

International Advisory Board of the  
International Environmental Technology Centre  
Eleventh meeting  
Osaka, Japan, 20 May 2019

## Chair's Summary

### Item 1: Overview and opening of the meeting

1. The eleventh meeting of the International Advisory Board of the International Environmental Technology Centre was held on 20 May 2019 at the Centre's premise in Tsurumi-ku, Osaka, Japan. The meeting was attended by International Advisory Board members as well as observers. Participants in the meeting were welcomed by the Director of the International Environmental Technology Centre, Mr. Keith Alverson. The meeting was opened by Ms. Ligia Noronha, Director, Economy Division, United Nations Environment Programme. She mentioned that the waste is high on the political agenda globally, and that the mandate of the International Environmental Technology Centre, which is the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, is more relevant today than when the Centre was established 25 year ago. She also highlighted the important role the International Environmental Technology Centre is playing in implementing United Nations Environment Programme's agenda on waste management.
2. The chair of the board was unable to participate in the meeting, and therefore the meeting elected Mr. Antonis Mavropoulos as the Acting Chair of the eleventh meeting of the International Advisory Board of the International Environmental Technology Centre.
3. The meeting covered the following issues:
  - a. Progress of the International Environmental Technology Centre since the Tenth meeting of the International Advisory Board;
  - b. The 2020-2021 work programme of the International Environmental Technology Centre including development of the Global Waste Management Outlook II;
  - c. Emerging waste management challenges and the role of the International Environmental Technology Centre; and
  - d. Membership of the International Advisory Board;

### Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

4. The meeting considered and adopted the Provisional Agenda (IETC/IAB11/2/1) and Annotated Provisional Agenda (IETC/IAB11/2/1.Add.1) proposed by the International Environmental Technology Centre.

### Item 3: Report on the Progress of the International Environmental Technology Centre since the Tenth meeting of the International Advisory Board

5. International Environmental Technology Centre presented the Report on the Progress of the Centre since the Tenth meeting of the Board (IETC/IAB11/3/1). The meeting was invited to discuss and provide guidance for further implementation of the Centre's activities. Major points of discussion were as follows:

- a. Need to highlight challenges and lessons learnt in future reports to the board;
  - b. The board noted IETC is not focused solely on technology;
  - c. Need to focus on capacity development and changing mindsets;
  - d. Highlighting waste management technologies, but also learning from failures;
  - e. Issuing technical guidance for different waste streams;
  - f. Taking into account rapid technology disruptions, and help practical screening of environmentally sound technologies;
  - g. Communicating/branding IETC outputs/results, and making these more accessible to governments, private sector and civil society;
  - h. Helping the private sector adopt environmentally sound technologies on waste management, including highlighting technologies that do *not* work.
6. The meeting thanked the International Environmental Technology Centre and acknowledged the excellent progress and deliverables of the Centre. The meeting indicated the need for IETC to be more influential in reaching out to governments, the private sector, and civil society. The meeting highlighted the need to upgrade IETC's communication efforts and focus on capacity building.

#### **Item 4: The 2020-2021 work programme of the International Environmental Technology Centre**

7. United Nations Environment Programme presented its programme of work (2020-2021) on chemicals, waste and air quality sub-programme. It was followed by a presentation from the International Environmental Technology Centre on its work programme (IETC/IAB11/4/1) to support the implementation of United Nations Environment Programme's programme of work on chemicals, waste, and air quality during 2020 – 2021 period.
8. Major points of discussion regarding the work programme were as follows:
- a. There is consensus on the relevance of IETC mandate and of the Waste Management Agenda. Regarding IETC Future plans the meeting appreciates the fact that IETC work is mostly dictated by the UNEP Programme of Work and in response to the UNEA Resolutions.
  - b. The meeting agreed for IETC to continue delivering through partnerships and engage interalia with the partnership on plastic waste created under the Basel convention. Strengthening of the capacity level component of IETC work has been discussed.
  - c. Several specific issues and topics have been mentioned (including waste trafficking, the confusion about biodegradability of plastics, open burning and open dumpsites in developing countries and textiles) which presents opportunities to further scale up the work of IETC, mindful of the challenge of having only a small team to deliver and a limited amount of funding for activities implementation. The chair suggested for IETC to position itself as 'the global, reliable, scientific point of reference on waste management' related matters.
  - d. Further discussion might be needed to clarify the role of IETC technology related work vs. the normative work that IETC performs. The meeting agreed that the way we communicate findings of IETC knowledge products can play a crucial role in driving uptake. The Regional Waste Management Outlooks provide a great series of knowledge products which present the latest snapshot of WM in each region of the world. IETC has a big role to play with countries to move the findings of these regional Outlook forward in partnership with relevant partners.
9. The International Advisory Board acknowledged the work programme for 2020-2021. Considering the discussions at this meeting, the International Environmental Technology Centre will implement its activities in close collaboration with relevant partners.

