# Solid waste management in emerging economies: opportunities and challenges for reuse and recycling

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Solid waste management in emerging economies: opportunities and challenges for reuse and recycling

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In emerging economies, the environmental challenges facing human society have become increasingly concentrated due to rising living standards and the countries have a high population density that tremendously increases its solid waste generation. In the face of these changes, the government must implement various solid waste management (SWM) practices; nevertheless, waste treatment infrastructure is continuously strained despite the efficient operation of its waste minimization and resource recovery program in emerging economies. The structural changes in the community behavior of an economic system and solid waste disposal routines influence SWM execution (Tsai et al., 2021). Dissociations between economic growth, environmental pressures, and societal sustainability greatly impedes SWM technology, which is then pressed to its limits, placing unexpected burdens on society (Araee et al., 2020). More in-depth studies are necessary to improve waste processes and move towards sustainability, as well as to create a society free from the risk of resource exhaustion, where cities' ecosystems, especially, opportunities and challenges for reuse and recycling, are preserved without being threatened.

However, rapid elaboration, cumulative discernment, and diverse social, political, environmental and economic challenges result in very different technical and nontechnical barriers, making solid waste management (SWM) a complex and uncertain topic (Bui et al., 2020; Fukuda, 2020). Indeed, SWM would need to understand the opportunities and challenges for reuse and recycling in solving key social and environmental problems. Highlighting these opportunities and challenges are a significant step towards improving waste management outcomes, developing technologies and implementing alternative solutions. For instance, Bui et al. (2020) identified a set of barriers related to SWM practice and revealed that social acceptability, technical integration, and financial and economic problems are factors that affect SWM. The essential nature of technical perspectives, certain gaps related to aligning the technical barriers to reuse and recycling concept, and the nontechnical characteristics of sustainable perspectives to improve SWM can be addressed by examining the opportunities and challenges for reuse and recycling.

Indeed, understanding the SWM opportunities and challenges for reuse and recycling to enhance

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the resource utilization and environmental protection in emerging countries is critical and challenges for most of emerging countries (Tseng et al., 2018; Chien et al., 2021). SWM resource utilization seeks to achieve both social and environmental sustainability by catalyzing innovations that underpins sustainable development. Improper disposal of SWM create unsanitary conditions, and these conditions in turn can lead to pollution of the environment; on the other hand, how to turn this situation into opportunities needs to apply the "recycle and reuse" concepts. Prior studies which examine these opportunities and challenges for SWM reuse and recycling need to be integrated. This special issue is to further take the paradigms or challenges from countries in emerging economies.

- What are the roles of government and none-government organization for SWM reuse and recycling in emerging economies?
- How the industry turns this SWM reuse and recycling concept into sustainable business model?
  For instance, the industry 3.5/4.0 concept to mitigate the SWM burdens
- How is the innovation and technology to benefit the SWM opportunities?
- How to build and understand the behavior pattern in facing solid waste management opportunities and challenges for reuse and recycling?
- What are the transition models for SWM toward sustainability?
- What are the sustainable paradigm cases in practice for SWM opportunities and challenges?

Nevertheless, this special issue is to bring the discussions among the SWM academic communities and address the theoretical model/ practical solution/ methodology contributions.

# **Manuscript Preparation and Submission**

A Virtual Special Issue (VSI) is an online-only grouping of Special Issue articles traditionally assigned to a single Special Issue. The articles in a VSI will be assigned a unique identifier and published in a regular journal issue. The unique identifier allows to simultaneously adding the article to a VSI in ScienceDirect.com. Articles grouped together in a VSI retain their original citation details. A VSI speeds up the publication of individual articles as, unlike the publication process for conventional Special Issue articles, a VSI does not need to wait for the final article to be ready before publication.

A detailed submission guideline is available as "Guide for Authors" at: <a href="http://www.journals.elsevier.com/resources-conservation-and-recycling">http://www.journals.elsevier.com/resources-conservation-and-recycling</a>. All manuscripts and any supplementary material should be submitted through the online editorial system (https://www.editorialmanager.com/recycl). The authors must select "SI: Solid waste management" in the submission process.

# **Important Dates**

• Full paper submission deadline: 31th December, 2021

• Final decision notification: 01st June, 2022

Publication:
 As soon as accepted (VSI)

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