HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT: AN OVERVIEW

In this edition we examine pertinent issues related to hazardous waste management in the region and how certain countries such as UAE and Oman are taking necessary measures to manage this critical waste stream.
2nd EDITION

MIDDLE EAST WASTE & RECYCLING Awar

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Experts optimistic about prospects for recycled paper industry
The downward trend continues in the paper and containerboard sector, and the current scenario is quite challenging in the region. In the words of an industry expert, “the challenges looming in the market are in VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity) phase.” At the international level, China’s policy shift as well as the standoff between US and China have created tumultuous market conditions for exporters in that they have been forced to explore alternative markets for a large proportion of their recycled products. But the short-term pain is expected to give way to longer-term gain, and as expressed at the recent BIR World Recycling Convention, senior experts are optimistic that the demand for their products will continue to grow.

The rapid growth in population and urbanisation over the past decade has led to a tremendous increase in the quantities of waste being generated, including hazardous waste. Considering this is a critical area within the sector, the proper disposal and treatment of this waste stream is of significance. In this edition, we take a look at the key issues related to hazardous waste management and how some countries like the UAE and Oman are taking necessary measures to manage this critical waste stream.

On another front, Waste & Recycling Middle East recently attended a notable event in Bahrain where UD Trucks unveiled the New Quester heavy-duty trucks in the Middle East, East and North Africa (MEENA) at a glitzy launch event, where we also had the chance to get behind the wheel of this new range of trucks and get a real feel for the performance of these vehicles at the Bahrain International Circuit. The market is changing rapidly and customer demands are getting more sophisticated, but with focus on total cost of ownership. In this scenario, UD Trucks says their new range of vehicles deliver enhanced fuel efficiency of up to 10% over the current Quester, which is aided by the Escot automated manual transmission and other significant features. Turn to page 28 for more on this development.

Finally, it’s time for the second cycle of MEWAR Awards and the nominations will open shortly. Organised by Waste & Recycling Middle East, the programme recognises and honours individuals and organisations that have actively been contributing to environmental sustainability in the Middle East. Do not miss the opportunity to gain industry recognition. Please visit www.mewarawards.com to find out more about the awards.

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**Tadweer inaugurates Smart Gate at landfill**

Tadweer—Centre of Waste Management Abu Dhabi has installed the Aaber Smart Gate access control system at Al Dhafra Landfill to automate access and fee collection from waste transportation vehicles using the facility.

The smart gate seeks to save Tadweer customers time and effort and increase their satisfaction with its services through reducing waiting time at landfill gates, in addition to preventing human error, said Tadweer. The system utilises state-of-the-art technologies, such as the Internet of Things (IoT), number plate recognition cameras and interactive displays that direct the vehicles’ movement automatically according to the types of waste and vehicle permits. Through effectively eliminating the need for human intervention and presence among waste collection vehicles, the smart gate enhances the health and safety of workers as well as customers entering the landfill.

“This ambitious project is part of Tadweer’s ongoing digital transformation, aimed at improving the quality and efficiency of its services. Through leveraging the latest technologies in service delivery, we support the Abu Dhabi government’s vision to become one of the best governments in the world,” said Dr Salem Al Kaabi, Acting General Manager of Tadweer.

He also noted that the Aaber Smart Gate enables efficient and foolproof vehicle authorisation. In line with its sustained efforts to provide best-in-class services to its customers, Tadweer plans to roll out the smart access control technology across other facilities, including landfills, waste transfer stations, incinerators and fertilizer plants.

As part of the scheme, the Licensing, Tariff and Customer Service Department at Tadweer has replaced the Aaber Pass with e-permits so that customers can obtain online without having to visit any of the centre’s branches. Tadweer is the key government entity responsible for all activities related to the development of waste management services in the emirate of Abu Dhabi.

**Dubai Airports pledges to ban single-use plastics from 2020**

Dubai Airports announced that it will ban single-use plastics from its consumer spaces with effect from January 1, 2020.

Every year the airport recycles over 43,000 tonnes of paper, glass and other waste to limit its impact on the environment. Over the past six months alone, Dubai Airports collected and disposed of 16 tonnes of single use plastic bottles and bottle caps, as per the press statement.

