



THE PROJECT FOR THE SUPPORT OF WASTE MINIMIZATION AND 3R PROMOTION IN REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

Newsletter No.1

April 2015



*The Ministry of Environment (MOE) and local municipalities started **the Project for Support of Waste Minimization and 3R Promotion in Albania ("the Project")** with technical cooperation from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The Project will be running for 3 years from June 2014. This first newsletter introduces the outline of the Project as well as the activities which have been conducted by the Project so far.*



Background: The Republic of Albania has been facing rapid urbanization in recent years. A significant increase in population has multiplied the waste amount, which has negatively impacted the living environment of Albanian cities. In this situation, the role of local governments in solid waste management and their policies have been increasingly important in order to handle increasing wastes properly as well as to pursue an environmentally sustainable society.

Meanwhile, with the aim to become a member state of the European Union, the government of Albania has set national environmental policies in line with the EU Directives. Likewise, in the field of waste management, the National Waste Management Strategy of Albania has been formulated by setting a goal to reduce waste by 25% by 2015, 35% by 2016, and 55% by 2020 from the base year of 1995, which is exactly the same as the goal set by the EU.

In order to achieve this goal, the national and local government units are urgently required to incorporate the concept of "**Recycle**", "**Reuse**", and "**Reduce**" (hereafter referred to "**3R**") into the waste management scheme so as to reduce waste volume as well as to make the most of the natural resources available. Simultaneously, the capacity development in policy formulation as well as implementation of waste management has to be materialized at the level of national and local government in line with the national strategy.

In this background, the government of Albania has requested the government of Japan to provide technical support in improving the waste management issues. Following this request, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has conducted a field survey to grasp the needs of Albania in depth, and eventually set "**The Project for the Support of Waste Minimization and 3R Promotion in Republic of Albania**" under the scheme of technical cooperation. In January 2014, the Record of Discussion was mutually signed by the governments of Albania and Japan and the Project has initiated since June in 2014.



1. Outline of the Project

The Project is implemented under the scheme of technical cooperation, which aims to achieve 'technology transfer' from Japanese experts to counterpart personnel (C/P). JICA expects that the capacity of the related personnel (i.e. C/P), municipalities, and the organizations for SWM is strengthened through such technology transfer. In this Project, **the Ministry of Environment (MOE)** is appointed to be a C/P and responsible for the overall project management.

Overall Goal: The 3R framework is incorporated at the local government level to materialize sustainable solid waste management (SWM) in Albania and the amount of waste is reduced nationwide.

Project Purpose: The MOE's capacity in 3R policy promotion as well as assistance for local governments is strengthened in order to implement the National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan in Albania.

Outputs: The following six outputs are expected to be achieved by the Project.

Output 1:

The status of SWM and the challenges to introduce 3R in SWM at each local government which are identified by MOE.

Output 2:

A Guideline to incorporate the 3R framework into the regional SWM plan (3R Guidelines) is produced.

Output 3:

Pilot project of 3R practices in SWM is carried out by a small scale local government (Bushat Commune) and its challenges are identified.

Output 4:

Pilot project of 3R practices in SWM is carried out by a medium scale local government (Cërrik Municipality) and its challenges are identified

Output 5:

Pilot project of 3R practices in SWM is carried out by a large scale local government (Tirana Municipality) and its challenges are identified.

Output 6:

MOE's assistance and cooperation to local governments in 3R practices in SWM is strengthened.

The Project Term: June 2014-2017 May (3 years)

Target Area: The Project targets Tirana, Cërrik, and Bushat Commune.

Target Wastes: "Waste" in this Project refers to the municipal wastes collected from households and commercial entities. Industrial and medical wastes are excluded.

Administration of the Project: The Project is operated jointly by C/P and by the experts dispatched by JICA. Moreover, a Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) has been established to monitor/evaluate the Project progress. Following is the list of the Main C/P and the Japanese experts.

1) Main Counterpart (C/P):

Positions held within the Project, names, and present position as of July 2014.

Project Director:

Mr. Pëllumb ABESHI

General Director of Environmental Policy, MOE

Project Manager:

Mr. Redi BADUNI

Director of Environment, the Directorate General of Environmental Policy and Implementation of Priorities, MOE

Expert for 3R Guideline Development:

Mr. Vladimir BEZHANI

Head of Waste Management & Industrial Accidents Sector, MOE

Administrative and Coordination:

Ms. Ledjana KARALLIU

Specialist of Waste Management & Industrial Accidents Sector, MOE

Cooperator:

Mr. Isa MEMIA

Directorate of Policy in Solid Waste, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure (MTI)

2) JICA Expert Team

JICA dispatched the experts from Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd in Japan. Their positions in the Project and names are as shown below.

Chief Advisor/ Integrated Solid Waste Management:

Mr. Hiroshi FUJITA

Deputy Chief Advisor / Public awareness / Environmental education:

Ms. Chiaki NISHI

3R policy & practice:

Mr. Koji KUSUNOKI

Administrative and policy measures:

Mr. Shinnosuke ODA

Participatory approach in 3R practice:

Ms. Aya ITO

Coordinator:

Ms. Maiko FUKUTOMI

3) Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC)

In July 2014, Mr. ABESHI, General Director of Environmental Policy, MOE, opened the first JCC. In this JCC, the Chief Advisor, Mr. FUJITA, JICA Expert Team, presented the Work Plan to counterparts of concerned ministries and municipalities. The proposed plan and timeline of the project was explained, and officially agreed by participants.



