



ACP-EU Cooperation Programme in Higher Education (EDULINK)
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European Union.



1st International Conference on:
**"Waste Management in Developing Countries and Transient
Economies"**

Mauritius, Africa- September 5th- 9th 2011

1st international conference on *"Waste management in developing countries and transient economies"* which took place in Mauritius Africa from 5 to 9 September 2011 included many paper presentations and posters' demonstration. The conference was implemented in the frame of the international project **CODWAP** (Collaborative curriculum Development on Waste management in Africa and the Pacific region- www.codwap.hs-bremen.de) under the EDULINK scheme and European Union funding.

In the frame of the conference sessions the differences and the similarities of existing technology know-how in every region (e.g. Europe, Africa, etc) were discussed among participating scientists; the suitability and implementation of each available technology in each region was the topic area with most debates.

The need of adaptation to local conditions and needs and at the same time technology innovation is necessary to be combined. Development of local solutions based on existing technology is also a practice which may lead developing countries to success. The goals of waste management and the targets of each waste management program should be - in this case- totally determined in explicitly. Parameters such as country GDP/economy and generated waste quantity and quality have an important role to play in such a decision.



Fig. 1- Delegates in the conference hall.

Low-cost landfilling is still the mother of WM in developing countries creating problems to small countries or countries with great insular area or even countries-islands facing limited systems situation and scarcity of resources, new solutions must be found to improve local situation and life. On the other hand when it comes to countries with transient economies reliable predictions are pretty difficult in terms of quantity and quality of waste generation as well as of the expected results of future waste management programs implementation.

"Knowledge vs. belief" was a reason to confront. Current practices (e.g. dumping) create problems to several aspects of citizens' everyday life. The need for technology as well as



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for skilled and qualified staff is high so the training and public acceptance of people with updated expertise and know how is very important for stakeholders and local authorities; this can only be attained via seminars and training courses. Open mind is rather important as local conditions in every country greatly vary.

In any case locally driven research and capacity building is the main parameters which indicate the necessary directions for the development of infrastructure and fields of further research.

Through discussion it was quite obvious that sustainability in the field of waste management should fulfil various conditions (socioeconomic, technological, etc) and to impress positively upon the everyday life of citizens (e.g. upgrade of living conditions, sanitary conditions, etc).



Fig. 2- Group photograph of the conference delegates.