

## CONCEPT NOTE

# IPLA Global Forum 2012

*on*

## **Empowering Municipalities in Building Zero Waste Society**

### **- A Vision for the post-Rio+20 Sustainable Urban Development**

Seoul, Republic of Korea, 5-6 September 2012

*In conjunction with*

Resource Recirculation Week (3-7 Sep. 2012)

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The United Nations estimates that more than half of the world's population already live in urban areas, and it is expected that by 2050, three quarters of the total world population will be city dwellers, with almost all the growth occurring in the developing world. Together with growing urbanization, waste management is becoming a major and growing public health and environmental concern in urban areas of many developing countries. With the diversification of waste streams worldwide as well as the growing presence of new emerging waste streams such as e-waste, chemicals, hazardous and toxic elements, in the general waste stream, the complexity and daunting nature of waste management challenges have gone beyond the capacity of local authorities and municipalities – in terms of finance, technology, and institutional mandate.

According to UN-Habitat, cities often spend between 5 to 15 per cent of their total budget on solid waste management. In low-income countries, 90 per cent or more of that budget is spent on waste collection alone, while only 45 to 60 per cent of the waste is actually collected. Providing waste collection to all the people, while raising the environmental standards of waste disposal, has been a major challenge for the municipalities.

Many cities around the world are trying very hard to reduce the quantity of waste. For many cities, lack of space has been a major constraint to contain and manage the increasing volume and diversification of

*To establish an ecological civilization oriented toward the future, cities should respect nature, consider the urban ecological environment as an asset, integrate environmental issues into urban planning and administration, and accelerate the transition to sustainable development. They should promote the use of renewable energy sources and build low-carbon eco-cities. They should strongly advocate for conservation of resources and promote environment-friendly manufacturing. Cities and their citizens should join together to create sustainable lifestyles and an ecological civilization in which people and environment co-exist in harmony.*

*Shanghai Declaration on Better Cities, Better Life (2010).*

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wastes. While urbanization is occurring at an unprecedented pace, many cities in the world are running out of the landfills. While the technologically advanced cities in developed countries focus mainly on recycling the wastes between the industries, the developing cities still rely on conventional ways of dealing with the growing quantity of waste. The whole objective is how the local authorities in developing countries could successfully divert various wastes to avoid the costs of construction of new landfills, and at the same time, could support local green businesses and recycling industries that can use these waste materials as resources.

In view of the above critical challenges, there is a need for city and municipality authorities to fundamentally orient the policy directions aiming towards resource efficient and zero waste society. While 3Rs (reduce, reuse, and recycle) and resource efficiency measures are intrinsically linked in a mutually beneficial way, resource efficiency aims to minimize: (a) net resource (materials, energy, water, etc.) inputs to unit production and services, and (b) pollution and waste, at the same time. By implementing 3Rs, thereby improving resource efficiency, cities and countries can tackle local environmental problems, address climate change, ensure energy security, preserve natural capital, improve economic competitiveness, and pursue social benefits, ultimately contributing to the promotion of green economy. Although waste management responsibilities primarily or conventionally lie with city and municipality, moving towards resource efficient and zero waste society is inherently a multi-stakeholder process which calls for a wide range of partnership within and between communities, business, industries, and all levels of government.

Partnerships, if successfully implemented, – (i) offer alternatives in which governments and private companies assume co-responsibility and co-ownership for the delivery of solid waste management services; (ii) combine the advantages of the private sector (dynamism, access to financial resources and latest technologies, managerial efficiency, entrepreneurial spirit, etc.) with social concerns and responsibility of the public sector (public health and better living standards, environmental awareness, local knowledge and job creation, etc.); and (iii) provide win-win solutions both for the public utilities and private sector—if duly supported by appropriate policy frameworks. Such partnerships could lead to savings in municipal budgets where waste management usually consumes a large portion. The private sector, on the other hand, may use this opportunity to convert waste into environmentally friendly products and energy that could also serve as income-generating opportunities for local communities.