“At an airport that hosts some 90 million people per year, we believe we can make a tangible difference by eliminating single-use plastics in consumer spaces,” said Eugene Barry, Executive Vice-President, Commercial at Dubai Airports. “Today we are making a commitment to work with all of our concession and hospitality partners to achieve that goal effective January 1, 2020.”

Towards this end, Dubai Airports said it joined hands with 106 businesses operating at the international airport on World Environment Day (June 5) to showcase the positive impact of eliminating practices and materials that could harm the environment. A variety of measures were put in place including banning plastic utensils, bags and paper receipts. The pledge prevented the distribution of over 150,000 straws in a single day, which is 30,000 metres worth of plastic, and a good step in the right direction.
EGA announces start-up of new AED 15m spent pot lining pre-treatment and crusher facility

Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA) has announced the start-up of a new AED 15 million pre-treatment and crusher facility for spent pot lining in a step forward for the recycling of industrial waste.

Spent pot lining, the used inner lining of reduction cells in which aluminium is smelted, is one of the most significant waste streams in the aluminium industry. The new facility is an important part of EGA's commitment to reducing and re-using industrial waste, according to a statement from EGA. “SPL is a global challenge for our industry, but over the past decade at EGA we have been able to turn this waste into value in the UAE. I am pleased that EGA now has its own infrastructure to transform SPL into a useful industrial feedstock, securing this solution and our partnerships with UAE cement companies for the long term,” said Abdulla Kalban, Managing Director and CEO of EGA.

The facility will be used to pre-treat spent pot lining so it is ready to be used by cement companies in the UAE as an alternative feedstock, said the company, which has supplied over 41,000 tonnes of spent pot lining to UAE cement companies, reducing stockpiles from previous years. Worldwide, the aluminium industry produces over 1 million tonnes of spent pot lining every year according to industry experts, with much kept in indefinite storage without economic use. The company had previously worked with specialist third parties to process SPL before delivery to cement companies, increasing transportation distances and processing costs. The company is also supplying most of its carbon dust, another important by-product stream, to UAE cement companies for use as a fuel.

The National Green Tribunal's state-level committee (SLC), India, has directed Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) commissioner to shut down the illegal waste dumping sites at Gunjur and Dommasandra, off Sarjapur Road. This comes in the backdrop of the recent inspection of Gunjur and Dommasandra dumping sites by the committee members following a complaint from a resident, who alleged that waste segregation and burning were causing health hazards. NGT-SLC chairman Justice Subhash B Adi has directed BBMP commissioner N. Manjunatha Prasad to issue public notices addressed to all bulk waste generators such as IT companies, hospitals, hotels and big apartments complexes, warning them not to hand over solid waste to unauthorised individuals or agencies, according to a Times of India report.

The NGT order stated that penalty should be imposed on all bulk waste generators disposing waste to these unregistered unauthorised private operators. Reportedly, the citizens blamed that garbage is not being collected by authorised vendors, and NGT directed the BMBP to immediately establish a digitised smart control room to monitor solid waste management effectively. The letter directed BBMP to close illegal dumping sites and initiate action against unauthorised private operators in the city by booking criminal cases and imposing penalties on violators. The official order includes additional measures such as fitting all vehicles used for transportation of waste with GPS tracking and geo-fencing, compulsory registration of drivers and collectors via biometric system to keep a tab on illegal dumping of waste, as per the report.

Bahrain to phase out the use of plastic bags starting July

Bahrain will start phasing out the use of plastic bags in July. A Ministerial order with respect to the technical regulations for plastic products will come into effect on July 21, 2019, as per Bahrain News Agency (BNA) report.

The order will regulate and phase out the use of plastic bags. The first phase will focus on single-use plastic bags as well as banning the import of non-biodegradable plastic bags, according to WAM news agency. Later phases will witness a permanent ban on the use of plastic bags at certain malls and supermarkets.
Triangle Heavy Equipment, the distributor of heavy equipment brands in Egypt, recently announced its partnership with Renault Trucks in New Cairo, by launching the latest range of models of heavy-duty trucks to meet the growing demands of the booming construction and infrastructure development projects across the country.

