**PHILIPPINES**

**Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)**

**Topic: Promoting the responsible disposal of electronic and hazardous waste**

The Delegate of Philippines consistently believes in promoting the responsible disposal of electronic and hazardous waste. While considering the continued e-waste generation coupled with the increasing consumption of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) for disposal, the government of Philippines legislated the recent Department of Environment and Natural Resources administrative Order 2013-22 (DAO 2013-22). The Administrative Order regulates the e-waste as a new class of miscellaneous waste with Waste Number of M506 and M507.

In the Philippines, there are laws that indirectly manage e-waste. Republic Act No.6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990, also regulates materials with hazardous components. Meanwhile, Republic Act No.9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 was signed into law in January 2001. RA9003 sets the guidelines for the volume reduction of solid wastes through source reduction and recovery prior to collection, treatment and disposal at appropriate and environmentally sound waste management facilities. This law classifies e-waste such as consumer electronics and white goods as “special wastes”, and requires them to be handed separately from other residential and commercial wastes.

E-waste or waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) is described as old, end-of-life, or discarded electrical appliances. It may contain hazardous components such as lead, cadmium, mercury, etc. Inappropriate and outdated handling of e-waste may lead to the release of toxic by-products that are harmful to human health and the environment. Stronger implementation and enforcement of existing policies involving e-waste such as the Basel Convention, RA6969 and 9003, and DAO 2013-22 should be ensured by the national and local government. Proposed measures such as SB 568, HB 5901 and the Draft Guidelines on the ESM of WEEE should be reviewed and enacted immediately.

Lastly, there is a strong need for raising the public awareness on e-waste risks and management. Awareness programs should include the risks of improper e-waste storage and disposal, and information on accredited e-waste TSD facilities.