



WNB



WasteNet Bangladesh

WasteNet News



Photo: Shehzad Noorani



Inside This Issue

Editorial

Welcome to 'WasteNet News', the first newsletter published by 'WasteNet Bangladesh' on waste management in the country. This newsletter is meant to cater the need of all stakeholders in waste management sector, including Government, city corporations, municipalities, NGOs, CBOs and External Support Agencies (ESAs). Our attempt is to focus and highlight innovations and best practices in waste management sector. Through this newsletter, we hope to inform our readers about interesting projects on waste management having environmental benefits and how those can be replicated.

Waste management has become a matter of major concern due to environmental problems in urban areas of Bangladesh. Rapid population growth along with increase in per capita income as well as uncontrolled urbanization is severely degrading the environment. The present waste management situation in Bangladesh is primitive and needs modernization and innovative approach for its proper management. In addition to modernization of waste management in urban areas, there is an urgent need for framing necessary National Waste Management Policy.

In future issues, we intend to bring to our readers news about interesting projects on waste management from home and abroad and cost-effective technologies of waste disposal. We invite the organizations working in this sector to report about their activities and request them to contact us. It is our firm belief that waste management problems can be solved with active participation of all and by making people aware that waste is in fact a unutilized resource rather than merely a waste.

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State Minister for Environment and Forest Government of Bangladesh, Mr. H.N. Ashiqur Rahman addressing the launching workshop.

Introduction to 'WasteNet Bangladesh'

Background

Urban population in Bangladesh has been growing fast over the last few decades. One of the consequences of this rapid growth is a tremendous increase in the generation of waste. Even at present, our major cities can hardly cope with the problem of disposing ever-increasing amount of garbage. In one of the studies of Waste Concern, it has been found that at present all the cities and towns of Bangladesh generate 17,000 tons of waste per day and within 25 years, the waste generation will reach 47,064 tons per day. Urban centers will obviously choke under deteriorating environmental condition in future unless appropriate policies and strategies are envisioned immediately. It is unlikely that government agencies alone would be able to tackle this problem. A combined effort by NGOs, External Support Agencies (ESAs), entrepreneurs and communities is essentially needed.

The Need for Networking

Fortunately, some NGOs, CBOs, ESAs and entrepreneurs have already come forward with innovative strategies to deal with the growing solid waste problem. These initiatives include door-to-door garbage collection, community based composting, recycling, research, etc. A lot of valuable lessons have been learnt in carrying out these activities. However, these efforts are disjointed and there is no effective mechanism to learn from one another. A regional workshop on solid waste management organized by Waste Concern was held in Dhaka in February 2000 where the participants from neighboring countries provided a wealth of experiences. They also strongly voiced the need to have a platform to share their ideas and experience. In order to address this need, Water and Sanitation Program-South Asia of the World Bank and Waste Concern have formed a partnership to establish 'WasteNet Bangladesh'.

Goals of 'WasteNet Bangladesh'

'WasteNet Bangladesh' is a non-profit, non-partisan professional organization. It will act as a "one-stop-shop" for knowledge, experience and training, catering to the needs of waste management practitioners from public, private and local government bodies. The network will also be a pressure group advocating the need for formulating appropriate policies in the sector.

Structure of 'WasteNet Bangladesh'

The network will be administered and implemented by the following three institutional components, which are made up of representatives of public and private sectors, GOs, NGOs and international agencies.

- A voluntary advisory group for providing overall guidance to the network;
- A voluntary executive committee for providing detailed guidance and support; and
- A funded secretariat for providing service to members.

Members of the Executive Committee

The founder Executive Committee members are:

- Mr. A. H. Md. Maqsood Sinha, Urban Planner-Architect, Waste Concern.
- Mr. Iftekhhar Enayetullah, Civil Engineer-Urban Planner, Waste Concern.
- Mr. Shafiu Azam Ahmed, Environmental Engineer, Water and Sanitation Program-South Asia, The World Bank.
- Dr. Tanveer Ahsan, Environmental Engineer, Water and Sanitation Program-South Asia, The World Bank.
- Mr. Tariq Bin Yousuf, Civil-Environmental Engineer, Dhaka City Corporation.
- Mr. Shah Monirul Kabir, Sociologist.