The 2019 launch models include D (distribution), C (long haul & construction) and K (Heavy Haulage, Heavy Construction & Mining) range trucks well known for their robustness, reliability and low fuel consumption. The trucks are equipped with the latest features, delivering a reliable experience to its users, including drivability, comfort and durability, said the company.

“Our partnership with Renault Trucks comes in line with the expansion of the transport network in Egypt and following up with the infrastructure development goals according to vision 2030. Such valuable partnership will result in more efficient heavy-duty transportation process, for an increasingly demanding and aggressive construction and development timeline for the country. Hence, ensuring our customers are equipped with robust, durable and fuel-efficient vehicles, said Amr Eltawil, Triangle Group CEO.

Gregoire Blaise, President of Renault Trucks Greater Middle East, commented: “Egypt has recently become a much more strategic market for Renault Trucks as part of the Greater Middle East region, and for this we’re very excited to choose a partner like Triangle Heavy Equipment who will see us through the next phase of our journey here. The products we reveal here, particularly the C and K, are among our major investments that provide a large range of options and solutions for every application. The heavy duty capabilities of Renault Trucks are built to meet the needs of the fast-paced construction projects Egypt is witnessing today, and with the rising fuel costs, we’re proud to say that the D Range in particular, has proven to reduce fuel consumption by up to 7 percent.”

Emirates District Cooling LLC (Emicool), a leading district cooling service provider in the region and wholly owned subsidiary of Dubai Investments PJSC, has underlined its efforts towards sustainability with a decision to convert to an all-electric vehicle fleet comprising Renault Zoe cars and a commitment to providing six EV (electric vehicle) charging spots for the general public with the support of DEWA.

The company will launch phase 1 of the project by adopting the Renault Zoe, a compact, noise free model, for 40% of its fleet, and will add another 30% pickup style vehicles in September before transforming 100% of its fleet by quarter 1 of 2020.

The move to replace the entire fleet with electric models will reduce CO₂ emissions by 400 ton CO₂ per year, while the decision to make EV charging spots available, part of Emicool’s CSR initiative, will give the general public the opportunity to live greener and more sustainable lives, said the company.

“We have always implemented clean energy programmes to achieve energy efficiency and renewable energy, as aligned with the Dubai Integrated Energy Strategy 2030. Our new fleet of electric cars and our green public parking spots are just further evidence of our initiatives to help promote environmental and economic sustainability,” said Doctor Adib Moubadder, CEO of Emicool.
App to reduce food waste wins NYU Abu Dhabi’s annual hackathon

‘Wakkalni Food Savour’, an application that connects grocery stores with shoppers to minimise food waste won the 2019 Annual International Hackathon for Social Good in the Arab World. The three-day programming marathon was held recently at New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD).

Wakkalni Food Savour works by incentivising grocery stores to minimise food waste through discounting items that would otherwise be thrown away. It allows stores to share information about their produce and educates consumers about food products.

Member of the Wakkalni Food Savour team and NYUAD Class of 2021 student Sion Hau said, “Our project aims to reduce food waste, which is important as the annual cost of the UAE’s food waste reaches around 13 billion dirhams a year.

We thought that this is a big issue that we need to solve as food waste is also a major driver for climate change. Through our project, we hope to curb food waste. I am glad we won this year’s Hackathon, but at the same time, I felt there are so many great ideas that the other teams addressed that are worthy of winning. Participants tried to tackle all sorts of social issues, including domestic violence, language processing, and a wide array of different things, and I really am glad we stood out among such competition.”

The annual NYUAD Hackathon seeks to promote innovation in computer science, tech startups, and the development of innovative technology for the social good. The event provides an opportunity for students to experience the full cycle of creating a tech startup: sharing, generating, and pitching ideas; learning new platforms and programming languages; designing and developing mobile and web applications; and working within a team.

“We are delighted to have hosted our eighth annual NYUAD Hackathon, one of the most celebrated Hackathons worldwide for its talent and outcomes. This year’s focus was on Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning, data science, and Natural Language Processing (NLP), aiming to help produce software, hardware, and Augmented Reality (AR) applications for social good,” said Sana Odeh, Founder and Chair of NYUAD Hackathon, Clinical Professor of Computer Science at NYU New York and Affiliated Faculty at NYUAD.

