why 3R in Asia…

- Rapid economic growth, for example, China & India
- Increasing quantity of solid waste
- Accounts for more than 60% of the world's population with only 32 % land area
- Changes in the composition of solid waste
- Trans-boundary movement of wastes as goods, materials and products
- Real problem of waste management is more pronounced in Asian developing countries

MSW Generation & Prediction in Asia



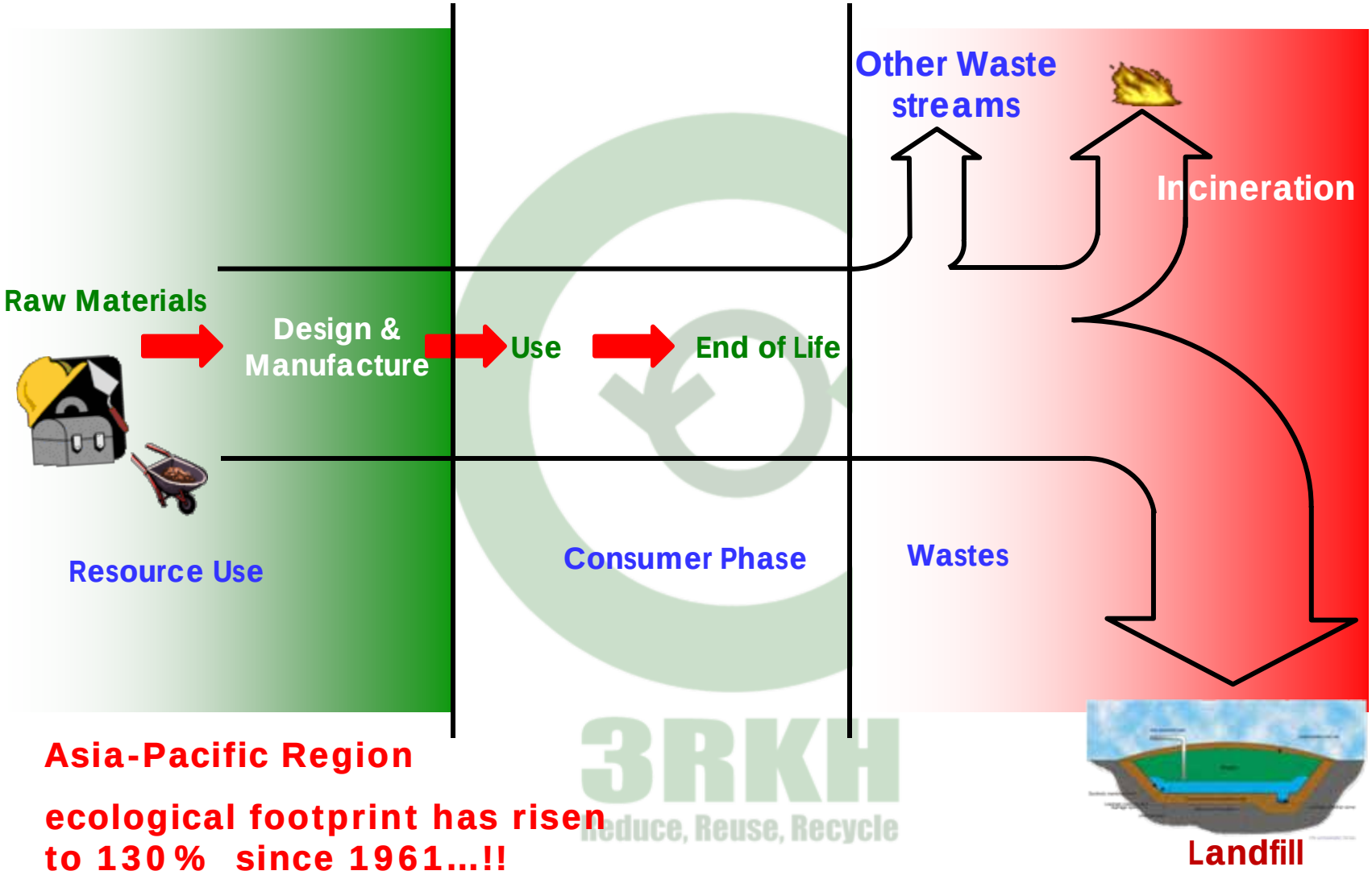
Source:the Secretariat of the Basel Convention

Do you still think we can continue along the current trend…?

Is waste disposal the only issue here…

certainly not…it is also about the resources we consume, which eventually result as waste after their useful or expected or desired life

Material Society



Asia-Pacific Region

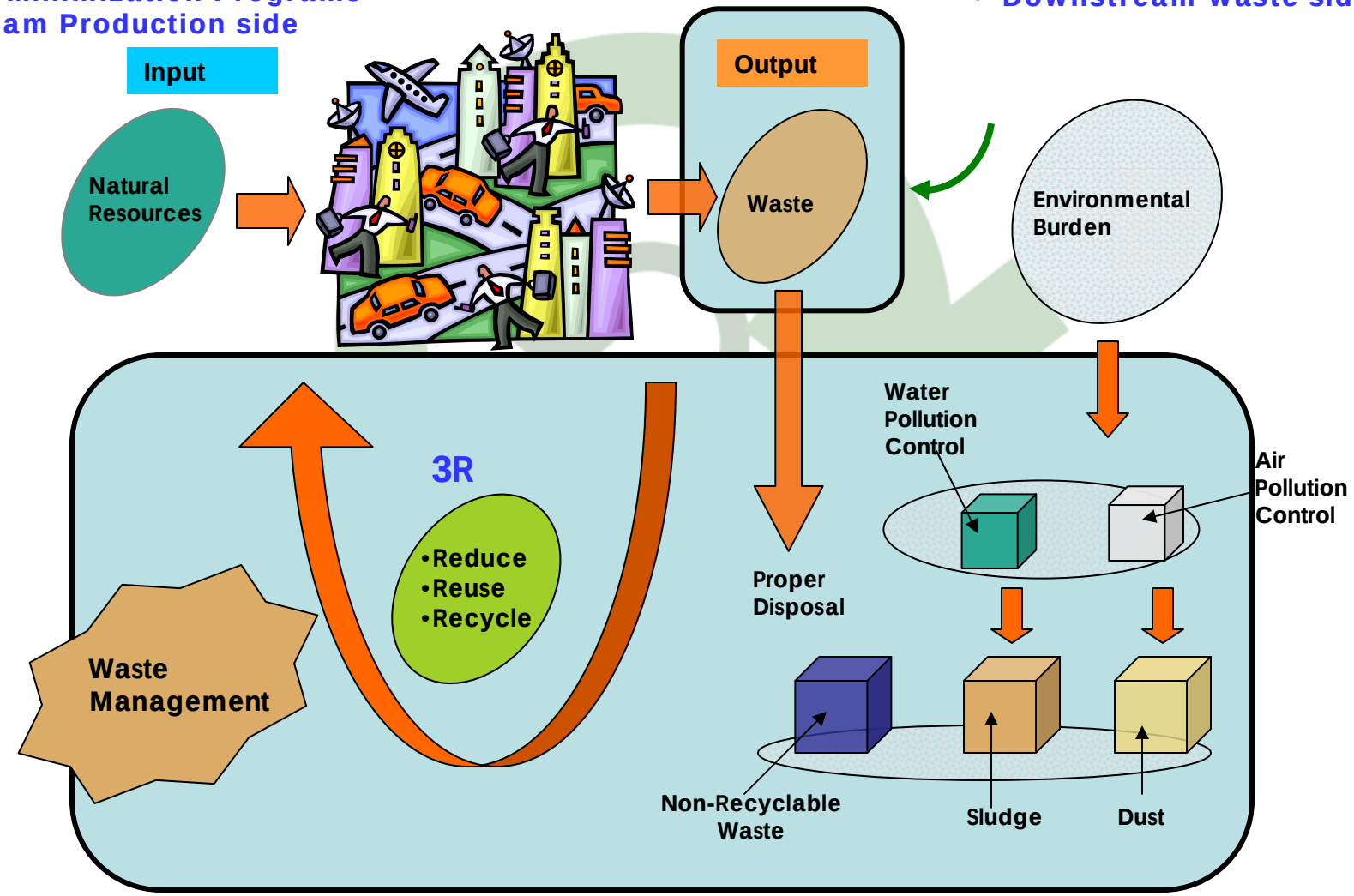
ecological footprint has risen to 130% since 1961...!!

Resource Use and Waste in a Society

European Union
- Cleaner Production
- Waste Minimization Programs
- Upstream Production side

