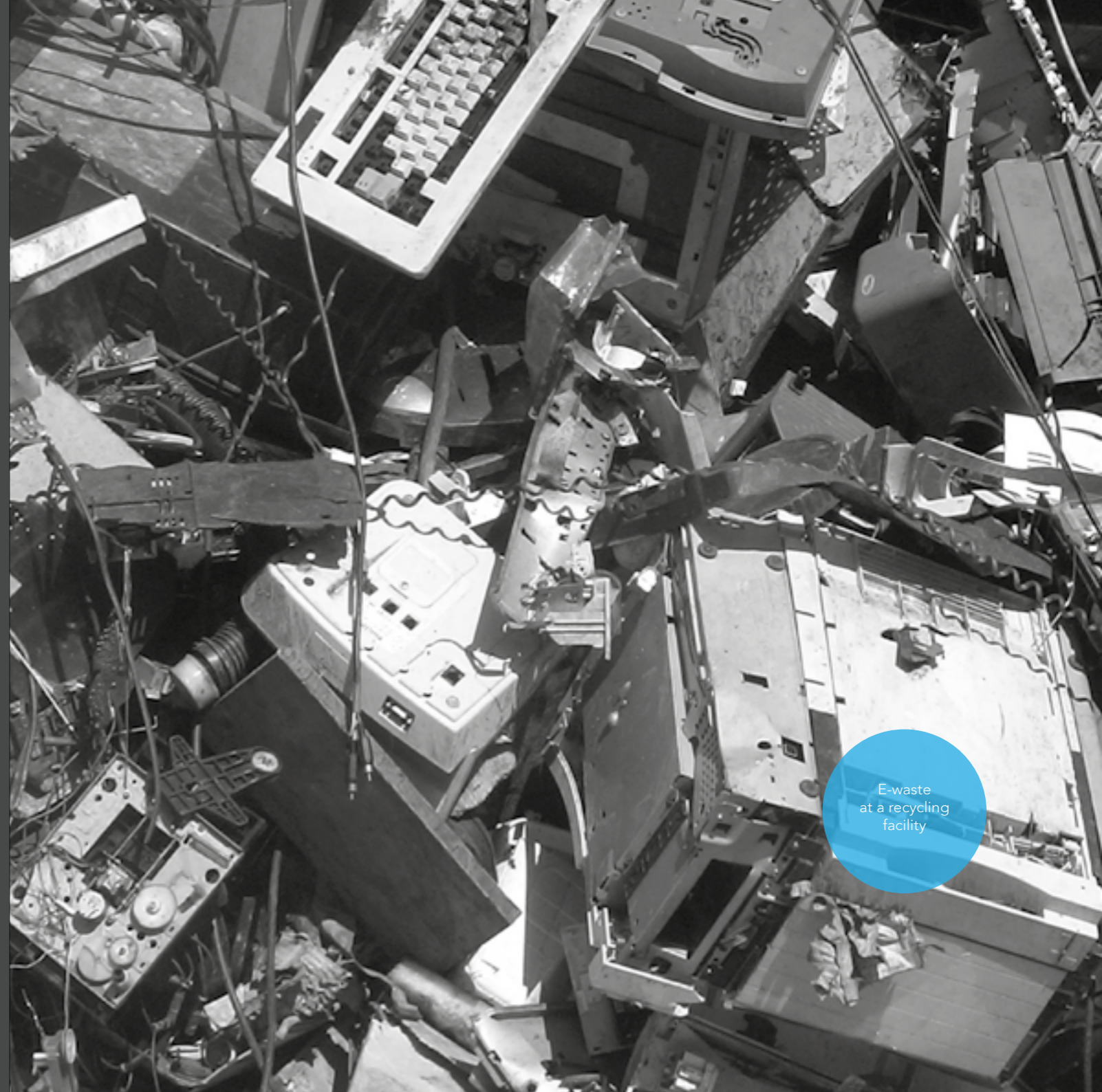


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E-waste  
at a recycling  
facility

# 1. Introduction

» Information and communication technologies; consumer electronics including toys; large household equipment, such as dishwashers and washing machines; medical equipment; and electric tools have become central to our daily lives. «

We can expect further innovations for application of electronics in areas such as clothing, vehicles, logistics, etc. Greater access to electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) is seen as synonymous with economic development and therefore prosperity, and new products and promotions are put on the market constantly in response to the rapid technological progress and growing demand from consumers. Globally, sales of EEE have boomed in the last decades, and many Asian countries, as notable EEE manufacturers, have benefited from this boom. The total amount of EEE put on the market has increased from 51.33 million tonnes in 2007 to 56.56 million tonnes in 2012, as per United Nations University (UNU) estimates. Asia emerges as the largest consumer of EEE, accounting for nearly half of EEE put on the market, with 20.62 million tonnes in 2005, increasing to 26.69 million tonnes in 2012. The increase is particularly striking given the drop in EEE sales in Europe and the Americas in 2012 following the global financial crisis. Within Asia, Eastern Asian countries, including Japan, China, South Korea and Taiwan, account for the majority of EEE sales.



E-waste worker  
in China  
[Empa]