

International Environmental Technology Centre

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Contents

1. Message from the IETC team	4
2. International Advisory Board meeting and the Global Dialogue	6
3. Looking back on 2021	11
3.1. New teamwork on global waste management challenges	11
3.2. The next Global Waste Management Outlook and holistic e-waste management	13
3.3. Addressing climate change and COVID-19 through waste management	15
3.4. Waste management and gender	16
3.5. Outreach activities	17
3.6. Finances	22
4. Our results in 2021	23
4.1. Publications	23
4.2. Meetings	25
4.3. Statistics	27
5. Changes at IETC	28

1. Message from the IETC team

The past year, 2021, brought challenges and opportunities. Firstly, let's take a look at the challenges we faced. Organizational changes affected our everyday working habits: Monika based in Geneva become our new leader, Shunichi started taking responsibility for day-to-day management, and Misato, Daniel, Michiko, Junko and

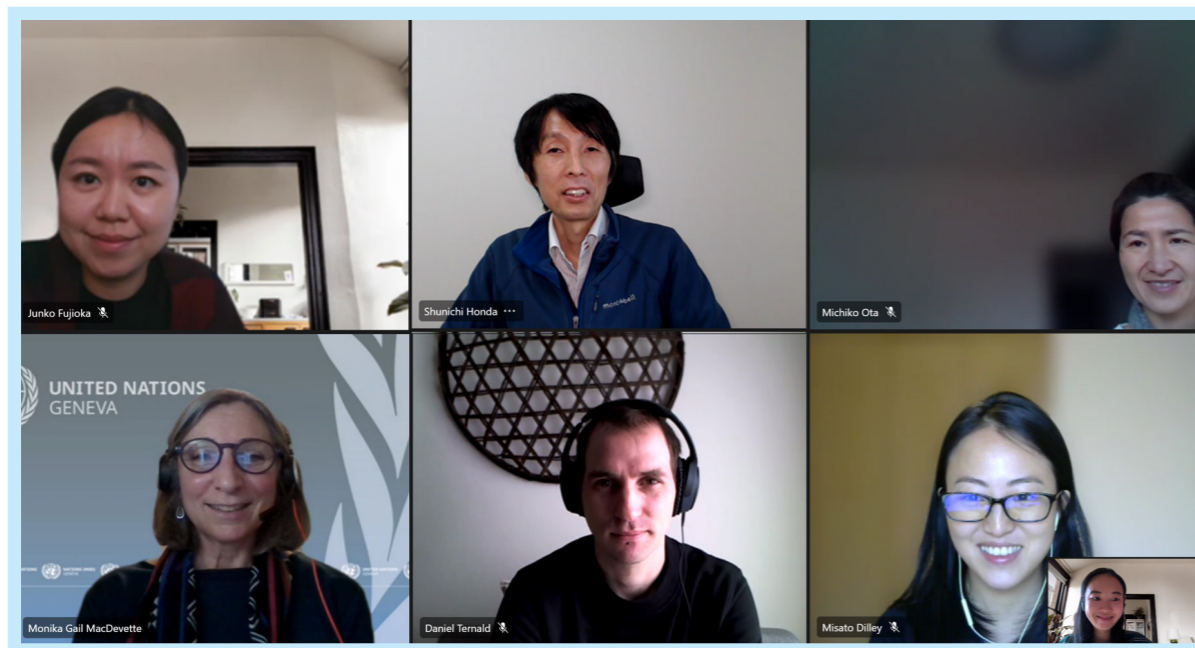
Moeka took on additional responsibilities supported by Fuaad. We had already, for some time, been using telecommunications to communicate between Osaka and Geneva. We now enjoy telecommuting and its advantages, although we miss in-person communication, which is more dynamic than online communication.

One major highlight of 2021 was that we were able to step up our efforts on a number of challenges, while still working on our mandates and responsibilities. The year taught us many lessons, such as that we needed to further develop our team work to effectively and wisely use our own resources to implement project activities, and to take more time coordinating our work with our colleagues within the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and with our external partners. We took the opportunity to do so in 2021, and we believe that we could move from working as an IETC team to starting to work as more of a UNEP team. We look forward to continuing to take an important role in UNEP's waste management work in 2022.

Our work during the year included hosting the 12th meeting of the International Advisory Board of IETC and a Global

Dialogue, and carrying out various projects on waste management, including gender work, as well as conducting the midterm review of our current project and preparing for a new project for the next four years. In addition, we made a lot of effort to raise our profile among the general public and now have more followers on Twitter and Facebook. This is a good sign that more people are interested in our work and in doing something for the environment. Overall, we really enjoyed 2021 and improved our teamwork.

In 2022, we will be celebrating IETC's thirtieth anniversary and UNEP's fiftieth anniversary, so it will be a very special year for us. We are really looking forward to implementing our project activities with our partners next year.