Daily life and Economic Activity

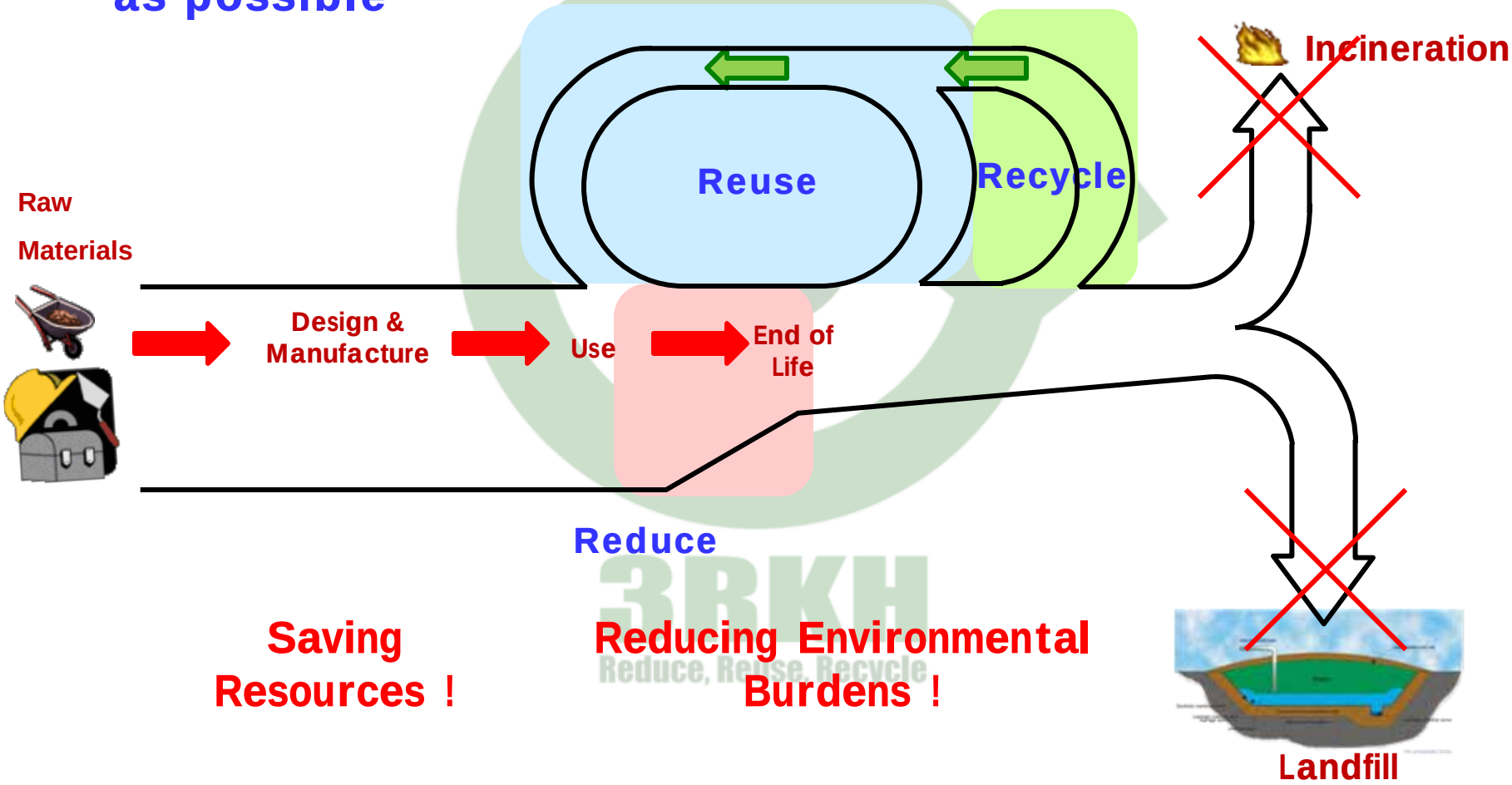
Japan
- Post consumer
- End-of-life products
- Downstream waste side



Sound Material-Cycle Society

a society in which

- consumption of natural resources is minimized
- pressure on environment is reduced as much as possible



What is the current scenario…

Asia and Pacific region, 20 – 30 % of generated waste is recycled by Informal Sector

Main actors/ contributors to 3R & SWM

INFORMAL SECTOR

Scavengers, middle-man, waste dealers, cottage or small-scale recyclers

Major Barriers in developing countries

- ✓Technical feasibility
- ✓Social acceptability
- ✓Economic viability
- ✓Geographical suitability

HAND IN HAND – let's clean up this mess!

Sense of Urgency, Env. & Health Impacts

Courtesy: BAN 2006

Chemical stripping operation (computer chips)

In developing countries, Recycling is done by hand in scrap yards, often by children.

Sense of Urgency, Env. & Health Impacts

Informal Sector Recycling

India

- In Delhi, about 2000 tons of garbage per day is sorted by scavengers.
- Cottage and household recyclers (no registration)
- E-waste recycling picking its pace!

Bangladesh

- Recycling of 4- 15 percent of the total generated waste
- E-waste recycling picking its pace!

Pakistan

- Separated at source by housewives 800 tons per day
- Recycled by Informal Sector 1,500 tons/day
- 21,000 waste pickers (young Afghan boys)-Karachi neighborhood

Sense of Urgency, Env. & Health Impacts

Informal Resource Recovery and Recycling - same everywhere

INDIA

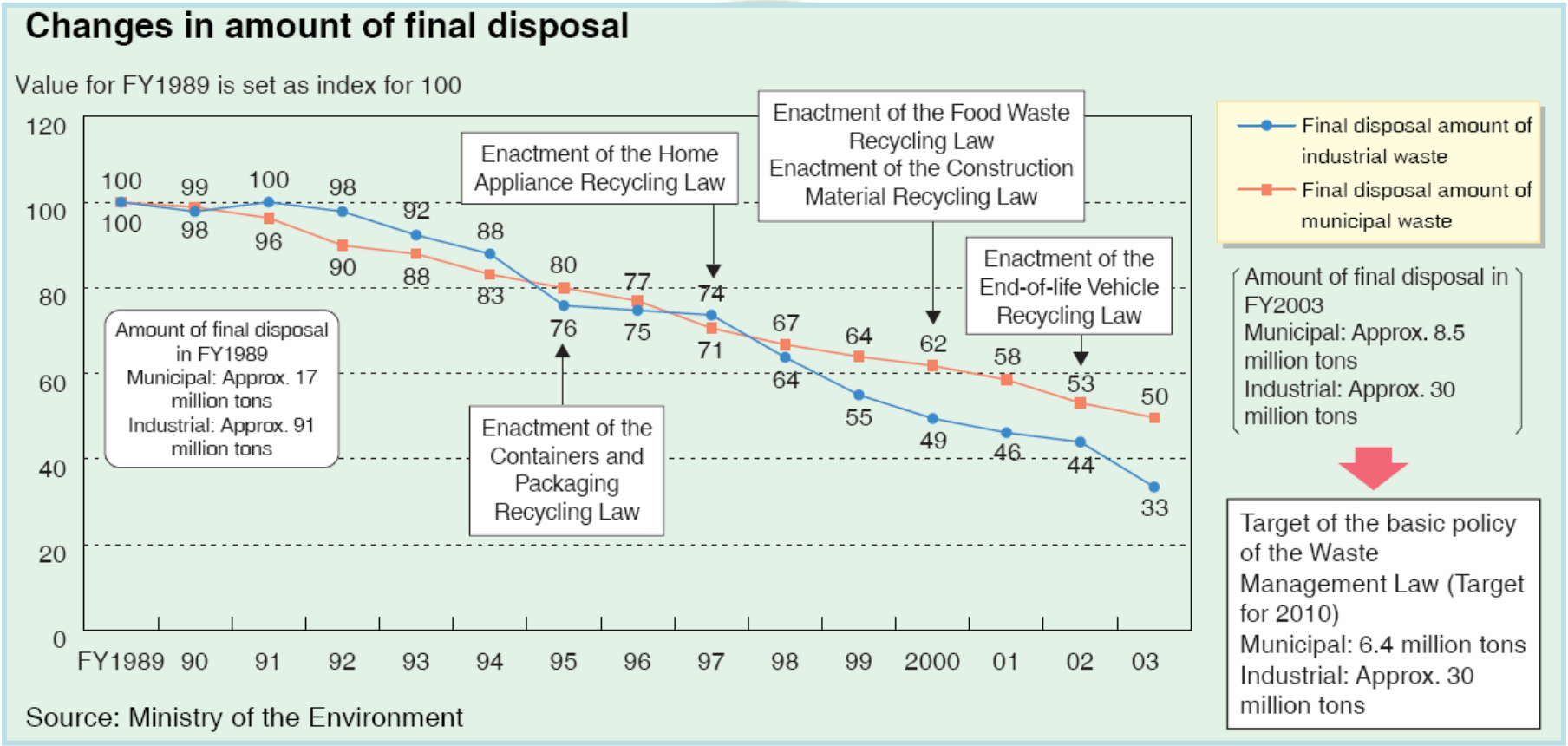
THAILAND

Sense of Urgency, Env. & Health Impacts

Informal Resource Recovery and Recycling - same everywhere

3R Developments in Asia

Japan

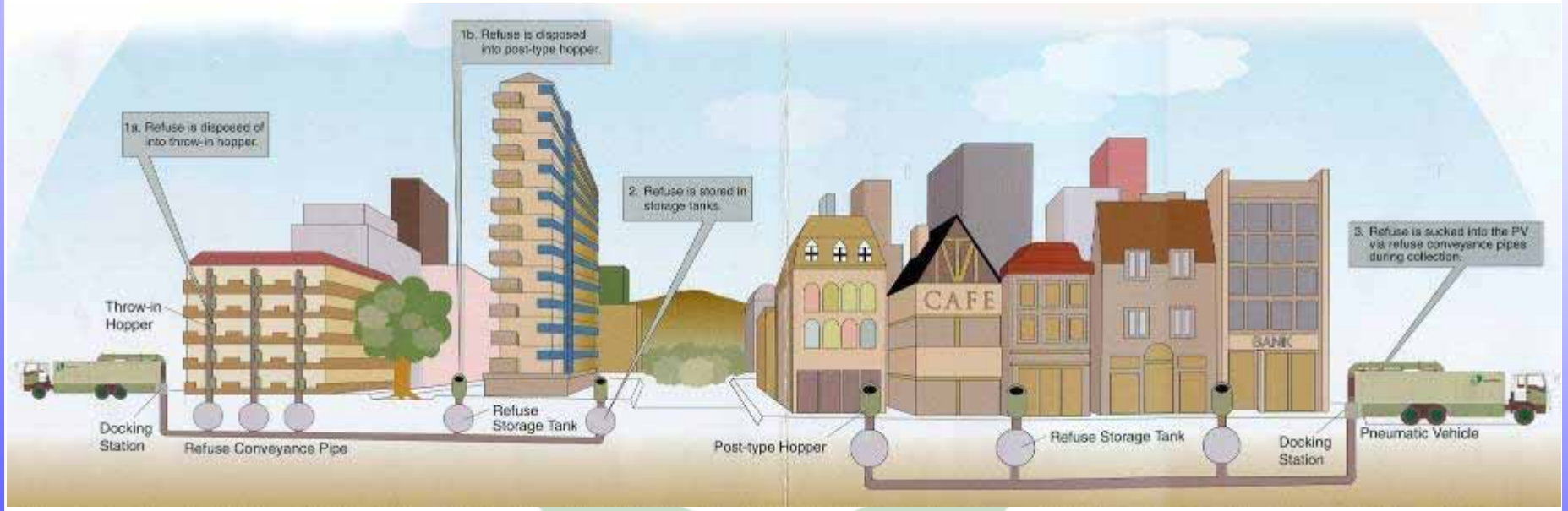


Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

3R Developments in Asia

Singapore

Recyclable Intermediate Chute Storage System (RICH System)



