

WELCOME TO THE SWEEP-NET NEWSLETTER!

We are very pleased to present to you the second edition of the «Solid Waste News». This quarterly newsletter provides you with updates on major developments and initiatives of the Regional Solid Waste Exchange of Information and Expertise Network (SWEEP-Net) and its members.

We hope that this newsletter will be embraced by our network members and others as a means of sharing experiences and news concerning their activities as well as of giving feedback about the network's performance. Your perspectives, ideas and suggestions are highly appreciated and will help to make the SWEEP-Net network relevant to the waste management sector in the whole region.

The SWEEP-Net secretariat team

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SWEEP-Net activities 2011: supporting positive change

There is a high interest in and demand for SWEEP-Net as a regional network for the exchange of experience and expertise in the MENA region and beyond. In addition to the regional Forum on ISWM organized in Beirut, Lebanon, in April 2011, the secretariat has launched three Regional Working Groups. In May 2011, just after the United Nation's CSD19, the UNCRD has officially entitled SWEEP-Net to act as its Sub-Regional Secretariat in the MENA Region for the new United Nations waste management initiative "IPLA" which aims at supporting local authorities to foster sustainability within SWM.

The regional and national reports on the SWM situation issued by SWEEP-Net have been well acknowledged by the network members and endorsed by the governments. An update of the country reports for the ten member countries is ongoing.

SWEEP-Net is preparing for the legal consolidation as an independent regional organization. The network is thus aiming at gathering the major stakeholders in the solid waste sector and providing a unique opportunity for assessing the development of the solid waste sector, sharing experiences, discussing persistent issues for developing the sector and exchanging information on the different strategies applied for achieving further development. We are enthusiastic about the development of the network and

looking forward to supporting positive changes and initiatives in the solid waste sector in the MENA region.

By Anis Ismail, SWEEP-Net, Secretary General
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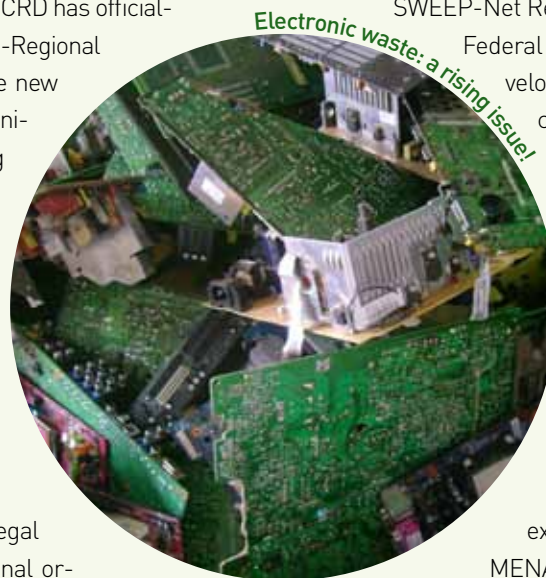
Evaluation of SWEEP-Net's development and performance

In April and May 2011 SWEEP-Net has been subject to a row of evaluations on its effectiveness and structural development. The evaluations are part of an internal quality management system by the SWEEP-Net Regional Secretariat and its main supporting partner, GIZ, that provides technical assistance to the SWEEP-Net Regional Secretariat on behalf of the German

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). All evaluations have appreciated the actual state of the network at this early stage given. The development of the regional network is progressing rapidly. Within less than two years a functional structure for management, communication and knowledge management has been established and the necessary human resources have been recruited.

Nevertheless many challenges still remain on the way to an effective and efficient exchange of expertise and experience in the MENA region. One of them is the institutional and legal consolidation and financial sustainability. The SWEEP-Net secretariat together with the steering committee and supported by legal advisors is currently developing an institutional structure and the legal requirements that allows SWEEP-Net for organizational independency. The spirit of all partners to achieve tangible results for the benefit of the MENA region and its member countries is very positive and this is a good and profound foundation for a successful regional communication and cooperation.

By Markus Luecke - GIZ, Team Leader
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The United Nations Organisation recognizes SWEEP-Net as Sub-Regional Secretariat for the IPLA initiative

One of the results of the UN-CSD19 held in New York on May 12th, 2011, was the launching of the IPLA partnership (International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities).

