

PREFACE

The collection, transport, treatment, and disposal of solid wastes, particularly wastes generated in medium and large urban centres, have become a relatively difficult problem to solve for those responsible for their management. The problem is even more acute in economically developing countries, where financial, human, and other critical resources generally are scarce.

One important contribution to the difficulties related to waste management is that which can be achieved by providing objective, reliable, and useful information to professionals in developing countries and to those from industrialized countries who may be called upon to provide assistance to those countries.

Although several publications deal with a variety of topics in the field of solid waste management, most of these documents have been published to address the needs of industrialized nations. Only a few documents have been specifically written to provide the type of information that is required by those in developing countries. Consequently, the UNEP, IETC published the *International Source Book on Environmentally Sound Technologies for Municipal Solid Waste Management* (1996). Similarly, the authors of this document prepared a book entitled *Solid Waste Management for Economically Developing Countries* (1996), which has undergone some revisions. The need was identified to update both documents once again. To maximize the use of limited available resources, it was decided to combine information from both documents, update some of the information as needed, and convert the two publications into a single document that could best serve the needs of developing countries.

This publication has been prepared primarily for two audiences: 1) decision-makers and policy makers, and 2) professionals involved in the management of solid wastes. The information in the publication would also be useful to students in environmental engineering. The material is presented such that most chapters need not be read in any particular sequence. However, if a formal class is based on the book, the chapters should be covered in sequential order.



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