Staff members of UNEP-IETC

Photo: UNEP

2. International Advisory Board meeting and the Global Dialogue

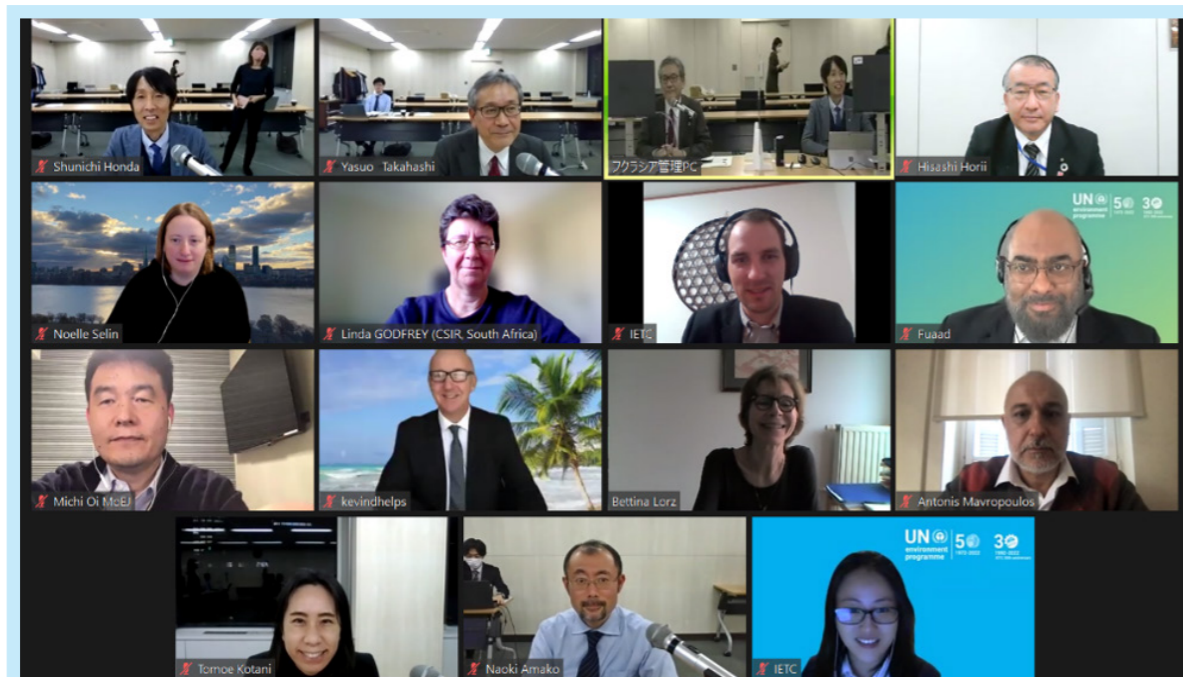
The 12th meeting of the International Advisory Board (IAB) of IETC was organized on 6 December 2021 in a hybrid manner. In her video message, the IAB Chairperson Ms. Yuriko Koike spoke about the roles and importance of IETC and thanked the IAB members for their continued support to IETC. Mr. Yasuo Takahashi, Former Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, was nominated as the meeting chair on behalf of Ms. Koike.

The meeting chair and the IAB members discussed IETC's progress and reports

from the last two years and its programme of work for 2022–2025. They recognized IETC's efforts to implement various types of waste management projects, including the Global Waste Management Outlook 2, waste management strategies, priority waste streams and outreach activities in the last two years. The IAB members suggested that during its next four years of work, IETC should focus more on waste management projects – not only at the regional level but also at the global level, with a medium- and long-term strategy on the global waste management agenda.

Every two years, UNEP-IETC organizes the UNEP Global Dialogue, which invites experts, leaders and practitioners of sustainable waste management to discuss the latest global trends. The main theme in 2021 was "Sustainable Waste Management towards a Pollution-Free Planet". Over

the scheduled three days, multifaceted discussions were delivered on various topics including sustainability, plastic waste, COVID-19 waste, and e-waste, with the goal of saving the future of our planet in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and beyond.



