



Cebu gets valuable lessons on municipal solid waste management from Japan in recent “city exchange” with Kitakyushu City

A “city exchange” between Cebu City and Kitakyushu City, one of Japan’s leading environmental model city, was organized by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) last 15-20 November, 2015 to facilitate sharing of experiences and lessons learnt on municipal solid waste management (MSWM).

Senior officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and national focal points for Climate and Clean Air Coalition – Municipal Solid Waste Initiative (CCAC-MSWI) joined senior policy makers from Cebu and members of the Cebu City Solid Waste Management Board in the five-day program.

Cebu has been in the forefront of creating work plans and implementing pilot projects in two model barangays (Barangay Kalunasan and Barangay Apas), to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) such as methane (produced by the decomposition of organic matter in landfills) and black carbon (produced by open burning of waste) from MSWM.

The city has already introduced waste separation at source and collection and is promoting composting for organic waste recycling, establishment of material recovery facilities (MRF) for recycling, landfill improvement.

The local government is likewise building partnerships with the private sector and utilising the CCAC-MSWI framework in order to comply with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act 9003). The CCAC-MSWI aims to assist cities in improving their municipal solid waste management systems to reduce SLCPs.

IGES is one of the project implementers in Asia, currently working in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. Under the framework of the CCAC-MSWI, IGES provides assistance to the recipient cities through a step-by-step approach.

It has already undertaken work in Battambang, Cambodia; Phitsanulok, Thailand; Surabaya, Indonesia; and Cebu, Philippines to develop rapid city assessments and action plans. It is set to work on the initial assessments and provide assistance to all these cities in preparing a detailed work plan as well as commence work with the new model cities in Thailand (Map Ta Phut and Rayong City).

Among the activities that were included in the city exchange program were overview of the MSWM and industrial waste management policy and practices in the city; visit to Kitakyushu Eco-Town; practical training on compost production; sharing of experiences in establishing sustainable composting programmes at decentralised and centralised setups; visit to a waste-to-energy plant and refuse derived fuel facility and visit to a sanitary landfill site that implements semi-aerobic landfill facility management.

The program concluded with a review of the key factors and guiding principles for establishing integrated solid waste management in Cebu based on the lessons learned from the experience of Kitakyushu City covering policy development, legal aspects, and technical application in partnership with different stakeholders. Both cities spoke of their high appreciation of the city exchange and are looking forward to sustaining cooperation in developing a work plan for Cebu City to reduce SLCP from municipal waste.

For more information about this City Exchange and other City Assistance Projects in Asia under the CCAC-MSWI, please contact: premakumara@iges.or.jp, sang-arun@iges.or.jp, gilby@iges.or.jp