



Editorial

DSF's partnership with Hewlett Packard and EMPA: an example to follow.

The treatment of hazardous waste is an economic, health and environmental requirement that concerns everyone from the manufacturer to the end user, not forgetting the public authorities. In developing countries, a greater effort is needed, as the consequences of poor waste management are intensified by the high number of people placed at risk. The responsibility of producers and exporters is all the greater as they are aware of the lack of infrastructure and the shortcomings of the authorities.

The Global Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF), which is dedicated to reducing the digital divide and building a more inclusive information society, has a keen interest in e-waste management. Its work includes optimising facilities for the recycling of electrical and electronic equipment with a view to creating added value (creation of jobs in the sector) and promoting sustainable development (reuse of components from those products, minimisation of health and environmental risks).

The DSF is particularly pleased with the support it has received in this regard from Hewlett Packard, a multinational that fully assumes its responsibilities in this field. The programme launched by the DSF and HP, with the assistance of EMPA, aims to reduce the harmful effects of electronic equipment at the end of its useful life.

We sincerely hope that this partnership will serve as an example and encourage other businesses and local authorities to add their support to the DSF. We must respond to this urgent need as quickly as possible, both in Africa and elsewhere in the world. We are delighted that we will be able to present this groundbreaking partnership at the World Conference on Digital Solidarity in Lyon, on 24 November 2008.

Alain Clerc, Executive Secretary

Recycling electronic waste in Africa

The DSF has signed a strategic partnership with Hewlett Packard and EMPA, with a dual objective: protect the population from the damaging effects of e-waste and create jobs in the recycling sector.



The partners to the agreement: (from left to right) Rolf Widmer, Project Manager at EMPA; Klaus Hieronymi, Director of the Environmental Management Organisation for the EMEA region at HP; Cissé Kane, head of the DSF e-waste programme; Mathias Schluemp, Programme Coordinator at EMPA.

The DSF's work to promote a more equitable information society involves supplying digital equipment, such as computers, monitors, printers, scanners, photocopiers, and so on. As this highly sophisticated equipment contains toxic components (including mercury, cadmium, lead, beryllium, arsenic and even lithium), the DSF must make provision for the management of this equipment when it reaches the end of its useful life.

Volumes of electronic waste are increasing rapidly. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates that more than 50 million tonnes of electronic waste are generated every year. Therefore, we must ensure that the transfer of technology to developing countries does not prove to be more of a curse than a blessing. In such countries, e-waste is often not treated appropriately, exposing the population to serious illnesses. That is the case with the incineration of cables to recover

the copper or the leaching of gold with cyanide in the open air. These processes produce extremely toxic and carcinogenic chemical substances and flame retardants. Moreover, the burying of part of this waste leads to contamination of the soil and groundwater.

“The DSF has decided to focus (...) on ways of effectively managing electronic waste”

Consequently, the DSF has decided to focus – through a partnership with Hewlett Packard and EMPA – on ways of effectively managing electronic waste. The “e-Waste Management in Africa” programme, launched in late 2007, should lead to concrete actions for the African continent, with a view to:

- Protecting the people of Africa and their environment from the damaging effects of e-waste;
- Making the e-waste processing sector more viable by creating jobs and seeking to improve working conditions.

In this edition, we present the launch of the programme in Morocco, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa. ■

Morocco addresses the recycling of electronic waste

The DSF is developing its e-waste project in collaboration with the Moroccan Ministry of the Environment.

The Moroccan e-waste project was launched in Casablanca in October 2007, with the initial aim of performing a diagnosis of the WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment) situation. A second phase will involve the preparation of an action plan to create a structure that operates in accordance with best practices. The project is being led by the Moroccan Centre for Clean Production (CMPP) in Casablanca.

“This is the perfect moment to launch an initiative of this kind”

During the first visit of EMPA and DSF representatives, the CMPP set

up a National Strategy Committee for WEEE at the project launch seminar. Under the direction of Abdelhay Zerouali, Director of Surveillance and Risk Prevention at the Moroccan Ministry of Land Management, Water and the Environment and national coordinator of

the project, this Committee, made up of the various stakeholders, will coordinate activities linked to WEEE in Morocco. The CMPP will submit the conclusions of the diagnosis and the action plan to the Committee in Spring 2008.