The 12th meeting of the International Advisory Board
Photo: UNEP



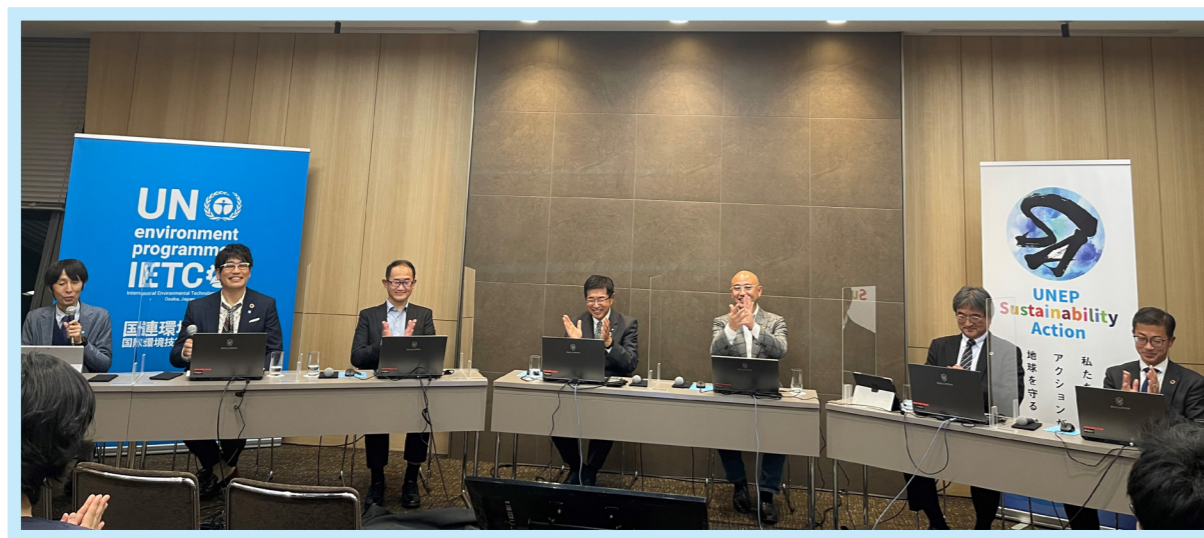
IETC Global Dialogue 2021 banner
Photo: UNEP

DAY 1

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony of the Global Dialogue 2021 started with opening remarks by the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and UNEP, and was followed by a launch event for the four local-language versions of the [GENDER AND WASTE NEXUS video series](#). A round-table dialogue was then held with

the executives of Fast Retailing Co., Ltd; Seven & i Holdings Co., Ltd.; Rakuten Group, Inc.; and Mr. Daimaou Kosaka, a Japanese comedian. This unique collaboration among executives from different sectors strengthened cross-sectoral cooperation with the shared goal of achieving the SDGs and the 2050 carbon-neutrality target.



Opening Ceremony with UNEP Sustainability Action members
Photo: UNEP

Osaka Special Event: International Workshop on Plastic Waste Reduction

The workshop had dialogue on measures and activities on plastic waste management from citizens perspective by Osaka City.



Osaka Special Event: International workshop on plastic waste reduction – Towards realization of the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision”.

DAY 2

Session on COVID-19 waste

Session 1 focused on the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the waste management sector, as well as the larger connections between the pandemic, waste management, and wider environmental and social issues.



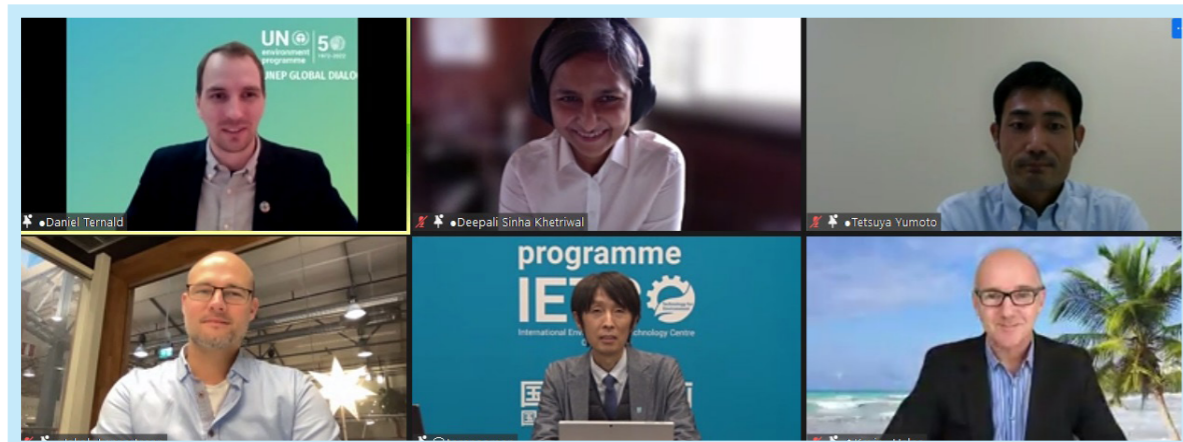
Session on COVID-19 waste
Photo: UNEP

DAY 3

Session on e-waste

The third session of the dialogue focused on e-waste. Three speakers from different companies and organizations shared their

knowledge and experience in managing the waste related to electronic and electric products.



Session on e-waste
Photo: UNEP

3. Looking back on 2021

3.1. New teamwork on global waste management challenges

It has been a difficult year, filled with both opportunities and challenges. IETC began 2021 with a new team after the previous Director's departure. With the imperative to align the work of IETC within UNEP's Medium Term Strategy (MTS), this gave the team the opportunity to reconsider IETC's short-, medium- and long-term strategies, how IETC contributes to its primary mandate on environmentally sound management of waste, and new challenges around how such waste management makes a sustainable contribution in the context of the SDGs and beyond.