“With over 1,000 applications from top universities from around the world, we have seen an array of impressive talent this year from more than 30 countries, and we have enjoyed seeing their innovative proposals and results,” she add.
Region’s first battery solar system unveiled at Abu Dhabi landfill

Project to help reduce fuel consumption and emissions annually, equivalent to planting 13000 trees

The Centre of Waste Management Abu Dhabi (Tadweer) opened the first battery solar system in the region at its Al Dhafra Landfill. A solar-plus-storage plant is an energy storage system charged by a connected solar power plant. The facility at Al Dhafra Landfill has minimal operation and maintenance costs compared to conventional plants, and utilises the latest energy management technologies, said Tadweer.

The 150 kWh photovoltaic plant will help to avoid yearly the consumption of 138000 liters of diesel and the emission of 117 tons of CO2 (a greenhouse gas responsible for global warming), which is equivalent to plant 13000 trees.

“This ambitious project aligns with Tadweer’s strategy to run all its facilities on renewable energy through adopting world-class technologies and the latest clean energy solutions. It also reinforces the company's sustained commitment to preserving our environment for future generations,” said Dr Salem Al Kaabi, Acting General Manager of Tadweer.

“In launching this plant, Tadweer is taking a significant step towards decreasing the carbon footprint of its facilities while supporting the decarbonisation targets of the UAE Vision 2021, the UAE Green Agenda 2015-2030 and the National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017-2050,” he added.

GRI Waste Standard out for public comment

In the face of a growing global waste crisis, new corporate reporting disclosures are being developed by GRI to help organisations better understand and communicate their waste impacts.

International recognition of the need for action on waste is increasing. The scale of the issue, from the effect of plastics in marine ecosystems to the mounting disconnect between food waste generation and global hunger, illustrate why businesses and other organisations need to play their part by improving waste management practices.

It is in this context that the GRI Waste Standard is under development, which is now open for a 75-day public comment period, said the organisation. The draft Standard recognises the importance of the transition to a circular economy and includes: A fundamental shift in the perception of waste – from an unwanted burden to a source of valuable materials; Greater emphasis on how decisions on procuring and using materials relate directly to waste generation and waste quality; New disclosures to understand how discarded waste has been created and the significance of this impact; Recognition of an organisation’s impacts in the value chain and reporting how this is managed.

“The draft GRI Waste Standard recognises that our linear, ‘take-make-waste’ approach is contributing towards a global waste crisis. As the world moves to a more circular economy, in which we treat waste as an input material for production, a new approach to reporting is needed, said Judy Kuszewski, Chair of the GRI Global Sustainability Standards Board. “This Standard will help companies better understand and measure their waste impacts, disclosing reliable and comparable data that ultimately supports better decisions.”

The public comment period is now open for contributions from anyone – irrespective of sector, type of business or region, said Kuszewski. The public comment period on the exposure draft of GRI 306: Waste is open until 15 July.
Emirates commits to reducing single-use plastic on board
Eco-friendly paper straws have been introduced this month

Emirates Airline has made a network-wide commitment to reduce single-use plastics on board its aircraft, the airline announced. As of June 1st, eco-friendly paper straws have been introduced and all Emirates flights will soon be plastic straw-free. The airline has been working on various long-term sustainability initiatives. In addition to plastic straws, plastic swizzle sticks and stirrers will also be replaced with eco-friendly alternatives by the end of the year. From August, plastic bags used for Inflight Retail purchases will also be replaced with paper bags. These initiatives will remove an estimated 81.7 million single-use plastic items from landfill each year, according to the press release.

Trials have been conducted on Emirates flights to explore various recycling initiatives on board and Emirates staff and cabin crew give feedback and suggestions on other environmentally friendly ideas, said the airline. As part of its long-term vision and fuelled by a cabin crew member’s suggestion, the airline has been segregating large plastic bottles on board to be recycled in Dubai and the rest of the world. This diverts an estimated 3 tonnes or about 150,000 plastic bottles from landfill in Dubai each month.

