

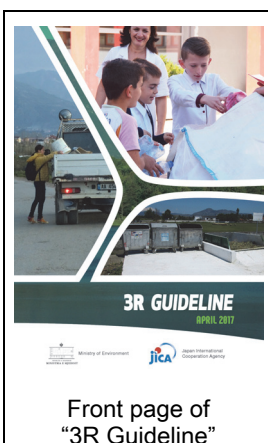
This final issue of the Project Newsletter will summarize the highlights in the Project's final stage.

3R Guideline, as a final product of 3-year **the Project for the Support of Waste Minimization and 3R Promotion in Republic of Albania** ("the Project"), has now been completed, and it will be shared with all relevant officials of Ministry of Environment, Environmental Authority, counties and municipalities as a technical document of Ministry of Environment in

early May. A summary of the Guideline was introduced to the municipality officials in charge of solid waste management (SWM) throughout the country at the final seminar held in Tirana on 9th & 10th March 2017. In addition to the Guideline, there are now 26 municipalities which have their own 3R Action Plan drafted. 3 municipalities out of them had opportunities to learn the current SWM in Japan in early April.

"3R Guideline" now available:

Albania has set a goal to be a member state of European Union (EU) and its environmental policies are set in conformity with EU Directives. Likewise in SWM, the National Waste Management Strategy of Albania (hereafter "the Strategy") legislated in 2015 stipulates the goal to reduce waste 25% by 2014, 35% by 2016, and then 55% by 2020. As a part of the strategy to achieve such goal, the country has prioritized promotion of 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) of municipal solid waste. On the other hand, municipalities are mandated to deliver and manage proper solid waste management services to their citizens. This means a municipal solid waste management plan should include their plan of promotion of 3R. In order to provide guidance to the municipalities for this planning process, the "3R Guideline" has been developed in line with National Waste Management Strategy as well as National Waste Management Plan.



Front page of
"3R Guideline"

The objectives of "3R Guideline" are set as following: 1) Upon a LGU implementing 3R activities, 3R Action Plan is developed according to 3R Guideline. Through this process, 3R Guideline also supports LGU to develop its Waste Management Plan; and 2) 3R Guideline supports a LGU to implement 3R activities. Through this process, 3R Guideline

supports realizing activities aimed in their waste management plan.

The Guideline consists of the following 3 components which include the topics as listed below:

1. National Policy on 3R

- Understanding present situation and issues of solid waste management of the country.
- National basic policy on 3R
 - Setting the Planning Indices
 - Future goals

- Milestones for 3R promotion
- 2. Selection of 3R Activities
 - Screening of 3R activities feasible in Albanian context.
 - Viewpoints and points to be considered for implementation of the selected activities.
- 3. Implementation of 3R Activities by LGU
 - Formulation of 3R Action Plan
 - Understanding present situation and issued of SWM in the LGU
 - Selection of 3R activities
 - Confirmation of 3R Planning Figures
 - Development of future Waste Flow
 - Development of Plan of Implementation of 3R activities
 - Implementation and Evaluation of 3R activities

Copies of the printed A4-size "3R Guideline" were handed over to MOE from the Japanese Expert Team (JET) of the Project in early May and will be mailed to each municipality. It will come with a CD which contains the formula to support developing current and future "waste flow" for each municipality.

Seminar for introducing the finalized draft 3R Guideline cum the Seminar on reporting result of 3R Pilot Projects:

The Project held its final seminar titled "Seminar for introducing the finalized draft 3R Guideline cum the Seminar on reporting result of 3R Pilot Project" on 9th and 10th March, 2017. The first day of the seminar was organized at Tirana International Hotel, and the second day of the seminar took place in Cerrik Municipality.

The objectives of the seminar were; 1) Reporting the final results of 3R Pilot Project conducted under the Project, 2) Introducing the final draft of 3R Guideline, 3) Deepening understanding on 3R Action Plan and its formulation, and 4) Sharing experiences and lessons of the Pilot Project by visiting Cerrik Municipality.