The terms of this committee is 3 (three) years with effect from 16 June, 2001.

Who Can Become Members

Bangladeshi citizens or organizations working in Bangladesh (public, private, NGOs, CBOs and international agencies) may become members of the network.

Membership Category

Five types of membership with varying qualifications are envisioned:

- Associate Individual/Associate Institutional Member;
- Individual member;
- Institutional Member;
- Student Member; and
- Affiliated Individual/Affiliated Institutional Member.

Benefits of Membership

Members of all categories of 'WasteNet Bangladesh' will enjoy the following range of benefits:

- Free subscription to official newsletters and journals of 'WasteNet Bangladesh';
- Participation in WasteNet training courses, workshops and seminars at discounted rate;
- Getting professional advice on waste management;
- Access to library facility and database of 'WasteNet Bangladesh'; and
- Full members will have voting rights and may be elected to join special purpose committees.

Upcoming Activities

- Organizing consultative meetings on various waste management related topics;
- Forming a think tank for guiding policies and strategies;
- Establishing a resource center to house publications from Bangladesh and abroad for use by the members that will act as a repository of information;
- Compiling a directory of 'who is doing what' in solid waste management in Bangladesh;
- Publishing quarterly newsletters;
- Organizing conferences for wider dissemination; and
- Maintaining linkage with similar organizations around the world for information sharing and collaborative works.

Report on Launching Workshop of “WasteNet Bangladesh”

Background

The Launching Workshop of WasteNet Bangladesh was held at the Auditorium of IDB Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka on June 16, 2001. The workshop was organized by Waste Concern and sponsored by Water and Sanitation Program-South Asia. About 100 participants including representatives from major public/private sector and international organizations, NGOs and educational institutions attended the workshop. The workshop was divided into two sessions; inaugural Session and discussion Session.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session was addressed by Dr. Babar N. Kabir, Country Sector Leader of Water and Sanitation Program-South Asia, Mr. A. H. Md. Maqsood Sinha, Coordinator of 'WasteNet Bangladesh', Mr. Shafiul Azam Ahmed, Water and Sanitation Specialist of Water and Sanitation Program-South Asia, Mr. Quamrul Islam Siddique, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Mr. H. N. Ashequr Rahman, State Minister for Environment and Forest. Dr. M. Rahmatullah, Program Director of Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and former Director UN-ESCAP, Bangkok, chaired this Session.



Secretary for Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Government of Bangladesh, Mr. Quamrul Islam Siddique, Addressing the Launching Workshop.

Discussion Session

Dr. Tanveer Ahsan, Urban Specialist of Water and Sanitation Program-South Asia, conducted the discussion session. Key issues raised and recommendations made by the participants in the discussion session are given in the following table.

Table 1: Key Issues Raised and Recommendations Made by the Participants

Key Issues	Strategies	Recommendations
Need to Develop Linkage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Linkage with International Networks ● Establishment of a Horizontal and Vertical Linkage ● Linkage with day-to-day Work ● Linkage with the Organizations Working at the Grass-roots Level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WasteNet Bangladesh has to be linked with other international networking initiatives such as the City Net to get a desirable network. ● WasteNet Bangladesh has to develop a horizontal linkage among the organizations working at the field level and a vertical linkage among the funding institutions, government and policy makers. ● WasteNet Bangladesh has to link the day-to-day work of all the organizations of Dhaka and other cities. ● WasteNet Bangladesh will try to bring all the organizations working at the grass-roots level under its platform and will not only concentrate on Dhaka city, but also on the other cities of Bangladesh.
Need of Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Formation of an Action Plan ● Framework for Action on Solid Waste Management ● Study Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To formulate an action plan, WasteNet Bangladesh has to identify the working area of the members and specify the domain area of them to get some untouched areas where no organizations are working. ● WasteNet Bangladesh should formulate a time frame for solving the problem of growing solid waste generation rates. ● WasteNet Bangladesh has to design a study program on total waste generation form each city and how much compost can be produced from those cities as well as the economic condition of the local people. The network should have a target area whether it will first define the city corporations or the cities.
Need to Identify the Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identification of Problems Faced by CBOs ● Public Complain Section 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WasteNet Bangladesh has to point out the problems faced by the community-based organizations and give suggestions to reduce the gap between community and NGOs. ● The pressure group of the network should be based on public complains so that the network can get support from the people.