International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA), which was launched at CSD-19 in New York in May 2011, aims to address various challenges and capacity needs of local authorities (LAs) in achieving sustainable waste management. IPLA's mission is to “share knowledge, communicate across national boundaries and work to spread best practices in order to accelerate the uptake of waste-related infrastructure and services at various stages of waste management such as avoidance, prevention, minimization, segregation, collection, transport, recycling, recovery, reuse treatment and disposal”. The goal of IPLA is to help LAs move towards a resource efficient and zero waste society, ultimately achieving liveable and sustainable cities. IPLA serves as a ‘dynamic knowledge platform’ and a

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'decentralized network' among a wide range of partners such as cities and municipalities, governments, the private sector, NGOs, academic and research institutions, international and donor organizations, UN agencies, among others, to address waste management issues, including new emerging issues, at local/municipality level.

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), or the Rio+20 Conference, highlighted sustainable cities as one of the priority areas. In the Rio+20 outcome document, the "Future We Want", the States recognize the needs including: increasing resource efficiency and reduction of waste to achieve green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; development and implementation of national and local policies and strategies for resource efficiency and environmentally sound waste management; further support for sustainable management of waste through the application of the 3Rs in the context of sustainable cities and human settlements; and new and innovative public-private partnerships to enhance capacity and technology for environmentally sound waste management.

Sustainable city attaches significant importance to the need for moving towards a resource-efficient and zero waste society. In this regard, the IPLA Global Forum (IGF-2012) provides an excellent opportunity to discuss the important role of local and city authorities and the private sector in harnessing the full benefits for the community, industry, and the natural environment by addressing partnerships as the basis for achieving zero waste society. It is also an opportune time for the local authorities, IPLA members and partners to expand their collaborative network in advancing the recommendations of the "Daegu Declaration (2011)" (Annex 1) towards realizing resource efficient and zero waste societies.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the IPLA Global Forum (IGF) 2012 is to:

- (i) reinforce the recommendations of the "**Daegu Declaration 2011**" (Annex 1); and
- (ii) discuss the best means of addressing the Rio+20 recommendations on sustainable cities, and how to make those actions as the basis for empowering municipalities in developing countries in respect of achieving zero waste societies.

## **3. EXPECTED OUTCOME**

- **Options and measures** to strengthen the role and the means (institutional, financial and technical capability) of municipalities in the development/implementation of zero waste policies and programs towards sustainable cities;
- **Enabling conditions** in the context of how municipalities can take up dynamic role in
  - assessing/harnessing 3R potential of various wastes – e-waste, construction and demolition waste, organic waste, etc;

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- formulating zero waste policies and programs;
- enforcing regulations against illegal dumping or open burning;
- introducing appropriate users fees with an objective to influence waste generation and disposal;
- better assessing, accessing, and adapting waste management technologies
- influencing general public attitudes, consumers and manufacturers (e.g., EPR) towards sustainable cities (achieving better city and better life); and
- building multi-stakeholders partnerships, public-private-partnerships (PPP) in developing recycling programs and building required infrastructures;

### **4. CO-ORGANIZERS**

The IPLA Global Forum 2012 will be hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea (MoE-Korea) and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), and co-organized by the Korea Society of Waste Management (KSWM).

### **5. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE**

Global (Africa, Asia and Latin America)

### **6. PARTICIPANTS**

Participation in the IPLA Global Forum is by invitation only. It is expected that around 100 participants, including representatives from cities and municipalities, national governments, the private sector, NGOs, research and academic institutions, UN and international organizations, will attend the Forum.

A limited number of travel supports will be available for participants in developing countries and invited experts/international resource persons. Unless otherwise clearly indicated in the official invitation, rest of the participants is expected to cover their own travel and accommodation costs.

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### **Annex 1**

#### **Declaration for Moving towards Zero Waste through IPLA 18 October 2011, Daegu, Republic of Korea**

We, the members as well as prospective members of the **International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA)** who met in Daegu, Republic of Korea, on 17-18 October 2011, at the Special Event of the ISWA World Congress 2011, *Moving towards Zero Waste for a Green Economy – Role of Local Authorities*, to discuss and address the importance of zero waste, resource efficiency, and multi-stakeholder partnerships in the context of green economy,

**Recalling** that the management of solid wastes and sewage was the subject of Chapter 21 of Agenda 21, which recognized that “environmentally sound management of wastes was among the environmental issues of major concern in maintaining the quality of the Earth’s environment and especially in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development in all countries,”