A full review of the plastics on board has been conducted and over the next few months, the airline will gradually implement other initiatives to tackle plastic waste. The initiatives are part of the airline’s ongoing sustainability efforts. In 2017, Emirates introduced ecoTHREAD blankets made from recycled plastic bottles for its Economy Class cabin. Each blanket is made from 28 recycled plastic bottles and by the end of this year, Emirates said it would have saved 88 million plastic bottles from landfill from this initiative alone.

‘Dropt It Youth’ campaign
Goumbook announced it closed this year’s ‘Dropt It Youth’ campaign with an Achievement Award ceremony to recognise and reward the programme’s 34 ambassadors in the UAE. The campaign encourages environmentally-conscious teenagers to inspire sustainable living practices in their schools and local communities. With the support and guidance of Goumbook’s team of professional environmentalists, UN Global Compact, Moral Education, KHDA, EAD, Eco-schools and Eedama, the youngsters from this year’s campaign have been incredibly successful in their achievement, says the company. The company says the achievements of this year’s campaign include: 2914 pledges to stop using single-use plastics, a 56% increase on last years’ pledges; 1193 people pledged compared to 971 last year; extensive media coverage; 34 public events including Emirates Literature Festival and Earth Hour.

LyondellBasell, Neste announce commercial-scale production of bio-based plastic from renewable materials
LyondellBasell (NYSE: LYB), one of the largest plastics, chemicals and refining companies in the world, and Neste (NESTE, Nasdaq Helsinki), the world’s largest producer of renewable diesel from waste and residues, jointly announced the first parallel production of bio-based polypropylene and bio-based low-density polyethylene at a commercial scale.

The joint project used Neste’s renewable hydrocarbons derived from sustainable bio-based raw materials, such as waste and residue oils. The project successfully produced several thousand tonnes of bio-based plastics which are approved for the production of food packaging and being marketed under Circulen and Circulen Plus, the new family of LyondellBasell circular economy product brands, as per the press statement.

“Through the use of renewable resources, we are contributing to the fight against climate change and helping our customers achieve their environmental targets,” said Richard Roudeix, LyondellBasell Senior Vice President of Olefins and Polyolefins for Europe, Asia and International. “We are excited to enable the plastics industry to introduce more bio-based material into its offering,” said Neste’s President and CEO Peter Vanacker. “This pioneering collaboration with LyondellBasell marks a major milestone in the commercialisation of Neste’s renewable polymers and chemicals business focusing on developing renewable and circular solutions for forward-looking sustainable brands.”
**Nescafé Dolce Gusto, Bee’ah partner to recycle coffee capsules**

Nescafé Dolce Gusto announced it is teaming up with Bee’ah to launch a recycling programme that would make it easy for coffee lovers to drop off their used capsules at convenient locations in Dubai and Sharjah.

The move, in line with Nestlé’s commitment to make 100 percent of its packaging recyclable or reusable by 2025, is reminding people that “recycling your brew starts with you,” said Raef Labaky, Nescafé Business Executive Manager at Nestlé Middle East.

People will receive a bag with every online purchase and can also ask for one without making any purchases at the drop off sites located at the company’s pop up shops in Dubai Festival City and Mirdif City Centre, and outside Bee’ah headquarters in Sharjah.

“Components recycled from the capsules include coffee waste and different types of plastics, and we will be aiming to further optimise the recycling process by segregating them further in the near future,” said Fahad Shehail, CEO of Waste Management Services at Bee’ah.

**Tecam Group enters SAFA Environment as shareholder**

Tecam Group, supplier of advanced environmental technology solutions, and SAFA Environment, which specialises in environmental, technological, and operational solutions with a prime focus on waste-to-energy, have reached an agreement in which Tecam has entered SAFA’s capital as shareholder.

Bernat Sala, CEO of Tecam and Dr. Eid Almutairy, CEO of SAFA, signed the agreement at a ceremony held on 9th May in Riyadh. Professor Khaled Alkattan, Chairman of SAFA was also present at the event.

This agreement is the result of a fruitful cooperation for the further development of joint environmental projects in Saudi Arabia and constitutes an important milestone for both companies, as they continue to implement key environmental projects for Exhaust Air Treatment and Hazardous Waste Incineration in the Middle East, as per the statement.