With this new challenge for 2021, IETC took new steps towards raising people's awareness of the importance of environmentally sound management of waste. We organized a number of events for this purpose: the Talk Event on E-waste and International Cooperation with Mr. Mago Nagasaka at EARTH CAMP; the UNEP talk event with Mr. Daimaou Kosaka and Ms. Risako Tanabe at the SDG Global Festival of Action from Japan; the Let's Think About Sustainability Talk Event with Mr. Daimaou Kosaka at UNEP Sustainability Action for Environment Month; the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' Talk Event on Sustainability as a Business Opportunity during the Afunowa Project's

Sustainability Week; and Let's Consider Waste Management and the SDGs as part of Sophia University's United Nations Weeks. IETC was thrilled to join these events and discuss a range of topics, from waste management and its place in our daily lives, to the actions we must take in the context of the SDGs, the United Nations' roles and people's roles in our future, to name just a few.



Infographic on the talk event on E-waste and international cooperation
Design: Ellie Tanabe



(left) Infographic on SDGs Global Festival of Action from Japan / Design: Rakugakijin Kaerun (right) Dandora dumpsite in Nairobi, Kenya / Photo:UNEP



The second year of the COVID-19 pandemic made it very difficult to implement project activities, not only in terms of conducting the activities on the ground but also organizing meetings and conferences. However, we made good progress with implementing our project activities using our new working modalities.

IETC completed project activities on the environmentally sound management of mercury waste funded by the Government of Japan. It also launched the [video on mercury monitoring on open dumping sites and burning](#) alongside the [technical factsheets](#) at the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Minamata Convention, which was held virtually. IETC and the Government of Japan responded to the relevant decisions on mercury waste management adopted by the previous COPs, reported the current situation of mercury emissions from open dumping and burning sites, and provided technical and scientific expertise to the Parties to the Convention.

IETC continued implementing the project on national and city waste management strategies in collaboration with the IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET) and supported India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka during phase two. For example, IETC and CCET started tackling the urgent issues of plastic waste management in Sri Lanka and issued the National Action Plan on Plastic Waste Management in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Although Indonesia and Sri Lanka still face fundamental waste management issues in general, IETC and CCET in collaboration with national and city governments and authorities concerned in both countries started an integrated approach to plastic waste among other waste streams and also a holistic approach with upstream management, a life-cycle approach and community-based approach to address this urgent global and national issue.

IETC also provided technical expertise and advice on environmentally sound management of plastic waste to the Member States, municipalities, experts

and general public based on the outcomes of its plastic waste management project funded by the Government of Japan that was conducted last year. IETC found that, globally, plastic waste accounts for only around 10 per cent of municipal solid waste on average, meaning we should also consider the other 90 per cent of municipal solid waste. The general public is becoming more aware of global waste issues, including our daily use of plastics, and it is important to continue changing people's behaviours not only towards plastic but also towards waste in general, in order to ensure sustainable waste management for

a pollution-free planet.

Based on our efforts in 2021, IETC looks forward to continuing to implement our project activities on sustainable waste management towards a pollution-free planet as part of the new UNEP Programme of Work and the UNEP Medium-term Strategy from 2022. IETC also see so many opportunities around IETC's innovative approach towards priority waste streams, holistic waste management and outreach activities that will help continue introducing and implementing environmentally sound management of waste to tackle pollution.

3.2. The next Global Waste Management Outlook and holistic e-waste management

The Global Waste Management Outlook 2

The first edition of the Global Waste Management Outlook (GWMO) was launched in 2015 in response to decision GC 27/12 of the UNEP Governing Council. It is complemented by seven regional and thematic waste management outlooks: Mountain Regions (2016), Asia (2017), Central Asia (2017), Africa (2018), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (2018), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (2019) and West Asia (2020).

A second edition of the GWMO was requested at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

(UNEA-2) held in May 2016, under resolution 2/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste. The Global Waste Management Outlook 2 (GWMO2) will be a spotlight UNEP report and a comprehensive tool directed at policymakers and various stakeholders to combat and reduce unsustainable waste management practices. It will not overlap with or replace the first edition of the GWMO; rather, it will complement it by focusing on global trends and changes in terms of waste generation and management. Its launch is currently planned for the third quarter in 2022.

E-waste

As one of the fastest growing waste streams in the world, e-waste has been one of the central themes in IETC's work. In 2021, UNEP-IETC and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) entered into an agreement to map the e-waste stream related to solar power systems. IETC and ISA are conducting a joint assessment study on efficient design, waste collection and end-of-life waste resulting from solar panels and their systems, with a specific focus on India while also drawing insights from other countries. The study will result in a report that will be used as reference and background material for policymakers and stakeholders in India and other countries to address the issue of solar waste. Additionally, a strategy for managing solar waste specifically for India will be developed, to be presented to government stakeholders. This will ideally be adopted or influence existing policies in regard to waste management.