The IPLA partnership aims at supporting local authorities to foster sustainability within the Solid Waste Management Sector. Its mission is to promote cooperation between all important stakeholders (such as private sector, municipalities, ministries, research institutions, donor organization, etc.) and to share knowledge and best practices about all stages of the waste management chain.

The United Nations has also officially entitled SWEEP-Net to act as its Sub-Regional Secretariat for the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA).



It is important to note that since November 2010, SWEEP-Net has been involved in the preparatory work for the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UN-CSD19). In fact, the network secretariat was present at the UN inter-essional meetings in Rabat in November 2010, in Tokyo in February 2011 as well as at the launching (UN-CSD19) in New York on May 12th, 2011.

This nomination confirms SWEEP-Net as one of the major actors in the field of solid waste management in the MENA region. Both entities welcome the added value of this partnership: IPLA hopes to benefit from SWEEP-Net's "experience and expertise in the field of waste and resource management" and its wide network of practitioners and key players in the field of SWM in the MENA region while SWEEP-Net intends to take on IPLA's focus on local authorities and to incorporate it into different activities of the network. The partnership will also contribute to the preparatory process leading to the Rio+20 Summit in 2012.



For more information: Mr. Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty
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Publications

SWEEP-Net: Report on the 1st Regional Forum on ISWM held in Beirut, Lebanon, in April 2011:

www.sweep-net.org/content/1st-sweep-net-regional-forum-integrated-swm-1

GIZ: SWM-GHG Calculator: Tool for calculating greenhouse gases (GHG) in solid waste management

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News

Yemen: The Ministry of Local Administration has published the national strategy for solid waste management for 2009-2013.

More on www.sweep-net.org/content/info

Overview on the EU-funded CIUDAD program and its initiatives for SWM in the MENA region

The CIUDAD programme (Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue) is an EU-funded programme. Its goal is to improve local and regional government capacities for achieving sustainable and integrated urban development.

The programme covers the southern region and other ENPI countries and focuses on three interrelated themes: i) environmental sustainability and energy efficiency (including SWM); ii) sustainable economic development and reduction of social disparities; and iii) good governance and sustainable urban development planning.

The following three CIUDAD projects are directly related to SWM:

- GODEM: Optimized waste management in the Mediterranean
- REUS: Promotion of a sustainable & integrated SWM system in the Maghreb countries
- GREEN CITIES: Strengthening the capacity of local authorities for ecological modernization

These projects include a large number of local authorities and partners. The workshop on cooperation and networking organized in Lebanon during the first forum on SWM has highlighted the common interest to join efforts and to upgrade cooperation between CIUDAD and SWEEP-Net. I hope that these waste management projects will be part of the network soon and that the exchange of expertise and know-how between CIUDAD and SWEEP-Net will be gradually intensified.

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Building up the network's legal and institutional framework

The first SWEEP-Net Forum in April 2011 provided an opportunity for the legal experts and advisors from the member countries to exchange views about the best option for a legal and institutional framework for the SWEEP-Net network.

A number of essential points to be taken into account for the preparation of the network's statute were discussed. These points included: membership; the network's self-financing mechanisms; planned activities; flexibility in decision making, monitoring, participation and intervention; and credibility and legitimacy of the network in the eyes of its members and on the international scene.

Particular models and scenarios for the internal structure of the network and its management bodies were also taken into consideration.

The legal experts managed to agree on a common option that would best ensure flexible management and enable the acceptance of applicants from all interest groups (private sector, civil society, universities and research institutes, international organizations) active in the field of SWM. It was agreed to prepare a draft of the network's statute as regional organization capable of joining similar international organizations.

The second meeting of the legal advisors, held on 14 April 2011, culminated in developing the outline and basic features of the network's statute. This document defines SWEEP-Net's goals and objectives, activities, membership requirements and member types, and proposes its management structures and bodies, financial resources as well as other essential legal requirements, taking into account the current structure, considering flexibility and limited funding sources and ensuring speed and simplicity in decision making.