**Tom Bird elected new BIR President**

At the 2019 General Assembly of the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) on 21 May in Singapore, the world recycling body elected its new President, William T. Bird of Chiho Environmental Group.

A long-standing and active member of the organisation, Tom Bird was approved by the General Assembly for a first 2-year mandate, which can be extended once. In his opening address, he thanked his predecessor Ranjit Baxi for his excellent work during the past 4 years and expressed his gratitude to be at the head of such an important international organisation. “BIR is long established as the sole truly international recycling federation,” he said. “I am honoured to be serving its more than 750 member companies and national recycling federations in the coming years.”

Tom Bird is Chief Operating Officer of Chiho Environmental Group which is headquartered in Hong Kong and one of the world’s largest metal recycling companies. Prior to his appointment, Bird had been BIR Treasurer and member of the organisation’s Executive Committee for three years. He has held several long-term positions in BIR leadership, including interim President of the Ferrous Division and Chairman of the Internal Audit Committee. He served also as President of EFR, the European Ferrous Recovery and Recycling Federation.

He has more than 30 years’ experience in metal recycling starting out in the family business The Bird Group and acting in senior positions in companies such as Liberty Metal Recycling, Van Dalen, and Sims Metal Management.
Around 180 countries agree to make global plastic scrap trade more transparent and better regulated

Governments agree landmark decisions to protect people and planet from hazardous chemicals and waste, including plastic scrap

Decisions on plastic scrap were reached in Geneva as approximately 180 governments adopted a raft of decisions aimed at protecting human health and the environment from the harmful effects of hazardous chemicals and waste, including plastic waste, at the meetings of the Conferences of Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (Triple COPs).

Pollution from plastic waste has been acknowledged as a major environmental problem of global concern with reports indicating that 80-90 percent of an estimated 100 million tonnes of plastic found in the oceans comes from land-based sources.

Governments amended the Basel Convention to include plastic scrap in a legally-binding framework which will make global trade in plastic waste more transparent and better regulated, whilst also ensuring that its management is safer for human health and the environment. A new Partnership on Plastic Waste was also established to mobilise business, government, academic and civil society resources, interests and expertise to assist in implementing the new measures, to provide practical support – including tools, best practices, technical and financial assistance – for this agreement, as per the press release.

Other far-reaching decisions included the elimination of two toxic chemical groups, which together total about 4,000 chemicals, listed into Annex A of the Stockholm Convention, namely Dicofol and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and its salts and PFOA-related compounds. Important progress was also made under the Rotterdam Convention, which provides a legally-binding framework for information exchange and informed decision-making in the trade of certain hazardous pesticides and industrial chemicals.

“I’m proud that this week in Geneva, Parties to the Basel Convention have reached agreement on a legally-binding, globally-reaching mechanism for managing plastic waste. Plastic waste is acknowledged as one of the world’s most pressing environmental issues, and the fact that this week close to 1 million people around the world signed a petition urging Basel Convention Parties to take action here in Geneva at the COPs is a sign that public awareness and desire for action is high,” said Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary (UNEP) of the three conventions, in a statement.

Twelve environmental organisations call on Canadian government to take immediate action on plastic waste

Twelve leading ocean conservancy and environmental groups have requested that Canada’s environment and health ministers take immediate regulatory action on plastic wastes and pollution, under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act 1999, and call on the Government of Canada to add any plastic generated as a waste, or discharged from the use or disposal of products or packaging, to the Schedule 1 List of Toxic Substances under CEPA.

Doing so would allow the federal government to pass laws requiring producers of products containing plastics or using plastic packaging to collect and recycle them; to prevent exports of plastics to developing countries; to require recycled plastics to be used in making products and packaging; to ban single-use plastic items that aren’t collected and end up as litter and marine pollution; and to reduce microplastic waste from clothing and other products that pollute fish Canadians eat, according to the press release.

