

# African Clean Cities Platform Newsletter

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CITIES PLATFORM  
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## Special Topic : Reflecting on the Training Program in Yokohama for the African Clean Cities Platform (January 30 - February 23, 2018)



*by Kazuo FUKUYAMA, Director General, Resources and Waste Recycling Bureau, City of Yokohama*

The city of Yokohama is grateful for the honor to have hosted a training program among the initiatives launched by the African Clean Cities Platform.

In the past, during Japan's period of rapid economic growth and population increase, solid waste management also posed a serious problem in our society. The city of Yokohama addressed this issue through waste reduction and recycling in cooperation with residents and local companies.

This experience was shared with the participants of our training program with hands-on demonstrations of initiatives by local governments that put key national laws and policies into action. The on-site observation of waste disposal followed an overall briefing on waste disposal starting with segregation by individual households, and then on through collection, transport, intermediate treatment, and on to final disposal. Despite the inconvenience of snow and cold weather during the training program, we believe that observing how our citizens dispose their waste in the early morning demonstrated the importance of awareness programs and environmental education.



Participants of the training program also recalled their visit to a junior-high school, where they enjoyed conversing in English and making rice balls with the students. At the concluding session, the participants developed and presented their action plans for resolving problems on solid waste management. Our city employees also participated in the discussions in order to enrich the exchange. We hope that this training program proves helpful for our participants in the future.

The city of Yokohama will host the upcoming Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) as "Japan's closest gateway to Africa". We will also host additional training programs to help Africa achieve clean and healthy cities.

We wish to take this opportunity and thank everyone who helped us successfully conduct this training program.

### Training Participant's Comments

The African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP) and the SWM training I received in Japan from JICA Yokohama International Centre (YIC) are wakeup calls, to rededicate my efforts and that of Kaduna State leadership, to ensuring timely delivery of SDGs Targets in urban waste management and sanitation. The training has empowered me with the knowledge to transform and upgrade waste generation, collection, transportation, intermediate treatment and final disposal systems in Kaduna Metropolis. We look forward to a future of friendship and partnership in cleaning our city and providing a healthy environment for our citizens and the world. Arigatou gozaimasu,



**Yusuf Abdullahi Rigasa**  
General Manager  
Kaduna State Environmental Protection  
Authority

Japan—a great global power—has used JICA to help Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan, South Sudan, Lesotho and Nigeria to strengthen their capacities in solid waste management. That's important, because in our African countries, we do not get rid of garbage amount, because there's no policy of treatment and recovery. In Yokohama, Japan, we received 11 lessons on regulation, processing, the 3Rs, awareness-raising, and processing and recycling infrastructures. We visited 20 waste management facilities: sites for transit, processing, incineration and final repository. Good policy, good national strategy and regulation are the guarantees for sound management of wastes for future generations.



**KOUAME Née KETE**  
Manager of Animation and Monitoring for  
Health and Sanitation Committees  
Ministry of Salubrity, Environment and  
Sustainable Development, Cote d'Ivoire



**by Tokuya WADA, Councilor, Ministry of the Environment, Japan**

The Japanese Ministry of the Environment, in its international cooperation in waste management, had been focusing primarily on developing countries in Asia. That changed last April when the African Clean Cities Platform was set up to expand the geographic scope of such cooperation in response to worsening waste problems in Africa.

The United Nations estimates that the population of Africa will surge from slightly over 1.2 billion today to 4.4 billion in 2100, which fact is in sharp contrast with Asia and other regions that will be experiencing demographic decline in the second half of the 21st century. Thus, it is feared that the ongoing influx of people to Africa's cities will further aggravate problems involving waste.

During Japan's period of rapid economic growth, mounting waste also posed a problem, one now dubbed the "waste war." The newly established Platform intends to share Japan's experience and the know-how it gained from its own struggle with waste in the aim of helping Africa address its waste problems and keep them at bay.

Of course, Japan and Africa differ substantially in climate, customs and culture. Even within Africa, each region has its own characteristics. It is therefore vital to build a custom-made waste management system around the perspectives of local residents and in accord with local conditions, rather than simply graft Japanese institutions and technologies onto African realities.

The Japanese Ministry of the Environment shall strive to assist African cities in addressing their waste problems and achieving sustainable development by participating in the African Clean Cities Platform.