System Brief

- Used in High-rise buildings, offices, multi-storey housings
- Refuse thrown into common/ individual chutes
- Channeled to common storage tank
- Sucked out by a Pneumatic system
- No need for manual transfer of refuse

Courtesy: SembWaste Consultancy & Technology, Singapore

3R Developments in Asia

Singapore

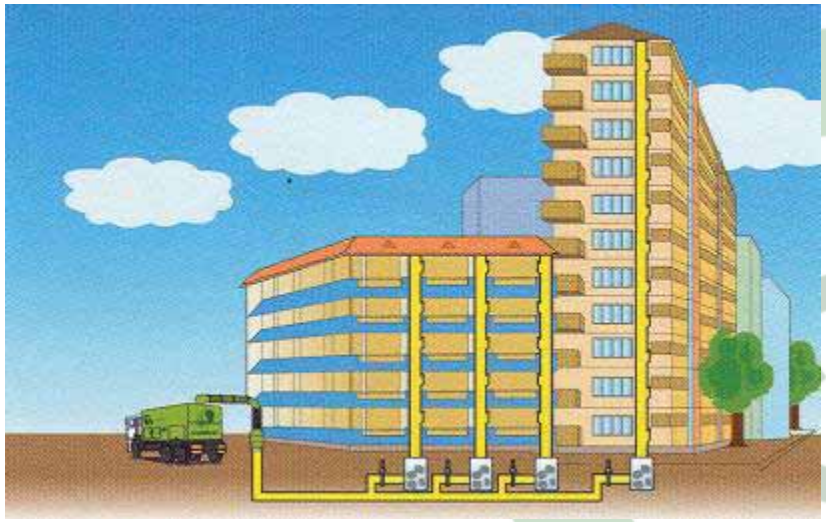
- **Innovative method for storing recyclables within the chute**
- **Helps to reach the recycling target of 60% by 2012**

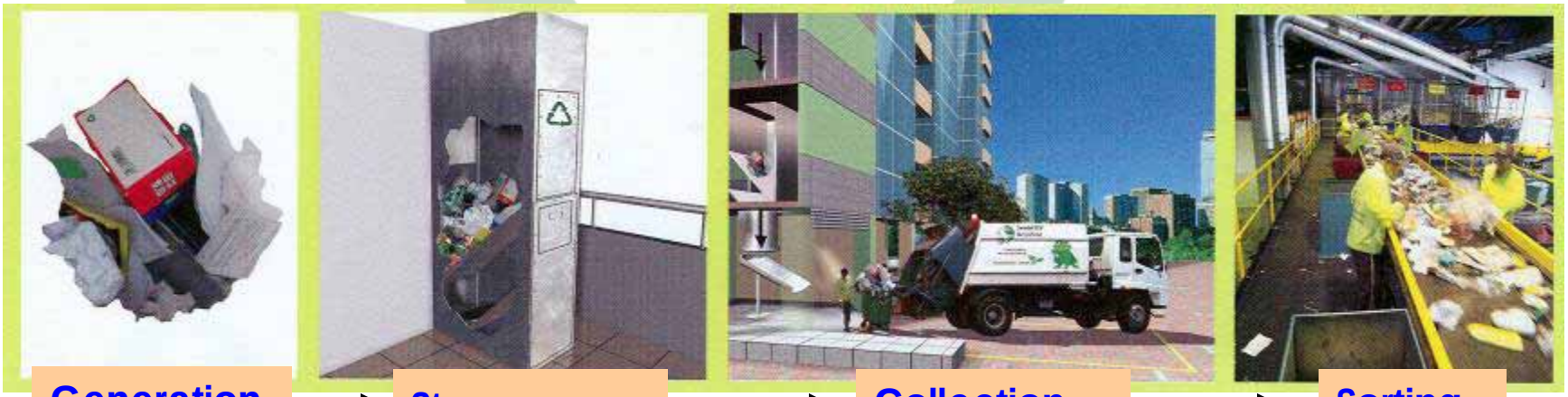
Courtesy: SembWaste Consultancy & Technology, Singapore

3R Developments in Asia

Singapore

RICH System in High-rise buildings, offices, multi-storey housings





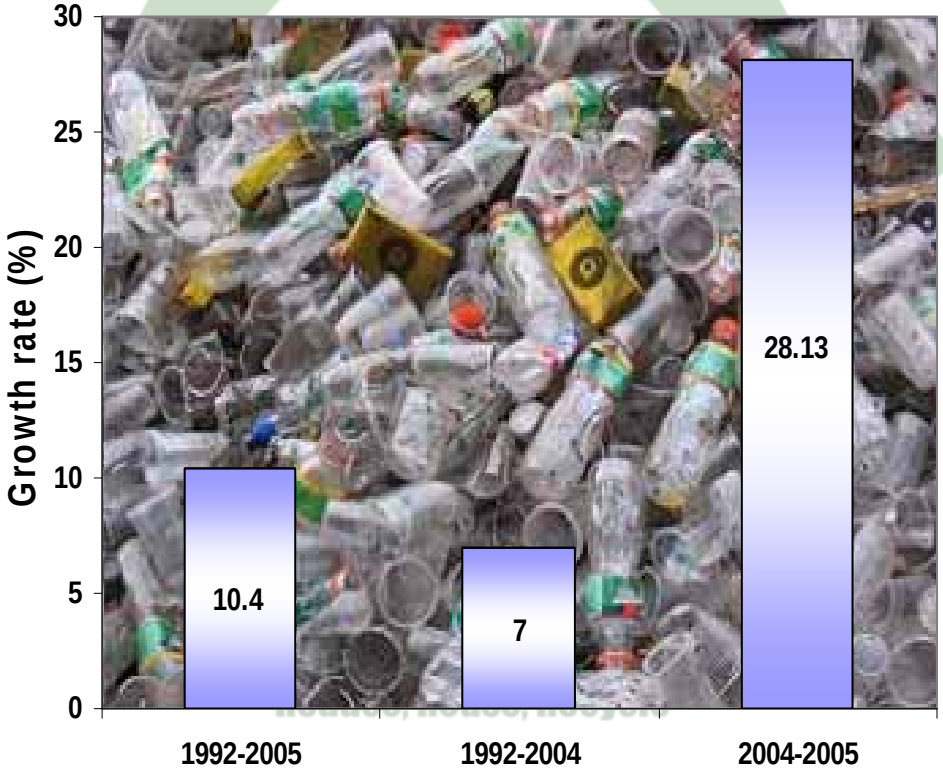
Generation → **Storage** → **Collection** → **Sorting**

Courtesy: SembWaste Consultancy & Technology, Singapore

3R Developments in Asia

Bangladesh

- **Variation in waste generation; Wet season (more) and Dry season (less) (almost 30-40 %)**
- **Municipal waste dominated by organic fractions - composting**
- **Increase in Plastic waste (Dhaka) - recycling**



Plastic waste growth rate over ten years (Dhaka)

3R Developments in Asia

China

- Initiating the concept of circular economy with "3R" principle as its core and enhancing the awareness of decision-makers in governments at all levels, of corporate entities and the general public.
- Establishing and improving laws and policies on circular economy
- Promoting trial and demonstrations of circular economy at local levels
- Carrying out study on the formulation of circular economy planning
- Actively exploring international cooperation in the realm of circular economy
- Fostering professionals on the scientific and technological study on circular economy

3R Developments in Asia

India

Brighter side

- Private sector participation-(Metro cities)
- Plastic recycling & Composting of organic waste
- Chennai – Exnora (An NGO)
  - Promoting household composting
  - Waste segregation
  - Zero waste approach

3R Developments in Asia

India

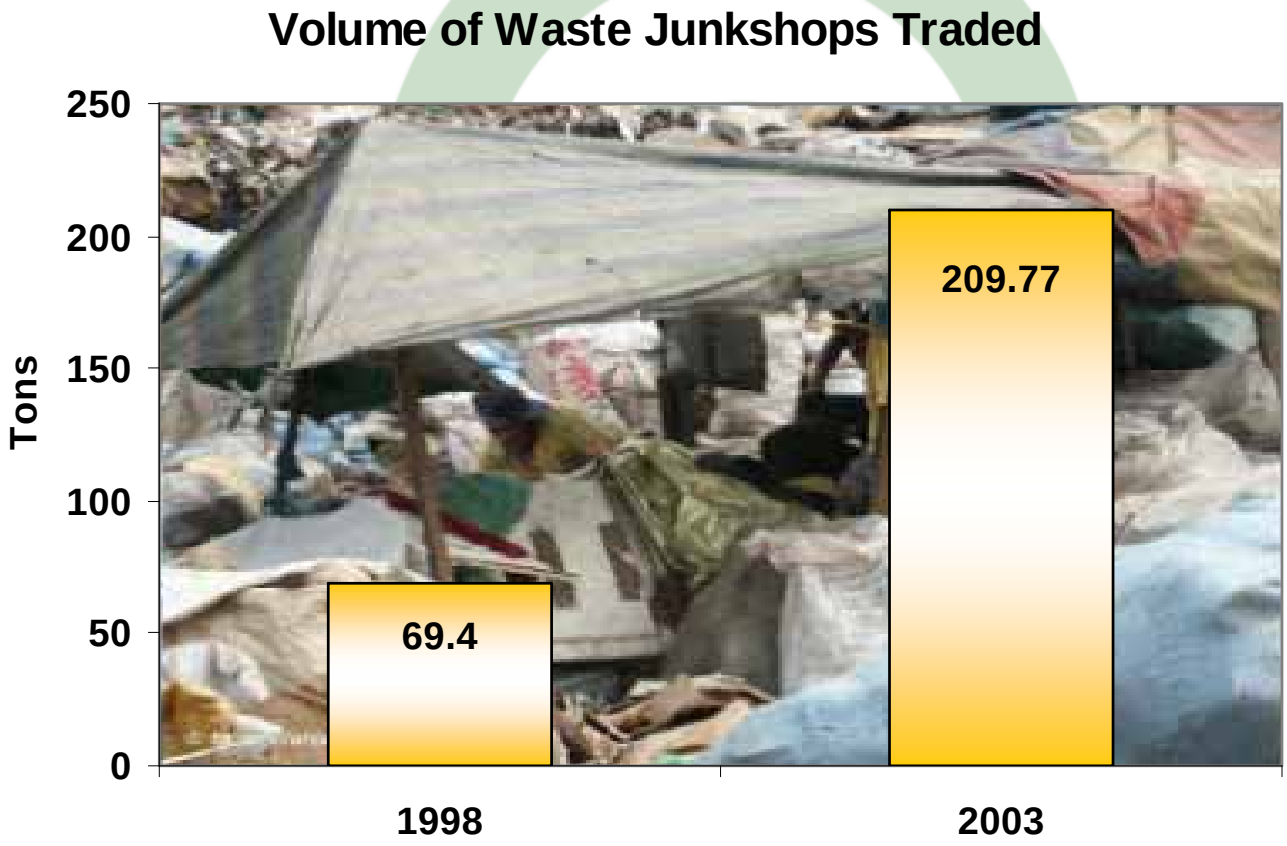
Brighter side

- ✓ Non-biodegradable Garbage (Control) Ordinance, 2006, Maharashtra, India
- ✓ Recycling Schemes
- ✓ Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection
- ✓ Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules - amended in 2003
- ✓ Review and Finalization of National Environmental Policy
  - Adoption of cleaner technology, strengthening of the informal sector system of collection and
  - Recycling of various materials and develop and implement strategies for recycle,
  - Reuse and final environmental friendly disposal of plastic waste

