

Function, Action and Understanding of Scrap Foundation

According to the new international decree of old appliance in the context of increasing electrical and electronic waste, the industrial sector is requested to create innovative concepts of disposal, recycling and reuse. Especially, reuse is still a neglected issue in our consumer and throwaway society. However, if we focus on a recycling orientated society we will have to create alternative ways in order to minimize environmental load.

In the same way we have also to accept and understand reality in developing countries. Modern development policies have failed in last decades. Industrialization for instance in Africa did not succeed among other things as the population did not create sufficient skilled personnel who could maintain modern technology. Actually, e.g. the trade between Dakar and Nairobi is crowded with simple East-Asian appliances which do not fulfil quality standards and have a limited lifespan. Beyond it, they are mostly not more repairable. Service is not existing. The demand for quality products on the secondary market is definitely given.

Scrap Foundation meets both needs. The abundance of old, functioning appliances in the North costs money (the purchase of recycled materials cannot cover its costs), although it is possible to extend lifespan through simple maintenance and repairs. The negative issue of transporting electrical scrap in developing countries consist of outmoded, false prejudices. Several Asian countries have reinforced their economic capacity through the reuse of old technology, which has fit into appropriate market conditions. The intention of Scrap Foundation is always to link efficient reuse with social aims.

The reuse of electrical appliances is Scrap Foundation's business. We are active in international consultancy which contains a service packages for research, development and projects for innovative action. Through our system-based approach of reverse logistics we can comply the trace ability of electrical appliance's reuse. With this niche on the international market in the waste management sector, we can offer pragmatic, social balanced and environmental conscious solutions. Our PPP-approach (Profit, People, Planet) benefits the central point of sustainability: The actual situation affords *Profit* to benefit complementary *People* and *Planet*. How to realize this approach ?

I. Documentation and Country Profile

With a screening system we control and check supply chain and components of old appliance in terms of their environmental impact. This is realized by producer's questionnaire. Beyond it we check the utilization of these appliances in the country of destination. An elaborated country profile gives us the information whether the product can be used and finds demand. Besides, we prove if the country has the logistics to waste unserviceable appliances respectively dangerous and poisonous components.

II. Capacity Building

Within the countries of destinations, we compare the demands for appliances on the secondary market with the capacities and skills which guarantee a service package of maintenance, repairs and spare parts. We can determine modular vocational training for better skills, and network different small and medium sized enterprises (SME) of artisans in providing service. They participate on training with qualified trainers. Another part of education are environmental information about the hazardous impact of appliances. It is an essential aim to start environmental prevention in a working-oriented way. Therefore, Scrap Foundation will provide an information pool respectively environmental training on the issues of electrical appliance. On one hand we can strengthen the competence of SMEs, which cover for instance in South-East-Asia more than 70% of the local urban labour market. On

the other hand, we introduce new options for environmental protection, which is practically marginalized in the South.

III. Distribution

According to the contractor's requirements (e.g. producers and retailers of electrical appliances) Scrap Foundation helps to establish a distribution system, which differs between commercial and social aspects. This means, that the trade of secondary appliances is focused only on one hand in commerce. On the other hand, distribution in developing countries can benefit directly social institutions (e.g. schools, hospital etc.). This indicates a further part within the country profile.

IV. Results

With this approach Scrap Foundation can assist global industries to meet local needs in a holistic way. Reuse can be under certain, defined circumstances an alternative to limit recycling and disposal of electrical appliances. This reuse-system can comply a practical use of old appliance into consideration of environmental requirements in developing countries. Next to the reasonable purchase, we build up local infrastructure for maintenance, repair and recycling of old appliances. Transfer of technical and environmental know how can reinforce local knowledge and provides the basics to consider a wider trading in old and new appliances. If the approach is sustainable for a mid or long term, a dialogue between all stakeholders will improve an appropriate, reasonable eco-design for the electrical units. This will not influence the whole industry, but it can improve a neglected market of eco-products for fair and sustainable trade. An appliance which fulfils all the requirements will not be very hip, but it will be cool as it serves not only one ego. Let's see appliance's biography!