

SESSION II

Creating an Information Society for All: Attaining the World Summit on the Information Society Goals

LDC IV Pre-conference
9 March 2011, ITU Geneva

Matthias Kern
UNEP Secretariat of the Basel Convention

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

The goal of WSIS is to achieve a common vision, desire and commitment to build a people-centric, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information.

Pre-Conference Event Digital Inclusion for Least Developed Countries:

Innovation – Growth – Sustainability



A rapidly growing problem:

The volume of obsolete PCs generated in developing regions will exceed that of developed regions by 2016-2018.

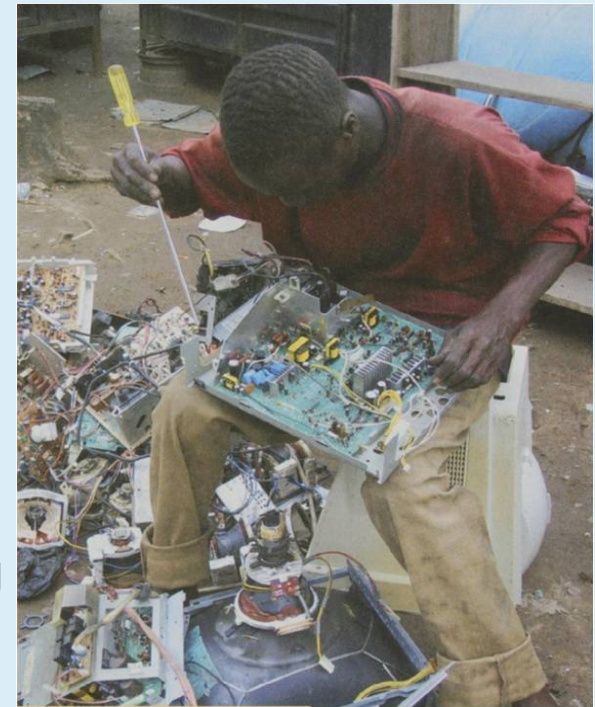
By 2030, the obsolete PCs from developing regions will reach 400-700 million units, far more than from developed regions at 200-300 million units.

Yu et al., 2010

Two sides of recycling:

E-waste recycling in most developing countries by informal sector:

- Involving large number of people
- Practices are not environmentally sound
 - methods: burning, acid etching
 - no/poor worker protection
 - almost no pollution control





TOWARDS A WIN-WIN SITUATION

- Technology for ESM of E-Waste exists, but has to be linked to product life-cycle to become **economically viable**
- Introduction of life-cycle approach for e-products needs **concerted efforts** of all players (investment, producers, users, recyclers, etc.)

The Millenium Task Force on Environmental Sustainability, commissioned by the UN-Secretary General under the leadership of Professor Jeffrey Sachs concluded:

**“Quite simply,
environmental sustainability is
the foundation upon which
achieving all the other MDGs
must be built.”**

