



Status of health-care waste management in selected countries of the Western Pacific Region

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Foreword

The provision of health-care services results in the generation of solid and liquid wastes, some of which are hazardous. Individuals exposed to health-care waste (HCW), particularly hazardous HCW, are potentially at risk of being injured or infected. The World Health Organization has a leading role in the prevention and/or reduction of risks created by this type of waste and has issued several policy documents to support countries in the implementation of better health-care waste management (HCWM) systems.

This report presents the status of HCWM in selected countries in the Western Pacific Region. The compilation of the report was based on a survey conducted in selected countries in the Region. Additional information and data have been updated and incorporated in the report through a search and review of the literature. An assessment of results was made based on the survey and literature review. The assessment covers the management aspects of HCWM, which is comprised of current practices, including policies, regulations, training, awareness raising, technologies and financing in countries in the Western Pacific Region. The report also briefly presents definitions and classifications of HCW, as well as information about the generation of HCW. Likewise, the status of policies and regulatory frameworks is explained, taking into account international agreements and conventions to which countries are signatories. Selected countries discussed in this report include Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia (the Federated States of), Mongolia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

WHO guidance reflects the 2004 WHO policy paper, *Safe health-care waste management*, which recommends that countries conduct assessments before selecting appropriate HCWM methods. Along with WHO guidance, WHO also recommends the 2007 publication, *Core principles to ensure the achievement of safe and sustainable management of health-care waste*. This report on the status of HCWM in countries identifies gaps in order to inform future WHO and country support programmes in the Region.

Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank	NEPM	national environment protection measure
BAT	best available techniques	NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
COAG	Council of Australian Governments	NIP	National Implementation Plan
CWMS	Clinical Waste Management Services	NMDP	national master development plan
DAO	DENR administrative order	NSC	national steering committee
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	NSWMP	national solid-waste management plan
DOE	Department of Environment	NZS	New Zealand Standard
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	PacWaste	Pacific Hazardous Waste Management
EU	European Union	POPs	persistent organic pollutants
GEF	Global Environment Facility	PVC	polyvinyl chloride
HCW	health-care waste	RFID	radio frequency identification detection
HCWM	health-care waste management	SDP	strategic development plan
HSMP	health sector master plan	SEPA	State Environmental Protection Administration
IDP	infrastructure development plan	SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency		

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