

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## EARTH ENGINEERING CENTER

September 25, 2015

Dear members and friends of WTERT,

With the start of academic year 2015-2016, I would like to share with you some important developments within the Global WTERT Council (GWC):

-Dr. Thanos Bourtsalas completed his PhD at Imperial College London, under the direction of Prof. Chris Cheeseman, head of WTERT-UK. Dr. Bourtsalas has been appointed as Adjunct Professor by the Earth and Environmental Engineering Department of Columbia University and this fall is teaching the WTE pioneering course. He has also been engaged by EEC as Manager of WTERT-Columbia and will work on a major project funded by Columbia's Global Initiative Fund on "Advancing Sustainable Waste Management in Latin America". This project is in collaboration with Prof. Alex Godoy (U. del Desarrollo, Santiago; head of WTERT-Chile), Dr. Sergio Guerreiro (head of WTERT-Brazil), and the Columbia Global Centers in Rio and in Santiago.

-I am pleased to announce that Prof. Kostas Aeravossis (National Technical University of Athens) has been appointed head of WTERT-Greece ([SYNERGIA](#)). Dr. Stratos Kalogirou who guided SYNERGIA in its first decade is continuing to serve the Global WTERT Council as vice president of development.

-An important new WTERT study on the GHG impact of landfilling, published in *Waste Management*, reported that the dioxin emissions of WTE plants were a minute fraction of all industrial emissions in the U.S. Another study by Yale, published in *Nature*, confirmed the findings of WTERT-Columbia that waste to MSW landfills is nearly double the amount reported by EPA.

-The 2016 meeting of the Global WTERT Council will take place at Columbia University on October 6-7, **2016**. It may be preceded, on Wednesday October 5, by a one-day meeting of the Materials and Energy (MER) Division of ASME, that will be hosted by WTERT-CCNY at the City College of New York.

-WTERT-India, one of our most active national members, is continuing to shape the future of waste management in India and is holding its 4<sup>th</sup> Conference (Nov. 26-27, 2015) in Mumbai.

Thank you for your continuing support of the WTERT Council.

Nickolas J. Themelis

Director, EEC; Chair Global WTERT Council

[njt1@columbia.edu](mailto:njt1@columbia.edu)

PHONE +1 (212) 854-2138

FAX: +1 212 854 7081

500 WEST 120<sup>TH</sup> STREET, #926, NEW YORK, NY 10027, U.S.A.