A study for Environment and Climate Change Canada indicates that Canada’s plastics recycling rate is 9% (1). The country landfills or burns 91% or 2.93 million tonnes of the waste plastic generated each year. The nation’s rivers, lakes and oceans receive an additional 29,000 metric tonnes of plastic litter – the equivalent of 9.7 billion coffee cup lids. The scientific evidence of the impacts of this plastic pollution is clear. A systematic review of data from 139 lab and field studies by researchers at the University of Toronto concluded, “...that there is evidence that plastic pollution of all shapes and sizes can affect organisms across all levels of biological organisation. There is no doubt that plastic pollution can have an impact on wildlife, and there is compelling evidence suggesting macroplastics are already impacting marine populations, species, and ecosystems.”
Recycling Industry calls on U.S. Mint to resume mutilated coin redemption programme after unexpected shutdown

The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) expressed concern over the announcement by the U.S. Mint to re-suspend the Mutilated Coin Redemption Programme and is offering its expertise to work with the agency to identify and resolve any concerns as quickly as possible. Along with the Mint, ISRI shares the goal of recovering and recycling coins while protecting the programme's integrity.

“After a three-year moratorium, ISRI worked with the U.S. Mint to get the Mutilated Coin Redemption Programme reinstated at the end of 2017,” said Robin Wiener, president of ISRI. “It is a major disappointment the Mint has once again suspended the program that is worth millions of dollars to the recycling industry. ISRI, on behalf of its members, is working to identify any issues the Mint may have with the program and will once again offer solutions to get the program reinstated as soon as possible."

Recycling facilities across the United States have been recovering coins from scrap for decades. The coins come from loose change left in cars or that has fallen between the seats, money left in vending machines and coin-operated laundry machines, and other sources. During shredding or other forms of processing the coins fall free or are purposefully recovered. As recycling technology has advanced the ability to accumulate coins in significant quantities has grown quickly, and is an integral part of many recycling companies' operations and product lines, said ISRI.

When the Mutilated Coin Redemption Programme was originally resumed, the U.S. Mint also announced a number of important revisions including the establishment of procedures for certifying participants based on submission amounts and frequency, sampling submissions to authenticate material, conducting site visits for certain participants, and requiring information about how the submissions came to be bent or partial. It was considered a major victory for the recycling industry which had been stockpiling mutilated coins during the moratorium.

Veolia announces £1m investment to grow plastics recycling

Environmental services company Veolia UK has announced it has invested a further £1 million in its Dagenham Plastic Recycling facility as demand continues to increase. The new investment comes just over a year after the UK’s Plastics Pact was launched, of which Veolia is a founding member, and provides a new granulator, a new processing kit and upgraded the washing process allowing a 20 percent increase in food grade production responding to the increasing need and interest of manufactures that are part of the pact.

“The UK Plastics Pact has given a boost to the industry that was needed to make plastic recycling a reality. Since the launch we have seen demand increase and so we had to ensure our site was working efficiently to meet demand,” commented Richard Kirkman, Chief Technology & Innovation Officer. “This is an opportunity for an industry that is getting bad press to become sustainable and this investment shows our commitment to make this a reality. It will help to increase the amount the UK recycles and encourage recyclable materials and designs for products, and discourage the use of harder to recycle options such as black plastic and polystyrene yogurt pots.”

“We still have a long way to go to 2025 but it's extremely positive. Recycling is a chain of events from manufacturer, consumer to recycler and we need each part of the chain to make changes to have successful scalable results,” he added.

The company added it has also done a number of other projects in support of the Pact: Working in partnership with Unilever they have introduced a new type of black pigment for its personal care bottles that can be detected by Veolia’s infra-red scanners and therefore recycled; Unveiled a reverse vending machine in Kings Cross to allow members of the public to recycle bottles and receive a voucher worth 10% off the bill at Leon.

Internationally Veolia is part of the cross value chain Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW), currently made up of nearly thirty member companies, and this has committed over $1 billion with the goal of investing $1.5 billion over the next five years to help end plastic waste in the environment.

The Alliance will develop and bring to scale solutions that will minimise and manage plastic scrap and promote solutions for used plastics by helping to enable a circular economy. The Alliance membership represents global companies and located throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.
New chairman for BIR Tyres & Rubber Committee

BIR announced it has appointed Max Craipeau, CEO of Greencore Resources in Hong Kong (previously known as Maxco Industries (HK) Limited), as new Chairman of the organisation’s Tyres and Rubber Committee.