10. International Environmental Technology Centre and International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) presented an annotated table content for the Global Waste Management Outlook II (GWMO II) and, a plan for its development (IETC/IAB11/4/Add.1). The meeting thanked ISWA for developing and presenting the outline for the GWMO II, which was very well received. The major points of discussion regarding the outlook were:
  - a. The meeting appreciates in particular the suggested chapter on the links to the SDGs and Chapter 2 which will describe the major trends that currently shape waste management.
  - b. The health aspect of poor waste management has often been overlooked or neglected, so put focus on this aspect would be very valuable as the effects are very large.
  - c. Possible inclusions in the report could be the organic waste stream as it is the largest one in many countries.
  - d. The meeting suggested to de-couple the assessment of the success of the first GWMO (2015) and the development of GWMO II, in order to have a strong focus forward
  - e. The meeting pointed out the need to contribute to the post-2020 discussion on chemical and waste.
  - f. The meeting suggested to consider linking Chapter 2 to the global waste agenda, such as the Basel convention, particularly recently agreed provisions on plastic waste and Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)'s beyond 2020 agenda.
  - g. The meeting suggested including the link between waste management and chemical management, as well as to build on the recently published Global Chemicals Outlook II.
11. IETC and ISWA will develop the GWMO II with stakeholder inputs and continued guidance from the board, and in line with relevant UNEA Resolutions.

**Item 5: Emerging Waste Management challenges and the role of the International Environmental Technology Center**

12. International Advisory Board Members were invited to make presentations on "Emerging waste management challenges and the role of the International Environmental Technology Centre".
13. Dr. Noelle E. Selin remotely made a presentation on an integrated approach to wastes and biogeochemical cycling: the case of mercury. She enhanced the importance of life-cycle approach of mercury management. She referred to data on mercury cycling based on the UNEP Global Mercury Assessment and Report. Mercury is still used in various industries and products, and mercury ends up as waste or emission and releases to the environment. There are many research areas relating to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and a science-based approaches to manage mercury is necessary.
14. Professor Wu Jiang presented the management of domestic and hazardous waste in Shanghai, China. He explained about how Shanghai has progressed in terms of waste management, and highlighted the key elements, for instance; the improvement of infrastructure, such as less use of coal for industrial energy; the reduction of water pollution in rivers and air pollution; and the promotion of greener transportation. Professor Wu Jiang also mentioned about the amount of waste and the treatment capacity in Shanghai. He also described about how the city implemented the waste management strategies, i.e. starting from waste classification, waste collection and transportation, waste disposal and waste treatment. Another issue highlighted was the hazardous waste treatment as a serious challenge in Shanghai, because industrial waste often includes hazardous waste, alongside the challenge of increasing amount medical waste. He underlined the importance of education on waste management technologies – not only use the university education, but also how we, including IETC, can encourage the professionals to achieve more in terms of the waste management in more integrated manner.

**Item 6: Other matters**

15. During this agenda item, the meeting brought up the current status of the Board's membership and asked the IAB members to think about the future of the board. The board requests the International Environmental Technology Centre to explore potential candidates to replace the members, who have already served a four-year term and finalize the new members in consultation the board through email communication. Selection and appointment of new members to the board will follow the following procedures:
  - a. International Environmental Technology Centre will communicate with the members who have completed a four-year term to inquire regarding their willingness to serve in the board for another two-year term. As per the terms of reference of the board, members will serve for one four-year term and extendable for another two-year term.
  - b. International Environmental Technology Centre will identify potential new candidates for the International Advisory Board. Current members of the board and ex-officio observers are also welcome to suggest potential candidates for the board.
  - c. International Environmental Technology Centre in consultation with UN Environment Programme senior management and inline with the terms of reference of the board will prepare a final list of candidates for international advisory board.
  - d. International Environmental Technology Centre in consultation with the current members of the board will finalise the list of candidates to be appointed for the board. This consultation will be conducted through email communications.
  - e. New members will be appointed to the International Advisory Board through an appointment letter from the senior management of the UN Environment Programme. The appointment will be valid for four years from the date of the appointment letter.

**Item 7: Summary and concluding remarks**

16. Acting Chair, Mr. Antonis Mavropoulos summarized the proceedings and closed the eleventh meeting of the International Advisory Board of the International Environmental Technology Centre.