

# International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC)

## From the past 30 Years to the next 30 years

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Takehiro Nakamura

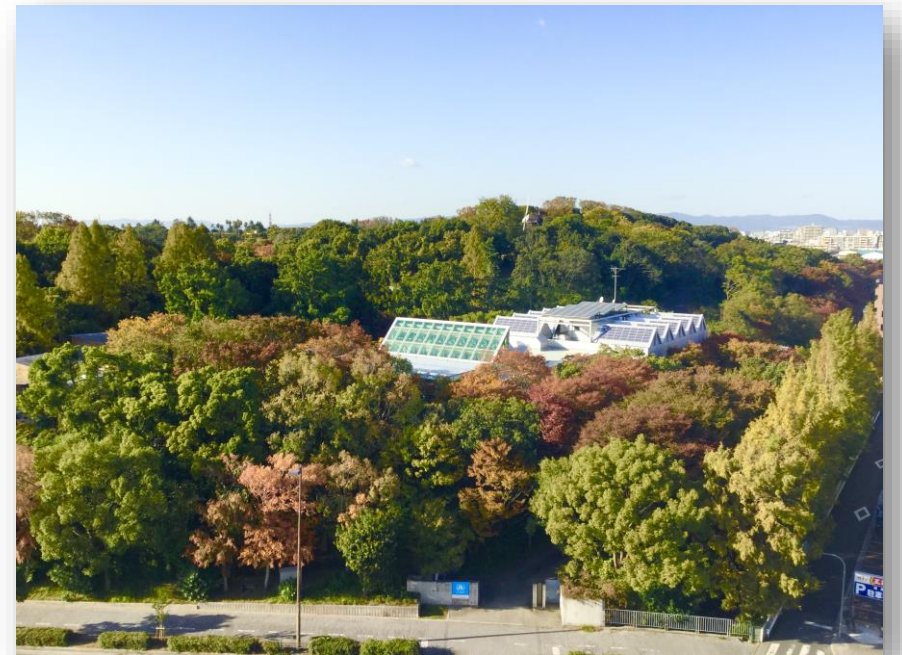
Head, International Environmental Technology Centre

# IETC was established by and for our member States

UNEP-IETC was established in 1992 based on the decision of the UNEP Governing Council .

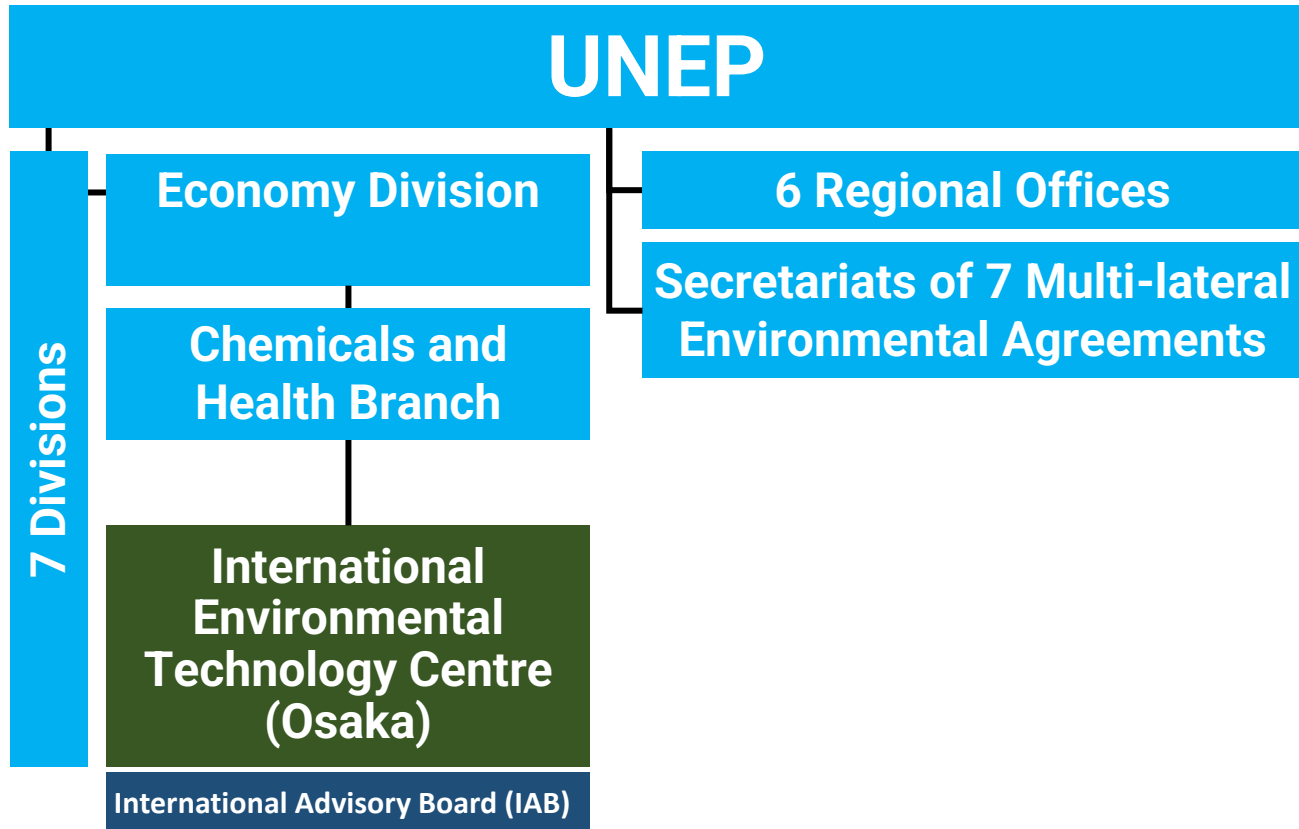
The mandate given was clear: to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies focusing on urban environmental and freshwater issues.