3R Developments in Asia

The Philippines

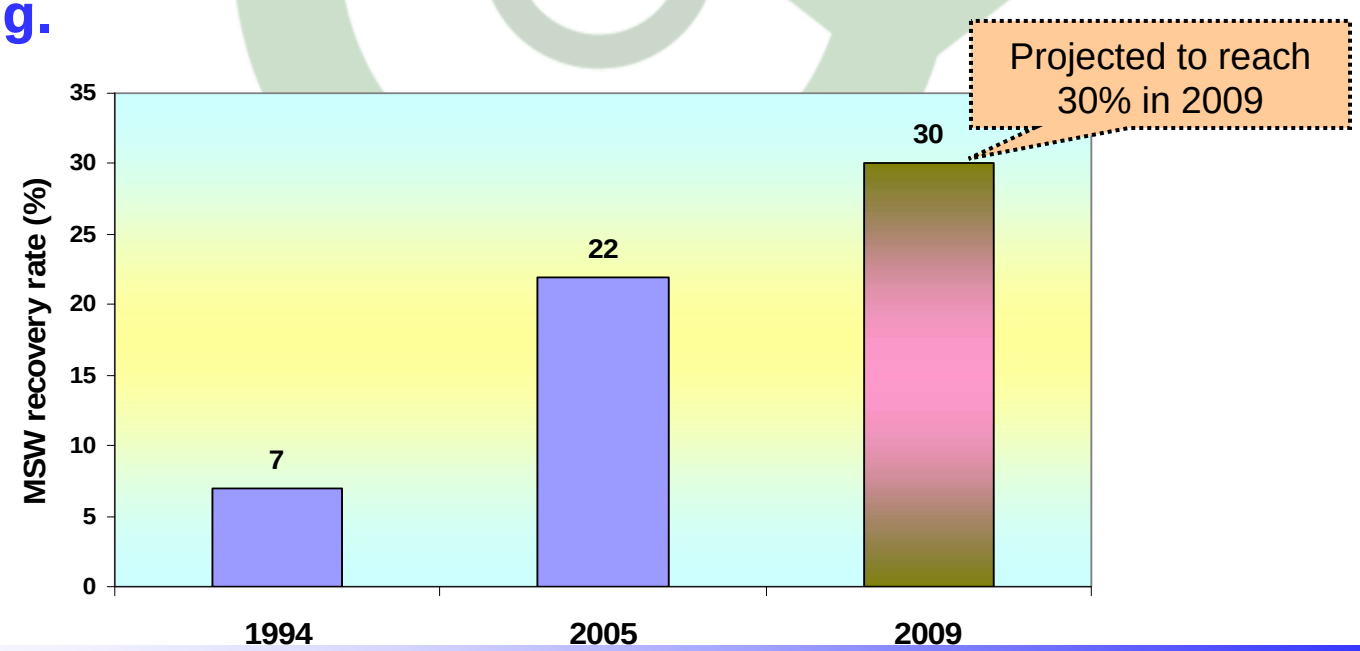
Volume of the waste junk shop trades increased by 3 folds in 5 years



3R Developments in Asia

Thailand

- **Waste Recovery: 3R program, introduced in 1994, involves the public in solutions through campaigns, seminars, training and guidelines.**
- **To further promote 3R, Thailand has conducted a pilot project on Waste Exchange Program.**
- **As of 2005, 450 industries are registered on the waste exchange database to explore better waste utilization through recycling.**

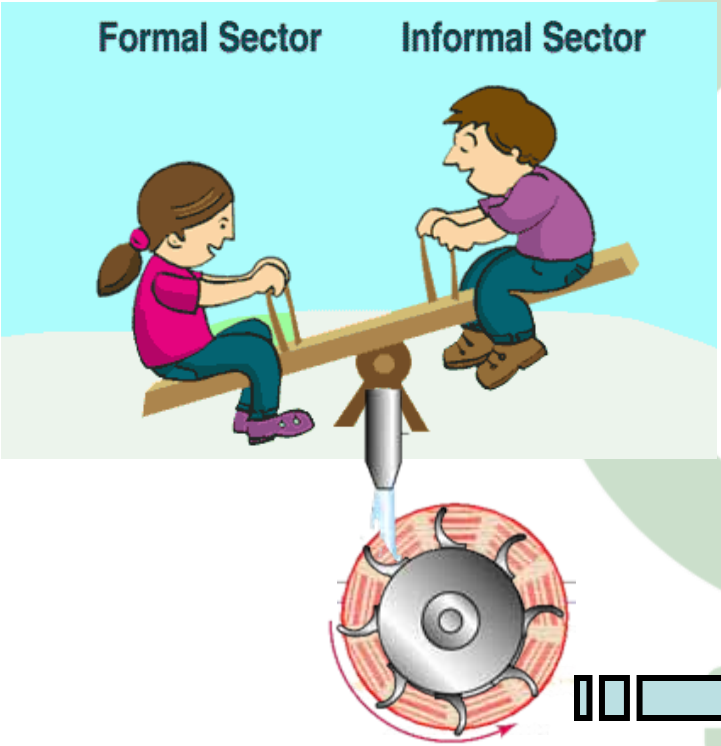


3R Initiatives in Asia

Current Status

Formal sectors

Reduce



Informal sector

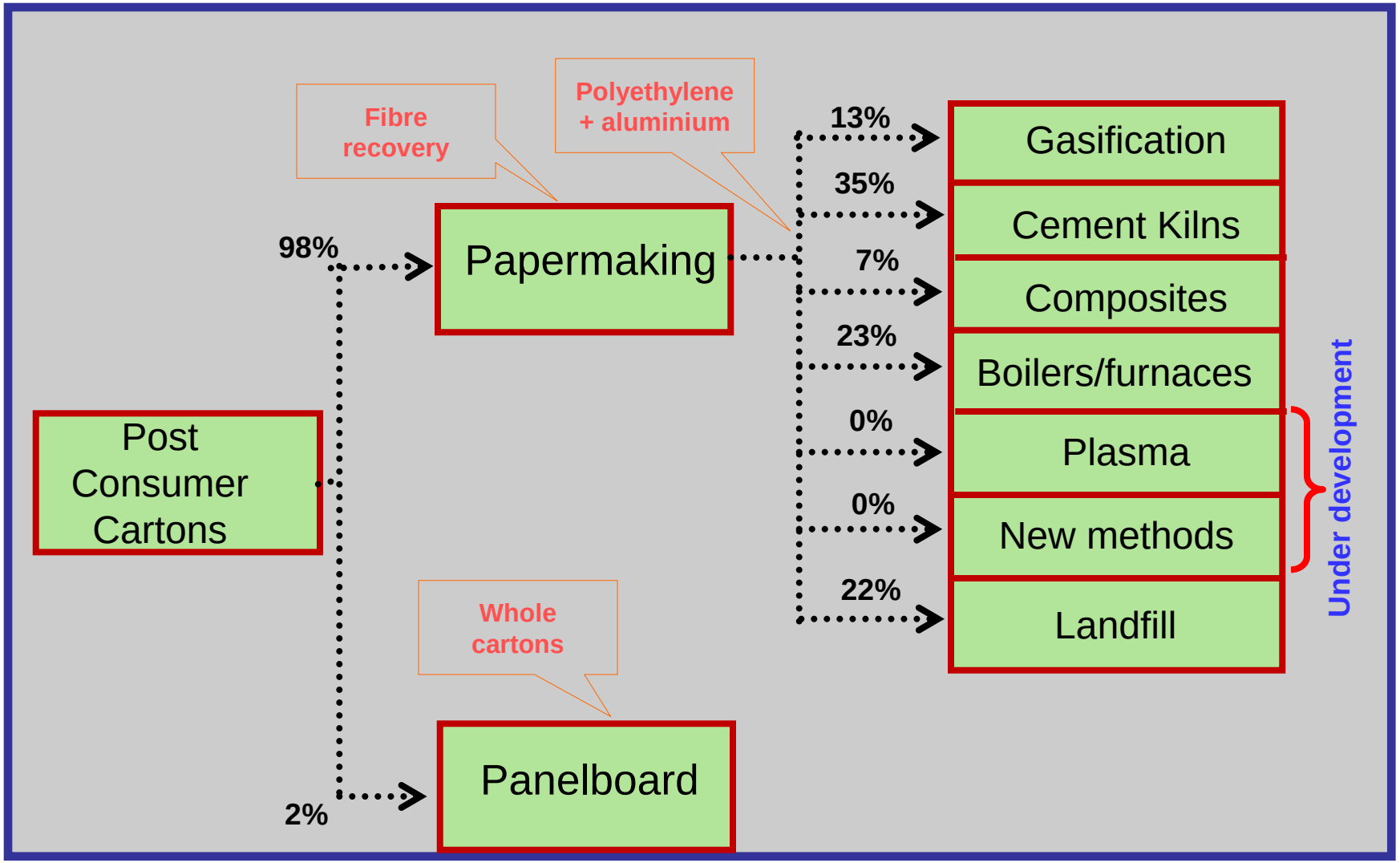
Scavengers, middle-man, waste dealers, cottage or small-scale recyclers