**by Kazunao SHIBATA, Chief Representative, JICA Democratic Republic of Congo Office**

I'm Kazunao Shibata, assigned as the chief representative of the JICA Democratic Republic of Congo Office and transferred to Kinshasa in March 2018. Until February, I supervised the secretariat of the African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP) as the Director of Environmental Management Group, Global Environment Department, JICA.

In retrospect, the Seminar on Waste Management in Africa held in Nairobi, Kenya in August 2016 in order to establish a place to discuss the worsening waste issues in Africa was the starting point. With many partners such as African countries and cities, UNEP, UN-Habitat, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the City of Yokohama, ACCP was established in Maputo, Mozambique in April 2017 and has since expanded to 28 member countries. It has been developing activities such as data collection in each country, SDGs pilot survey and training course held in February 2018 in Yokohama.

In order for Africa, which continues its trend of "urbanization without growth" with lower incomes than Asia, to solve its waste issues, it is necessary to mobilize substantial public and private funds and to encourage domestic and foreign companies on the basis of establishing a governmental legal system and strengthening the administrative capabilities of municipalities. And its major premise is that politicians raise policy priorities of urban hygiene in order to respond to the citizens' demands for clean cities and healthy lifestyles.

For this purpose, I hope that the ACCP will link governments, cities, companies, citizens and international organizations and raise the priority of waste management, leading to significant investment and contributing to solving waste issues and achieving SDGs in African cities. I myself will continue to strive to expand clean cities from Kinshasa, which is said to be the largest city in Africa in 2050.

Finally I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all related persons of member countries and cities, international organizations and companies, Mr. Tadahiko ITO, State Minister, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Mr. Onaka, former Director General, Resources and Waste Recycling Bureau, the City of Yokohama, Mr. Yamauchi, former Director General, Global Environment Department, JICA, who strongly promoted the ACCP establishment, and the secretariat members who supported all the activities.



**Greetings from ACCP Secretariat**

**by Sei KONDO, Director of Environmental Management Group, JICA Head Office**

Hello from Tokyo. I'm Sei KONDO, Director of Environmental Management Group, JICA Head Office. I am taking over duties for the ACCP Secretariat as a successor to Mr. Shibata from this March. It is a distinct pleasure for me to take this role, not only because I did my master's in environmental engineering, but also my main motive to engage in JICA's activities has been to contribute for improving environmental management, particularly waste management, by becoming a bridge between developing countries and Japan. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to have many discussions and conversations during the coming 1st annual meeting in

June in order to gain diverse insights and ideas for making the ACCP more useful and fruitful, and even to find unprecedented innovation for partner countries and cities to realize cleaner cities in Africa. I'm really looking forward to meeting you all in Rabat!

## ACCP Official Website Opened!



The official website of the African Clean Cities Platform was opened. In addition to basic information on ACCP, activities and event information, information on waste management of member countries and cities and related knowledge are posted in three languages (English/French/Japanese). In order to promote knowledge sharing and networking among member countries and cities, related organizations and private companies, and to conduct outreach activities, we will increase the amount of attractive content. Please bookmark the website!

URL: <http://AfricanCleanCities.org>

## ACCP Action Plan toward TICAD7 was formulated



The action plan for the initial phase of the African Clean Cities Platform (April 2017 - December 2019) was formulated. Based on the initial plan summarized at the preparatory meeting, the Secretariat (JICA) prepared the draft, consulted with host organizations such as the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the City of Yokohama, UNEP, UN-Habitat, gathered feedback from focal points in member countries and cities via e-mail and finalized it. The action plan specifies the activities and schedule to achieve the following objectives and outputs. The full version can be seen on the ACCP official website.