The final seminar gathered the largest participations for the three years of the Project implementation period from the municipalities throughout the

country; 56 personnel from 40 municipalities, along with the representatives from each of 10 counties, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ministry of Urban Development.

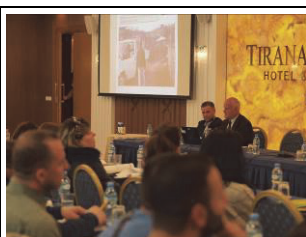


A total of 86 participants filled the venue at Consortium Hall, Tirana International Hotel in Tirana on the first day of the seminar.

It was started with an opening speech by the Ministry of Environment, followed by three presentations about the result of the pilot projects which had been implemented in Vau i Dejes, Cerrik, and Tirana municipalities (The details of the outcomes were introduced in the previous issue of the Newsletter).



Vau i Dejes municipality presented the result of their PP on separation of agricultural waste and necessity for on-site compost.



Cerrik municipality presented the result of their PP on door-to-door collection and separate collection of recyclables.

The ministry also presented the summarized contents of "3R Guideline". The seminar also served an opportunity to the municipality officials to ask their burning questions regarding waste management, including treatment of industrial waste, and setting municipal tariffs for waste, and other waste-related topics. The representatives from MoE and MoTI responded to these questions sincerely.



Tirana municipality presented the result of PP on separate collection of recyclables.

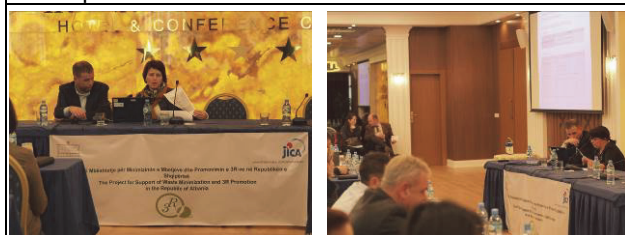


MoE official and the JET facilitated the very active Q & A session during the seminar.

Another major topic of the day was on development of municipal 3R Action Plans. The 3R Action Plan can be developed following the guidance provided in 3R Guideline, but the Project had made their efforts to form more concrete understandings among the municipal officials, through county level workshops and individual visits in the past three months. As a result of this effort, at the time of the final seminar, 24 municipalities had their own 3R Action Plan drafted. In addition to them, two other municipalities had made their own efforts to develop their plans by the seminar. Six more municipalities had completed their analysis of the current SWM status in their municipalities. These municipal 3R Action Plans were handed over back to the respective municipalities during the seminar after the JET certifying the consistency and feasibility of their plans.



Draft of 3R Action Plan were handed back to 30 municipalities.



Ura Vajgurore and Konispol municipalities presented their completed draft 3R Action Plans as good examples.

3rd Counterpart Training conducted in Ogaki City in Japan

The third counterpart training was conducted from 2nd to 12th of April 2017 in collaboration with Ogaki City in Gifu Prefecture in Japan where the past two counterpart trainings were conducted. In this year, three officials who engage in SWM in Municipality of Permet, Konispol and Ura Vajgurore participated in the training. They stayed at JICA Chubu center in Nagoya city, 44km away from Ogaki, while the most part of the program was conducted in Ogaki city. Ogaki city is located in the central part of Japan and has a population of 160,000 in the area of 200 square kilometers approximately.

The program consisted of a series of lectures and site visits. There were three lectures: "SWM in Japan", "Industrial waste management in Gifu Prefecture" and "SWM in Ogaki city", which covered a wide range of topics on SWM and 3R in Japan such as roles of each public sector (central government, prefecture and municipality), private

sector (business enterprise) and citizen in SWM; history of SWM; and legal framework regarding SWM and 3R.



Courtesy visit to the Ogaki City Hall. Three times of trainings under the Project were conducted in collaboration with Ogaki city.