Reuse & Recycling

Waste Management

3R Developments in Asia

PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES: TETRA PAK



3R Developments in Asia

PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES: TETRA PAK

TETRA PAK, THAILAND
– Collection and Sorting

3R Developments in Asia

PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES: TETRA PAK

Baled material

Hydrapulper

Pulp recovered from hydrapulping

Poly – AL residuals

Tetra Pak - Thailand
Fiber Pulping at Pattana Paper Mill

3R Developments in Asia

PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES: TETRA PAK

Pulp from Beverage Cartons

Paper Roll for Boxboard Manufacturing

Recycled Products

3R Developments in Asia

PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES: TETRA PAK

RESIDUAL WASTE: ALUMINIUM AND POLYETHYLENE

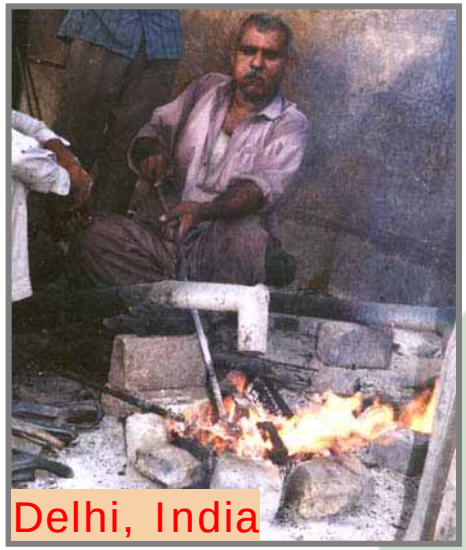
3R Developments in Asia

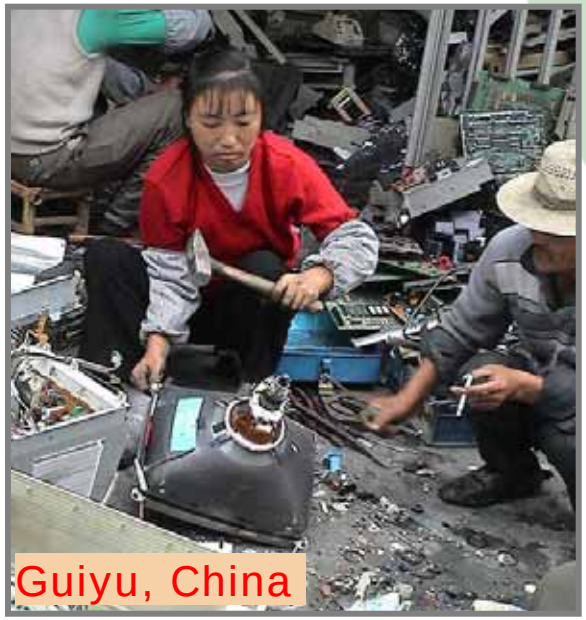
PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES: TETRA PAK

Awareness on Packaging waste
Tetra Pak, Vietnam

Prevalent Disposal - Open dumping

Is Resource Recovery and Recycling completely absent ?


Delhi, India


Guiyu, China

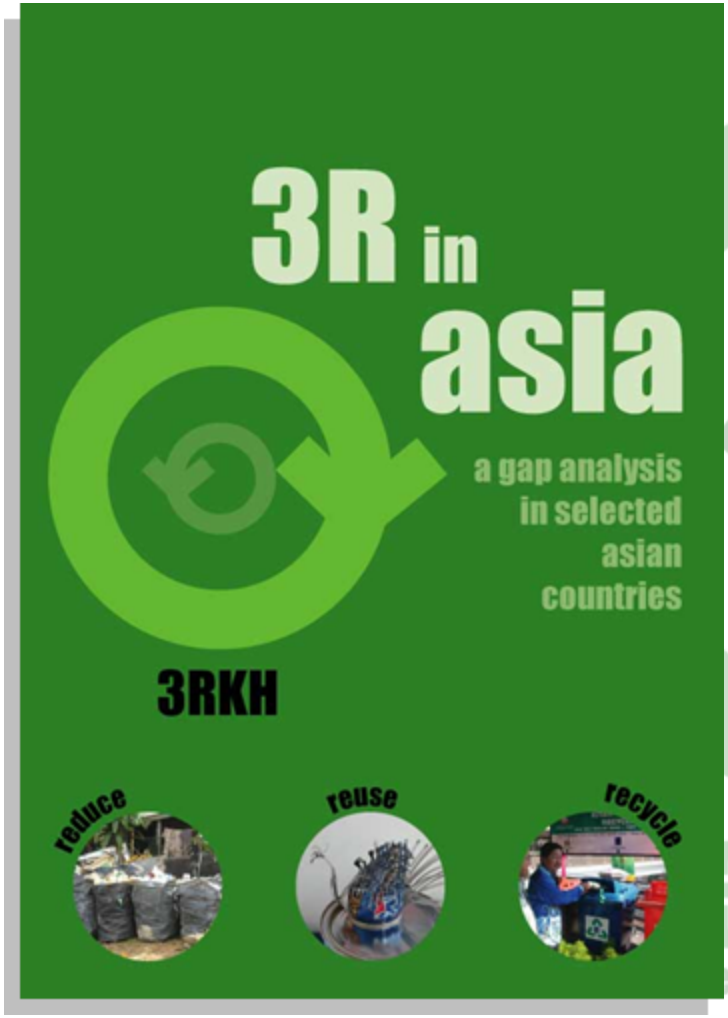
Courtesy: BAN 2006.

GAP

(NKRC), Japan

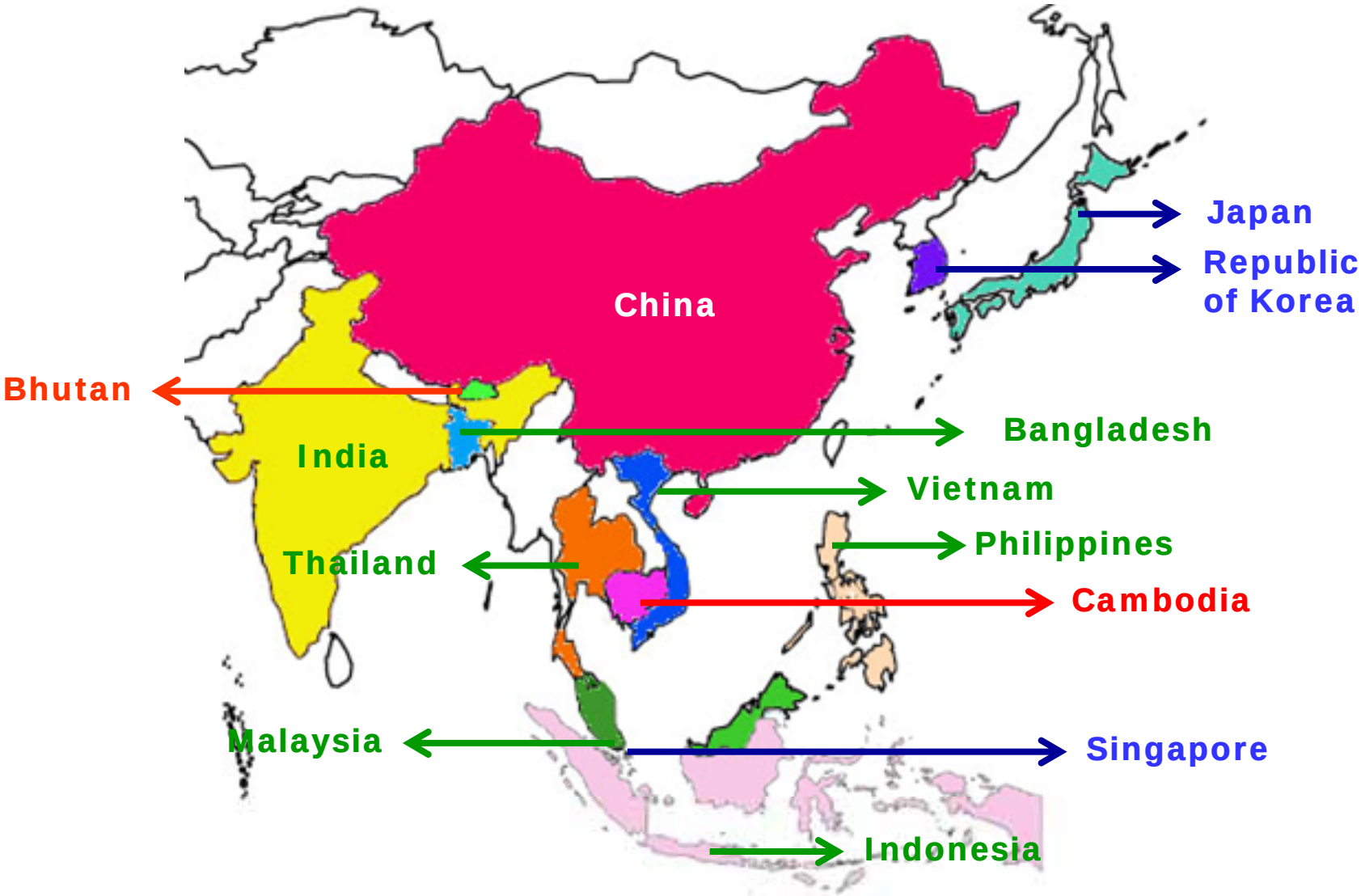
Nishinihon Kaden Recycle Corporation

What 3RKH did?