In recent years, UNEP-IETC has focused its activities on environmentally sound management of solid waste to implement UNEP's Medium-term Strategies and Programmes of Work.



By courtesy of Akiko Doi, GEC

# IETC is an important part of UNEP



1992	Establishment
1990's	Database of environmental technologies
2000 -	3R Projects, Eco-town project, environmentally sound management of wastes, e.g. E-waste
2012	2 IETC offices were merged
	Special unit on waste management
2015 -	Global and Regional Waste Management Outlook
2017 -	Waste Management and Climate Change
2015 - 2021	Project for Minamata Convention
2020 -	UNEP Sustainability Action
2020 - 2021	Covid-19/Plastic Waste
2022	30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Vision:

**A Global Centre of Excellence of Environmentally Sustainable Management of Waste**

# IETC promotes and facilitates transfer of environmentally sound technologies

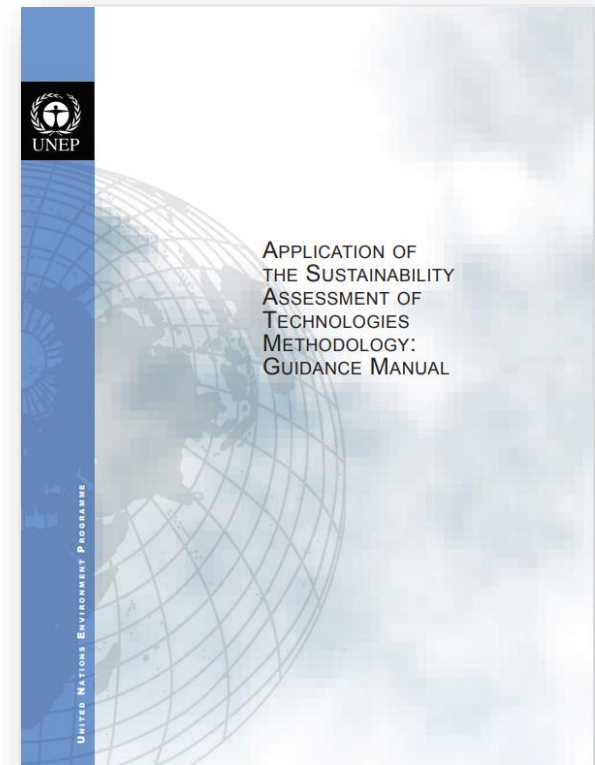
## 1997-2006: Environmentally Sound Technologies (EST) initiative

- maESTro – EST database
- ESTIS – information management system supporting tool

## 2005-2011: Wastewater reuse technologies and water footprint

## 2008-2012: Development and application of the Sustainability Assessment of Technologies Methodology

**IETC's future vision:** Removing barriers in technology transfer requires trade discussion, financial mechanisms, protection of intellectual property right. IETC will address these barriers in the field of waste management.



