

BIR is the international trade association of the recycling industries. Around 70 countries are represented through their national trade associations and individual companies which are involved in recycling. BIR comprises four commodity divisions: iron and steel, non ferrous metals, paper and textiles, and has three commodity committees dealing with stainless steel and special alloys, plastics and rubber. BIR's primary goals are to promote recycling and recyclability, thereby conserving natural resources, protecting the environment and facilitating free trade of secondary raw materials.

PRESS RELEASE

BIR World Recycling Convention & Exhibition in Hong Kong (21 - 24 May 2017)

Hong Kong, 23 May 2017 - for immediate release

BIR announces 18-3-18 as the date of the first Global Recycling Day!

Ranjit Baxi, President of the Bureau of International Recycling world body, announces today that the first Global Recycling Day will take place on March 18th 2018. The day also marks the 70th anniversary of the creation of BIR.

"I am delighted to be announcing this very important date," said Mr Baxi. "We want to use this day to promote action on recycling around the world. Our members, who rank amongst the most prestigious recycling companies in the industry, want to take ownership of this powerful initiative. We were the first global trade body to be created and therefore our 70th anniversary is a fitting date for such an important event. We want people to think 'resource', not 'waste'. There are 7 billion people on this earth, and if we can just get 10% of these people to make one positive recycling change on Global Recycling Day, it will have a massive impact."

"There are 6 major natural resources: water, air, coal, oil, natural gas and minerals," explained Mr Baxi. "We believe that recyclables should be recognized as the 7th most important resource. We want to raise awareness amongst the public regarding this 7th resource and enhance the perception that recycling is about creating a clean and sustainable environment for us and for future generations. We must also acknowledge that without the huge skills and expertise of the recycling industry, this 7th resource would not have been accessible."



During the course of 2017, BIR will be announcing a number of initiatives to mark Global Recycling Day. These will include global partnerships and calls for action.

"The 18^{th} of March 2018 will be the very first Global Recycling Day," said Mr Baxi. "We are confident that this special day will gather momentum as it is repeated year after year."

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