IETC has also been working closely with UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia to help improve e-waste management in the region. In 2021, preparatory data collection on e-waste generation was carried out, and the projections made it possible to estimate the associated material losses and environmental impact. This, in turn, will help the stakeholders involved to assess the long-term economic benefits as well as the environmental impacts averted through e-waste recycling across West Asian

countries, which is necessary for creating suitable policies that encourage investment in e-waste collection and recycling infrastructure, as well as public awareness campaigns. These data also form the basis for a regional e-waste monitor that will be developed jointly with United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) SCYCLE (formerly UNU-SCYCLE). Similar work is also being carried out for Uzbekistan in conjunction with the UNEP Regional Office of Europe. In 2021, existing data on e-waste generation in Uzbekistan were analysed and current e-waste management practices and legal and regulatory systems for waste management in Uzbekistan were assessed. Capacity-building activities for stakeholders in the country in regard to e-waste are also under way.

UNEP-IETC has also teamed up with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and UNITAR to develop the next Global E-waste Monitor, which is a leading report that provides the latest e-waste data, including on waste generation at national levels and an overview of e-waste legislation by region. This collaboration will also serve to strengthen cooperation between the organizations as they are all in the E-waste Coalition which UNEP is now chairing. A new website is also being developed.

3.3. Addressing climate change and COVID-19 through waste management

Waste and climate change

Atmospheric methane concentrations have grown as a result of human activities, including waste dumping. The third-largest human-made source of methane is waste, which contributes to climate change and pollution. At COP26 held in Glasgow in November 2021, the Global Methane Pledge – an initiative to reduce global methane emissions to keep the goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C within reach – was announced and joined by 103 countries. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report has indicated that to limit global warming to 1.5°C, deep reductions in emissions of methane will be necessary, specifically citing the possibility of reducing methane from the waste sector.

Since 2017, IETC has been supporting Bhutan, Mongolia and Nepal to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) – including methane – from the waste sector, based on the circular economy concept under the framework of the Waste and Climate Change Project, funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

The focus is on increasing technical and institutional capacity-building activities that will increase the partner countries' ability to achieve their international GHG mitigation commitments (known as nationally determined contributions) through waste management policy improvements and the identification of environmentally sound technologies to mitigate GHG and SLCP emissions from the waste sector.

In Bhutan, Mongolia and Nepal, there has been an increase in the volume of waste being either burned, buried or dumped in open space, thereby contaminating soil, water and air. In response, each country has developed a waste management strategy highlighting the waste sector's potential for reducing GHG and SLCP emissions. IETC is supporting municipalities to minimize waste being dumped in open space and landfills, with a particular focus on organic waste diversion. Facilities are being set up to test the biogas and composting technology that will be piloted in each country before being scaled up.

Waste caused by the COVID-19 pandemic

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, IETC has been working on its impact on waste management, funded by the Japanese Government, as a lot of research suggests that health-care waste related to COVID-19 will continue to be a concern for some time. IETC regards health-care waste management as an essential part of health systems and considers it to have a vital role in preparing for future pandemics. The COVID-19 pandemic has also magnified plastic pollution globally, with increased demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves and increased packaging waste from online shopping all contributing to the issue.

IETC intends to update the Compendium of Technologies for Treatment/Destruction of Healthcare Waste, originally published

in 2012, and sees an opportunity to use it as a resource to complement health systems strengthening in the future. The updated compendium will recommend qualitative factors and estimation parameters pertaining to health-care waste, and will also outline a process of technology selection based on UNEP's Sustainable Assessment of Technologies (SAT) methodology. The compendium will review basic data on health-care waste, including material constituents, moisture content, incombustibles, heating value, chemical composition, and bulk density, as well as impact on gender. It will aim to assist national and local governments, health organizations, and other stakeholders in developing countries in assessing and selecting appropriate technologies for the treatment/destruction of health-care waste.

3.4. Waste management and gender

As part of its efforts to mainstream gender within waste management, which is often – mistakenly – considered gender neutral, IETC has developed various publications and materials on the nexus between gender and waste management over the years. To disseminate the [GENDER AND WASTE NEXUS video series](#) to a wider audience, IETC launched new versions with local languages spoken in Bhutan, Mongolia, Nepal and Japan in 2021. In this video series, women and men with a wide

range of backgrounds, such as a farmers, national and local government officials, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) founders and workers, share their thoughts on how to mainstream gender within waste management. They also share the challenges women often face in waste management and their personal stories on how they are addressing gender issues. The series is available on [IETC's YouTube channel](#).

Given the limited availability of gender materials that are focused on particular waste streams, IETC is also developing gender mainstreaming materials specifically on plastic waste and e-waste. These will include a series of guidance sheets on how to mainstream gender when

designing a project on either plastic waste or e-waste, as well as a series of fact and recommendation sheets and presentation materials for gender training. In addition, outreach materials on the nexus between gender and waste management in Tunisia will be released soon.



Cover photo of the video series, Gender and Waste Nexus: Introduction Video
Photo:UNEP

3.5. Outreach activities

In 2021, UNEP-IETC delivered successful outreach activities to promote UNEP's work on environmentally sound waste management and advocate for sustainable

lifestyles in collaboration with different partners including the Government of Japan and the public sector. Some of the highlights were as follows:

January – EARTH CAMP

“E-waste and International Cooperation – Individual sustainable actions for the developing countries”

At EARTH CAMP (an event hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

and Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC)), IETC organized a talk session featuring an e-waste artist, Mago Nagasaka. The main theme was the global issue of e-waste management and new opportunities we see in the field of international cooperation.



