e-Waste: A Disaster or an Opportunity for India

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Abstract

In recent years, several India and international studies have cautioned India against generation, treatment, and accumulation of e waste in India. It is estimated that by 2010, India will be discarding 10 million PCs per year-about five times the current level. In addition, the country also receives a large quantity of waste from several developed countries. Due to inadequate law, or its poor implementation, these wastes are currently handled by unorganized sector using un-skilled labour, leading to a number of environmental issues.

On the other hand, over the past few years, India has developed expertise in handling a wide range of metallic wastes in an organized and safe manner. This is possible due to a combination of innovative application of knowledge, low cost of developing new processes, and adherence to environmental laws. This presentation will attempt to extend this experience to treat e waste by using the best available technology in solid processing, solution purification, and treatment of hazardous material.