### ACCP's Objectives and Outputs (Excerpted from Action Plan)

1. Sharing of Knowledge and networking: Important knowledge on waste management is shared among the Members of the Platform by utilizing it.
  - 1-1. A network of major actors in waste management in Africa is established and functioning, and knowledge and data on waste management in African countries/cities can be shared through the Platform.
  - 1-2. Important knowledge on waste management is shared among the Members of the Platform.
2. Promotion of SDGs: African countries and major cities agree on the promotion of waste management and SDGs achievement as a priority at the TICAD7 Meeting.
  - 1-3. Current situation, problems, progress of SDGs targets, and investment needs on waste management are clarified in African countries and major cities.
  - 1-4. Policymakers decide the promotion of waste management and SDGs achievement as a priority.
3. Promotion of investment: Investment in waste management and SDGs achievement in Africa is increased.
  - 1-5. Specific needs with regard to financial and technical support in member countries/cities are clarified and presented to national and international partners.
  - 1-6. Japanese government decides and announces a policy initiative on waste management in African cities with specific actions.
  - 1-7. Donor countries and multilateral organizations increase support for waste management in Africa.
  - 1-8. Investment from private sector increases for waste management and recycling in member countries/cities.
  - 1-9. Community involvement on waste management is promoted.

## Upcoming Event: ACCP First Annual Meeting in Rabat, Morocco

Preparations for the First Annual Meeting in Rabat, Morocco, steadily advanced. In the last week of March, JICA dispatched a mission to Morocco to have prior consultation meetings with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and State Secretariat of Sustainable Development. Main Objectives of the First Annual Meeting are (1) Knowledge and experience sharing with Morocco, (2) Promotion of SDGs monitoring and data collection, (3) Examination of Public Private Partnerships, and (4) Investment Promotion for African Clean Cities. Presenters and Panelists for the above sessions are being arranged with taking requests from member countries and cities. We look forward to seeing you in Rabat in the last week of this June.

# Monitoring Methodologies for SDGs

by **Nao TAKEUCHI, Waste Management Specialist, Urban Basic Services Branch, UN-Habitat**

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with over 240 measurement indicators to keep track of them. Of these indicators, several were specifically designed to yield information on waste, including municipal solid waste (indicator 11.6.1), hazardous waste (12.4.2) and recycling rates (12.5.1).

However, these waste SDG indicators lack data or any agreed monitoring methodologies, in practice. To correct this fundamental issue, UNEP and UN-Habitat have teamed up to launch a Joint Programme on Waste SDG Indicators Monitoring and Capacity Development. In January 2018, we co-organized first Expert Group Meeting bringing together over 30 experts on waste management and environmental statistics worldwide. Discussions focused on defining key terminologies, fine-tuning the calculation methods and harmonizing the three indicators referring to the major existing Statistical Systems, such as the UN Statistical Division and the Eurostat.

Based on the discussion results, UNEP and UN-Habitat will improve and harmonize methodologies and partner with the African Clean Cities Platform for the capacity development. The expected outcome is that all ACCP member countries and cities will improve their capacity for waste-related statistics and data collection thus enabling more informed decision-making for better waste management implementation. These, in turn, will lead to cleaner cities with healthier populations, and move us one more step towards a more sustainable and equitable society for all.



## Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers active in the African Waste Management Sector



**Sena HIROKI  
from Cameroon**

### Using Education to Increase Appreciation of Nature and the Homeland – Challenging people to be aware of the beauty in their lives

The first impression I had when I first stepped into Cameroon, was “This country is blessed with fertile land.” Mango, banana, and avocado trees are everywhere—no one seems to suffer from starvation. A hygiene company called HYSACAM (Hygiène et salubrité du Cameroun) developed the field of garbage collection and composting, and has become highly trusted among citizens here. The company has 14 local branches and four international branches in other African countries and contributes to developing the clean city.

I am posted in Sangmélima, which is located in the southern part of Cameroon in an area that is surrounded by tropical rain forest. My mission here is to implement environmental education at local primary schools. I work in 12 schools, with about 4,500 students. Although Cameroon is facing various environmental challenges, I tell my students to look for the treasures instead of problems, so that they will be aware of their country's natural wealth and take pride in how they live and interact with nature. With this in mind, they will develop the awareness and appreciation needed to confront these environmental challenges. I interact not so much as a teacher but rather as a human who loves nature.

In addition to working with children in primary schools, I also started to work with HYSACAM to raise parents' awareness about environmental issues. There is a lot of work to do—people in Cameroon regularly litter and dump garbage in great piles around where they live and work. Rather than preaching about why people should not litter, I ask “What would you do to protect your beautiful country?” I will continue to work with young and old, parents and children, to slowly but surely support this beautiful country and its people in order to protect and preserve its environment.

