

WELCOME TO THE SWEEP-NET NEWSLETTER!

We are very pleased to present to you the first edition of the «Solid Waste News», the recently initiated newsletter of the Regional Solid Waste Exchange of Information and Expertise Network (SWEEP-Net). Quarterly, the Solid Waste News will provide you with updates on major developments and initiatives of the network and its members.

This inaugural issue aims at introducing the SWEEP-Net network in further detail and at highlighting its achievements so far. By giving some background information on the solid waste sector and related issues, it will also include the network's relevant context.

We hope that this newsletter will be embraced by our network members (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen) 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.

In this spirit, the SWEEP-Net secretariat team would like to say: Welcome!

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2011: SWEEP-Net network enters a new phase

Launched at the end of 2009, the SWEEP-Net's main objective is to set up a common regional platform for mutual technical assistance, capacity building and exchange of best practices, expertise and experiences in the field of solid waste management (SWM). SWEEP-Net is now gradually gaining momentum and working to establish its credibility by demonstrating its usefulness. The last SWEEP-Net regional conference has significantly contributed to the achievement of this goal.

During the preceding period, a number of important subjects have been extensively discussed during workshops, field visits and training sessions organized by SWEEP-Net. The regional report on the SWM situation in the MENA region and the compilation of individual country reports on SWM prepared in close cooperation with key country stakeholders will be updated systematically and disseminated subsequently.

2011 signals the start of a new stage which will focus more on disseminating results, consolidating the network, strengthening cooperation and establishing synergies within the region. Most of the results of activities implemented last year will be posted on the new SWEEP-Net portal. Additionally, electronic publications, printed material and other means of communication will be issued periodically such as SW-Info, SW-Exchange and SW-News.

We highly encourage experts, consulting firms, private operators, municipal authorities, NGOs, research institutes, potential donors, ministries, public institutions and other networks to join SWEEP-Net and to contribute actively to its activities. We will do our best to support initiatives aiming at the transfer of knowledge and best practices, particularly in the MENA region.

The network is working, so let's work the net!

By Anis Ismail, SWEEP-Net, Secretary General
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GIZ: SWEEP-Net's partner in the MENA region

The GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH), established on January 1st 2011, brings together under one roof the long-standing expertise of the DED (German Development Service), the GTZ (German Technical Cooperation) and InWEnt (Capacity Building International Germany). As a federally owned enterprise, we support the German government in achieving its international cooperation objectives in the fields of sustainable development and promotion of education around the globe.

We advise our clients and partners on how to develop plans and strategies, place experts at our partners' disposal, and promote networking and dialogue among international cooperation actors. We consider capacity building a key component of our services. Since September 2009 GTZ/ GIZ provides technical assistance to its partners in the MENA-region for the development of the Regional Solid Waste Exchange of Information and Expertise Network (SWEEP-Net). As jointly agreed upon, SWEEP-Net aims at institutionally anchoring the principles of sustainable and integrated solid waste management in all its member countries.

The network secretariat has played an important role in setting up the regional network and constitutes a core element of its organizational structure. The secretariat follows a slim structural design with only few technical and administrative staff. Thus, it is assured that it can be borne financially by the member countries after the inception phase.

GIZ provides technical assistance to most of the SWEEP-Net member countries. Products and best practices that have already been developed by GIZ and its partners in the context of existing bilateral cooperation projects in the MENA region will be processed and made available for all network members through the SWEEP-Net knowledge base.

By Markus Luecke - GIZ, Team Leader
Contact: markus.luecke@giz.de



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SWEEP-Net stands for the principles of sustainability and recycling. We therefore kindly ask you to consider the environment before printing this newsletter

Horizon 2020 training course on organic waste management

Field visit - Egypt



The fifth training course under the Horizon 2020 Capacity Building Mediterranean Environment Program (H2020 CB/ MEP) took place in Cairo, Egypt, on 13-15 December 2010. This time it was dedicated to "the organic waste cycle - a resource efficient model".

The three-day-course was attended by 34 participants from eight Mediterranean countries: Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Tunisia and Turkey. The trainees (mostly representatives of national authorities with some from the regional and local levels) gained an understanding of the environmental and economic benefits of optimized organic waste management and of the reasoning behind the choices made for a specific composting system. The training course was co-organized by ACR+ and SWEEP-Net, both

members of H2020 CB/ MEP, along with ANGED (the Tunisian National Agency for Waste Management).