“The CMPP is committed to supporting this project, as the digital industry is booming in our country”, affirmed Saïd Mouline, president of the CMPP.

“Taking these environmental measures right from the outset is fully in keeping with the approach recommended in the environment section of the social charter of the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises.”

“This action is perfectly in line with Hewlett Packard’s strategy throughout

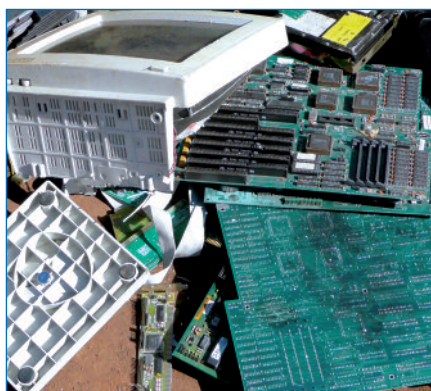
the world and in Morocco”, explained Fouad Jellal, Managing Director of HP for North Africa. “With the major growth of ICTs in Morocco, our strategy is to actively participate in preserving the environment through better management of electronic waste. This is the perfect moment to launch an initiative of this kind”, he concluded. ■



EMPA, DSF and CMPP met Abdelhay Zerouali (seated, centre), national coordinator of the project, and his collaborators, in

Kenya analyses the danger of e-waste

A network dedicated to sharing experiences linked to electronic recycling has been set up in Nairobi.



Non-recycled e-waste presents a real danger to the environment and people.

An impact study of e-waste in Kenya was launched in Nairobi in November 2007, at a conference organised by the Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANeT) which was attended by over thirty representatives of the business sector, government, civil society and the media. The study will map e-waste volumes in Nairobi, identify stakeholders interested in recycling

in the country, analyse the policy environment affecting e-waste and measure the environmental and social impact of e-waste.

KICTANeT has adopted a participatory approach to the study and plans to hold a series of stakeholder workshops. The coordinator, Alice Wanjira, underlined the important relationship between ICTs and the environment, and hopes that this study will significantly improve the sustainable management of electronic waste in Kenya. An e-waste network was also set up, to enable participants to continue to share their experiences and collaborate on this issue.

The head of the DSF e-waste programme, Cissé Kane, said he was impressed by the level of debate at the meeting, and the enthusiasm and inter-

est shown by the participants: “The DSF is very happy to launch this project and we hope it will lead to greater awareness, interest and action from all stake-

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holders in Kenya. We hope that these achievements will serve as an example in other countries in the region.”

The head of the EMPA project, Mathias Schlupe, commented that “the stakeholders were extremely motivated to contribute to the process, which is a very promising sign for finding a sustainable solution to the e-waste problem in Kenya”. He added that the study comes at a time where the ICT sector in Kenya is burgeoning, and the e-waste challenge is firmly on the government agenda. “A number of e-waste initiatives have already been established on the ground, and this study will draw on those experiences.” ■



Senegal committed to e-waste project

The SENECLIC unit overseen by the president of Senegal has requested DSF funding for an extensive study.



Ababacar Diop, Director of SENECLIC, with Cissé Kane, DSF Projects Manager.

The project for the recycling of electronic waste in Senegal was launched in Dakar on 10 January 2008. More than a hundred high-level participants representing the presidency of the Republic, the ministerial departments concerned, waste recovery companies, the private sector, development partners and professionals from the sector attended the launch.

The ceremony was presided over by Abdoulaye Baldé, Secretary-General of the presidency of the Republic, who underlined the importance of this project for Senegal, as it responds to a major concern regarding protecting the health of the population and the quality of the environment. "This project should lead to the creation of an electronic waste treatment unit in Senegal", he explained, before appealing to the private sector to invest in the sector.

The DSF has agreed to finance the project, at the request of the SENECLIC unit of the presidency of the Republic. Its director, Ababacar Diop, highlighted the innovative nature of SENECLIC, which is currently being driven on by

President Abdoulaye Wade himself (with the support of AXA Assurances France and Besançon Town Council).

