

Special Session 3: March 15, 16:30–18:00 (JST)

Burn or not Burn – Ultimate Choice of Open Dumping and Burning in Low Income Communities

Organized by the United Nations Environmental Programme Asia and the Pacific Office

Solid waste management in low-income communities is facing a lot of challenges as human and financial resources are seriously restricted. For many of them, they have practically two choices, burn or not burn their waste – which applies to municipal landfill sites as well as the backyards of the houses. Many environmental aspects are, so far, introduced and promoted in solid waste management sector, but for those who are least privileged, not many options are available and affordable. This special session discusses what could be the first action for those communities towards a long and winding journey to sustainable consumption and waste management. Views from different waste types are presented.

Program (tentative)

Session Chair: Dr. Mick Saito, Programme Management Officer, UNEP ROAP

16:30-16:40

Opening address

Dr. Mushtaq Memon, UNEP ROAP

Introduction

Dr. Misuzu Asari, Kyoto University

16:40-17:40: Presentations (15 minute each)

(Topic 1: Plastic) Open burning/dumping of waste and marine pollution

Mr. Pornphrom Vikitsreth, BMA, Thailand

(Topic 2: Biomass) Biomass burning as an agricultural practice and biological diversity

Ms. Do Van Nguyet, Live & Learn, Vietnam

(Topic 3: Mercury) Global context of mercury behaviour at waste landfill sites

Dr. Mick Saito, UNEP ROAP

(Topic 4: uPOPs) Good landfill management for dioxin and other chemical reduction

Ms. Carmela Centeno, UNIDO

17:40-17:55: General discussions

(Key question 1) How can the local solutions match with the global solution?

(Key question 2) What is the first step that the local communities can take out of burn-or-no-burn dilemma?

17:55-18:00: Take-home messages and closing

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