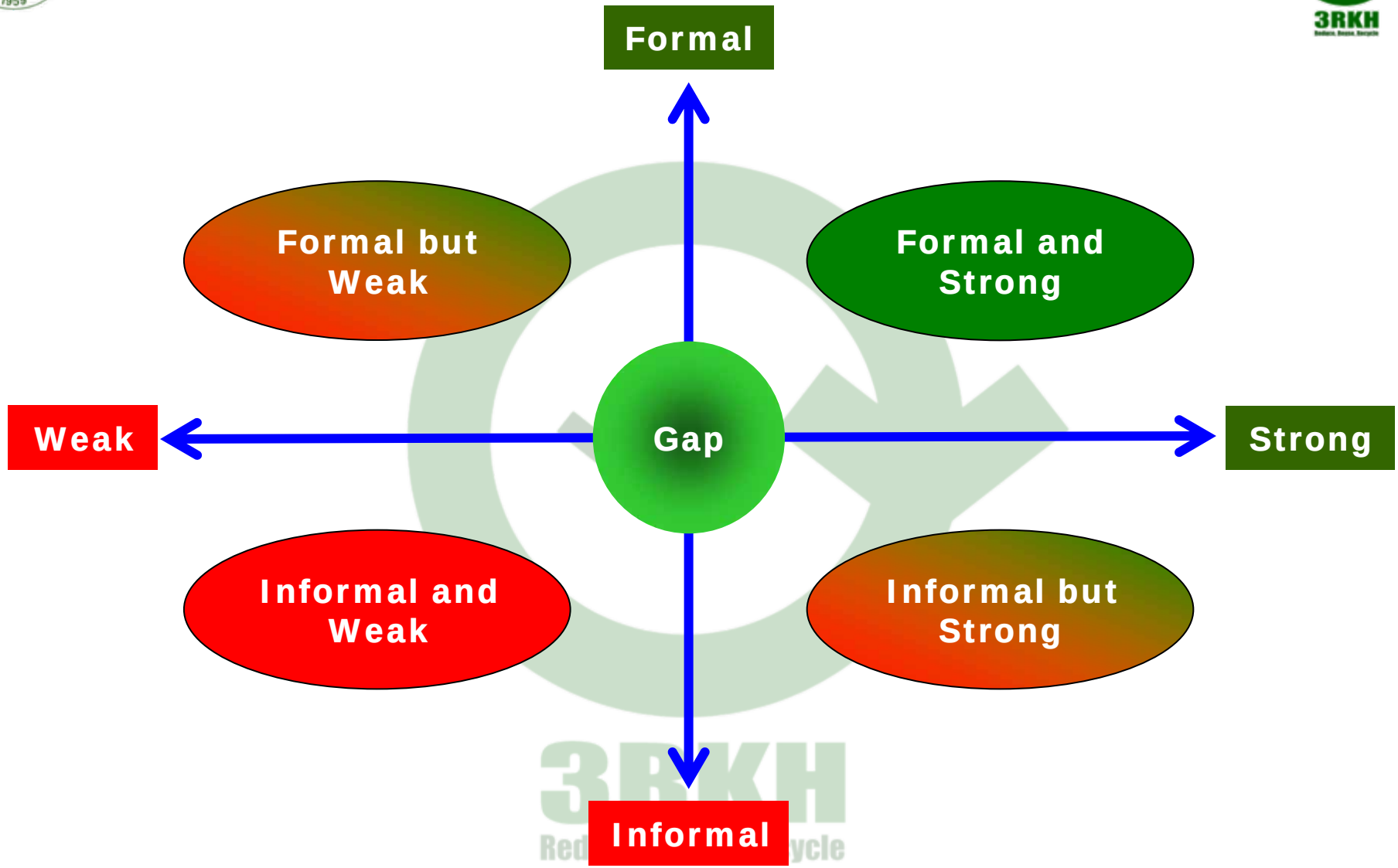


- Conducted a Gap Analysis
- First presented at the 7th APRSCP April 2007 Hanoi, Vietnam
- Study on 13 countries
- Reviewed by country experts
- Circulated - EcoAsia 2007 for review
- Country representatives and consultants for comments – ADB Hazardous Waste Workshop
- More countries to be included

Focal Countries for Gap Analysis



Criteria for Gap Analysis

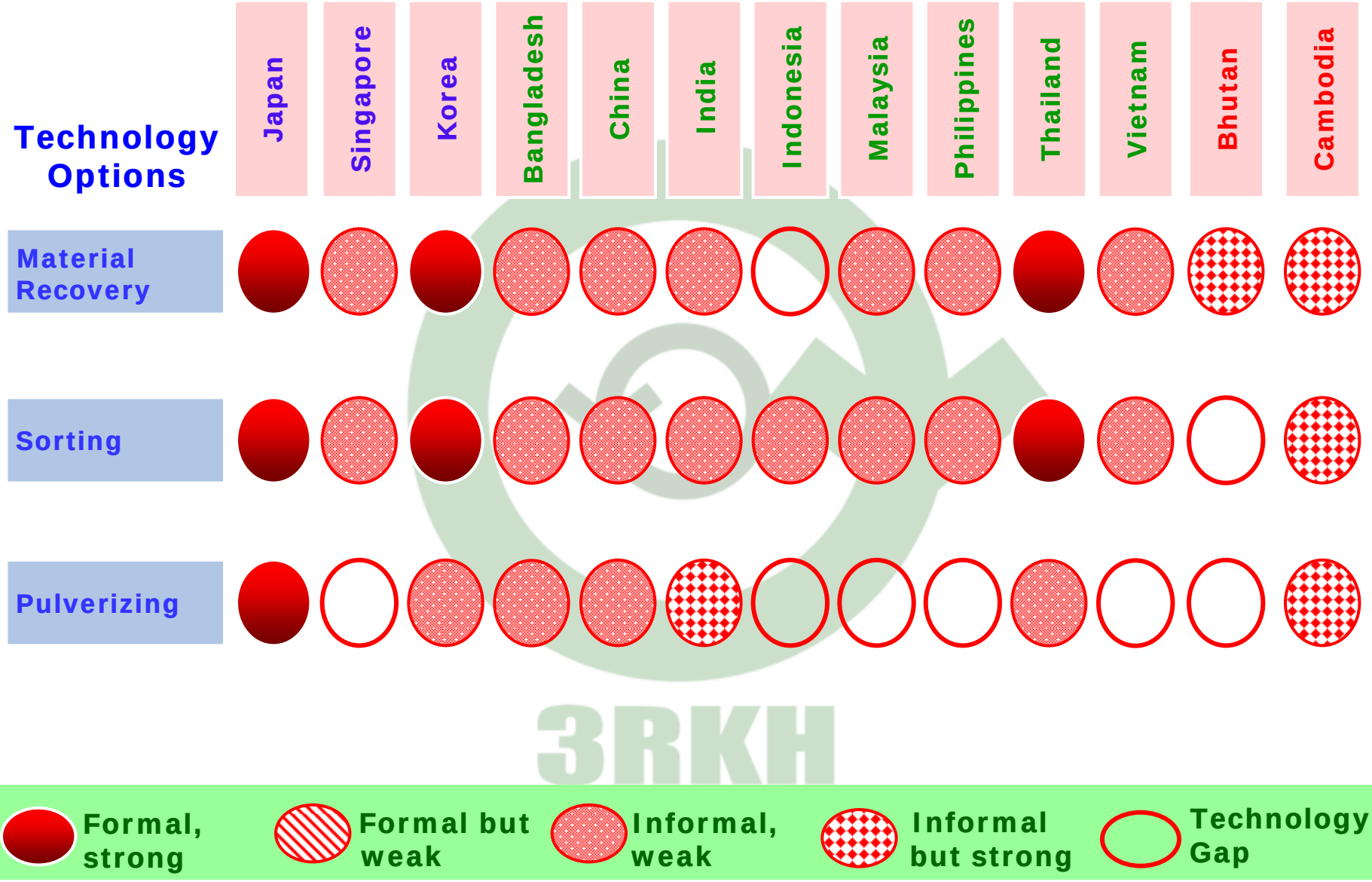


Urban Municipal Waste

Technology Options	Japan	Singapore	Korea	Bangladesh	China	India	Indonesia	Malaysia	Philippines	Thailand	Vietnam	Bhutan	Cambodia
Thermal Recovery	Formal, strong	Formal, strong	Formal, strong	Formal but weak	Formal but weak	Formal, strong	Technology Gap	Formal, strong	Formal but weak	Formal but weak	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Technology Gap
Fuel Recovery	Formal, strong	Formal, strong	Formal, strong	Formal but weak	Formal but weak	Formal, strong	Technology Gap	Formal, strong	Formal but weak	Formal but weak	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Technology Gap
Material Recovery	Formal but weak	Formal but weak	Formal but weak	Formal but weak	Informal but strong	Informal, weak	Informal but strong	Formal but weak	Formal but weak	Formal but weak	Informal but strong	Technology Gap	Informal but strong
Sorting	Formal but weak	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Informal but strong	Informal but strong	Informal, weak	Informal but strong	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Informal but strong	Informal, weak	Informal but strong
Pulverizing	Formal but weak	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Formal but weak	Informal, weak	Informal, weak	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Informal but strong	Technology Gap	Informal but strong
Composting	Formal but weak	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Formal but weak	Formal but weak	Formal but weak	Informal but strong	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Informal but strong	Formal but weak	Technology Gap	Technology Gap
Incineration	Formal but weak	Informal but strong	Formal, strong	Informal, weak	Formal, strong	Formal but weak	Informal, weak	Formal, strong	Formal, strong	Formal, strong	Informal but strong	Technology Gap	Technology Gap

Formal, strong | Formal but weak | Informal, weak | Informal but strong | Technology Gap