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Strategy for Waste Management and challenges in Lebanon

Considering the pressing issue of the solid waste management (SWM) in Lebanon, the Council of Ministries has adopted a new strategy aiming at supporting the implementation of incinerators as a solution for SWM in Lebanon, especially in large cities. Concerned committees were asked for



preparation of tender documents for implementation of waste to energy/incineration projects.

At present, the challenges faced by the Lebanese Government are the following:

- Lack of environmental awareness and community engagement in SW issues;
- No legislation for awareness campaigns;
- No integration of awareness programs in the educational institutions;
- Absence of financial and cost recovery systems including incentives for municipalities and communities for SWM as well as for waste minimization and sorting at source systems;
- Absence of legal and institutional frameworks such as allocation of SWM responsibilities and overall institutional setting, application of the "polluter pays" principle.

In Lebanon, the law of "polluter payer" is still a draft law. The pressure of people is always important as well as the government on environmental issues as it is an issue that has an impact on the entire region (climate change and others problems). It is also important to note that communities in Lebanon are more and more involved in SWM.

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ISWA and SWEEP-Net are joining efforts to work on Biowaste Management

ISWA, the International Solid Waste Association, is the global networking platform in the field of sustainable waste management. One of the cornerstones of ISWA is sharing experience and information within its network of waste professionals. ISWA has amongst its members an enormous amount of expertise and knowledge on different aspects of waste management. This know-how covers technical aspects as well as social, economic and legal aspects. ISWA members and non-members can participate in this sharing of knowledge and experience through a number of different activities and products.

As a result of the cooperation process already implemented between ISWA and SWEEP-Net, the two networks will work jointly on a project on "Biowaste Management and Climate Change in the Mediterranean Region".

The main objective of the project is promoting the separate collection and treatment of bio-waste as a key-issue for waste management around the Mediterranean Sea which will deliver substantial CO2 reduction from waste management activities and international cooperation and know-how transfer regarding waste management issues.

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EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE

Principles, financing demand and policy tools for the SWM sector

There is an expressed need for policies that are suitable to their regional and/or local context. These policies should enforce and encourage the SW sector to move forward from disposal practices. An example is the European Union (EU) policies which are focused on waste reduction at source.

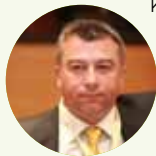
The current and expected financing demand of waste management, globally as well as in SWEEP-Net countries, has become an industry itself that needs policy instruments and regulations to ensure its viability and sustainability.

The waste industry is one of the world's major industries. While the global electricity industry accounts for \$1,715 billion (2008) and global water utilities industry for \$515 billion (2008), the global waste/ resources industry amounts to \$433 billion (2010). In SWEEP-Net countries, around 4.5-6.5 billion Euros are spent on the SWM sector.

The reality is that no country has a real financial policy or tax for waste management despite the importance of legislation, policy and economic instruments in SWM.

The market has to be shaped better in order to improve the SWM system: a financial decentralization of 5 to 15% of municipalities finance should be dedicated to SWM. Decision-makers should think carefully how to intervene and act regionally.

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Launching of SWEEP-Net's Regional Working Groups

The Regional Working Group (RWG) sessions started during the first regional SWM forum held in Lebanon following an introduction to the RWG concept and related expectations and objectives.

The first three RWGs were launched, dealing with «Private-Public Cooperation, «Fiscal, Financial and Economic Aspects» and «Public Communication, Education and Community Participation».

SWEEP-Net considers regional working groups as a means for achieving the network's goals. Thematic working groups facilitate the exchange of experiences and information among member countries on SWM issues of importance for the MENA region and thus help them to develop their waste management sectors. Moreover, the involved representatives of the different stakeholder groups (ministries, local authorities, civil society, private sector, research institutions, etc.) together build the primary pool of experts on SWM in the MENA region from which SWEEP-Net will draw its expertise.

By Mr. Raji Maasri
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More on www.sweep-net.org/content/regional-working-groups



Public-private cooperation in the waste sector in the MENA region... A green business to develop

One of the three regional working groups focuses on Public-Private Cooperation (PPC) in the field of waste management. Its first meeting was attended by about thirty officials representing the public and the private sector (collection and waste treatment companies, consulting firms, etc.). Despite the varying levels of private sector participation in waste management in the different countries, all participants agreed on the importance of the issue and expressed interest in making SWEEP-Net a framework for regional and collective mobilization for the sake of promoting private sector participation in waste management.

