

**Special Session: March 16, 18:15–19:45 (JST)**

At [3RINCs 2022](#) | [3RINCs](#), 14-18 March 2022

## **Greening Health Care Waste Management: Policies and Good Practices**

*Organized by IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET) in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Health Care without Harm, HECAF 360 and Japan Society of Material Cycles and Waste Management (JSMCWM),*

The provision of sustainable health care waste management (HCWM) has been receiving increasing global attention. The spread of COVID-19 has significantly posed a risk of transmission of infection in many countries, particularly in developing nations where proper HCWM is not in place. Recent studies also show climate footprint of the health care sector is equivalent to 4.4% of global net emissions (Health Care without Harm and ARUP, 2019). A lack of infrastructure, inadequate budgets, supportive policy and regulation, and capacity gaps make it difficult to achieve environmentally sound HCWM, which underscore the urgency of realizing sustainable and inclusive HCWM systems and green infrastructure (UNEP and IGES, 2020). At the same time, a group of 50 countries at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow has made a new commitment to take concrete steps towards creating green, climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems in response to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement.

This special session invites several researchers, practitioners and businesses entrepreneurs in the field of HCWM to present and discuss policies and good practices of greening health infrastructure based on their recent research work and operation. We highly expect constructive discussion between researchers/entrepreneurs and participants through the special session.

## Programme

**Moderator:** Dr. Premakumara Jagath Dickella Gamaralalage, Director, IGES-CCET, Japan

- **18:15-18:25**

**Opening Remarks – Greening Health Care System and its Contribution to the Global Climate Crisis and Opportunities for Action**, Ms. Ruth Stringer, International Science and Policy Coordinator, Health Care without Harm

### Presentations

- **18:25-18:40**

**Title: Greening Health Infrastructure: Rapid Assessment of Policies and Practices on Health Care Waste Management in Ethiopia and Kenya**

**Speaker:** Mr. Chengchen Qian, UNEP, Geneva

**Commentator:** Mr. Evans Kituyi, An Independent consultant, Kenya

*Greening Health Infrastructure in Kenya: Priority Policy Options for National and Nairobi County Governments*

*The critical role of infrastructure in sustainable development cannot be overemphasized. Health infrastructure systems are drivers of economic growth and enable access to the basic healthcare services and economic opportunities needed to improve livelihoods and well-being. Yet this very infrastructure can have major negative impacts on communities and the environment.*

*Covid-19 revealed weaknesses in existing health infrastructure owing to its inability to sustainably handle the rise in medical waste, mainly arising from the single-use nature of facilities, including PPEs. This challenge comes in the wake of the growing realization by stakeholders of the rising threat of climate change and related extreme events on public health (through shifting diseases and heat exposure) and health facilities (physical infrastructure). Any efforts aimed at greening health infrastructure should therefore be cognizant of these two threats, in addition to implementing other environmental, social and economic (institutional) considerations.*

*Informed by the gaps identified in sampled health facilities and allied value chain actors handling healthcare wastes in the City of Nairobi and validated by a wide range of stakeholders convened by UNEP, a number policy options and messages are suggested for consideration by policy and decision-makers in the health sector towards a green health sector.*

- **18:40-18:55**

**Title:** *Health Care Waste Management towards the Circular Economy: A Case Study at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital in Nepal*

**Speaker:** Mr. Mahesh Nakarmi, Executive Director, HECAF360, Nepal

**Commentator:** Ms. Miho Hayashi, Programme Manager, IGES-CCET, Japan

- **18:55-19:10**

**Title:** *Pilot experiment in introducing non-burnable technologies to handle health care waste in Mandaue City, Philippines.*

**Speaker:** Mr. Takeshi Konishi, Senior Managing Director, GUUN Co., Ltd., Japan

**Commentator:** Ms. Misato Delley, Associate Expert, UNEP-IETC, Japan

- **19:10-19:25**

**Title:** *Law Enforcement on Illegal Dumping and Illegal Treatment of Medical Waste in Japan*

**Speaker:** Ms. Miwa Tatsuno, Programme Coordinator, IGES-CCET, Japan

**Commentator:** Prof. Hiroki Hashizume, Tama University, Japan

- **19:25-19:45**

**Q&A and Closing Remarks**