The Senegalese e-waste project will include:

- An assessment of the management of electronic waste in Senegal;
- Recommendations for enhancing the viability of recycling;
- Improved organisation of the sector and the creation of jobs.

The assessment process will be overseen by David Rochat of the EMPA, while its implementation will be supervised by Salimata Seck Wone of the African Urban Management Institute (IAGU), which is considered a benchmark organisation in this field.

The addressing of the e-waste problem by the various stakeholders coincides with the setting up of a National Strategy Committee on the management of electronic waste.

For more information on SENECLIC: www.seneclic.com

The word from HP

Over the past 20 years, HP has gained extensive experience in the field of recycling. In 2007, HP recycled more than one billion tonnes of its equipment. It is our responsibility, as a world leader in the ICT sector, to have a social and environmental conscience, both in the manufacturing of our products and at the end of their useful life.

In partnership with other ICT companies, HP has set up the European Recycling Platform (ERP), which aims to facilitate electronic recycling in accordance with the laws of the European Union. The 9 European countries that produce 85% of European electronic waste are now recycling their electrical and electronic equipment via the ERP system. To date, 157,000 tonnes of e-waste have been collected.

The African continent offers great opportunities for ICT development, with high rates of growth. In 2006, information technology contributed 3.5% to the GDP of Africa.

In cooperation with the DSF and EMPA, in 2007 HP set up the e-waste recycling programme to help make this sector viable. With this programme, we are helping raise awareness about the management of e-waste in Africa, which we hope will lead to an action plan to establish a sustainable waste management system for the whole continent. ■



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A case study

The launch of an e-waste recycling unit in Cape Town: setting an example.



Thoko Mokgosi-Mwantembe Managing Director of HP South Africa, cutting the ribbon at the opening of the recycling unit. With her, from left to right, are: Cissé Kane (DSF), Mathias Schlupe (EMPA), Susanne Dittke, Envirosense and Gerry Newson (Recover-e-Alliance).

With the framework of the programme for the management of e-waste in Africa, the Cape Town electronic waste recycling unit was opened on Tuesday 18 March 2008. Around fifty people attended the event, including representatives of Cape Town City Council, the South African Information Technology Association (ITA), waste recovery companies, the press, HP, EMPA and the DSF.

The recycling unit is a product of the Cape Regional Initiative, a joint project between three organisations that are heavily involved in the field of waste recovery and recycling in Cape Town: Recycling IT, Recover-e-Alliance and Wasteplan. In South Africa, electrical and electronic waste is accumulating faster than any other type of waste, so this project comes at just the right time.

"We see this project as a way to help develop a sustainable infrastructure to safely deal with electronic waste based on local practices that will benefit local communities", explained Thoko Mokgosi-

Mwantembe, Managing Director of HP South Africa. "Once fully operational, this pilot project will process up to 150,000 tonnes of equipment per year and create around 20 jobs", she added.

"We have seen some very inventive and entrepreneurial people making a living out of dismantling old electronic equipment in South Africa. This equipment is being used by the community, and people are making everything from toys to art out of it. We are looking to develop effective methods of dealing with waste that will allow this sector to flourish in a safe and sustainable manner", explained Gerry Newson of Recover-e-Alliance.

The Cape Town unit demonstrates that it is possible to combine the recycling of e-waste with the challenges of improving working conditions,

creating jobs and ensuring sustainability. An exhibition of objects made from electronic waste, such as toys and clocks, was organised for the opening ceremony.

"Once fully operational, this pilot project will process up to 150,000 tonnes of equipment per year"

EMPA

EMPA is the interdisciplinary materials science and technology research institute of the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology. EMPA specialises in applied research and development, and provides services in the field of sustainable materials and technologies. The "Technology and Society Lab" (TSL) studies the impacts of emerging technologies on society and the environment and, among other activities, hosts the technical monitoring team for the Swiss e-waste management system.

EMPA is leading the Swiss Global e-Waste Programme, which aims to increase the capacity of emerging economies to manage their electronic waste (www.ewasteguide.info).

For further information, visit: www.empa.ch/tsl.



The recycling unit will process up to 150,000 tonnes of equipment per year.

It is important that this first unit serve as an example for other cities in other developing countries. The e-waste recycling unit shows that effective management of e-waste can be profitable.



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