Online dialogue session on E-waste with an artist, Mago Nagasa
Photo: UNEP

February – Lecture at Iwate University

Iwate University organized a special lecture event on SDGs and the United Nations. IETC staff members delivered a presentation on

IETC’s work and activities to university and high-school students.



IETC officers delivering a lecture to highschool students at Iwate University
Photo: Iwate University

March – SDG Global Festival of Action from Japan

IETC hosted a session at the SDG Global Festival of Action. Speakers from diverse backgrounds—from environmental experts to a comedian and a youth athlete—

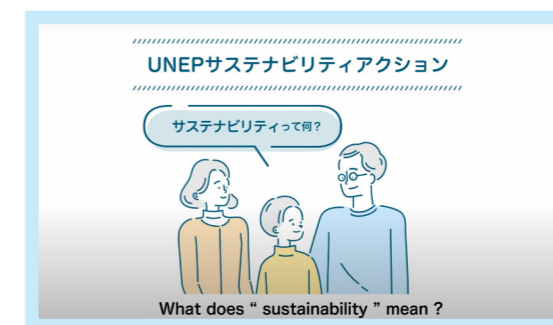
discussed how individuals could help tackle climate change and achieve SDG 12 by transforming waste into valuable resources.



Digital flyer of the SDG Global Festival of Action from Japan
Photo: Global Festival of Action

April – UNEP Sustainability Action animated video

An animated video was created to introduce IETC’s initiative, UNEP Sustainability Action.



UNEP Sustainability Action animation video
Photo: UNEP

June – UNEP Sustainability Action special talk event

UNEP Sustainability Action organized a talk event that asked the internal staff members of each company to share their environmental initiatives, with a focus on

resource circularity. A Q&A session provided an opportunity to discuss how different sectors can cooperate to achieve a more sustainable society

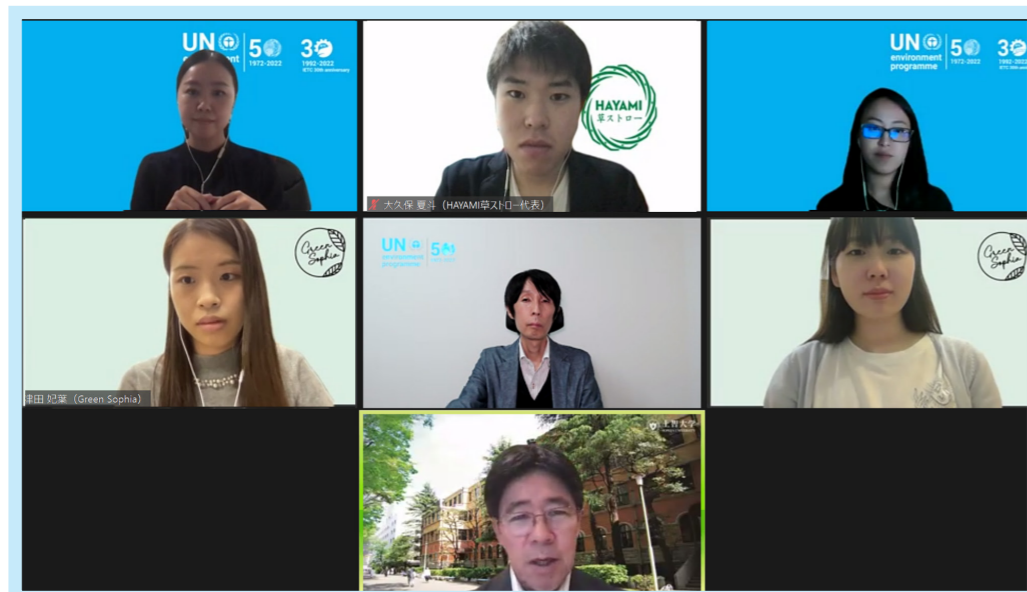


(left) UNEP Sustainability Action special talk event and the summary report / Photo: UNEP
 (right) Infographic report / Design: Ellie Tanabe

October – Sophia University United Nations Weeks

IETC organized a symposium with Sophia University in which Shunichi Honda, Misato Dilley and Junko Fujioka gave lectures on the relationship between climate change and waste. University students also joined

as discussion panellists. There was a lively discussion on individual actions that each person could take to protect the planet and also on how we could encourage others to play their part.



UNEP IETC's session at Sophia University's UN week
 Photo: Sophia University

December – EcoPro Exhibition 2021

IETC participated in the EcoPro Exhibition 2021 at Tokyo Big Site. A booth was set up with banners, posters and leaflets

to introduce IETC's activities to the visitors from schools, companies and the Government.