E-Waste

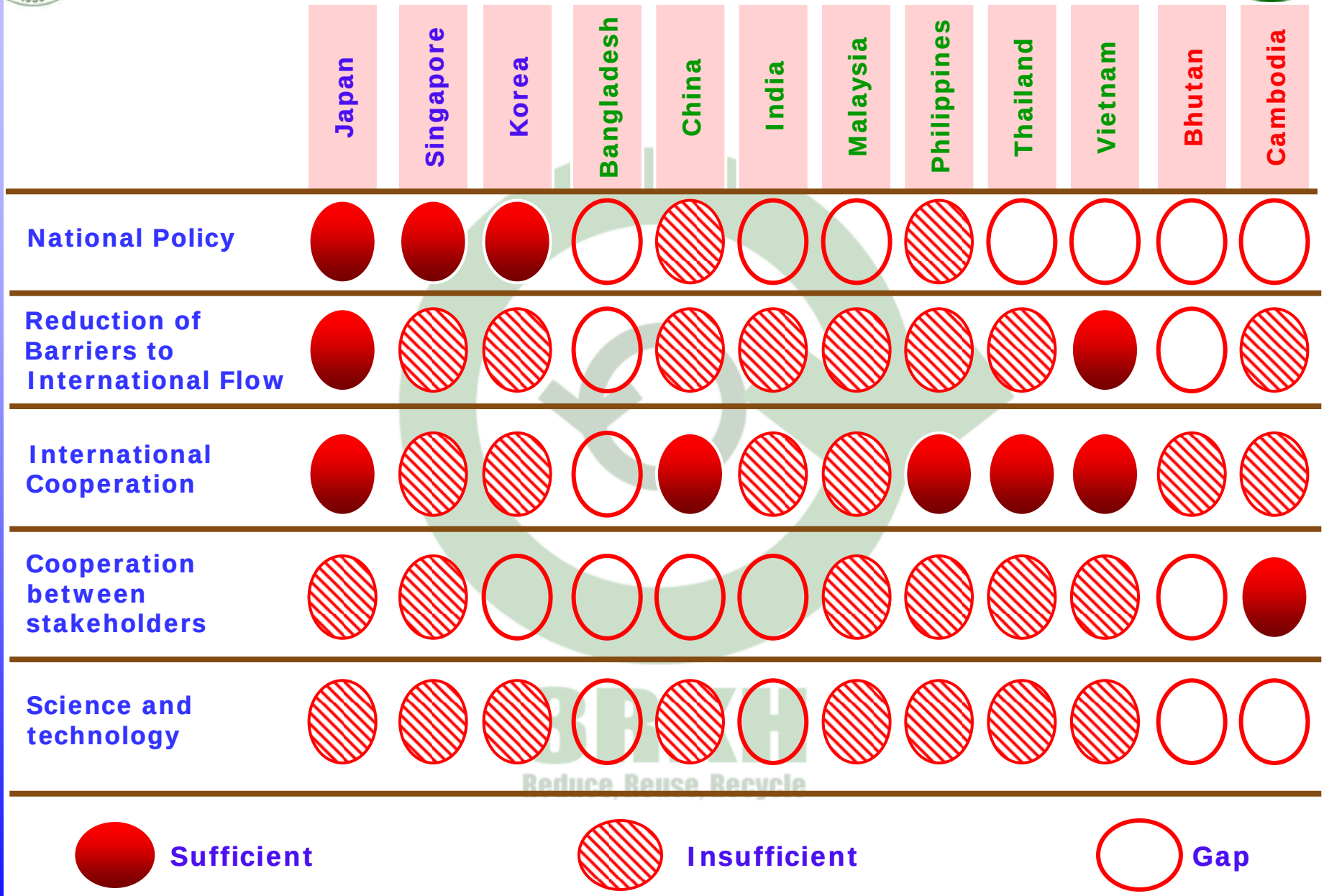

Technology Options
Japan
Singapore
Korea
Bangladesh
China
India
Indonesia
Malaysia
Philippines
Thailand
Vietnam
Bhutan
Cambodia
Material Recovery
Sorting
Pulverizing
Formal, strong
Formal but weak
Informal, weak
Informal but strong
Technology Gap

Medical Waste

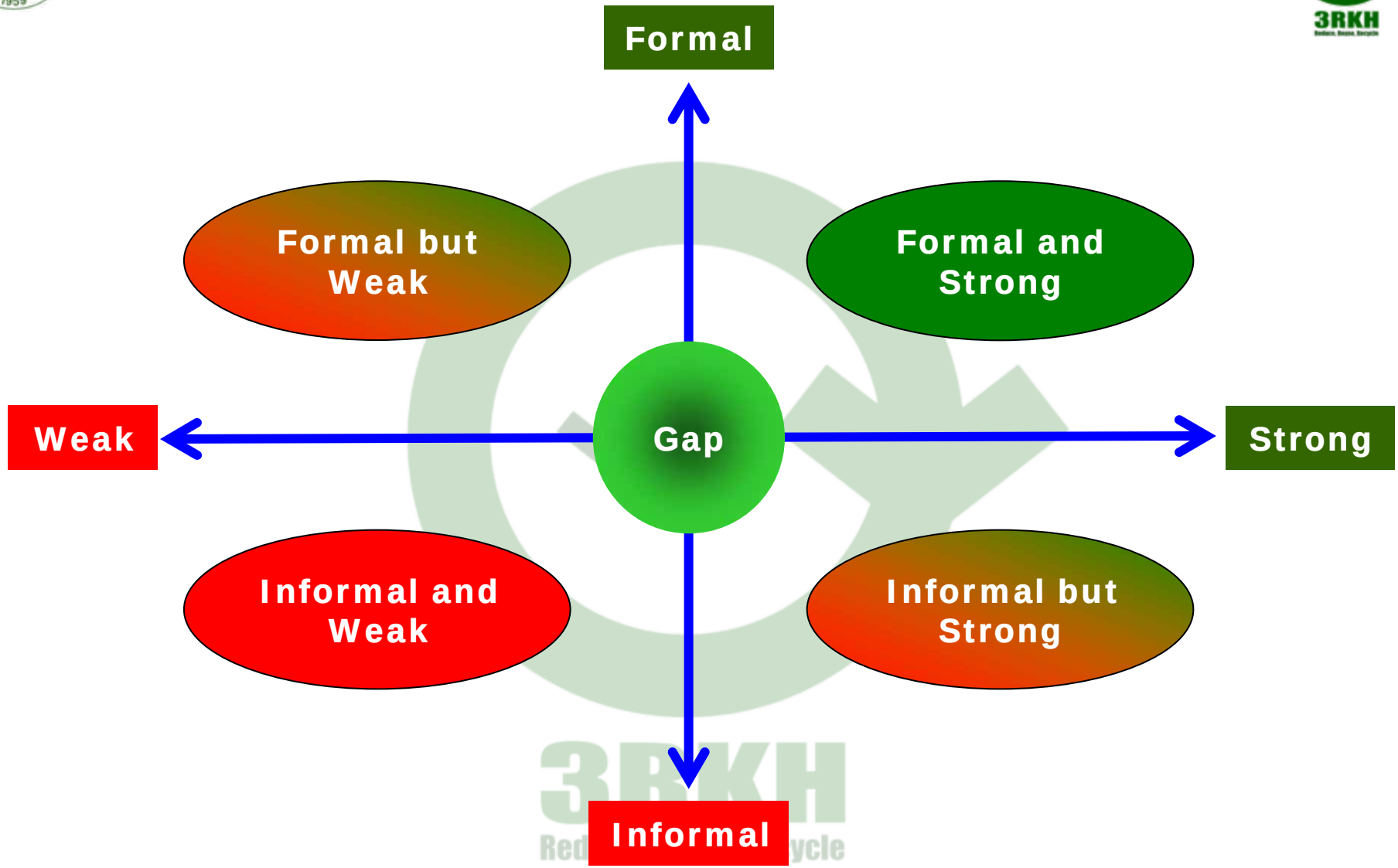
Technology Options	Japan	Singapore	Korea	Bangladesh	China	India	Indonesia	Malaysia	Philippines	Thailand	Vietnam	Bhutan	Cambodia
Thermal Recovery	Formal but weak	Formal, strong	Formal, strong	Informal, weak	Informal but strong	Informal but strong	Technology Gap	Formal, strong	Formal but weak	Informal, weak	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Technology Gap
Fuel Recovery	Formal but weak	Formal, strong	Formal, strong	Informal, weak	Informal, weak	Informal but strong	Technology Gap	Formal, strong	Formal but weak	Informal, weak	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Technology Gap
Material Recovery	Formal but weak	Formal, strong	Technology Gap	Informal, weak	Informal but strong	Informal but strong	Formal but weak	Technology Gap	Formal but weak	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Technology Gap
Sorting	Formal but weak	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Informal, weak	Informal, weak	Informal but strong	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Formal but weak	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Informal, weak
Pulverizing	Formal but weak	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Informal, weak	Informal, weak	Informal but strong	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Formal but weak	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Informal, weak
Incineration	Formal, strong	Formal, strong	Formal, strong	Informal, weak	Formal, strong	Formal, strong	Technology Gap	Formal, strong	Formal, strong	Formal, strong	Technology Gap	Technology Gap	Informal, weak

Formal, strong | Formal but weak | Informal, weak | Informal but strong | Technology Gap

Management and Policy Aspects



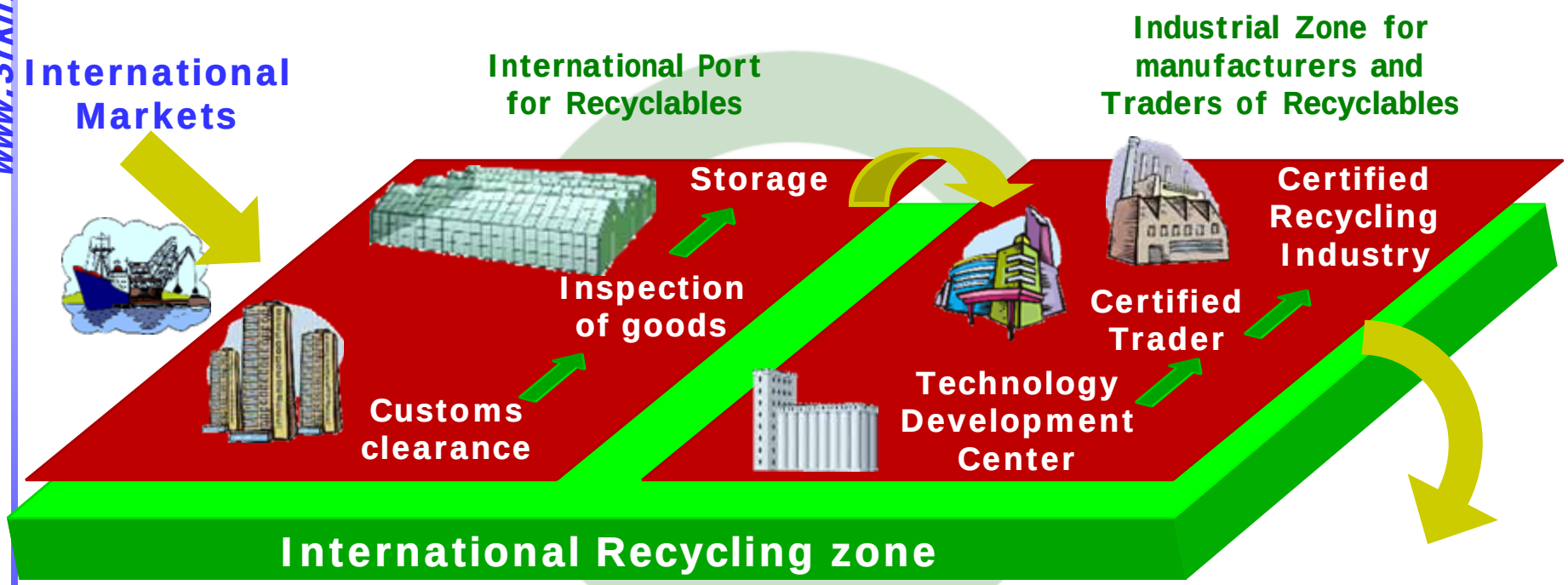
Criteria for Gap Analysis



Gap analysis – Findings

- Gap analysis focused on Technology and Management Aspects
- Recycling is predominantly in the informal sector and uses primitive technology
- Very little instances of promoting formal, 3R-based solutions for waste crisis
- Specific policies emphasizing the need for 3R – very rare in Asian countries – exceptions do exist
- Technology Transfer and Policy Reformulation are essential to promote 3Rs
- Cooperative efforts – between and within countries are the need of the hour

