IV. Issues and Concerns

The study also looked at the different aspects, their issues and action needed to address it.

Aspects	Issues	Action needed
SWM Governance	• Lack of SWM program continuity when political leadership change • Piecemeal ordinances at the local levels • Gaps and weaknesses in the monitoring and enforcement systems at national and local levels • No common understanding of waste diversion • RA 9003 does not provide clear targets for waste diversion other than numerical figures, e.g. 25% waste diversion in the 1st 3 years of the implementation of the Act and subsequently increased	• Sanctions for non-complying LGUS • Comprehensive and coordinated system that monitors both public and private materials flow • Policy on role and duties of local governments in the collection and management of domestic hazardous and infectious wastes • Enhancement of junkshop ordinances to include program of incentives and sanctions • Waste Diversion should be waste specific, e.g. 50% of biodegradable wastes recovered
SWM program implementation	• Weak source segregation • Mixed waste collection • Non-compliance of barangays in their mandates • Decreasing amounts of recyclables flowing to barangay MRFs • Proliferation of illegal junkshops and hazardous	• Sustained education and value formation • Immediate sanctions • Re-orienting the role of barangay systems vis-à-vis management of biodegradables and recyclables • Establishment of a

Aspects	Issues	Action needed
	recycling practices • Problem of diverting certain materials such as plastic bags and styropor	centralized hazardous waste collection system
• Recyclable Waste Flow • Informal waste sector	• Vulnerability of those in the lower rungs of the recycling value chain due to lack of security of access to their livelihood and social protection • Increasing numbers of IWBs, illegal junkshops and other IWS • Lack of access to alternative livelihood • Decreasing amount of recyclables flowing to SLFs and MRFs (negative for IWS) • Environmental health issues due to informal recycling practices	• Inter-agency cooperation to address poverty alleviation and SWM issues • National and local level partnerships with civil society and the private sectors to address IWS concerns • Awareness building on dangers of informal recycling of wastes with toxic and hazardous components
Junkshops	• High transport costs • Need for capital for operations and equipment • Lack of access to financing • Presence of illegal junkshops competing with legal junkshops • Lack of association among junkshops in SCC and SFC • Environmental health issues related to informal recycling practices	• Financial and technical assistance • Close down illegal junkshops • Foster cooperation and coordination among the junkshop sector • Awareness raising on hazards of handling special wastes • Regular monitoring

Aspects	Issues	Action needed
Consolidators	• High cost of labor, transport and taxes • Access to finance • Competition from illegal consolidators • Poor quality of materials recovered (palusot) • Lack of support and incentives from government	• Tax incentives and holidays • Financial and technical assistance
Processors	• Influx of cheap imported goods • Competition with waste exporters for supply of scrap • High production costs • Competition from illegal processors	• Tax incentives and holidays • Financial and technical assistance • Market information and linking assistance provided by Department of Trade and Industry for market development • Protection and support from government for local recyclers and processors

Global and National Recycling Concerns

Global trade development directly impacts the recycling chain in the Philippines from the informal waste sector up to the processors. The 2008 economic recession was felt by all junkshops in the study sites, as prices of recyclables fell drastically causing some of them to downsize or close operations.

On the side of the processors, they experience shortage of raw materials due to strong demand for recyclable wastes from other countries. Currently, the local supply of PET scrap is low because of its high value in the export market ranging from PhP40 to PhP45 per kilo as of January 2012.

One plastic consolidator and a member of MPRA states that one of their problems is the supply of plastic wastes. The supply problem is twofold: competition from exporters and illegal consolidators and processors. The latter can afford to increase its buying price vis-à-vis legitimate companies because they do not pay taxes and pay low wages to their workers.

As of October 2011, countries of top destination of Philippine plastic waste are China, South Korea and ASEAN countries. The Philippines imports plastic waste from South Korea, China, Japan, India and Indonesia (National Statistics Office, 2011).

The negative impact of exporting paper waste was felt by the Philippine Pulp and Paper Manufacturers Association (PULPAPEL), the paper industry association when it called for a ban on the export of waste paper, describing the issue as a "threat to security of raw material supply in the Philippines. Bataan 2020 cited that more than 1,000 tons of waste paper were being shipped out to Hongkong and China [10].

Effects of the Plastic and Styrofoam Ban

At the national level, the plastics recycling industry is experiencing a problem of regulation by local government units. As of January 2012, seven cities in Metro-Manila already ban the use of plastic bags for certain types of goods and Styrofoam food packaging while the rest of Metro-Manila cities have similar pending ordinances. The Laguna Lake Development Authority's Resolution 406 requires LGUs around Laguna Lake banning the use and distribution of thin film, single-use, carry-out non biodegradable plastic bags. Ecowaste Coalition listed more than 20 LGUs with plastic bans including those outside Metro-Manila.Although plastic bags and Styrofoam packaging are recyclable, most of it end up in disposal facilities or discarded in water ways and open spaces. Its low economic value is also a disincentive for recovery by the informal waste sector and junkshops. The results of the plastics ban is the shift to

[10] http://www.bataan2020.net/newsroom.htm

paper bags and other alternative reusable bags and a 20% to 40% drop in the plastic bag manufacturing sector among the 300 manufactures.[11]

One of the responses of industry is to facilitate the recovery of the plastic bags. The Philippine Plastics Industry Association (PPIA) and the Polystyrene Packaging Council of the Philippines advertised that it will collect and purchase a minimum of 500 kgs of consolidated plastic bags from any Metro-Manila barangay or MRF. “Consolidated” means the 500 kg can be a combination of PP,PE PET, plastic bags, PS, and Styrofoam.

Another PPIA initiative is to support the Invisible Sisters, a micro-enterprise in the recycling of plastic bags. A new recycling company, PolyGreen Technology and Resources Inc. is now accepting plastic bags for conversion into diesel but not yet on a full scale basis. PPIA has also made appeals to Linis Ganda junkshops, supermarkets and retail associations to recover plastic bags.

The Polystyrene Packaging Council of the Philippines has also embarked on a recovery program intended to encourage partner institutions to put up drop-off bins for polystyrene and plastic bag wastes. The problem with these recovery programs is that they would cover only Metro-Manila and nearby cities.

While recovery programs for non-biodegradable plastic bags are being facilitated some companies in the plastic industry have shifted to the manufacture and or importation of additive based oxidative biodegradable plastics that can photo-degrade within 180 days and food-based biodegradable plastics. This development complicates the recovery and recycling of the non-biodegradable plastic bags because mixing the latter will lower the quality of the former.

[11] Crispian Lao, Recycling and Proper Management of Plastics, presented at SWAPPCON 2011, November 2011.