**Notes for an
ASOSAI WGEA Meeting on Waste Management Audit**

* + - 1. Russia plays a key role in sustaining global biosphere functions because its vast expanse accommodating various natural ecosystems represents the significant part of the Earth’s biodiversity. The scales of Russia’s natural-resources, intellectual and economic potential underlie Russia’s pivotal role in dealing with global and regional environmental issues.
			2. In order to pursue a unified state policy in the field of environment, in 2002 the Government of the Russian Federation adopted the Environmental Doctrine of the Russian Federation.
			3. Under this doctrine, sustainable development of the Russian Federation, high standards of living and health, and also national security may be delivered only if the natural systems are preserved and the relevant quality of the environment is maintained. This calls for shaping and consistently pursuing a unified state policy in the field of environment geared towards environmental protection and the rational use of natural resources. Preserving and restoring natural systems is one of the priority activities of the state and society.
			4. The environmental policy is aimed at improving drastically the quality of environment and ecological conditions of human life, to form a balanced eco-oriented model of economic development and eco-competitive productions. The successful implementation of ecological development programmes by Russia is the country’s major contribution to preservation of the global biosphere potential and sustainment of the global ecological equilibrium.
			5. The state policy in the field of ecological development of the Russian Federation for the period ending in 2030 is based on the Russian Constitution, the principles and norms of international law, international treaties of the Russian Federation and also federal and regional regulatory legal acts.
			6. In order to consolidate the world community’s efforts to preserve the environment, the Russian Federation takes part on a regular basis in international environmental organizations, agreements and conventions such as:
			7. - the Arctic Council;
			8. - the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP);
			9. - intergovernmental agreements with Mongolia on cooperation in environment and also protection and use of transboundary waters;
			10. - the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention);
			11. - the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention);
			12. - the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Teheran Convention);
			13. - the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention).

The Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation is paying great attention in its activities to public spending on environmental protection, the rational management of natural resources, and environmental safeguards.

To this end, control, expert and analytical activities are held every year to address matters of industrial and consumer waste management in the Russian Federation, among other things.

In 2013, for example, we conducted an expert-analytical activity *Analysis of the Problems and Assessment of Progress in the Management of Industrial and Consumer Waste in the Russian Federation*.

The expert analytical activity was conducted using the means of analysis, monitoring, assessment and review of the findings.

Based on the expert-analytical activity results we assessed:

- the level of regulatory framework underlying industrial and consumer waste management in the Russian Federation;

- the condition of the environment at places of location of enterprises and landfills involved in the treatment of industrial and consumer waste.

One of the key elements ensuring effective waste treatment is the drafting and enforcement of regulatory legal documents regulating the state waste management system, comprised of a unified waste management concept and coordination of the powers at each level of the state administration.

For example, relations in the field of industrial and consumer waste management in the Russian Federation are regulated by a set of regulatory legal acts, including three principal federal laws - *On Industrial and Consumer Waste* (dated June 24, 1998, No. 89-FZ), *On Environmental Protection* (dated January 10, 2002, No. 7-FZ) and *On Sanitary Epidemiological Well-being of the Population* (March 30, 1999, No. 52-FZ).

At the same time, the Russian Federation has recently passed a whole range of documents addressing the mid- and long-term issues of industrial and consumer waste treatment.

* + - 1. In order to reverse the negative situation with waste treatment which affects adversely the environment and people’s health, the Russian President gave relevant instructions to the Russian Government.
			2. According to the Concept of Long-Term Socio-Economic Development of the Russian Federation for the period ending in 2020 (approved by the Russian Government), the adverse effect on environment is set to decline 2.5 fold, the number of eco-hazardous spots at least 5-fold, and the number of people living in adverse environmental conditions at least 4-fold. Said Concept provides, among other things, for creation of a developed waste disposal industry and a wider use of renewable energy sources becoming the key element of “industrial ecology”.
			3. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation approved (*in August 2013) Comprehensive Strategic Guidelines for Municipal (Household) Solid Waste Treatment in the Russian Federation*. The guidelines outline the principles, priorities, main goals and areas of long-term policy of the state and society aimed at preventing the harmful impact of municipal (household) solid waste on human health and the environment and also at reclaiming materials contained in waste for re-use as additional sources of raw materials or for energy generation.
			4. The State Programme, entitled *Environmental Protection in 2012-2020,* which was adopted in 2012, is also bound to radically improve the situation.
1. The State Programme provides for the participation of the Russian Federation’s constituent entities in the implementation of measures designed to mitigate the negative impact of industrial and consumer waste. Constituent entities of the Russian Federation must create territorial waste treatment plans, maintain waste inventories, prepare investment programmes of household solid and industrial waste treatment with a view to creating a waste processing industry based on public-private partnership.
	* + 1. In the course of the state environmental monitoring, surveillance was conducted over the environment condition, including the areas of location of man-made impact sources and over the environmental footprint of those sources.
			2. Pursuant to the Federal Law *On Industrial and Consumer Waste*, sole proprietors and legal entities operating waste dumping facilities are obligated to adhere to the requirements set forth by Russian legislation in the field of environmental protection and human well-being.
			3. State ecological monitoring in the Russian Federation is realized at a federal and a sub-federal level in line with their competences, by creating and ensuring the functioning of surveillance networks and information resources in the framework of subsystems of the unified monitoring system.
			4. A federal authority charged with keeping a Unified State Fund of Data about the Condition of the Environment and its Pollution is the Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (hereinafter – Roshydromet). Roshydromet has organized and ensured the location of environmental observation posts around major industrial enterprises. In addition, Roshydromet monitors soil contamination with pesticides and heavy metals.
			5. Findings of the expert-analytical activity bear out the assumption that only the integrated approach towards waste management matters proves effective, provided a high degree of coordination of actions among agencies belonging to various departments.
			6. An example is served by the solution of the waste management problem in Sochi in the runup to and during the XXII Olympic and XI Paralympic Winter Games in February 2014.
			7. Russian legislation designates the entire area of Sochi as a national park in which no waste dumping is allowed.
			8. All Sochi waste (around 700 tonnes/day) is taken to a waste sorting facility where it is sorted, baled, packaged into polyethylene film and trucked to a landfill, 160 km from Sochi.
			9. Practice and specialists’ calculations confirmed the validity of the decisions made from the standpoint of financial issues (trucking) and from the standpoint of solving environmental problems.
			10. The administration of the Krasnodar Territory and interested investors are contemplating a deep waste processing project. Analysis is also underway regarding WtE generation by means of burning waste or production of fuel briquettes for use in boiler houses.
			11. This expert-analytical activity also involved examining the global expertise of developed nations in respect of waste management issues. One solution of the household solid waste disposal problem is to organize an effective system of separate collection and processing of household solid waste.
			12. For example, in Sweden waste dumping accounts for less than 3 %, whereas the rest is processed according to most stringent ecological standards and norms (*source:* [*http://thinkgreen.ru/tg/shveciya-budet-importirovat-800-000-tonn-musora*](http://thinkgreen.ru/tg/shveciya-budet-importirovat-800-000-tonn-musora)).
			13. We consider it expedient to continue to disseminate in the future and adapt the successful waste management cases with regard to the specifics of each interested country, ensuring the balance of economic and ecological interests.
			14. Based on the findings of the expert-analytical activity, it was suggested that the Russian Government elaborate the issue of creation of effective industrial and consumer waste management system.
			15. The Russian Government instructed the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation based on our proposals.
			16. Considering the transnational nature of ecological consequences of the economic and other activities of the state, private companies and population, linked with the management of natural resources, the waste management problems are solved most effectively if approached in an integrated manner.