# IETC promotes integrated Solid Waste Management

## 2009-2012: Training manuals and guidelines on Integrated Solid Waste Management

- Application of the training manuals and guidelines at the pilot activity sites
- Compendia of Environmentally Sound Management of Technologies

## 2007 to present: Assisting electrical and electronic waste (e-waste) disposal

- Developing strategies and policies, and transferring technology for effectively managing waste, including e-waste.
- guidelines series on e-waste.

**IETC's future vision:** IETC will integrate both upstream and downstream management of waste into a holistic waste management system, with the polluter-pays principle in mind. IETC will support the member States to shift their waste practices to environmentally-sound waste management.



By courtesy of Vincent Sweeney,  
UNEP Caribbean sub-regional office

# IETC advocates circularity in waste sector

## 2008 to present: Assisting plastic waste recycling and reuse

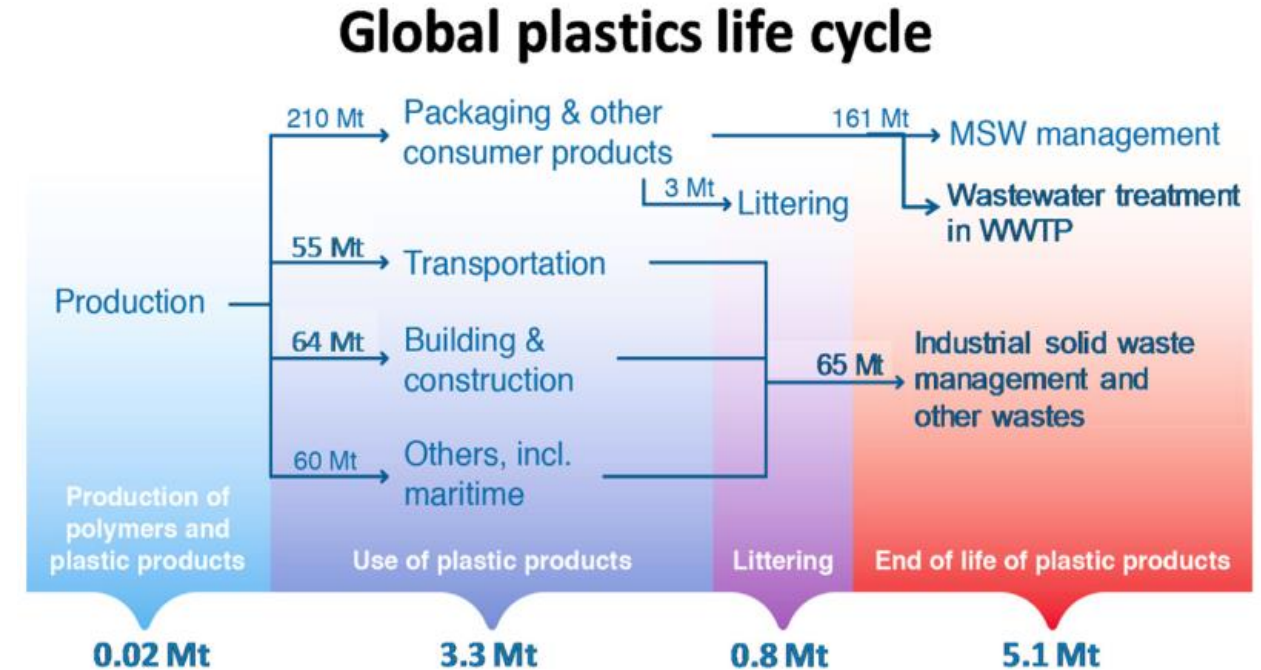
- Technology compilation on turning plastic into fuel in Asia
- “Single-Use Plastics: A Roadmap for Sustainability (2018)”

## IETC’s future vision:

IETC will support UN member states to transition from a linear to circular economy and zero waste. IETC will aim to reach a global recycling rate of 50% by 2050.

IETC will provide information and good practices to the Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee for a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution

Global plastic value chain and estimated losses to the environment for 2015



# IETC addresses water, wastewater and solid waste issues related to conflicts and disasters

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## **2006 to 2015: Disaster waste disposal**

Provided technologies and technical assistance in the disposal of disaster waste after the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, the Nepal earthquake, and the Great East Japan Earthquake.