To achieve this goal, the regional PPC group has elaborated an action plan focusing in particular on the following actions:

- exchanging contract models governing PPCs in SW,
- exchanging regulatory, institutional and organizational aspects related to PPC in waste management,
- exchanging PPC experiences on SWM,
- creating a regional sub-group dealing with the co-incineration of waste in cement kilns.

PPC performance in the region has been positive if we take into account the achievements and efforts undertaken by different actors for the promotion of private sector participation in this sector. However, this performance should not overshadow some constraints that hinder this green business.

For more information: Mr. Hassan Chouaouta
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13th International Waste Management and Landfill Symposium: Sardinia/ Italy, 3 - 7 October 2011

ISWA World Solid Waste Congress 2011: Daegu/ Korea, 17 - 20 October 2011

4th Waste Management Conference & Exhibition: Kuwait, 18 October 2011

SOWAEUMED: Solid Waste and Water Treatment between Europe and Mediterranean Countries": Sousse/ Tunisia, 10 November 2011

Smart City Expo & World Congress 2011: Barcelona/ Spain, 29 November - 2 December 2011

More on www.sweep-net.org/content/events

Collection and treatment of municipal and agricultural waste for the production of compost, animal feed and alternative fuels in Egypt

In Egypt, due to the large agricultural share in the economy and the population boost, the demand for waste management projects remains high, as does the opportunity to utilize the various wastes for the production of products such as compost, animal feed and alternative fuel. In this context, the twin companies of Ecaru and Entag are industry leaders with regards to resources, capabilities and vision. Ecaru collects and treats agricultural waste while Entag is an engineering and manufacturing company that produces various machinery and treatment lines servicing the domestic and international waste management sector. In total, there are more than 40 sites across Egypt processing a variety of wastes.

In 1996, Ecaru began with its first owned and operated composting facility in Menia Governorate. This facility receives approximately 30.000 tons of sugar beet bagasse annually, producing 10.000 tons of its highest quality "nile compost". In 2004, Ecaru developed the first privately owned municipal solid waste treatment and land fill facility for "15 May City" in Egypt. At this facility, the incoming waste goes

through four main phases: receiving and presorting, sorting of recyclables and baling, treatment of organic material by biological aerobic processing (composting) and preparation of final product. Finished compost is screened to 10 mm

(about a half inch), with the bulk of the product going to large farming operations. In 2005, Ecaru developed the second private composting plant in El Nubarria for agricultural and animal residues. Alternatively, Ecaru also produces animal feed from the collected agricultural waste.

In addition to the conventional products produced from agricultural waste such as compost and animal feed, Ecaru is now producing and selling large amounts of compacted biomass as an alternative fuel for the cement industry in Egypt. New production technologies such as pelleting and briquetting are currently underway at Ecaru, and will soon reach a large commercial scale.

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In order to facilitate networking, cooperation and exchange of expertise between experts from the region, SW Exchange is established to provide you with information and responses to all of your requests related to the field of solid waste management in the MENA region.

Join our network, become a member and send all your requests to imen.louati@sweep-net.org
More on www.sweep-net.org/content/exchange

Strengthening the role of the network in Mauritania

Referring to the role of SWEEP-Net as institution that aims at establishing cooperation and communication as a regional system for exchange and capacity building in the solid waste domain, and in order to strengthen this role, the National Coordination Agency for the Network in Mauritania presented a work plan to the chair of the Natural Geography and Environmental Sciences Departments of the faculties of

Humanities and Sciences at the University of Nouakchott. This scientific work plan involves an agreement between the above mentioned university departments and the Coordination Agency which provides that most graduation research projects for the current academic year 2010-2011 would discuss the role of the network as a means for cooperation between the Mashreq and Maghreb countries in the solid waste field.