By Prof. Michael Scoullos
H2020 CB/ MEP, Team Leader
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SWEEP-Net and ISWA: A new strategic partnership

The ISWA (International Solid Waste Association) World Congress 2010 took place from 15 to 18 November in Hamburg, Germany. ISWA is an international non-profit association working in the public interest to promote and develop professional waste management worldwide for a sustainable society. 613 delegates from 54 countries attended the congress.

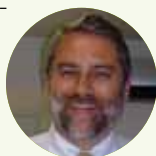
During the ISWA General Assembly on November 14 2010, SWEEP-Net and ISWA signed a Memorandum of

ISWA General Assembly



Understanding with the aim of promoting sustainable and integrated waste and natural resource management in the Mashreq and Maghreb countries. Both parties share a common concern for promoting integrated sustainable waste management as a concept which is based on global principles and local conditions. ISWA promotes sustainability in waste management worldwide while SWEEP-Net focuses on the Middle East and North Africa. Both parties agreed upon combining their efforts in order to develop common initiatives and activities for the MENA region.

By David Newman - ISWA, Vice President
Contact: direttore@atiaswa.it



Call for Papers

ISWA World Congress 2011: 17-20 October 2011 in Daegu (South Korea); deadline: February 28, 2011 (www.iswa.org)

Publications

UN-Habitat: Solid Waste Management in the World's Cities, 2010. (www.un-habitat.org)

SWEEP-Net: Regional Solid Waste Management Situation in the Middle East and North Africa, 2010. (www.sweep-net.org)

SWEEP-Net: Country Profiles on Solid Waste Management Situation in the Middle East and North Africa Region 2010. (www.sweep-net.org)

News

Egypt: EEAA - New governmental initiatives for practitioners in the sector of plastic recycling. (www.eeaa.gov.eg)

GODEM: ACR+ and SWEEP-Net developing synergies

The members of the international network ACR+ (Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management) share the common aim of promoting sustainable consumption of resources and management of waste through prevention at source, reuse and recycling. This focus on sustainability makes ACR+ a natural partner for SWEEP-Net. The two networks are closely collaborating on two major projects: H2020 (see above) and GODEM.

The project 'Gestion Optimisée des Déchets En Méditerranée' (GODEM) started off in February 2010 and is planned to run for a period of two years. It is part of the ENPI-funded umbrella project CIUDAD (Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue) that aims at improving dialogue and cooperation between local actors in EU and Mediterranean countries in order to reinforce their capacities.

ACR+ plays an important role in the project. Its task will include the following: assisting the partners in understanding and applying the ISWM (Integrated Solid Waste Management) principles, networking and sharing of experiences through developing ACR+ activities in the Mediterranean basin (together with MEDCITES), organizing up to four regional and one international conferences on waste management, and drafting a manual on ISWM for Mediterranean countries.

MoU signature ceremony



By Jean Jacques Dehogues - ACR+
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Cooperation between World Bank and SWEEP-Net is getting closer

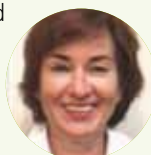
As part of the Reimbursable Technical Assistance Program provided by the World Bank to the Algerian Ministry of Environment and Territorial Planning, SWEEP-Net prepared and managed a comprehensive training session devoted to the management of sanitary landfills. This session was addressed to the sanitary landfills managers of Algiers, Skikda, and Tlemcen, as well as to technical directors of the Environmental Departments of the corresponding Wilayas.



The session, which took place in December 2010, included two phases: (i) theoretical and practical training in Tunisia, with the assistance of ANGED and (ii) follow-up training in Algeria, in the three sanitary landfills of Algiers, Skikda, and Tlemcen. Mr. Adel Ben Marzouk, renowned expert, conducted the training in both countries.

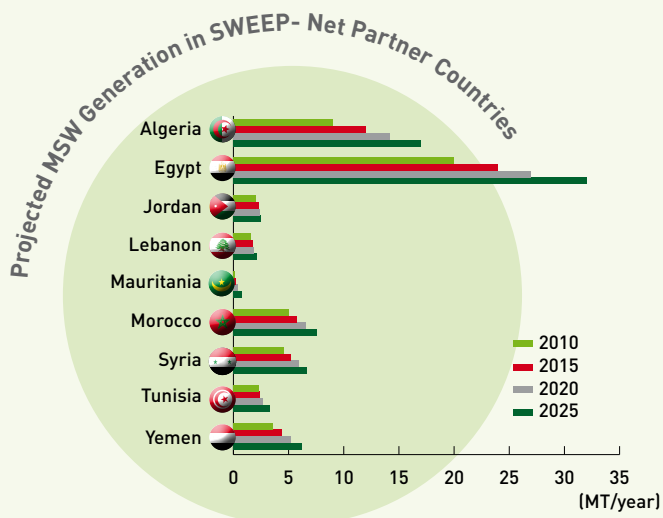
The session concluded with a debriefing meeting held at the Ministry of Environment and Territorial Planning in Algiers, in the presence of the various stakeholders. The program, which was very well received by all partners, constitutes a concrete example of a fruitful partnership that will, hopefully, pave the way for closer cooperation between Sweep-Net and the World Bank.

