

# Factsheet



## Solid Waste Management Program for Local Government Units (SWM4LGUs)

### Scenario

On January 26, 2001, the Government of the Philippines signed into law the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (R.A. 9003). This law requests all local government units (LGUs) to establish an ecological solid waste management program within their jurisdiction. The law also provides for the necessary institutional mechanisms to attain its objectives. R.A. 9003 addresses the problems of environmental degradation and pollution resulting from refuse dumps and the consequent loss of resources caused by steadily increasing volumes of waste.

To date, however, enforcement of and compliance with R.A. 9003 has been ineffective due to technical, organizational and financial shortcomings in government agencies and tasked LGUs.

### Description

In response to the ineffective implementation of R.A. 9003, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) commissioned the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) to launch on January 3, 2005 a support program called Solid Waste Management for Local Government Units in the Visayas (SWM4LGUs).

The SWM4LGUs is implemented in partnership with the Environmental Management Bureaus (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The initial focus of operations will be in the Visayas area, specifically Regions VI, VII and VIII.

The overall goal of GTZ's program is to enable LGUs to comply with R.A. 9003. Thus, LGUs will be qualified to establish integrated solid waste management systems and operate them in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner.

The program aims to strengthen the capability of experts in the EMB and to improve their performance in regulatory and development functions. This is necessary to achieve implementation of R.A. 9003.

To establish showcases and demonstrate best practices in solid waste management, capacity development of selected LGUs will take place. Expert training and planning support will also be provided to these LGUs to assist them to implement R.A. 9003.

**Partners:** Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureaus (DENR-EMB); selected local government units (LGUs) in the Visayas area (Regions VI, VII and VIII).

**Target Groups:** Populations of selected, medium-sized cities in the Visayas area.

**Duration:** January 2005 - December 2011



*As the picture demonstrates, the public in Iloilo City does not use the waste segregation system correctly. To achieve lasting changes in solid waste management, public information and education is an important program component.*

In this program, GTZ's strategic approach is to provide technical expertise and knowledge transfer to key personnel in the EMB and selected LGUs. The establishment of pilot projects and model solid waste management (SWM) activities will be the key methods used to enable knowledge transfer. To achieve this, a special program office has been set up at the DENR-EMB compound in Iloilo City and a team of national and international long- and short-term experts has been employed by GTZ.

The Visayas area is the focus of German development assistance in the Philippines. The City of Iloilo has been chosen as a pilot LGU for the first phase of the program. Through the program, technical support will be extended to other cities in the Visayas such as Dumaguete and Bayawan City in Region VII, and Maasin and Ormoc City in Region VIII. Financial assistance is provided to LGUs, if requested, through the Credit Line for Solid Waste



Management (CL-SWM) managed by the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). The DBP has received funds from a financial assistance program offered by the German Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). However, the technical assistance for LGUs provided by GTZ is given preferably to LGUs and cities acquiring for the loan assistance offered by KfW, it is not a precondition as such.

## Impact

Various trainings were conducted in 2006 with expert personnel from the project partner EMB to upgrade their SWM skills and to assist the organizational development of SWM units within the EMB offices of regions VI, VII and VIII. In October 2006 a study tour to Germany has been undertaken. A group of 12 project partners from EMB and selected LGUs attend a disposal fair to learn about the latest technologies in the sector. They also visited a range of solid waste management facilities which were applying different technologies. Discussions with German authorities and experts have been used for intensive exchange not only about technical questions but also management and legal basis in the solid waste management sector.

Meanwhile, Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) have been negotiated and signed by the regional EMB offices and LGUs in Iloilo City, Passi City, Dumaguete City, Buenavista Municipality/Guimaras Province, and additionally since September 2006 Ormoc City, Maasin City, and Bayawan City. These MoUs clarify the responsibilities, inputs and targets of each party.

A variety of training has been conducted to enable knowledge transfer and to stimulate materials recovery. Composting, in particular, is encouraged at the household, barangay and LGU level. As a result, partner LGUs in Passi City, Dumaguete City and Buenavista Municipality have upgraded their waste segregation systems in public markets and town centers. Model composting projects have also been implemented and are being replicated by other barangays in Buenavista Municipality and Dumaguete City.

2 municipalities decided to utilize the ongoing financial support through KfW-DBP for their targeted solid waste management improvements and especially for the establishment of new sanitary landfills. The LGUs in Iloilo City and Passi City were supported in conducting feasibility studies and in the preparation of loan applications.



*A picture of contrasts: This dumpsite in Passi City, Iloilo Province claims to be an "Ecological Park." With program assistance, it will soon be closed and rehabilitated and a new Sanitary Landfill established.*

For establishing a "feed back and learning process", Participatory Result-Based Monitoring (PRBM) has been introduced and explained through various trainings provided to program partners.

Within the framework of expert networking, the annual conference of the Solid Waste Association of the Philippines was supported by the program (among other supporters). The conference took place on November 21-23, 2005 in Iloilo City under the banner: ORGANIC RECYCLING. The Municipality of Buenavista, a program partner, presented their new demonstration composting project during the conference. A main objective was to disseminate information, local experiences and lessons learned to interested LGUs with the intention that successful approaches will be replicated by other municipalities.

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