International Recycling Zones



- Bonded Zone
- Soft Loans
- Facility Investment Tax Reduction

Source : IGES, 2005

The Message…

- Recycling is predominantly in the informal sector & uses primitive technology
- Very little instances of promoting formal, 3R-based solutions for waste crisis
- Specific policies emphasizing the need for 3R – very rare in Asian countries – exceptions do exist
- Technology Transfer and Policy Reformulation are essential to promote 3Rs
- Cooperative efforts – between and within countries are the need of the hourto promote a 3R-based economy.

First of 3R - Reduce

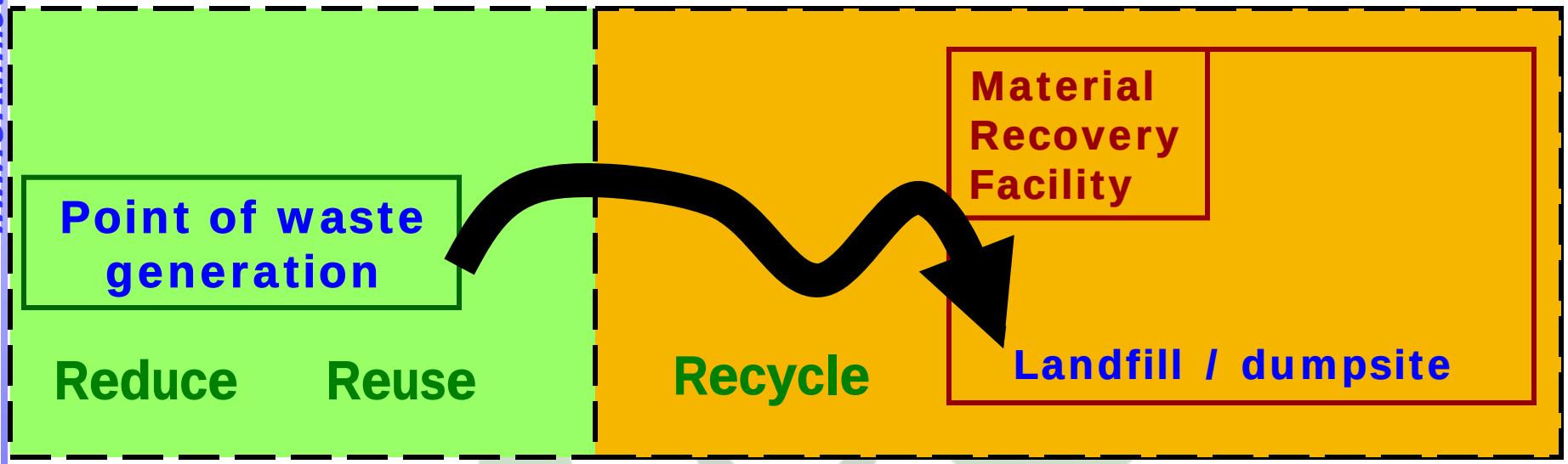
Success depends more on human behavior

Kitchen Waste Segregation

Cash for Trash

Technology, policy and other measures take second place

A Paradigm shift…



Lack of understanding of material behavior…Dr. Winson Fong, Eco-home

Landfill alone is not sufficient…MRF is also needed…Dr. Chua, Dewan Bandaraya, Kota Kinabalu

Lack of understanding of human behavior…

We cannot afford to miss the role of end citizen in reducing waste that might reach the landfill or MRF

Reuse and Recycle

Needs a driving force to realize the benefits

Motivation, Technology and Policy

www.3rkh.net

- ✓ Experts / Researchers Database
- ✓ 3R Related Websites
- ✓ 3R Good Practices
- ✓ 3R Related Policies
- ✓ 3R Technology Inventory
- ✓ 3R Researchers Inventory

- ✓ Assessment Reports
- ✓ Best Practices
- ✓ Case studies
- ✓ Conference Proceedings
- ✓ Journals
- ✓ Lessons learnt
- ✓ Manuals / Guidelines
- ✓ Periodicals
- ✓ Policy Briefs
- ✓ Publications

3RKH Activities

Creation and Publishing – New resources

- Collaboration with Mitsubishi Research Institute, Japan
- New 3R resources;
  - 3R-related policies in Asian countries
  - 3R-related technologies
  - 3R-related good-practices
  - Inventory of 3R-related researchers in the region
  - over 300 researchers and experts in the database
  - More good practices case studies on MSW to be uploaded

Ongoing

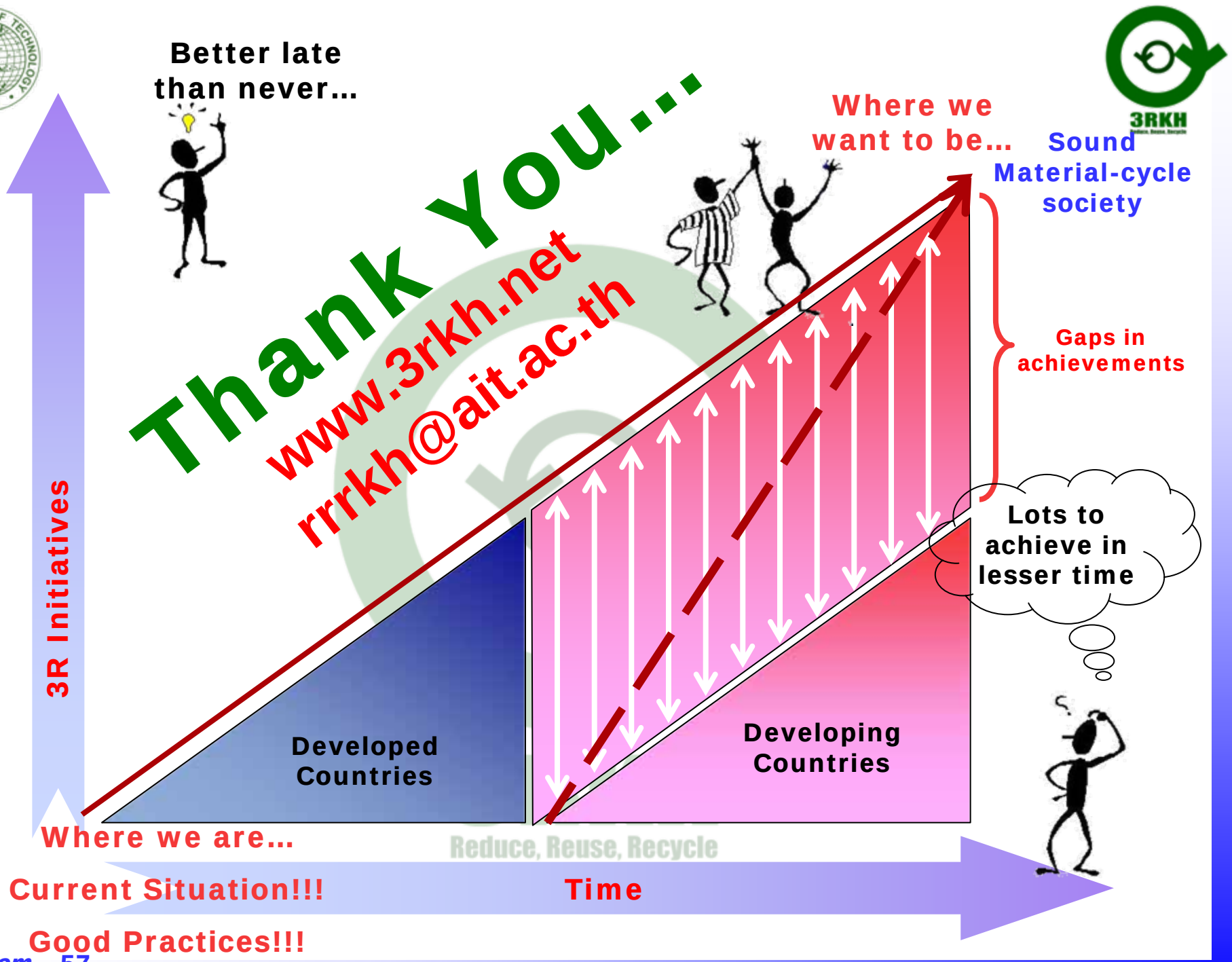
- 3R-related technologies: wastewater reuse / reclamation

Next Steps…

- Development of website functionalities and to enhance the existing website
- Form strategic networks and extend invitation to other stakeholders, for example
  - Tetra Pak Packaging Company
  - Wongpanit Recycling Plant
  - Other UN bodies and NGOs
- Development of 3RKH best practices and case studies by collaborating with other academic and research institutes,

Next Steps…

- Member of Thematic Working Group on Solid and Hazardous Waste
- Extend the Gap Analysis to few more countries: Brunei, Laos, Mongolia and Myanmar
- Prepare a Status Report on Healthcare Waste in Asian countries
- Conduct training program for community based organizations on healthcare waste management


Better late than never…
Thank You…
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rrrkh@ait.ac.th
Where we want to be…
Sound Material-cycle society
Gaps in achievements
Lots to achieve in lesser time
3R Initiatives
Developed Countries
Developing Countries
Where we are…
Current Situation!!!
Good Practices!!!
Time
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
3RKH