Key Issues	Strategies	Recommendations
Need to Organize Knowledge Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Need to Organize Meeting and Tele-Conferences ● Training Program for People Directly Involved in Waste Management ● Strengthen of the Local Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WasteNet Bangladesh should not only be based on computer and internet. It has to organize some tele-conferences and meetings so that those who are working at the remote areas and do not have computer and internet access, will be benefited from the network. ● WasteNet Bangladesh should organize training program for the people who are directly involved in waste management such as the field staffs of the municipalities. ● WasteNet Bangladesh has to find out what type of training the Local Government needs to strengthen them and how they can participate in waste management through the network.
Need to Identify the Functions to Act as a Pressure Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identification of the sectors to act as a pressure group ● Fund Allocation for Waste Management ● Identification of the Roles of Organizations ● Establishment of Public/Private Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WasteNet Bangladesh has to identify the sectors where it will work as a pressure group; whether it will pressurize the health ministry or the environment ministry. ● WasteNet Bangladesh may consider the fund allocation for waste management in the next budget and how this fund can be channeled without involving the bureaucrats. ● WasteNet Bangladesh has to define the roles and contributions of different organizations that should be linked with the words as administrative boundary to make a linkage with municipal organizations. ● WasteNet Bangladesh can bring the organizations involved in the marketing of resources from waste under the platform of the network.
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus on Different Types of Waste ● Solid Waste Management: Duty of Local Government and Municipality ● Identification of Effective Technologies ● Provide Financial Advice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WasteNet Bangladesh will not only emphasis on solid waste, it will also focus on other wastes such as the industrial wastes, clinical wastes, liquid wastes, human excreta. ● Solid waste management is the duty of local government and municipality; the NGOs can create new options for waste management that will act as example. ● WasteNet Bangladesh has to find out the effective technologies for waste recovery and recycling and disseminate those technologies to the members of the network. ● WasteNet Bangladesh should provide financial advice as well as logistic and technical advice to the community based organizations such as how much money they need to build a composting plant or where they can get necessary fund.

Poster Session

There was some display materials outside the auditorium in the Launching Workshop. Waste Concern, PRODIPAN, AYA and DEBTEC displayed their posters and samples of their products.

Participating Organizations

Representatives attended the workshop from the following organizations:

International Organization: UNDP, World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, WFP, SDC, CARE, Ashoka and Oxfam.

NGO: Proshika, BELA, Dushtha Shashthya Kendra, PRISM BD, Prodipan, PLEA, RUSTIC, SCOPE, DEBTEC, AYA, DORP, Phulki, SAPNO, EDA, SSKS and SEED.

GO: LGED, Dhaka City Corporation, Local Government Division, DPHE, BIDS and SRDI.

Private Sctor: Emtex Consulting Ltd., Alpha Agro Ltd. and MAP Agro,

Educational Institution: BUET and Dhaka University.

Also, several CBOs and journalists of Newspapers participated in the workshop.

Conclusion

The objective of the workshop was to introduce 'WasteNet Bangladesh', the first networking organization in Bangladesh to work on waste management issues. Its real purpose was to inform the participants about the goals and future activities of 'WasteNet Bangladesh'.

