Challenges in the Integration of Waste Pickers in the Solid Waste Management Program

Councilor Nida C. Cabrera
Chairperson: Committee on Environment, Committee on Public Services, Committee on Cooperatives and Livelihood, 12th Cebu City Council, Cebu City, Philippines
25th April 2012 to 1st May 2012
Pune, India
Global Strategic Workshop for Wastepickers
Cebu is located in the central part of the Philippines

- Land area, total = 328.80 sq. km.
- Land area, urban = 78.09 sq km (24%)
- Land area, rural = 248.01 sq km (76%)
- Population of 866,171 (NSO, 2010)
- No. of barangays, total = 80
- No. of barangays, urban = 53
- No. of barangays, rural = 27
INTRODUCTION

In general, it is the policy of the City of Cebu to ensure the protection of PUBLIC HEALTH and the ENVIRONMENT through the adoption and formulation of best environmental practices in ECOLOGICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT and the institutionalization of NGO and private sector participation in the development and implementation of an INTEGRATED, COMPREHENSIVE AND ECOLOGICAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM as embodied in City Ordinance 2031 under Republic Act 9003.
• To develop a Cebu City Solid Waste Management Plan that shall ensure sustainable management of solid waste, as well as INTEGRATE the various solid waste management plans and strategies of the CITY’S BARANGAYS.

• To develop specific mechanisms and guidelines for the implementation of the Cebu City Solid Waste Management Plan
LANDFILL PROFILE

- Total Land Area: 15.41 hectares
- Dumping Area: 11.73 hectares
- Service Area: 3.68 hectares
- Project Cost: Php 204 M
- Project Started: Year 1995
- Operation Started: September 11, 1998
- Estimated Period to Fill: 7 years
- Estimated Volume to Fill: 938,400 cu. m.
How bad is our Solid Waste Problem?

The Inayawan Dumpsite
Every Cebu City resident generates an average of half a kilo of waste a day. With an estimated population of 798,809, almost 400,000 kilograms (or 400 tons) of wastes are generated in Cebu City a day.

If the average waste generated by an individual (half a kilo) is multiplied to the country’s population of 80 million, this is definitely a lot of waste (40,000,000 kilograms or 40,000 tons per day!!!)
# Garbage profile of Cebu City

## Year 2006
- **Organic** - 50.56%
  - Paper - 16.18%
  - Plastic - 16.87%
- **Hazardous waste** - 0.32%
- **Electronics** - 0.1%
- **Mixed residue** - 7.84%
- **Metal** - 3.51%
- **Construction material** - 1%
- **Glass** - 1.63%
- **Special waste** - 2%

## Year 2010
- **Biodegradable Waste** - 66%
- **Plastic** - 15%
- **Paper** - 4%
- **Textile** - 3%
- **Tins** - 1%
- **Glass** - 1%
- **Construction Waste** - 1%
- **Wood** - 1%
- **Rubber** - 1%
- **Mixed Waste** - 7%
Service road of the landfill reopened, closed for several months due to garbage pile
Pile of garbage 8 meters high facing the northwest side of the landfill. A 3-meter easement from the channel to the toe of the dump waste is maintained.
Waste Pickers’ Profile

• At least 600 waste pickers scour the mounds of garbage at the Inayawan Sanitary Landfill as source of livelihood.

• Waste pickers earn an average of P200 (US$ 4.69) to P300 (US$ 7.04) a day before the partial closure of the landfill. (Source: Sun.Star Cebu, June 5, 2011)

• After the closure, when they were grouped into two (daytime & night time shifts), average individual income for 2 days ranges from P130 to P150 (US$3-3.5)
Waste Pickers’ Organizations

- Barangay Inayawan Scavenger Association (Bisa)
- Dumping Site People’s Solidarity Organization, Inc. (DPSOI)
- Gagmayng Kristohanong Katilingban Homeowners Association (GKK HOA)
- Gagmayng Kristohanong Katilingban Lihok Pagtinabangay Multi-Purpose Cooperative (GKK LPMPC)
CEBU CITY’S EFFORTS IN INTEGRATING WASTE PICKERS IN THE SWM PROGRAM

April 1, 2010 Implementation of Ordinance 2031 (NO SEGREGATION, NO COLLECTION POLICY)

SERIES OF DIALOGUES WITH WASTE PICKERS’ GROUPS

HIRING OF SEVERAL WASTE PICKERS AS JOB ORDER PERSONNEL IN THE PROCESSING AREA OF THE INAYAWAN LANDFILL
The Processing Area inside the Landfill
1\textsuperscript{st} Step in processing biodegradable wastes using shredder machines
Processing of Biodegradable Wastes
Stockpile of processed biodegradable wastes waiting to dry for milling & sieving to produce final compost
The milling and sieving machines used for final compost
The 5 units of bio-reactor machines
The Plastic Shredder
Machine for Plastic Wastes
CEBU CITY’S EFFORTS IN INTEGRATING WASTE PICKERS IN THE SWM PROGRAM

IN VolVEMENT OF THE WASTE PICKERS’ GROUPS IN THE “STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP ON THE CLOSURE OF THE INAYAWAN SANITARY LANDFILL” HELD ON JUNE 3-4, 2011

The Cebu City Solid Waste Management Board Resolution, dated Sept. 18, 2011, proposed 13 recommendations to the City Mayor as preconditions to the total closure of the Inayawan Sanitary Landfill, among them to “DEVELOP PROGRAMS FOR WASTE PICKERS.”
December 9, 2011

The Closure of the Landfill

- The City Government stopped all forms of dumping and activities inside the Inayawan Landfill
- Diversion of disposal to nearby municipalities
  - Consolacion, Cebu – Waste to Energy
  - Inayawan Landfill

Utilization of wastepickers as segregators
Challenges in the Integration of Waste Pickers into the SWM Program

* Divisiveness among the waste pickers’ groups, with different intentions and political influences.
* No closure plan formulated yet by the City for the total closure of the landfill, a requirement of the Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR), which explains why social components such as the welfare of waste pickers are not yet addressed.
City planners have different perspectives on how to proceed, thereby contributing to the lack of an integrated program for those affected by the closure, particularly the waste pickers.
Way Forward

* Formulation of a comprehensive program for waste pickers.

* Despite political realities in the City, my recent designation in the City Council as Chairpersons of the Committee on Public Services, which oversee waste management, and the Committee on Cooperatives and Livelihoods, will enhance the possibility of coming up with a comprehensive program for waste pickers.
Thank You!