



Summary of Thematic Session A:

Urban Solid Waste Management

Chaired by Dr. Vann Monyneath, Deputy Director General of Technical Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia

Co-chaired by Mr. Naoki Mori, Deputy Director General, Global Environment Division, JICA

The 2nd High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities

15-16 March 2011, Kitakyushu, Japan

Presentations



1. "Urban solid waste management approach: Contributing to waste reduction by using appropriate technology" (Mr. Chiek Ang, Director, Environment Department, Phnom Penh City, Cambodia)
2. "Improving solid waste management for environmentally sustainable cities in Vietnam: opportunities and challenges" (Dr. Do Nam Thang, Deputy Director-ISEM Vietnam Environment Administration, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam)
3. "Public campaign for waste collection and minimization of Luangprabang" (Mr. Sengdara Douangmyxay, Deputy Head of Division, Ministry of Public Works and transport, Mr. Phoumy Ophetsane, Vice President, Urban Development, Administration, Authority of Luang Prabang, Lao PDR)
4. "Singapore's integrated solid waste management" (Mr. Teoh Soon Kay, Engineer, Waste and Resource Management Department, National Environment Agency, Singapore)

Presentations



5. "Management of solid waste, waste water and sanitation systems towards environmentally sustainable Yangon City" (Mr. Kyaw Thar Sein, Assistant Head of Department, Pollution Control & Cleansing Department, Yangon City Development Committee, Myanmar)
6. "Community-based solid waste management as best practices in Surabaya City" (Tri Rismaharini, Mayor, Surabaya City, Indonesia)
7. "Solid waste management in Tirupati City" (Mr. Chandra Mouliswar Reddy, Deputy Municipal Commissioner, Tirupati, India)
8. "Solid waste management in Shimla City" (Mr. A.N.Sharma, Municipal Commissioner, Shimla, India)
9. "Municipal waste management in Kitakyushu City" (Mr. Yoshinori Hamasaki, Manager, Resource Circulation Division, Resource Circulation department, Environmental Bureau, City of Kitakyushu)
10. "Global partnership on waste management" (Mr. Lee Chan Hee, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP-ROAP)

Challenges for Asian Cities



- Solid waste management is one of the most serious environmental challenges for urban areas both in terms of human health and the impacts on climate change.
- Rapid urbanisation and growing urban waste generation are resulting in increased spending for management by local governments in Asia.
- Many cities show inadequate collection (50-60% in Lao) and uncontrolled disposal (open dumping and open burning) of waste due to lack of incineration plants.
- The proportion of organic waste in most developing countries is high (over 50%), but the non-degradable waste fraction is also growing with new consumption patterns.
- Cities are becoming aware of the importance of the integrated approach, based on 3R principles and strong public participation for reducing the pressure on urban solid waste management.

Need for Public Private Partnership (PPP)



- For successful implementation of the 3Rs approach and waste segregation in cities, a partnership approach based on multi-stakeholder engagement is essential.
- This requires continuous effort and support from the local government to engage and communicate with citizens and other stakeholders.
- Awareness campaigns need to be followed-up with necessary enabling systems to produce desired behavioral changes among the people (village cleansing day in Lao, environmental carders in Surabaya).
- Cities can use both penalties (Cambodia) and incentives (community award system in Surabaya) for motivating citizen participation in the 3Rs activities.

Need for PPP (2)



- Private sector involvement in waste collection, recycling business and treatment activities can improve the efficiency of solid waste management services (Singapore and Kitakyushu). However, local governments need to ensure its long term sustainability by reducing the investment risks by the private sector.
- Cost recovery is essential for providing effective solid waste management by the city. This can be collected as direct (user-charge) or in-direct payment (for buying garbage bag in Kitakyushu).

Co-benefits from SWM



- Promotion of composting and biogas generation can be considered as alternative strategies for reducing organic waste disposal in landfill sites and can also reduce GHG emissions.
- The informal sector plays a significant role in the waste management and resource recovery in many urban cities in Asia, thus careful engagement and integration of the informal sector can be beneficial to secure source of livelihood and better working conditions, which could lead to improving both human health and environment, eradicating poverty and achieving the MDGs (compost centers run by waste pickers in Phnom Penh, kampong in Surabaya, community waste collection in Shimla).

Replication and knowledge sharing



- City to city cooperation, regional and global partnership for waste management is essential to undertake policy dialogue, international cooperation, knowledge management, technology transfer and information sharing (UNEP-IETC) .
- International network organizations and partnerships play a vital role in facilitating the dissemination of effective practices and capacity building among cities in need. New tools such as online forums and databases are an emerging means for knowledge management and sharing.

Conclusions



- Participation and collaboration among stakeholders, strong leadership from local governments, supportive policy framework from national governments and the economic incentives and enforcement are essential.
- Awareness raising is critical for environmental sustainable waste management, but the presence of an experienced facilitator on the ground is very important, as well as focus on a target group.
- Waste reduction and reuse and recycling and waste to energy activities are very important.
- Baseline data on material flows is important for post-project evaluation and cost benefit analysis.
- To realize ESC in Asia, it is essential for cities to set locally relevant and practical standards based on the experience and lessons learned through existing good practices. This know-how can be facilitated through city to city networks, regional and global partnerships.