

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

International Consultative Meeting on Expanding Waste Management Services in Developing Countries, 18-19 March 2010, Tokyo, Japan

I. Introduction

1. The International Consultative Meeting on Expanding Waste Management Services in Developing Countries was held in Tokyo, Japan on 18-19 March 2010. As an inter-sessional event of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 18-19), the International Consultative Meeting was co-organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA), Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan (MoE-Japan), the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), and supported by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). The issue of waste management, among others, will be considered by the CSD at its 18th and 19th sessions. Representatives of public waste utilities, private sector entities, national and local governments, local communities, scientific and research institutions, and civil society from twenty-one countries representing all regions, nine international organizations and agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system actively contributed to the deliberations of the meeting.
2. The rapid increase in volume and diversification of wastes resulting mainly from economic growth, urbanization, industrialization, and unsustainable production and consumption patterns have severe negative consequences for the global and local environment, natural resources, public health, local economies, and living conditions. It also undermines progress towards the achievement of the MDGs. The development of appropriate policy frameworks and institutional arrangements has increasingly been recognized as a prerequisite for enhancing efficiency in waste management services to local communities, and for overcoming health- and environment-related challenges resulting from poor service provision and facilities.
3. The Consultative Meeting was organized to discuss waste management challenges in developing countries, including the need to consider integrated management strategies, and potential solutions and opportunities to address these within the context of sustainable development, highlighting the important role of women in waste management and, to contribute substantively to the preparation of the

Secretary-General's report for consideration during the policy session (CSD-19)

4. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Nobumori Otani, Parliamentary Secretary of the

II. Common Issues and Challenges in the area of waste management in developing countries

7. Developing countries face a number

motivate policymakers was suggested, and the sharing of experiences on successful and unsuccessful policy interventions encouraged.

11. The importance of encouraging and strengthening instituti

financial resources in the different parts of the world. Immediate focus areas for many developing regions were identified as improvement of collection coverage and efficiency, treatment and disposal infrastructure, and rehabilitation of existing open dump sites in a cost-effective manner.

23. IWM-related programmes that offer a good scope for innovation to manufacturers including Extended Producer Responsibility, Cleaner Production, and Design for Environment to reduce amounts of waste, improve resource efficiency, and enhance cost savings should be encouraged. Waste exchanges should be promoted at industrial clusters, since such arrangements will divert waste from disposal to beneficial uses and, at the same time, save considerable cost by avoiding disposal.

24. National-level actions should also include the development of waste-related quality standards and the introduction of market-based instruments such as taxes, fees, penalties, and subsidies.

25. Revenues from Certified Emission Reduction units under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) have become attractive aspects of waste management., increasing opportunities to reduce GHG emissions in the waste lifecycle. These opportunities can improve the economic viability of investments related to waste management. The meeting recognized the urgent need to build the capacity of local authorities in understanding CDM-related opportunities and train professionals in the developing world for the preparation of CDM projects. A programmatic approach to the CDM relevant to the waste sector at the national level is necessary.

26. Strategies for IWM require adequate institutional capacity. Extensive awareness-raising within communities, education, and capacity-building efforts are essential, especially in the developing world, supported by appropriate resources and “tool kits”. This may require a long-term, well-designed capacity-building programme, grounded in multi-layered and cross-cutting stakeholder networks for knowledge and

IWM. Such cooperation could trigger sharing of information on national policies, regulations, and standards on the practicing of the 3Rs and be helpful in broadly disseminating best practices. Networking and information sharing mechanisms are needed at regional as well as global levels.

29. Recommendations in the area of policy integration include increasing the examples demonstrating the operationalization of national waste-related policies at the local level in order to improve the effectiveness of national-level policy instruments for action on the ground; and utilizing a greater variety of policy instruments and cross-policy integration, such as eco-housing policies to require on-site management of organic waste through composting/bio-methanation.

30. Recommendations in the area of economic instruments include introducing volume-based fees to reduce waste; the introduction of cross-subsidy charges based on income levels which also incorporate incentives for waste recycling;

31. Recommendations in the area of managing different waste streams include the decentralization of waste management to small- to medium-sized towns, utilizing community engagement, composting/biomethanation technology, market creation, training, and incentives such as the CDM; the management of special waste streams such as food waste from restaurants; consideration of integrated treatment of waste streams such as sewage sludge and food waste with municipal solid waste; and the utilization of dedicated timing and routes for collection of recyclable materials.

IV. Issues with the Informal Sector

32. The meeting paid attention to existing technologies in small towns, with a focus on the use of local resources and the potential for decentralized waste management systems.

organizing and hosting this important meeting. They also expressed their appreciation to UN/DESA and UNCRD for co-organizing this consultative meeting, as well as other institutions and agencies for their valuable contributions to it.

39. The meeting acknowledged the Government of Japan's intention to continue its support for similar activities, including the follow-up meeting scheduled to be held in January 2011, as an input to CSD-19.
40. The participants affirmed their wish that the Chair's Summary with the relevant documentation of the meeting be presented by the Government of Japan to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighteenth session in May 2010.