UNEP IETC's booth at EcoPro Exhibition 2021
 Photo: UNEP

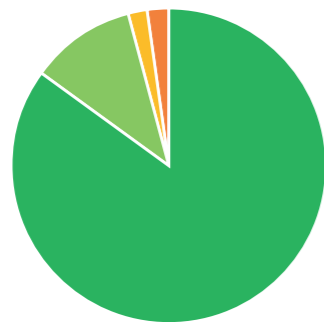
3.6. Finances

Financial report as at 31 December 2021

	USD, thousands
Balance from 2020	4,297
Income	
Government of Japan	900
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	400
Ministry of the Environment	500
United Nations Environment Programme	114
UN Habitat	26
Global Environment Centre Foundation	20
Total income in 2021	1,059
Expenditure	
Personnel	851
Projects and activities	1,598
Operating costs	260
Total expenditure in 2021	2,710
Balance	2,646

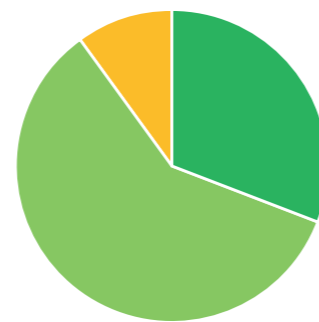
Note: These are not the audited figures.

2021 income (%)



- Government of Japan 85%
- United Nations Environment Programme 11%
- UN Habitat 2%
- Global Environment Centre Foundation 2%

2021 expenditure (%)



- Personnel 31%
- Projects and activities 59%
- Operating costs 10%

4. Our results in 2021

4.1. Publications

[Single-Use Plastics: A Roadmap for Sustainability](#) (2018) was the most downloaded UNEP-IETC publication of 2021.



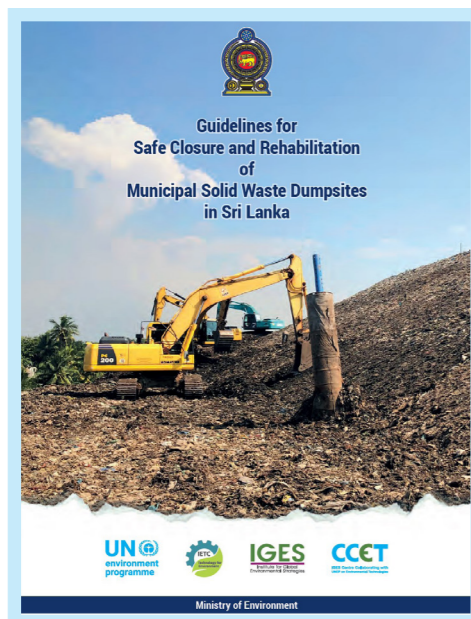
Gender and Waste Nexus videos in Khalkha, Dzongkha and Nepali



[Impact of the COVID19 Pandemic on E-waste: The First Three Quarters of 2020](#)



[National Action Plan on Plastic Waste Management 2021-2030](#)



[Guidelines for Safe Closure and Rehabilitation of Municipal Solid Waste Dumpsites in Sri Lanka](#)



[Fact Sheets: Mercury Monitoring on Open Dumping Sites and Open Burning](#)

4.2. Meetings

Conferences/Lectures/Workshops

- **January**
 - Guest lecturer for Education for Sustainable Development course, Osaka City University
 - EARTH CAMP 2021 on E-waste and International Development
- **February**
 - Webinar on Mechanical-Biological Treatment (MBT)
 - Ocean Solutions Conference
 - Workshop on Strengthening Capacity for Marine Debris Reduction and Waste Management in ASEAN Region through Knowledge Sharing on Marine Litter
 - Webinar on E-Waste in Asia and the Pacific: One Step Towards Circular Economy
 - Advancing WEEE Management & EPR Principle event hosted by Sustainable Electronics Recycling International (SERI)
 - The twenty-eighth One World Festival Online Week
- **March**
 - Online lecture from Iwate University: SDGs and United Nations
 - The seventh 3R International Scientific Conference on Material Cycles and Waste Management (3RINCs)
 - Webinar on Enhancing Circular Economy Perspectives in Plastic Waste Management – Strategies for Indian Cities
 - National Seminar on Guidelines for Safe Closure and Rehabilitation of Municipal Solid Waste Dumpsites in Sri Lanka
 - Closing workshop on Plastic Waste Minimization Project in Jamaica
 - SDG Global Festival of Action from Japan
- **May**
 - International Symposium for Celebration the 25th Anniversary of Korea-Japan Joint Conference

- **June**
 - Experts' Workshop on Agricultural Biomass Waste and Livestock Waste: 2nd State of 3R and Circular Economy in Asia-Pacific
 - Annual Meeting of the Osaka City Environmental Management Promotion Council
- **September**
 - Experts' Workshop on Chemical and Hazardous Waste: 2nd State of 3R and Circular Economy in Asia-Pacific
 - Experts' Meeting on Chemical and Hazardous Waste in preparation for the 2nd State of 3R and Circular Economy Report
- **October**
 - Online event on The Growth of PET Bottle Recycling in Japan
- **November**
 - Twenty-fourth Annual Congress for Japan Institute for Eventology
- Eighteenth Kawasaki Eco-Business Forum
- Lecture at Fukae Elementary School
- Lecture at Nara Park SDGs Nature School
- **December**
 - Fifth Philippine Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Conference/ Second International Conference on Circular Economy-based Waste Management
 - International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific 2021 (ISAP2021) thematic session on Cutting Methane Gas from the Waste Sector, Crucial for Zero Carbon Societies in Asia and the Pacific
 - Lecture on SDGs at Tennoji Zoo
 - Lecture at Osaka University on Environmental Engineering for Cities
 - Career event for the Diplomatic and International Public Service Programme