During the site visits, the trainees learned practical work of SWM and 3R of municipal staff in Ogaki city by observing household waste collection and by visiting intermediate treatment facilities (incineration plants, sorting and compressing facility for recyclables, bulky waste treatment facility), two types of final disposal sites (for incinerated ash, and for construction waste) and some facilities related to SWM or 3R (municipal hospital, wood pellet factory, wasted oil recycling facility) in Ogaki. They also visited recycling facilities operated by private sector dealing with plastics and glass bottles and also observed two different types of compost, cow dung compost practiced by farmer and cardboard-box compost by citizen group.

Through the training, the trainees deepened understanding about how SWM and 3R activity are conducted in Japan theoretically and practically.



Ogaki Recycle Center. Here, recyclables collected from households are sorted by materials manually. Then, the recyclables are packed by a compressor.

There were a lot of opportunities for exchanging ideas between Japan and Albania sides in each program. The trainees were impressed not only by seeing technology or system applied in facilities but

the high awareness of citizen towards environmental conservation which enables to realize clean environment.

During the wrap-up session conducted on the last day of the training at JICA Chubu Center, the trainees commented "Awareness raising and environmental education are the most important activities for us and feasible action in our municipalities." The trainees were glad to participate in the training and deeply appreciated the hospitality of the people of Ogaki City and the staffs involved in the training. It is expected that the trainees will make use of their experience in Japan for improving SWM and promoting 3R activity in Albania.



Collection work of household waste. The residents discharge waste separately according to the rule at designated discharge point and collection is done on scheduled day.

Final Joint Coordinating Committee meeting held on 25th April

The 6th, and the final, Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting of the Project was held at Conference room in Ministry of Environment on 25th April, 2017 with a participation of JCC members including representatives from Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Tirana Municipality, Cerrik Municipality, Vau i Dejes Municipality, Tirana County, as well as JICA Balkan Office.

The Japanese Expert Team (JET) of the Project reported the result of the final seminar held on 9th and 10th March and the 3rd counterpart training in Japan held in early April. JET also presented the draft final report of the Project to JCC members for their comments and agreement. The final report includes the summary of the three-year activities of the projects.

JCC members praised the accomplishment of the Project, especially the completion of 3R Guideline for the Ministry of Environment, and the JET's support to

more than 30 municipalities in drafting their 3R Action Plan.

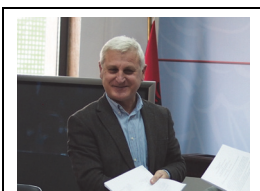
As Mr. Ryohei Anzai, representative of JICA Balkan Office, emphasized in his closing remarks, hereafter it is expected that Ministry of Environment will have “ownership in further promotion of 3R in Albania in close cooperation with local governments and the project energy will be utilized in a way that will continue shaping the improved waste management in Albania.”



JCC members gathered for the final meeting on 25th April, 2017

Closing Message From the Project Director

~ Prof. Pellumb Abeshi, General Director of Environmental Policy, Ministry of Environment



Prof. Pellumb Abeshi at the time of signing the minutes for JCC5.

The Ministry of Environment maximally appreciates the contribution provided by the Japanese government and JICA in the framework 3R project. The capacities created and strengthened at ministry level and local government units as part of

the pilot project are a guarantee to continue on the road to integrated waste management and to meeting national environmental standards.

Photo Gallery ~Highlights from the Projects ~



The Project had 6 JCC meetings during the past 3 years in order to facilitate inter-organizational coordination for the project implantation.



The JET conducted detailed baseline surveys prior to designing pilot projects in each municipalities



Cerrik municipality successfully introduced door-to-door collection with bell system.



Vau i Dejes proven the effectivity of installation of agricultural waste container.



Tirana municipality shown school activity as effective entry point to the community.



The Project visited 40 municipalities to provide guidance and support their formulation of 3R Action Plans.



The counterpart officials from municipalities participated in every step of pilot project implementation.



The Counterpart training in Ogaki Municipality in Gifu, Japan were conducted 3 times.



The counterpart also had a visit to Prizren, Kosovo to observe their SWM improved through JICA cooperation.