

Implications of SWM Legislations in Malaysia

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Introduction

- Solid Waste Management (SWM) policies in Malaysia: simple guidelines → strategic planning (since 1988)
- Key SWM policy documents are
 - Action Plan for a Beautiful and Clean Malaysia (1988)
 - National Strategic Plan for Solid Waste Management in Malaysia (2005)
 - The Master Plan on National Waste Minimization (2006)
 - National Solid Waste Management Policy (2006)
 - Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Corporation Strategic Plan (2009-2013)



Recycling event after the introduction of ABC in 1998.



Recycling rate increased from 2% to 5% in 2002.

SWM Act

- After >10 years
- Passed in 2007
- The Malaysia SWM legislative framework includes
 - Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Act (2007)
 - Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Corporation Act (2007).



Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Act 2007 (SWM Act)

- **regulates** the management of solid waste and public cleansing → to ensure the maintenance of proper sanitation in Peninsular Malaysia and the Federal Territories of Putrajaya and Labuan.
- includes “controlled solid waste” to denote the source of the waste and **defines** solid waste





Overflow of waste caused aesthetical and sanitation issues



SWM Act Provisions

- Empowerment of the Malaysian **Federal Government** to have executive authority on the SWM vs the State Governments.
- Establishment of the **Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM)**
- Propose policies, plans and strategies on SWM.



Other Provisions in SWM Act

- **Formulate** SWM facilities and SWM schemes (location, type and size of new treatment facilities, coverage areas and schedule for implementation).
- **Establish standards**, specifications and codes of practice relating to SWM.
- Grant licenses and approvals under the SWM Act.



Bukit Tagar Sanitary landfill in Malaysia



Scavenging in a non sanitary landfill in Malaysia

Waste minimization and 3R activities in SWM Act

- Reduce the generation of solid waste.
- Use environmental friendly materials.
- Use specified amount of recycled materials for specified products.
- **Require that producers and manufacturers take back their products or goods for recycling or disposal at their own cost.**
- **Establish a deposit refund system**





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Recyclables items in Malaysian MSW

Prescribed components for effective SWM Act enforcement

- Prescribing the standards and specifications for SWM facilities.
- Prescribing the method for SWM.
- Prescribing the scheme for SWM services.
- Prescribing the requirements for SWM receptacles.
- Prescribing the requirements for SWM vehicles.
- Prescribing the requirements for recycling by SWM facilities.
- Prescribing the requirements for solid waste separation and recycling.
- Prescribing the requirements for SWM licenses and fees.
- Prescribing the requirements for SWM data submissions



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Small community recycling center

SWM Corporation Act

- **Authorized the powers to administer and enforce the solid waste and public cleansing management laws to the SWM Corporation.**
- Provides:
 - Recommend and implement policies, plans and strategies including schemes for SWM.
 - Implement measures to improve SWM services.
 - Implement and enforce the solid waste and public cleansing management laws and to propose reforms.
 - Improve operational efficiency of SWM services.
 - Promote public participation and to improve public awareness on SWM.
 - Conduct researches, assessments, studies and advisory services.
 - Maintain and improve the standard of SWM services.
 - Establish institutions, centres and workshops for the undertaking of research for the development of SWM services.





Workshops on 3Rs organized by NGOs

Status

- The SWM Act was gazetted on 30th August 2007 → has not been enforced due to a lack of supporting regulations.
- Currently, **there are no regulations** which have been enacted under the SWM Act → a number of regulations are still in the draft stage.
 - The SWM Corporation Act was gazetted on 30th August 2007 but is dependent on the SWM Act's enforcement for its implementation.



Trends Observed

- The SWM Act has been long awaited since mid 1990s as the all encompassing legislation that will solve many of the existing SWM issues and challenges where it has been proposed in all the preceding policy documents.
- The SWM Act contains many powerful and advanced waste minimization provisions
 - source separation, reduction and recycling, producer's responsibility and a deposit refund system.



Typical Malaysian MSW

Trends in SWM Policy in Malaysia

- Not a single SWM Act regulations in current draft stage is on 3R activities
- More are focusing on SWM facilities and services.
- Indicates that the timeline for SWM Act's enforcement may be delayed → it was previously expected to be enforced in 2008.
- **Delay in the formal adoption and implementation of SWM policies**
- **Significant policy gap between theory and practice** → without formal enforcement of SWM policies, policy implementation can only be done informally and in an ad-hoc manner by SWM stakeholders.



Roles by SWM Corporation

- More prominent in the SWM activities in Malaysia to
 - Formulate SWM policies, plans & strategies.
 - Promote SWM public participation public awareness.
 - Conduct SWM research, assessments, studies and advisory services





More recycling facilities will be established under the SWM Act

Overall team structure

- Prof .Dr. P. Agamuthu (Project Leader)
- Dr. Santha Chenayah (Env. Economist)
- Dr. Fauziah Shahul Hamid (Solid Waste)
- Dennis J Victor (Policy Analyst)



THANK YOU