**Noting** that in June 2012, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), or Rio+20, will be organized in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with two focused themes of (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development,

**Considering** that the rapid increase in volume and diversification of solid waste generated mainly as a result of economic growth, urbanization, industrialization, and unsustainable production and consumption patterns has had a severe impact on the global and local environment, natural resources, public health, local economy, and living conditions, and threatens the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

**Realizing** that it is imperative that policy initiatives that deal with waste management become truly operational at the local and city levels by taking an integrated approach in addressing all the interrelated issues of fresh water resources, public health, and local ecosystem,

**Recognizing** that resource efficiency aims to minimize net resource inputs to unit production and services as well as pollution and waste, while at the same time, that through resource efficiency local and national authorities can tackle local environmental problems, address climate change, ensure energy security, preserve natural capital, improve economic competitiveness, and pursue social benefits, ultimately contributing to the promotion of a green economy,

**Recognizing** also that zero waste is a long-term vision that ultimately envisages a thriving society that exists within nature’s resource constraints and its ability to assimilate waste,

**Recognizing** further that green economy attaches significant importance to the need for moving towards resource efficiency and a zero waste society,

**Emphasizing** that moving towards zero waste is inherently a multi-stakeholder process which calls for partnerships within and between communities, businesses, industries, and all levels of government,

**Recognizing** that waste management is inherently driven by specific local dynamics, which can be enhanced by international partnerships,

**Noting** that the International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA) was launched during the CSD-19 in New York in May 2011 to address the needs of local authorities in expanding waste management services, with a mission to “share knowledge, communicate across national boundaries, and work to spread best practice in order to accelerate the uptake of waste related infrastructure and services at various stages of waste management such as avoidance,

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prevention, minimization, segregation, collection, transport, recycling, recovery, reuse treatment and disposal”,

hereby affirm our joint aspiration and declare our intention to:

1. move forward to a resource efficient and zero waste society by promoting **effective collaboration and partnerships** among national and local authorities, municipalities, the private and business sector, NGOs, scientific and research organizations, and all other related entities;
2. address the need for **mainstreaming zero waste and resource efficiency into the political agenda as well as city development strategies** or action plans as a pre-requisite to moving towards a **green economy**, and the required changes in the existing institutional arrangements at the local, regional, and national levels;
3. develop IPLA as a **“decentralized network” and a “knowledge platform”** whereby local authorities and public waste utilities could gain access to meaningful information, and interact and network with partner institutions (cities, private sector, professionals and research institutions, international financial institutions, UN and donor organizations, etc.) actively engaged in sustainable waste management;
4. enable local authorities to share their experiences on institutional, business, and financial models that have been successful or otherwise in addressing opportunities and specific waste problems, including **new emerging wastes such as e-waste and plastics in a marine environment**;
5. help mainstream **resource efficiency and 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)** principles into the local development agenda, including environmental, social, and economic plans, policies, strategies, and programmes;
6. facilitate the efforts of local authorities in the expansion of **waste management-related services and infrastructure** that cater to the needs of local authorities that comply with applicable regulations;
7. help identify and stimulate potential partners and required financial mechanisms in support of **“green jobs,” “green industries,” and “green investments”** ;
8. enable the local authorities to partner with enterprises to create eco-industrial zones and clusters as part of broader programmes to become eco-cities;
9. promote **partnerships as the basis for sustainable waste management** in which governments and private companies assume co-responsibility and co-ownership for the delivery of required solid waste management services to growing urban communities;
10. **encourage awareness-raising and capacity-building programmes** targeting the local authorities and other stakeholders, especially to decouple waste generation from economic development and to manage complex and new emergent waste streams;
11. help in creating a **practice-oriented knowledge network** to help formulate innovative projects, select most appropriate technologies, access expertise, and promote waste exchange and waste-resource related opportunities, including financing opportunities;
12. be instrumental in the collation of **database on waste generation, technology performance and standards, benchmarks, and key performance indicators** for gap assessment and target setting for the local authorities; and
13. provide a platform to the local authorities in giving feedback **to enhance and modernize the national policy framework on waste prevention, minimization, and management.**