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**Waste Management for Developing Countries (#26)**

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**ABSTRACT**

This presentation will show existing waste management conditions in several developing countries and describe the development of practical improvements that are sensitive to local socioeconomic, political, and institutional conditions. Although highlighted by specific examples, the information provided in this presentation has direct applicability to other developing nations.

The presentation is in two parts. The first documents existing conditions at several landfills and collection methods in several urban cities in Latin America and Asia. For example, in Calcutta, a city of over 6 million people, approximately 3,000 tons of municipal waste and over 100 tons of medical waste are generated each day. The collection system is highly labor-intensive, employing approximately 12,000 workers. Workers pushing handcarts collect waste daily, either directly from the generators or swept up from the gutters. The handcarts are delivered to one of approximately 200 three-sided concrete bunkers where human and animal scavengers remove reusable materials. The remaining waste is loaded by hand, or machine, onto trucks for delivery to the Dhappa Landfill. Infectious wastes are commingled with other wastes and bundled in the same manner.

The second part of the presentation describes the development of recommendations for system improvements that are practical given socioeconomic and cultural conditions. For example, landfills sustain a great number of human scavengers in developing nations. Without proper consideration, the implementation of sanitary landfill practices can lead to the displacement of this population, resulting in social crisis.

This presentation (illustrated with slides) will give the attendees a view of solid waste management that is completely different from anything that most have experienced.