## **2004-2013: Implementation of project on Iraqi marshland environmental management**

- Environmental data collection and monitoring
- Environmental policies for marshland recovery and stability
- Water supply and wastewater treatment

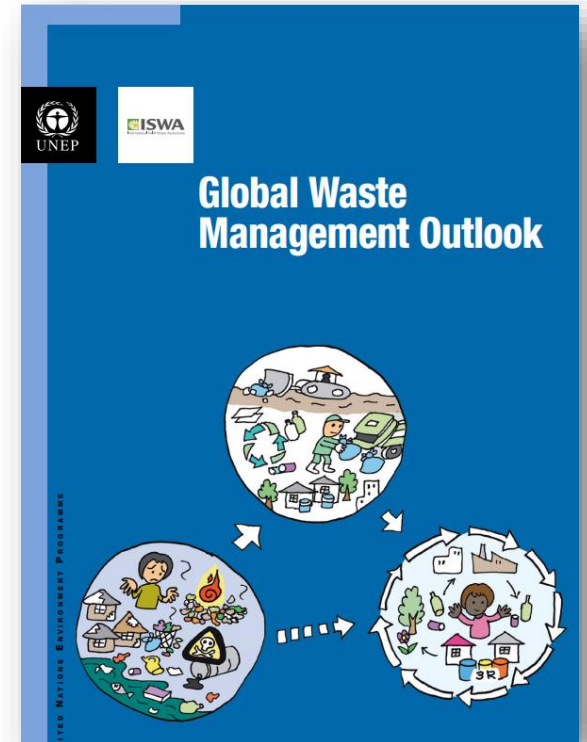
**IETC's future vision:** IETC will work with disaster and post conflict response teams to address immediate needs of the Member States in the disposal of disaster debris and conflict-related waste.

# IETC functions as a knowledge and information hub on waste management

## 2015 to present: Conducting surveys related to global waste management

- “Global Waste Management Outlook” (2015), a report that provides an outlook on global waste management.
- Associated regional and Small Island Developing States Waste Management Outlook were issued.
- “Global Waste Management Outlook 2” is under finalization.

**IETC’s future vision:** IETC will be a knowledge hub on environmentally sound waste management including policies, technologies and expertise related to waste. IETC will proactively engage itself with knowledge and technology transfer to waste stakeholders.





# IETC highlights social issues related to waste

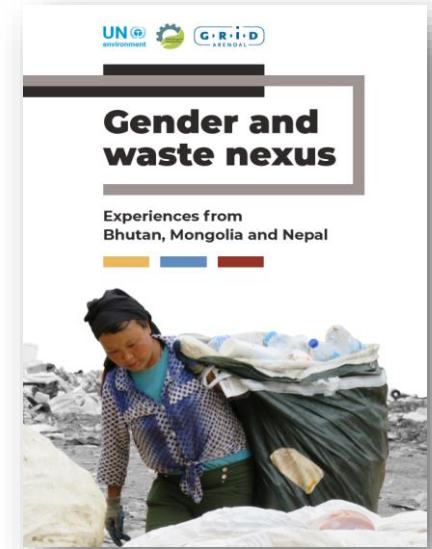
## Gender mainstreaming in waste sector

Bhutan and Nepal have developed National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plans that includes gender analysis and actions (e.g. collecting gender disaggregate data, allocating budget, developing awareness materials)

## Informal sector

IETC's work on waste always consider informal sectors

**IETC's future vision:** IETC will be active on taking rights-based approach to address issues of the most marginalized and disadvantaged groups of population, such as women, children and the informal workers in the waste sector and to promote their active participation in waste management.



# IETC is a partnership-based centre

## Participants at the partnership meeting, 14 September 2022

Partners	Country
Ministry of the Environment	Japan
Penang State Government	Malaysia
Osaka City Government	Japan
City of Kitakyushu	Japan
Kawasaki City Government	Japan
IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies	Japan
Global Environment Centre Foundation	Japan
International Lake Environment Committee	Japan
The Asia Foundation	Mongolia
The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	South Africa
Mehran University of Engineering and Technology	Pakistan
National Cleaner Production Centre	Sri Lanka
World Wildlife Fund	Bhutan
LEAD Nepal	Nepal
Minamata Environmental Academia	Japan
Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	Switzerland
Secretariat of Minamata Convention	Switzerland

**IETC's future vision:**  
IETC will apply a multi-stakeholder approach going beyond public-private partnership and promoting cross-sectoral dialogues, cooperation and coordination between national and local governments, waste management industries, the private sector, and civil society organisations.

# UNEP-IETC 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary website:

<https://www.unep.org/ietc/30thanniversary/towards-zero-waste-society>



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International Environmental Technology Centre  
Economy Division  
UNEP