By Chantal Reliquet
The World Bank, Senior Urban Specialist
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SWM in the MENA region: An overview

The SWEEP-Net partner countries (Mauritania, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, West Bank/ Gaza and Yemen) host about 214 million people and generate approxima-

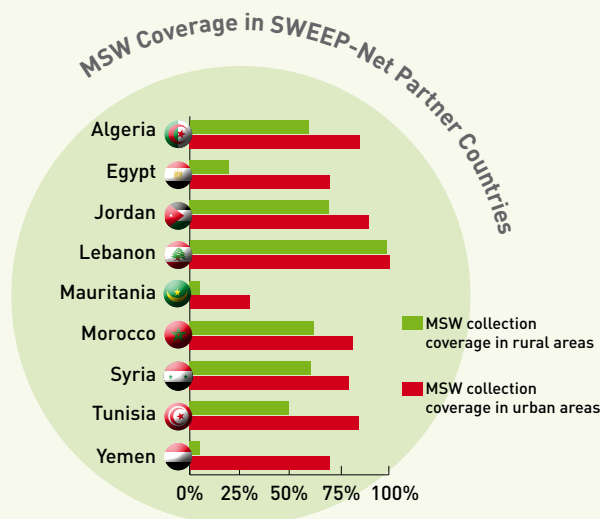


tely 48 million tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) each year. The projected urbanization and economic growth in the region during the coming years is expected to result in a waste tonnage increase in 2025 to an average of 77 million tons/ year.

During the last decade, all MENA countries made considerable efforts to address their SWM issues at the policy, legal, institutional operational and financial levels.

At the policy level, many countries with the exception of Lebanon and Jordan have developed their own strategies and national programs for addressing the municipal SWM.

At the legal level, most of the countries with the exception of Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt have enacted their respective SWM or cleanliness laws.



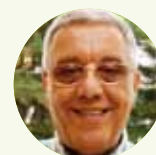
At the institutional level, all countries have tried to establish their own solid waste management systems based on their individual political characteristics. As a result, Ministries of Local Administration and/ or Development are now being made responsible for policy planning and overseeing the SWM sector. At the operational level, there is a marked improvement in the level of cleanliness of most major cities resulting from better collection and street sweeping. However, despite efforts to establish sanitary landfills, MSW is still mainly being disposed at open dumps with an average of 60 % of household waste collected (with the exception of Tunisia).

At the financial level, the central governments remain the major financiers of the MSW sector at the level of US\$ 576 million/ year with large subsidies provided to MSW disposal. Partial cost recovery has been established in Algeria, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and West Bank/ Gaza.

At the public communication level, media and NGOs have become more active in conveying public concerns and in being involved in reporting on solid waste management activities. Despite these progresses, institutional, legal, financial, environmental and social problems still exist within all the dimensions of the solid waste management systems in the region. For further information please refer to our website:

www.sweep-net.org

By Dr. Sherif Arif
Senior Environmental Specialist
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EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE

Exchanging experiences and knowledge in the 'land of ideas': A technical study tour through Germany

In September 2010, twenty managers and solid waste practitioners from private and public sectors from the MENA region attended a technical tour through Germany. The field trip was organized with the support of SWEEP-Net and included a visit to the IFAT International Environmental Fair in Munich.

During the tour, the delegates visited a center of energy valuation of biogas from organic waste and a solid waste incinerator. The advanced technology and the principle of incineration aroused interest and many questions. At the IFAT International Environmental Fair the participants used the opportunity to inform themselves about the state-of-the-art developments in their respective fields of expertise.

The delegates mostly agreed, however, that, although the fair was informative on existing technologies, it showed nothing genuinely new.

The real added value may have been gained rather through informal conversations during dinners and other evening activities. These occasions were actively used for informal exchange about the experiences gathered during the previous days and for comparing of the specific situations and contexts prevailing in the individual countries. Hence, we

learned for example that Syria is a major player in the valuation of glass while in other countries in the region outlets for this category of material are almost non-existent.

All participants stressed the excellence of the preparation, organization, and conduct of the tour. From the reception at the airport to the transfer to the hotel and to exhibitions and visits, everything was perfect. Again, congratulations and a big

'Thank you' to the organizing team.