The 1st JCC in July 2014

2. Activities Conducted in the Project

1) Waste Amount and Composition Survey (WACS): October in 2014

The WACS was held in the Lezhe municipality and Bushat Commune in October 2014. In the WACS, waste samples were collected from households with the support of waste collection companies and local municipalities. As for Tirana municipality, the WACS was not conducted at this time, considering the data availability from the survey conducted in 2011. Based on the data available, current waste amount in the Tirana municipality was estimated by taking account of the national GDP growth rate and other demographic variables.

Number of Sample Household and Survey Period

Municipality	No. of Household	Survey Period
Tirana	100	2011
Lezhe	30	18th - 24th Oct in 2014
Bushat	30	7th - 13th Oct in 2014

Objectives of WACS:

WACS is one of the important surveys to understand estimated waste generation rate at the generation source, and to identify the physical composition of waste. The collected data from WACS is utilized to create a municipal waste flow which shows the process that wastes go through before being discharged to a disposal site and waste amount generated at each stage. In this way, creating the waste flow gives a clear picture of current waste flow in the city, and also will be a base to formulate a future waste management plan as well as 3R policy.

Method of WACS:

The **WACS** consists of two parts: Waste Amount Survey (WAS) and Waste Composition Survey (WCS).

WAS: Wastes are separated into organic and non-organic materials which were collected from households for consecutive 7 days. All collected samples were weighed and recorded by each household. At the end of the survey, waste generation rate per household was estimated using the collected data.

WCS: All collected sample wastes were unpacked and sorted into 16 types: kitchen waste, cardboard, other paper, PET bottle, hard plastic, other plastics, iron, aluminum, other metal, glass, grass/wood, textile, rubber/leather, ceramics/ stone, diaper, and others. By doing this, the physical composition of waste is identified.

Result of WAS:

The result of WAS is shown below. Interestingly, there was no significant difference in the waste generation amount among the three cities. But, the survey revealed that urbanized areas tend to generate more wastes as is seen in the survey result: 373g in Tirana, 361g in Lezhe, and 331g in Bushat.

Waste Generation Amount per capita / day at generation source

Municipality	Organic Waste	Non-Organic Waste	Total
Tirana	172g	201g	373g
Lezhe	221g	140g	361g
Bushat	230g	101g	331g



Weighing Sample Waste

Result of WCS:

In each municipality, kitchen waste accounts for the largest portion of the waste composition ratio. This characteristic becomes more prominent in less urbanized areas such as Bushat commune. The proportion of recyclables in wastes (e.g. cardboard, PET bottle, hard plastic, iron and aluminum) tends to be higher in urbanized area such as Tirana municipality.

Physical Composition of Sample Waste

Composition	Tirana municipality	Lezhe municipality	Bushat Commune
1. Kitchen waste	46.21%	61.30%	69.41%
2. Cardboard	5.28%	2.30%	2.74%
3. Other paper	8.98%	3.20%	2.43%
4. PET bottle	5.02%	2.90%	1.16%
5. Hard plastic	3.09%	2.70%	2.32%
6. Other plastic	9.20%	6.30%	5.18%
7. Iron	0.87%	0.60%	0.12%
8. Aluminum	0.49%	0.90%	0.83%
9. Other metal	0.80%	0.00%	0.40%
10. Glass	3.40%	8.00%	6.83%
11. Grass/Wood	4.10%	2.70%	1.60%
12. Textile	3.15%	4.10%	1.56%
13 Rubber/Leather	1.41%	1.70%	0.22%
14. Ceramic/Stone	1.96%	0.50%	0.02%
15. Diaper	5.53%	2.60%	3.94%
16. Others	0.70%	0.20%	1.25%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.01%
Recyclables	14.80%	9.40%	7.20%



Separating sample wastes into 16 categories

2) Recycling Survey: September – November /2014

Objectives of the Survey:

With an aim to estimate the recycling amount at generation source, a recycling survey was conducted in Tirana and other municipalities (Korce, Vlore, and Shkoder) during the period of September to November in 2014. The collected data from this survey will be utilized to create a national recycle flow in Albania.

Outline of the Survey: The survey was carried out in the four municipalities by interviewing collection companies for recyclables.

Result of the Survey: Among the four municipalities, little difference is seen in the total collection amount after excluding automobile scrap which is supposed to be categorized into industrial waste. As for the composition of recyclables, cardboard, soft plastic, metal, and PET bottle have been major items to be collected in the four cities.

Collection Amount of Recyclables

Item	Unit	Average of other municipalities	Tirana municipalities
Paper	t /day	0	0.7
Aluminum		0	1.2
Cardboard		3.2	4.3
Hard Plastic		0.8	5.6
PET Bottle		1.9	17.4
Soft Plastic		3.6	29.1
Metal		1.8	6.5
Metal from Automobile Scrap		8.4	29.7
Total	t /day	19.7	94.5
Recyclables Amount at Generation Source	Total	g/ capita/ day (*)	214
	Total excluding automobile scrap	g/ capita/ day (*)	123
			170
			117

(*) population of Tirana: 556,600 / Other cities in total: 92,100 (Tentative Figure)

4. Summary

This first newsletter aimed to provide a picture of the current situation of urban wastes in Albania by presenting the results of WACS and the recycling survey. The next newsletter will cover more about waste management at the national level and public opinions for waste/recycling issues from our on-going surveys.

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