As a result, more than ten titles dealing with solid waste in Mauritania and with the role of the network in this field have been proposed. These studies will, no doubt, enrich the Mauritanian university library with a new theme. On the other hand, this work plan will help to build SWEEP-Net's reputation in the Mauritanian academic and scientific community. This will positively influence the future role of the network in this community and constitutes a strong impetus for this university community, including faculty and students, to join the network. We in Mauritania are determined to establish and activate the important role played by our network which we hope will succeed and prosper as a model for national and regional cooperation between the countries of the region. We also hope that this work plan will be adopted in the rest of the partner countries for the benefit of all.

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ECHOES FROM SWEEP-NET SECRETARIAT

SWEEP-Net's objective and outputs

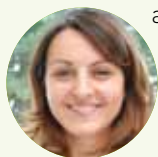
Each network has a vision and objectives. What are SWEEP-Net's objectives and how does it want to achieve them?

SWEEP-Net's "overall objective" is that «the principles of sustainable and integrated solid waste management are institutionally anchored in the MENA region and in all member countries of the network». The "sub-objective for the first phase" is that by 2012 the "network for regional cooperation on integrated solid waste management is functional in the MENA region".

The methods used to achieve this goal are based on a "result model". It means that activities are being put into place to provide products, in form of goods or services, which are then being made available to previously identified target groups who, on the basis of these products, initiate change. Beyond the objective, the "impact" is a plausible result of the final product, but other factors also contribute to it.

In order to achieve the objective of the phase, 5 products have been identified: 1-Efficient functioning of the secretariat, 2- legal concept of the network and its secretariat, 3- knowledge management system, 4-communication and networking strategy, 5- Support mechanisms for the national strategies and monitoring systems of the member countries. The overall picture is available as a result chain.

By Ms. Donya Ben Mlouka
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SWEEP-Net Visual Arts Contest

SWEEP-Net will launch a regional visual arts contest from November 2011 to January 2012 which will be composed of five categories: best photo, best painting, best video clip, best

song, and best slogan on solid waste management. The objective of this contest is to enhance the visibility of the network and to sensitize the public in the MENA region on the issue of sustainable integrated SWM as well as to learn more about the public perceptions on SWM. The contest will address different target groups such as children, individuals and groups (school classes, environmental clubs, etc.). It will be implemented in cooperation with national non-governmental and/or educational institutions and be held simultaneously in all SWEEP-Net member countries.

The award ceremony is planned to take place during the next Regional SWEEP-Net Forum in 2012 together with an exhibition displaying the pieces of art.

By Ms. Julia Koerner
SWEEP-Net Consultant
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New staff at the secretariat

We are happy to welcome Ms. Joy Jadam to our team. As environmental and solid waste management expert with a background in both technical training and public consultation, Joy is going to complete our core team as "Technical Coordinator" in the near future.

Moreover, Ms. Cassandra Gaertner has recently joined the SWEEP-Net office as an intern and will support the secretariat staff during the next months.

We are looking forward to their fruitful contributions and wish them both a good start!

Likewise, we would like to seize the opportunity and thank Ms. Myriam Basseem, Mr. Khalil Ait Ammar, Mr. Escander Nagazi and Ms. Julia Koerner for their continuous support in their various fields of expertise.



Coming up in 2012: 2nd SWEEP-Net Forum accompanied by an IPLA Side Event

SWEEP-Net's 1st Regional Forum on integrated solid waste management in the MENA region was organized in Beirut, Lebanon, from 12 to 14 April, 2011. It dealt with SWM financial and cost recovery issues and focused on successful international approaches and good practices with high potential for regional replication in the MENA region as well as on translating future challenges into opportunities. More information can be accessed on the portal:

www.sweep-net.org/content/1st-sweep-net-regional-forum-integrated-swm-1

The 2nd SWEEP-Net Forum is currently under planning. It will be held in Marrakesh/Morocco in March 2012 and will include an IPLA side event. Growing demand for waste services and recycled products, the increasing scarcity of natural resources and the emergence of new waste management technologies have started to push the climate debate away from controversial discussions about national rights to pollute and climate reparation costs towards the environmental and market potentials and opportunities of greening the waste sector through applying green economy principles. This event aims at providing a platform to present good practices, opportunities and requirements to push this process in the MENA region.

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