By Mohamed Nir
Morocco – Solid Waste Specialist
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Yemeni delegation on a field visit to Tunisia

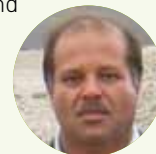
At the request of the GTZ Waste Management Project in Yemen, the SWEEP-Net secretariat approached ANGED in order to organize a field trip to Tunisia in November 2010 for a delegation of Yemeni local authority officials and experts in SWM.

As Head of the Yemeni delegation, accompanying fifteen senior officials and experts from the waste sector in Yemen,



I can confirm that we highly benefitted from this working and exchange opportunity. It not only allowed us to discover the current state of the Tunisian experience including the private sector's involvement in activities related to waste management, but also to observe, through visits to several landfills, sorting centers, and treatment centers of hazardous and special waste, the importance ascribed to this sector by Tunisia. This is, in fact, confirmed by high-level-involvement in projects of great importance, such as the special waste treatment plant of Jradou as well as the biogas station of Bir-el-Kasaa. This field trip allowed us to learn important lessons about several waste-management-related issues. We left Tunisia with many ideas and best practices that we will address and explore with the greatest interest in Yemen.

By Eng. Jamal Al-Khoulani
Yemeni Ministry of Local Administration, Deputy Minister
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SWEEP-Net

Regional SWEEP-Net forum ; April 12-14, 2011 - Beirut, Lebanon.
(www.sweep-net.org)

United Nations

Inter-Sessional Conference on Building Partnerships for Moving Towards Zero Waste; February 16-18, 2011 - Tokyo, Japan.
(<http://www.uncrd.or.jp/env/110216csd19.htm>)

ACR+

European Conference on Waste Prevention; March 28, 2011 - Brussels, Belgium. (www.acrplus.org)

MEWS 2011

Middle East Waste Summit; April 12-13, 2011- Dubai, UAE. (www.wastesummit.com)



A road map for the cooperation between Morocco and Tunisia in the field of SWM



One of the main pillars of SWEEP-Net is to build synergies and reinforce cooperation between institutions and stakeholders in the field of SWM at national, regional, and international level.

In early 2010, SWEEP-Net has been asked by Morocco and Tunisia to provide facilitation and assistance for exchange between the two in the field of SWM, focusing on PSP, contract monitoring, packaging waste, and management of hazardous waste. Accordingly, two experienced consultants (a Tunisian and a Moroccan) were hired and a number of missions of high decision makers from the Moroccan and Tunisian ministries in charge of the SW sector were organized. A Tunisian delegation visited Morocco in March and a Moroccan delegation was sent to Tunisia in June 2010. H.E. Mr. Jamel Mahfoud, Secretary General of the Moroccan Secretariat of State for Environment and Water, has used the occasion of a visit to the SWEEP-Net secretariat to kindly express his deep support for its activities. Resulting from this mission a roadmap was developed, envisaging a close bilateral cooperation process.

By Abdelkader Ajir

Moroccan State Secretariat for Water and Environment

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A SWEEP-Net delegate reports from Pollutec 2010

I have always considered the promotion of networking and the exchange of know-how and experiences among the network's members as a core characteristic of SWEEP-Net. As a member of a delegation sent to Pollutec 2010, one of the biggest fairs on SWM-related issues in Europe, which was held in Lyon (France) from November 30 to December, I have hugely benefitted from this SWEEP-Net pillar. Considering that the fair was held in French, our delegation consisted of representatives from Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Despite my sickness and heavy snowfall, we seized the opportunity to inform ourselves about the newest techniques in our respective fields. Moreover, we made new international contacts and deepened existing ones. The strengthened ties and continuous exchange among us SWEEP-Net partners ourselves, however, should be considered the most important outcome of this activity.

By Prof. Molay Abdelmomene

Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development

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A SWEEP-Net member asks for support

One of your SWEEP-Net partners is looking for solutions to the problem of liquid waste from olive pressing industry in his country (Jordan). As this type of waste is generated in all olive oil producing countries, he would be pleased to receive best practices and information about relevant initiatives and projects in the MENA region as well as in developed countries such as Italy and Spain. In particular, he is looking for information about treatment methods used and expertise on which offer the best solutions and results. If you have any references, please indicate your response and reply to : imen.louati@swEEP-net.org, knowledge management coordinator.

