

## **Report of WasteSafe 2011 - the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Solid Waste Management in Developing Countries**

The WasteSafe 2011, 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Solid Waste Management in Developing Countries was held in Khulna, Bangladesh, 13-15 February 2011. The conference was jointly organized by Khulna University of Engineering & Technology, Bangladesh; Bauhaus University Weimar, Germany; University of Padova, Italy, International Waste Working Group (IWWG) and ORBIT Association.

The success of WasteSafe 2009 International Conference, encouraged the organizer to continue such activities in Bangladesh in every odd year in a particular time of the year. To materialize such attempt, the WasteSafe 2011, the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Solid Waste Management in Developing Countries has been arranged at Khulna, Bangladesh to exchange the views and experiences at both the national and international levels and to understand the solid waste management concept, modern technologies, sustainability of the system as a whole. The Conference focused particularly on the technical, environmental and socio-economical aspects of Solid Waste Management. Presentations were divided into the following five different categories:

- General Aspects to Solid Waste Management
- Hazardous Waste Management
- Industrial Waste and Drain Sludge Management
- Landfill, Composting & Treatment
- Recycling & others

The Conference was held in the halls of the Civil Engineering Building of KUET.

More than 170 academicians, researchers, professionals, students and other personalities from 16 different countries submitted their scientific contributions and registered to attend in the conference. A total of 105 oral presentations were presented in 14 technical parallel sessions, 2 Keynote sessions and one special session. An Inaugural Session was held in the Auditorium of KUET in the evening of 13<sup>th</sup> February.

The Inaugural Ceremony was presided over by the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Prof. Dr. Muhammed Alamgir and addressed by the IWWG Managing Board member Prof. Dr. Raffaello Cossu from the University of Padova, Italy and Prof. Dr. Echarth Kraft, Bauhaus University Weimar, Germany. The Mayor of the Khulna City Corporation, Mr. Talukder Abdul Khaleque gave his addresses as the Chief guest.

The conference saw the presentation of numerous high quality research studies from numerous developing and developed countries. In the inaugural presentation the situation of

organic waste management and its potential was highlighted (M. Alamgir), whilst the first keynote session focused on the implementation of environmental sustainability in waste management (R. Cossu) and the anaerobic digestion (E. Kraft). The second key note session was on aerobic and anaerobic biological treatment of wastes (G. D. Najafpour). The special session focused on the solid waste management situation in developing countries (Barbara D. M. P. and G. Schories).

A good number of papers were presented on different waste management methods practicing in the developing countries. Mitigation of climatic issue and the role of NGOs, CBOs and other organizations are also discussed in the technical sessions. The success histories of anaerobic digestion, different composting technologies were discussed with great interest. The challenges to be faced to achieve environmental sustainability of the existing system practiced in the LDACs within the prevailing socio-economic conditions and technological capabilities were also discussed.



**Group photo of the participants in the WasteSafe 2011 International Conference**

The most encouraging outcomes of the WasteSafe 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> International conference were the experiences and research findings presented by young researchers from developing countries. The critical discussions and suggestions that emerged from presentation of these papers will undoubtedly assist these researchers in their studies. Some of the topics highlighted during discussion included difficulties in the achievements of sustainable waste management practices in developing countries, lack of public awareness, need for community participation, organizational reforms, law enforcement, potential application of composting, recycling, strong need for hospital waste management and implementation of sustainable landfill technologies.

Other original research works dealt with increasing public awareness and change of attitude towards MSW management, primary door-to-door collection of wastes, informal recycling

plants, development of appropriate composting technologies, management of organic wastes, leachate treatment and construction of sustainable landfill using locally available building materials and construction technologies.

The WasteSafe 2011, 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference ended with a simple closing ceremony on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011, moderated by Prof. M. Alamgir. The organizing committee gratefully acknowledged the continuous, cordial and effective support provided by all organizations and individuals contributing towards the success of the conference. Closing remarks were given by Prof. R. Cossu.



**Prof. Kraft, Prof. Cossu, Prof. Alamgir, Prof. Bashar, Dr. Zurbrugg and Mr. Jachnow with the Volunteers at the Closing Ceremony of the WasteSafe 2011 International Conference**

During the conference numerous social events were also scheduled, including a showcase of the different traditions of Bengali culture, with traditional dances and music on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011.



**A traditional cultural show was presented during Conference Dinner on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

The next WasteSafe conference has been scheduled for 10-12 February 2013 at the same venue of the KUET in Khulna, Bangladesh.