

ISWA WORLD CONGRESS 2015  
8 September 2015  
UN ESCAP SPECIAL SESSION

**DESIGNING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR WASTE-TO-RESOURCE INITIATIVES:  
LESSONS LEARNED FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

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**Session overview**

Cities in developing countries across Asia-Pacific are struggling to effectively manage municipal solid waste. This is especially the case in secondary cities and small towns which often face a lack of resources and know-how. Because the waste stream in these cities is usually high in organic content (50-80 per cent) and recyclable materials (10-20 per cent), waste-to-resource initiatives are viable options for sustainable municipal solid waste management.

Waste-to-resource initiatives that are low-cost, low-tech, decentralised and community-based offer municipalities useful solutions for managing their MSW. However, the sustainability of such solutions depends on a number of key factors, such as the separation of waste at source, the effective engagement of communities, and steady and predictable sources of revenue.

However, the sustainability of such solutions depends on a number of key factors, such as the separation of waste at source, the effective engagement of communities, and steady and predictable sources of revenue. This requires successfully building and managing relationships across a range of partners. Such relationships are dynamic and often complex.

Through the programme *Pro-poor and sustainable solid waste management in secondary cities and small towns* the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), in partnership with Waste Concern, has been helping cities in the Asia-Pacific region to effectively manage their waste in a pro-poor, environmentally sustainable and economically viable manner through the promotion of decentralized Integrated Resource Recovery Centers (IRRCs). The IRRC model uses simple technology, is low cost and recovers value from waste by converting organic waste into fertilizer and valorizing recyclable waste, and provides livelihood opportunities to the urban poor. These centers are able to recycle up to 90 per cent of incoming waste, thereby considerably reducing the amount of waste going to landfill and its associated costs, which represent a great burden for local government financing.

The session will present and discuss the results and lessons learned from the implementation of the programme in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam and draw recommendations for policy-makers, decision-makers and practitioners concerned with municipal solid waste management. In particular, the session will discuss the importance of partnership in establishing and sustaining waste-to-resource initiatives. It will review experiences in building, fostering and balancing relationships between actors engaged in the operation and management of waste-to-resource facilities. The session will examine the parameters and components of long-term sustainability of waste-to-resource facilities and link these to relationships and partnership development. There will be active discussion on how partners are best able to bring about positive outcomes, including revenue generation.

### Proposed programme (3 hour session)

*Chair: Dr. Donovan Storey, Chief, Sustainable Urban Development Section, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) [E-mail: [storey@un.org](mailto:storey@un.org)]*

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- CO-COMPOSTING OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AND FAECAL SLUDGE IN KUSHTIA, BANGLADESH  
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- TOWARDS A ZERO WASTE SOLUTION FOR SRI LANKA  
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- CATALIZING CITY-WIDE ACTION THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED WASTE TO RESOURCE INITIATIVES IN VIET NAM  
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- INTEGRATING THE INFORMAL SECTOR INTO WASTE-TO-RESOURCE INITIATIVES IN KAMPOT, CAMBODIA  
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- SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR WASTE-TO-RESOURCE IN ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN  
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- PROMOTING ANAEROBIC DIGESTION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE IN INDONESIA  
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- SUPPORTING WASTE-TO-RESOURCE INITIATIVES IN ASIA-PACIFIC AND BEYOND  
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