

CONFERENCE DECLARATION

The Kathmandu International Conference 2006 on “**For a better tomorrow: Sustainable solid waste management in developing countries**”.

The theme of the conference generated enormous interest among academics, professionals, city authorities, environmental protection agencies of the national governments, NGOs and donor communities. A large number of participants from 15 countries presented 60 papers. It deliberated on environmental, social, economic, technological, and institutional considerations in sustainable solid waste management.

It was clear from the conference that a great deal of expertise and commitment exists amongst the solid waste professionals and NGOs in Nepal. In order to improve the current waste management situation in Nepal these individuals and groups need to be given the support to enable them to deliver the systems of integrated waste management that the country needs.

Based on the deliberations and inspirations generated, the conference participants declared commitment to the following.

Waste material has the potential of being a resource that can be recovered, generating economic benefit and creation of employment. There should be a national policy on the promotion on the recovery of waste material and strengthening of private initiative.

Source separation of wastes at the household provides high quality organic waste. Household waste can then be safely composted, and can be combined with ecological sanitation, thus implementing the praxis where organic waste is co-composted with human waste. Safe drinking water and personal hygiene are key measures for disease minimization. Existing biogas programme to provide fuel is to be extended.

Established municipalities should be empowered to use a part of their [jurisdiction](#) area for waste management. There should be no legal hurdles against the municipal decisions.

Dumping of solid wastes in the rivers or riverbeds should be abandoned. It is recommended that new landfills in Nepal **to be** designed according to sanitary landfill principles; by means of location, engineering techniques, and minimizing pollution of air, water and soil. As an interim measure, dump upgrading should be implemented.

It is essential to define and include corporate and institutional roles and responsibilities in the field of **techno-managerial aspects of** solid waste management. It is suggested that hazardous waste are addressed in the waste management plan of Nepal. Related to medical wastes, management should be improved by separation of waste types within the hospital and providing safe disposal for the contaminated fraction of the waste.

International exchange in sustainable waste management should be promoted.

Scientific research should be carried out. The outcome from this research must be socially acceptable by the local communities and integrate all environmental issues.

Programs on awareness, education and capacity strengthening are vital for the implementation of these declarations.

We propose that His Majesty's Government institute policy **based** on the above. This policy should lead to legislation that empowers municipalities, **facilitate and** permit the local government to address their waste management problems. An overall integrated waste management plan must be designed that includes all partners.