GO-NGO Partnership in Solid Waste Management: LGED Experience

An agreement was signed between an NGO 'Shubashati' and respective Municipalities to develop and implement a sustainable model for municipal services under 'The Secondary Towns Infrastructure Development Project (STIDP)' of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in two wards of Mymensingh and Sylhet municipalities for road sweeping, drain cleaning and solid waste collection and disposal. According to this agreement, the NGO got opportunity to use Sweeper, Supervisor, Equipment, Truck etc. of municipalities on cash payment. It was also mentioned in the agreement that the cost NGO would not be more than the allocated budget of the two municipal wards for road sweeping, drain cleaning and waste disposal. The strategy that was adopted was to contract out disposal responsibility to an NGO in one ward of the municipality and also promote the participation of CBO for garbage collection from households.



Road being swept under privatization programme.

Result of the Pilot Project

In the two municipal wards, an over-all reduction of 20 to 25 percent in cost was achieved by the NGO 'Shubashati' in the budgeted amount of the municipality. A comparison of manpower used by the municipalities and the Shubashati and yearly cost involvement is shown in the Table given below. It is mentioned here that the Shubashati had paid higher wages to the Sweepers at Tk. 1000 per month for 4 hours work per day in place of Tk. 600 for the same time. This improved their output and service satisfaction.

Table2: Comparison of Manpower Used and Cost of Waste Management by NGOs and Municipalities.

Name of Municipality	Manpower Used by		Cost per year of (Taka in thousand)	
	Municipality	Shubashati	Municipality	Shubashati
Mymensingh	90	80	1000	845.34
Sylhet	45	45	650	666.60

It is noticeable that the cost of Sylhet Pourashava exceeded the budgeted amount by 25% but better and efficient services were ensured in solid waste disposal system through improvement in management system by the NGO.

Lessons Learned from the Project

Following parameters of design in planning, implementation and management of the work can be deduced from technical and socio-economic realities in Bangladesh:

- Total cleaning and restoration of drainage network is necessary pre-condition;
- Connection of drainage network with out-falls is essential;
- Continuous and regular cleaning of all dustbins and areas of stacked wastes is a must;
- Dumping site be properly located and should not pose environmental pollution problems; and
- A good management system is essential to optimize the solid waste management operations related to road sweeping, collection of waste from bins, spots and drain sides in respect of which attention is to be paid to allocation of work, reporting for work, transfer of sweeping, size of crew, frequency of sweeping, accumulation stations, wastes from drain cleaning, programming and scheduling.

For further information contact: Chief Engineer, LGED.

Waste Profile of Bangladesh

Urban Waste Generation Per Day in Bangladesh

- From a World Bank study, it is found that waste generation was 10,742 tons per day in 1995.
- According to the study of Waste Concern, waste generation is 17,000 tons per day in 2001.
- According to the study of World Bank, waste generation will reach 47,064 tons per day in 2025, which is about thrice the present waste generation amount.



Photo: Shehzad Noorani

REUSE
REDUCE
RECYCLE

Collection of Waste

- There is no primary collection of waste in most of the cities and towns of Bangladesh;
- Waste is collected from streets, bins, etc.;
- Street sweeping is the principal method of waste collection;
- City Corporations and municipalities collect only 40-50% of the total generated waste per day; and
- Daily about 7,000-8,000 tonnes of waste remains uncollected in urban areas of Bangladesh.



Transportation of Solid Waste

- Transportation of waste is done using mainly open truck and in few cities by demountable container;
- Multiple handling of waste becomes necessary;
- Contaminated waste is handled manually;
- Present waste handling is injurious to the health of workers; and
- Inadequate number of vehicles and fleet are not well maintained.



Disposal of Solid Waste

- No specific landfill sites are identified in several cities and towns;
- Waste is disposed of on road side or open spaces;
- Crude dumping method is used for disposal of waste;
- Present method being unhygienic, inefficient and hazardous create health and environmental problems; and
- Both surface and ground water of the surrounding areas may be contaminated through leachate from landfill site.