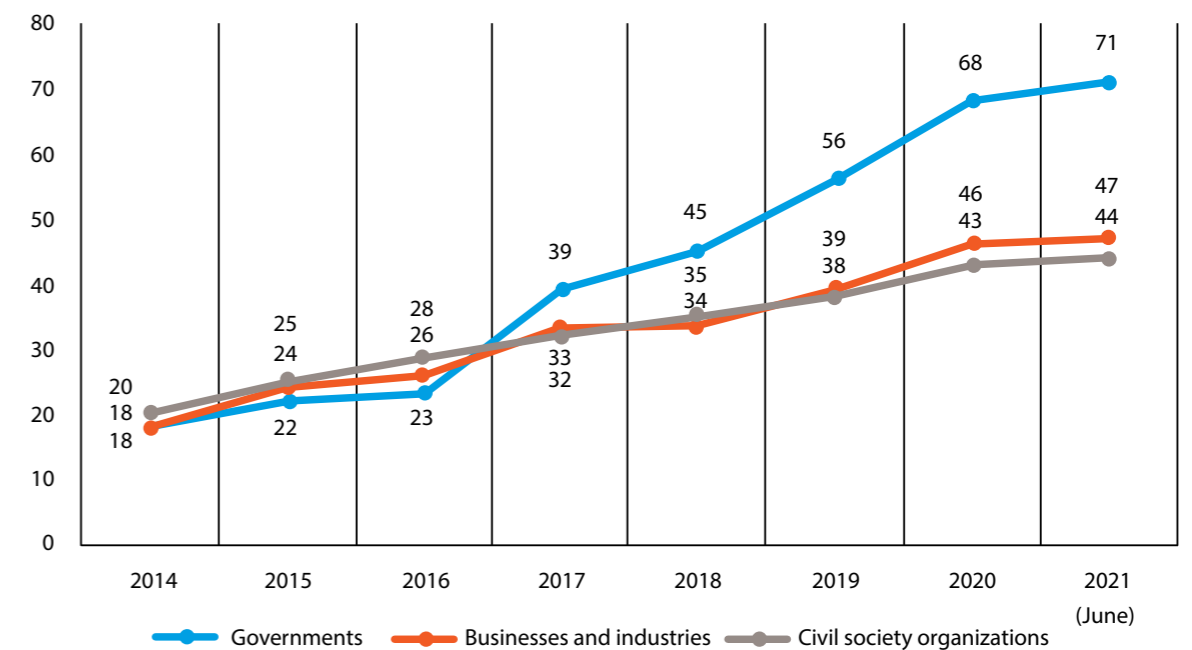
4.3. Statistics

IETC is working hard towards achieving the targets set out in its programme of work, the most recent of which has been in place since 2018 and focuses on three key areas: chemicals, waste and air quality, with waste constituting the main pillar of IETC's work. Its activities have all been carried out under the project titled Promotion and Delivery of Environmentally Sound Waste Management Technologies and Methods and in-Country Technical and Advisory Support, which has involved IETC working in particular to promote the scientific and technical knowledge and tools needed to implement sound waste management in countries, including among major groups and stakeholders. The figure shows the cumulative number of external partners that IETC has worked with and supported

in implementing environmentally sound management of waste. This includes governments that have developed and implemented national and city-level waste management strategies, businesses that have developed and implemented best practices to prevent and manage waste soundly, and organizations that have embraced holistic waste management approaches, such as universities and NGOs.

IETC's current programme of work will come to its conclusion at the end of 2021. Since 2018, it has supported 26 governments, 13 private-sector entities and 9 civil society organizations to begin using sound waste management tools and technical knowledge.

Number of governments, businesses, industries and civil society organizations influenced on waste management



Source: UNEP PoW SP5 EA(b) reporting indicators.

5. Changes at IETC

Monika MacDevette, Chief of the Chemicals and Health Branch within the Economy Division, was assigned the overall management of IETC. She assumed the duties of Principal Coordinator of IETC effective from 1 January 2021. Her appointment marked the start of a new team and a new chapter in IETC's activities.



Monika

Mayumi Morita, Personal Assistant to the Director, retired at the end of May 2021 after working at UNEP-IETC for 27 years. We thank May for her all her hard work in supporting IETC's waste management efforts. Without her assistance, IETC would not be where we are today. Many thanks, May, and all the best for the future!



May



IETC's office located in Osaka

Photo: UNEP

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