1st SWEEP-Net Advisory Committee Meeting, Tunis 2010 – a participant's view

I spent three fruitful days in Tunis participating in the first meeting of SWEEP-Net's Advisory Committee from June 21 to 23. There, for the first time, I felt that something is on the move in this so difficult as well as so troubled area of the world. Thanks to the efforts of the SWEEP-Net secretariat, representatives from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Yemen, Mauritania and the League of Arab States came together to participate in an intensive workshop on key priorities in waste management, the strategy of the network, institutional consolidation, potential working groups, etc.

I was positively surprised by several facts: First, the level of several speakers' presentations has been really elaborated. Second, the feeling of "the necessity of such an initiative" I perceived from a lot of participants. And third, the understanding, that, although waste management is underrepresented in most of the political agendas in this area, the necessary human resources that could upgrade it and deliver serious results does exist. Consequently, I left Tunis with more hopes for the future of waste management in the MENA region than I had had when I arrived. Moreover, I think ISWA would be a real supporter and part of this network too, since it has a lot to offer and it is very well perceived.

Needless to say that I found some old and I made some new friends during the meeting. I always feel very comfortable between Arabs and the hospitality provided by the organizers was great and really promoted the development of good relationships.

By Antonis Mavropoulos, ISWA – STC Chair

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<http://mavropoulos.blogspot.com>



ECHOES FROM SWEEP-NET SECRETARIAT

Knowledge management requires more than collecting data

“Exchange of information and experience” is not only inscribed in the name of SWEEP-Net itself but also constitutes one of its structural core pillars. The idea and logic behind this concept is that a collection of data alone is no information yet, a collection of information is no knowledge yet and a collection of knowledge is no experience or know-how yet. Focusing on the exchange of information, knowledge, and experience means identifying good or even best practices locally that can be applied and reapplied somewhere else. Knowledge management is a matter of proactive contribution with specific know-how of everyone within the “SWEEP-Net” network.

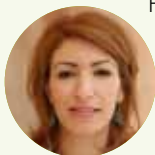
The SWEEP-Net’s knowledge management system is one of our services we provide at different levels: Information, knowledge, experiences and expertise. Our approach is to encourage you, our partners, to exchange experiences and to promote the dissemination of good practices among and within our partner countries.

The secretariat of SWEEP-Net is developing an online data base that you can use to identify experts, partners, and resources in the field of waste management. This portal will also offer “knowledge” through solid-waste-related country profiles, country reports, studies on issues of relevance, and guidelines for further training. SWEEP-Net, therefore, is much more than a data base: It is rather a living and evolving organism.

For more information, please refer to our website:

www.sweep-net.org

By **Imen Louati**
SWEEP-Net, Knowledge Management Coordinator
Contact: imen.louati@sweep-net.org



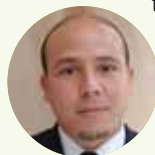
Building network bridges

Completely convinced that any success of SWEEP-Net would certainly rely on effective networking with its partners, SWEEP-Net has managed to stay in close contact with the solid waste management family of experts and professionals in the partner countries during the last months.

Through national workshops the new born network was presented to national professionals and stakeholders. Moreover, the lively discussion of issues such as the potential role of SWEEP-Net for an effective solid waste management that would lead to a better health and environmental conservation has reinforced bonds of exchange and cooperation in this field. These workshops helped identify possible technical, financial and organizational solutions that should be taken into consideration for further exchange in up-coming meetings.

The exchange of ideas, however, has not ended with the completion of the nine national workshops that benefitted approximately 250 participants. It has resumed ever since through concept notes, providing the network with feedback on the implementation of its activities and strengthening the will of being part of these information bridges.

By **Wissam Gallala**,
SWEEP-Net, Communication and Networking Coordinator
Contact: wissam.gallala@sweep-net.org



A word from the secretariat team

On behalf of SWEEP-Net and its partners, we would like to express our gratitude for your kind support and great contribution to carrying out the network’s successful work throughout 2010. 2011 will be a challenging year as we still need to reinforce the network’s visibility, strengthen the south-south and north-south cooperation and build up new synergies in the solid waste sector in the Middle East and North Africa and even beyond. Our main goal for the next year is to map the way ahead and further develop the network’s activities by targeting its objectives and developing new initiatives. We are convinced that we can rely on your support and kind contribution at regional, national, and local level.

We would like to express our best wishes for the new year of 2011.

Your SWEEP-Net secretariat team



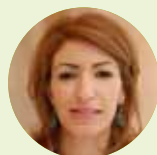
Anis Ismail
Secretary General



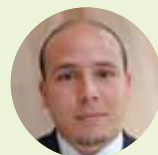
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GIZ Team Leader



Donya Ben Mlouka
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Management
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Wissam Gallala
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