International Conference on

Solid Waste 2013

Hong Kong

Pre-Conference Workshop on

Waste Prevention

9:00 - 13:00, 5 May 2013

Success stories

Municipal waste prevention

Food wastage

Implementation & assessment

Waste prevention

Waste prevention **plans**

The workshop will be of interest and benefit to all those who have a professional interest in waste prevention and resource efficiency (local authorities, government, civil society organizations, consultancy, business and academia).

Providing the most up-to-date information & best practice cases

Waste prevention is at the top of the waste hierarchy and is increasingly considered as the key component of contemporary waste management. In many parts of the world it is the top issue in the waste policy agenda, while in the EU, which might have the most elaborated legal framework for waste management worldwide, it is now a legal obligation for member states to adopt National Waste Management Plans by the end of 2013.

In addition, the need for sustainability and the limited availability of resources in a world of increasing population and growth is leading to a transition focus from waste management to resources management, drastically changing not only the waste sector, but also the way we produce and consume.

This workshop will address these developments, presenting the most up-to-date information and best practice cases. Lecture notes will be provided to the participants, while time will be allowed for interactive communication and discussions.

Objectives and outline of the workshop

The Pre-Conference workshop intends to provide a thorough inside into the main aspects of waste prevention and showcase recent evidence on how to achieve and measure waste prevention and resource efficiency.

It will mainly, but not exclusively, focus on Municipal Waste Prevention, with main topics tackling **how to develop a sound and effective waste prevention plan** and **how to reduce food wastage**. Issues of communication and behavior change will be addressed, as they are of paramount importance for successful waste prevention campaigns. Last but not least, it will highlight the shift to new – waste “free” - industrial processes and product ecodesign.

The challenges related to measuring waste prevention will also be explored, while selected successful case studies will be analyzed, with the aim to develop the capacity of the participants to design successful waste prevention activities, at the local, regional or national level and in different country contexts.

What is waste prevention?

According to the integrated perspective of the revised European Union (EU) Directive on Waste -2008/98/EC, widely known as Waste Framework Directive (WFD), waste prevention embraces all the measures taken before a substance, material or product has become waste, that reduce the (EU Directive 2008):

- quantity of waste,
- adverse impacts of the generated waste on environmental and human health, and
- content of harmful substances in materials and products.

These actions should be taken before a product becomes waste. Thus, waste prevention is distinct from recycling and other waste management efforts which are applied only when products and materials are inevitable or discarded.

Does it matter?

Certainly it does, because by preventing waste, instead of managing it, we use our natural resources sustainably, lower our ecological footprint and reduce the cost of waste management sector.

Waste prevention seems to be an efficient approach of decoupling economic growth from the environmental impacts associated with waste generation and is valid within the context of both more and less developed countries.

Waste prevention plans

In order to counteract the growing waste generation in a world of growing population, policies providing robust guidelines on waste prevention and a suitable regulatory framework are deemed a necessity. Lately, waste prevention has shifted to an essential element of waste management on regional, national and supra-national (i.e. EU) level. To comply with the provisions of these policies, several countries are institutionalising waste prevention, adopting National Waste Prevention Plans and requiring Local Authorities to adopt their own, at the local scale, including the enhancement of the extended producer responsibility. All these issues are expected to influence waste policies worldwide.

An efficient waste prevention plan has to comprise the flows of all materials and products, from cradle to their discarding. Therefore, it has to be linked to the waste management sector, the mining sector, the industries, the product designers, the service providers, the retailers and the consumers.

A point of dispute in the development of a waste prevention plan is the boundary issue. At times it is not easy to discern when a material/product exits its "tailored" useful life and enters a plain where it is treated as second hand material, product or waste. This brings intractable issues on the measurement of waste prevention and consequently in the environmental assessment.

The EU MS have mainly applied 3 waste prevention strategies, with different levels of engagement of local authorities: diffusion of information, promotional campaigns and setting

Food waste prevention

Since the publication of the findings of the Waste & Resources Action Program (United Kingdom- UK) that consumers in the UK throw away 31% of the food that they buy, food waste is becoming an increasingly significant global ethical and environmental issue. Food waste is *"composed of raw or cooked food materials and includes food loss, before, during or after meal preparation in the household, as well as food discarded in the process of manufacturing, distribution, retail and food service activities"* (European Commission 2011). Thus, food waste is generated throughout the life cycle of food.

Since significant resources are required for food production, manufacturing, transportation, storage, retailing and preparation, food waste is a waste of valuable resources with obvious economic and environmental implications. To make matters environmentally worse, food waste typically ends up in landfills and, due to its high biodegradability, contributes to the global greenhouse gases generation Moreover, there is also a well documented moral issue: reduction of the amount of food wasted may play an important role in feeding the global hungry.

Prevention can be the best solution to tackle food waste.

Information on waste prevention was partly provided by the EU LIFE+ WASP-Tool project. For more info: wasptool.hua.gr

Program

Sunday 5 May 2013 / 9:00 – 13.00

- Opening: Introduction to the topic, aim, and objectives of the workshop
- Introduction of the participants
- Development, implementation and assessment of Waste Prevention Plans, speaker: Dr K. Lasaridi
- Waste Prevention: success stories at the environment and civil society level from Philippines, speaker: Dr. Johannes Paul
- Food waste prevention: how to combat an environmental and ethical "scandal", speaker: Dr K. Lasaridi

Registration and Fee

There is now a 50% discount on the fee, ONLY US$55. Please register now by completing the conference registration form which can be downloaded from arcpe.hkbu.edu.hk/conf2013 .

Dr. Katia Lasaridi

Assoc. Professor in Environmental Science and Technology, Harokopio University, Athens, Greece. Since 2010 she is the President of the Hellenic Recycling Agency, an independent public body, under the Ministry of Environment, responsible for licensing and implementing Extended Producer Responsibility policies in Greece.

Dr Lasaridi has extensive research and consultancy experience with local authorities and the industry, in all aspects of waste management with main focus on biological treatment, recycling systems and prevention, which holds central position in her current research. She has published over 150 research papers in peer reviewed Journals and Conference Proceedings.

Dr Johannes Paul

Dr. Johannes Paul is a geologist and environmental engineer. He resides in Iloilo City, Panay where he leads the development program *Solid Waste Management for Local Government Units in the Philippines* on behalf of the German International Cooperation agency.

Dr. Paul received a PhD in Environmental Engineering in 2002 from the Washington International University, USA. In the meantime, Dr. Paul contributed more than 50 scientific publications for international conferences and journals, mainly in the field of environment and solid waste management.

If it comes to waste management, his message is: *Lets use our imagination, not the trash can ! Or: Throw you habits – not waste !*

The key lecturers of the workshop