

UNIVERSITY OF LANCASTER
LAW DEPARTMENT

**REGULATIONS ON TRANSBOUNDARY
MOVEMENTS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE: A
STUDY ON THE BASEL CONVENTION AND
ITS IMPACTS ON THE REGIONAL TREATIES
IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICAN AND ASEAN
REGIONS**

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND THE BACKGROUND

1.1 SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM OF TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE.

The transboundary movements of hazardous waste especially from developed to developing countries has become a controversial issue over the past two decades. The developed countries, due to the rapid development of their industries, produce a large amount of wastes many of which are hazardous in nature. World production of chemicals has increased tremendously. For example the total amount of organic chemicals produced globally rose from approximately 7 million metric tonnes in 1950 to over 250 million metric tonnes in 1985.¹ It is believed the amount of hazardous waste have also increased proportionately. Some estimates have shown that between 300-500 million tonnes of hazardous waste are produced world wide every year. 98% of these wastes were produced by industrialised countries. According to statistics issued by the OECD and other organizations, in the late 1980s alone OECD member states generated around 300 tonnes

¹ Kummer, Katharina, International Management of Hazardous Wastes: The Basel Convention and Related Legal Rules, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1995, p.4

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