

Joint Statement on Societies' Contribution to Sound Waste Management
in Response to the Pandemic of COVID-19

On the occasion of the 31st Annual Conference of Japan Society of Material Cycles and Waste Management (JSMCWM), we, the representatives of JSMCWM, Korean Society of Waste Management, Society of Environmental Engineers of Nepal, Solid Waste Management Association Thailand, Environmental Sanitation Engineering (Chinese Journal), and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme having participated online in the International Session on Sound Waste Management in response to the Pandemic of COVID-19 held in Sapporo, Japan on 18 September 2020,

Express our deepest appreciation to the devoted work of those who are engaged in waste treatment and related works under this pandemic of COVID-19 in recognition of their important role as one of the essential social infrastructures,

Protest firmly against unjust discrimination and prejudice to people who are engaged in waste treatment and related works under this pandemic situation, and seek enhancement of safety for those people and all society,

Recognize emerging problems and challenges under the pandemic, such as increase of plastic wastes, infectious wastes, and household wastes, lack of treatment capacity, concerns about improper treatment and incidental pollution, adverse impact on public health and marine plastic pollution, and weakening of recycling industry,

Reaffirm the role of our societies, and encourage members to promote related researches, evaluate the situation, develop technologies and systems, and give necessary advices on waste management and material cycles in response to the pandemic of COVID-19 in order to maintain safe and reliable society,

Contribute for policy formulation towards sound waste management based on the knowledge of our societies, and restructure waste management and material cycles with/after COVID-19 for resilient and sustainable future along with pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and "build back better",

Promote sharing of knowledge and best practices, and international cooperation and collaboration among societies and related organizations [in the Asia-Pacific region] on sound waste management in response to the pandemic,

18 September 2020, Sapporo, Japan



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President
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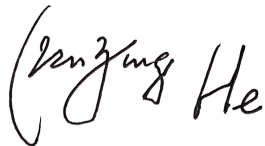
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Frank Griffin
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