

International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA)

Executive Summary

Local authorities of emerging and developing economies suffer from capacity constraints in terms of technology, financial, institutional, and policy aspects in implementing waste management infrastructure, and associated services. The rising volume and complexity of waste streams are posing challenges to the local authorities threatening human health and ecosystem as well as security of resources. In order to respond to these challenges, an International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA) that focuses on networking the local authorities across the world is necessary. This IPLA should stress on the link between waste and resources and aim to connect all key stakeholders through knowledge networks following the principles of Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) and strategies such as Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (3Rs).

The proposed IPLA is structured to represent a knowledge network that emphasizes practice. The Mission of IPLA will be “to share knowledge, communicate across national boundaries, and work to spread best practice in order to accelerate the uptake of waste-related infrastructure and services at various stages of waste management such as avoidance, prevention, minimization, segregation, collection, transport, recycling, recovery, reuse treatment, and disposal”. Its primary objectives will be to:

- Enable local authorities to share experience about institutional, business, and financial models that have been successful or otherwise in addressing specific waste problems and opportunities;
- Help in mainstreaming integrated and sustainable waste management strategies such as ISWM and 3Rs;
- Facilitate expansion of waste management-related services and supporting infrastructure that caters to local authorities’ needs and meets compliance with applicable regulations; identifies partners and appropriate financial mechanisms for operation of the facilities, create "green jobs," and stimulate "green investments";
- Encourage awareness-raising and capacity-building programmes targeting local authorities and other stakeholders; especially to decouple waste generation from economic development and to manage complex and emergent waste streams;
- Help in creating a practice-oriented knowledge network to help formulate innovative projects, select most appropriate technologies, access expertise, promote waste exchange, and make best use of waste-resource-related opportunities;
- Be instrumental in the collation of databases on waste generation, technology performance and standards, benchmarks and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for gap assessment and target setting for the local authorities; and
- Provide a platform to local authorities in giving feedback to enhance and modernize the national policy framework.

The IPLA will have an International Secretariat guided by an Advisory Board and supported by regional/sub-regional secretariats. Thematic Working Groups (TWG) may be constituted by inviting facilitating organizations (FO) that will make contributions to the “knowledge pool” of IPLA on an honorary basis. FOs will interact with local authorities in the form of an “ecosystem” that may include knowledge- based Institutions, state/national-level urban development departments, NGOs, CBOs, waste picker associations, financing institutions, technology and service providers, industries, and other alliances related to waste management. TWG will cover cross-cutting themes such as financing, training, practice research, policy and regulations, etc. and may focus on specific waste streams as well as E-waste, healthcare waste, plastic waste, etc. In addition, local authorities from high-income countries could share their experience and provide knowledge to local authorities from low- and

middle-income countries. The structure of IPLA will be non-hierarchical and flexible for promoting direct interactions between local authorities on a global basis.

Web-portals, workshops, regional and international events, training and awareness programmes, and piloting innovative projects are some of the tools and mechanisms which IPLA will use to help LAs network between each other. Monitoring arrangements and performance indicators to check the performance of IPLA will be put in place to ensure that its activities are geared towards the goal of zero waste.

Membership to IPLA will be open to all. All members of IPLA should be in complete concurrence with IPLA's mission and goals. Membership to IPLA will be of five types, viz., local authorities, TWG members, Individuals and organizations, Regional Secretariat, and Sub-Regional Secretariat. Although IPLA is unique in terms of giving specific focus to local authorities, it would draw synergies with existing international initiatives and partnerships on waste management. In this manner, IPLA will ensure that there are no overlaps or duplication, and the relationship with other initiatives will be complementary.