Photo: Shehzad Noorani

National Events

Workshop held on Agenda for Urban Concern

The Daily Star-BUET-Bangladesh Scouts forum on Agenda for Urban Concern (AUC) organized a workshop on July 8, 2001 at the Daily Star Office. About fifty experts on waste management-government officers, professionals, academics, researchers, and representatives of NGOs were specially invited. The participants discussed about the ways and means to start a dialogue among all concerned and came out with the conclusion that motivation of concerned bodies by a group of enlightened citizens may hold the key. At the workshop, four Citizens Motivation Groups, based on solid waste, industrial waste, sanitation/human waste, hospital waste, were formed. Mr. Iftekhar Enayetullah, Mr. Tariq Bin Yousuf and Mr. Shafiul Azam Ahmed, all Executive Member of WasteNet Bangladesh represented their respective organizations.

International Conference

28th WEDC Conference

28th WEDC Conference will be held on November 2002 at Kolkata in India. Researchers, water & sanitation professionals and policy makers who are interested to present paper in this workshop, are invited to submit their abstracts within February 2002 to the address below on the topics included sustainability, sanitation and wastewater, gender, water resources, water quality and treatment, air pollution, groundwater, health and hygiene promotion, solid waste, management and finance, community motivation and management, hospital waste, and use of computers and information technology.

Interested forum/organization from countries other than India may send to:

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Fax: +44(0)1509 211079
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Please share your experience, concern and suggestions with 'WasteNet Bangladesh'. Send your articles and news to:

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PUBLICATION ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

EASY COMPOSTING: Environmentally Friendly Gardening

This book presents the most environmentally friendly and economically viable approach to deal with the huge pile of organic waste generated everyday. The author of the book claims that the organic waste can efficiently and effectively be converted into valuable resource 'compost' through various ways in order to enrich the surface of the earth for low cost gardening. The book sequentially reveals the steps to follow in turning the waste into resource by way of recycle and reuse of organic materials. Above all, this would be a fascinating piece of reading for the people who enjoy gardening in their leisure time.



About This Newsletter

This newsletter will be published quarterly to disseminate news, articles, experiences and ideas to the members and other interested persons and organizations. This first issue contains limited information. More information and interesting features from national and international organizations working in waste management sector will be included in future issues.

If you wish to become a member of 'WasteNet Bangladesh', please fill out the following Form.

Please cut along dotted line

Membership Application Form

Name :

Designation :

Organization :

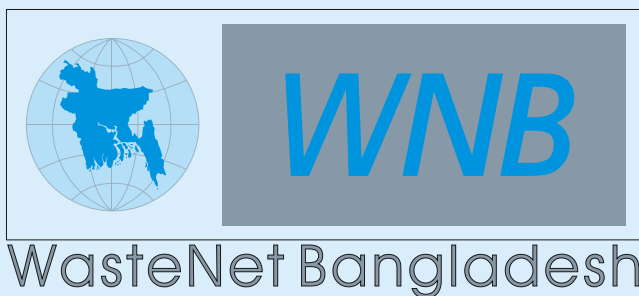
Mailing Address :

.....

Telephone : **Fax** :

E-mail :

Signature :



Please send this Form by Fax or post to the address below.
A Membership Application Package will be sent to you.

WasteNet Bangladesh

House-21, Side-B, Road-7, Block-G
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Posters on Solid Waste Management

Waste Concern under Sustainable Environment Management Program (SEMP) of Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) with support from UNDP has developed a poster for source separation and recycling of solid waste as part of its environmental awareness program under the project. Another poster for barrel type composting in low-income settlements and slums has been developed under UNDP's LIFE program. Interested organizations can collect the posters from Waste Concern's office on any working day during office hours.



A newsletter produced by

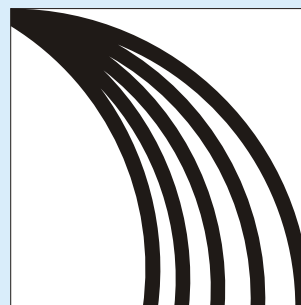


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