

## SEMINAR ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN BANGLADESH

Organized by Chemical Engineering Division, The Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh and Waste Concern (November 22, 2007)



“Solid Waste Management in Bangladesh” was the title of the seminar held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2007 at the Seminar Hall of IEB Head Quarters, Ramna, Dhaka. The seminar was organized by the Chemical Engineering Division, The Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) and Waste Concern, Bangladesh. Professor Dr. Engr.A. M. M. Safiullah, Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) was the chief guest of the Seminar. Engr. Muniruddin Ahmed, Vice-President, IEB, Dr. Khandaker Rashedul Haque, Additional Secretary and DG, Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forest, (GOB) and Dr. Mahfuzul Haq, Additional Secretary and Chief Controller of Insurance, Department of Insurance, Ministry of Commerce (GOB) were among the special guests. Two keynote papers were presented by Engr.Iftekhar Enayetullah, Director, Waste Concern and Professor Dr. Engr Ijaz Hossain, Head of Chemical Engineering department, BUET. The seminar was chaired by Professor Dr. Engr Dil Afroza Begum, Chairman, Chemical Engineering division IEB. The speakers and invited guests discussed the topic from different perspectives, leaving the audience appreciative to the ways and alternatives of solid waste management in Bangladesh.

In the first keynote paper Engr. Iftekhar Enayetullah presented the statistics of generated and unmanaged waste in urban areas of Bangladesh. He pointed out the limitations and drawbacks of the present solid waste management system that includes collection-transportation-crude dumping and limited recycling of inorganic waste and emphasized on the fact that recycling of organic waste has a good potential in Bangladesh. His conclusion was; with appropriate policy and incentives on waste management, organic waste recycling and landfill improvement with power generation can be implemented in urban areas of Bangladesh at no cost to the Government and local government bodies using carbon financing under Kyoto protocol.



In the second paper Professor Ijaz Hossain talked about the potential of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) as a way of solid waste management alternative to landfilling in Bangladesh. He gave information on the process and technology requirement of RDF production from solid waste. He also presented the statistics of RDF potential in Bangladesh and concluded that RDF can save up to 19.5 million USD per year for Bangladesh.



The invited guests shared their experience and expertise on the topic. They discussed various issues related to solid waste management, raised concerns about Kyoto protocol and intention of the developed countries; also argued about the practicability of RDF in Bangladesh.

Chief Guest of the Seminar, Professor A. M. M. Safiullah called upon the experts and authority to make the waste management a priority and also put emphasis on promoting the concept of waste as resource as well as 3 R ( reduce, reuse, recycle) principle of waste management. He thanked the organizers for arranging the seminar and for providing learning opportunity as well as a venue for exchange of ideas among the delegates.

Professor Dil Afroza Begum, Chairman of the seminar facilitated the discussions and wrapped up the program with vote of thanks to the guests, audiences and the organizers.



