**In the past two weeks, there's been a significant spurt in the waste-to-energy (WtE) industry across the developing world.** South Africa opened its first (and the continent's) WtE conversion plant in Cape Town last week. Sharjah in UAE just announced plans for two such facilities including one that will process e-waste. Indonesia said it was teaming up with Japan to turn waste into renewable energy. India is currently unravelling bureaucratic and legal hurdles to get a number of waste-to-energy facilities operational to cater to its capital and satellite areas. And in the Philippines the debate over WtE management technologies, currently banned in the country, is beginning to heat up. All of these emerging economies have three problems in common – how to tackle the challenge of increasing urban waste and expanding landfills, mounting concerns over the quality of (already polluted) air and water, and whether WtE plants can provide an enduring and environment-friendly solution.  The debate surrounding the concept is not as simple to appraise though. Despite the common problems and a common approach to it, each of the aforementioned countries is grappling with challenges of adopting WtE unique to their culture of waste management. For example, in India the absence of waste-segregation culture coupled with lax compliance with regulations can make WtE a less than ideal choice when it comes to environmental impact of disposing refuse this way. In the Philippines, on the other hand, the debate over the use using incinerators itself (to dispose waste) has got knives out. In his first national address last year, President Rodrigo Duterte made clear he preferred country's industrialization over mitigating the effects of climate change. He also revealed plans for using *appropriate WtE facilities* to deal with country's growing waste problem. Environmental concerns over using WtE plants, however, remain the same everywhere. (*[http://www.forbes.com/sites/nishthachugh/2017/01/31/from-cape-town-to-jakarta-cities-are-choosing-wte-to-fix-their-landfill-problem/](http://www.forbes.com/sites/nishthachugh/2017/01/31/from-cape-town-to-jakarta-cities-are-choosing-wte-to-fix-their-landfill-problem/)* - 220cda193597 1/31/17)