Craipeau started his activities in the recycling industry over 10 years ago as non-ferrous trader in collaboration with Marc Natan (former President of the BIR Non-Ferrous Metals Division) before launching his own trading business from Hong Kong in 2011, focusing on scrap rubber and plastics since then.

He is well known in the tyres and rubber scrap industry, both in Europe and Asia where he has been developing innovative recycling solutions using an extensive network of suppliers and end users. Greencore has two factories – one in Indonesia and one in Poland – where it processes rubber and plastic scraps into granules, regranulates and compounds to serve its customers globally. Craipeau is intent on involving more companies from outside the European market to add a global dimension to the Committee’s scope of work, as per the press release. “There are many challenges facing the tyres recycling industry worldwide”, he said. “The BIR Tyres & Rubber Committee is the ideal forum to further develop our strategies and actions.”

Malaysia to send back plastic scrap to foreign countries

The Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC), Malaysia, is set to send back some 3,000 metric tons (3,300 tons) of non-recyclable plastic scrap to countries such as the US, UK, Canada and Australia in a move to avoid becoming a dumping ground for rich nations, Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin said on May 28. The minister said Malaysia and many developing countries have become new targets after China banned plastic scrap imports last year, as per a press release posted on the ministry’s website.

Yoe said 50 containers stacked with contaminated waste were smuggled in en route to illegal processing facilities in Malaysia and will be sent back to their countries of origin once the containers are fully inspected, according to the statement.

Ten of the containers are due to be shipped back within two weeks, she said as she showed reporters contents of the waste at a port outside Kuala Lumpur. These containers contained cables, contaminated milk cartons and bales of electronic and household waste originating from Australia, US, Canada, Japan, China, etc. At the end of April, the government had also sent back 5 containers of waste to Spain.

These containers were filled with contaminated, non-homogenous, low quality, nonrecyclable plastic waste, and are routed to facilities which do not have the technologies to recycle in an environmentally sound manner, as per the press statement, which also mentioned that this practice is against the Environmental Quality Act (EQA) 1974.

MESTECC minister said in one case alone, a UK recycling company exported more than 50,000 metric tons (55,000 tons) of plastic waste in about 1,000 containers to Malaysia over the past two years, as per the statement. “We urge the developed countries to review their management of plastic waste and stop shipping the garbage out to the developing countries,” Yoe said.

The minister added, “We will continue to weed out the imports of contaminated plastic waste. These containers were brought into the country under false declarations and other offences which clearly violates our environmental law.” The government has clamped down on dozens of unlicensed plastic recycling facilities that had mushroomed across the country over the past year. As a party to the Basel Convention Malaysia imposes strict requirements in line with the Article 4(11) of the Convention for all importation of mixed plastic scrap to ensure that any transboundary movements is conducted in a manner which will protect human health and the environment.
HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT: AN OVERVIEW

With the fast paced growth of the industrial sector in the Middle East, a large amount of waste including hazardous waste is being generated in this region. The commercial and residential segments also generate certain types of hazardous waste, and considering the fact that this is a critical area within the sector, the proper disposal and treatment of this waste stream is of great significance. The UAE and Oman are addressing this issue by taking steps to put in place specific measures to deal with this critical waste stream. Swaliha Shanavas speaks with industry experts to find out more on the current state of this growing segment, the regulatory framework, major concerns and the latest developments in this area.
Present status

Waste management has become a major area of focus for various governments in the Middle East, with a majority now investing in sustainable solutions and open to significant changes in their approach to waste management so as to ensure their long term environmental goals are achieved. The rapid growth in population, urbanisation, economic expansion and rapid advancement in technology over the past decade has led to a tremendous increase in the quantities of waste being generated, including hazardous waste with a major portion of this type of waste being produced by the industrial and medical sectors. Awareness on hazardous waste management and the need for solutions are also picking up in the region and in some countries such as the UAE, there are certain guidelines and regulations in place or are taking shape to deal with this significant waste stream. Hazardous waste generated in the UAE is predominantly from the industrial and the healthcare sectors as byproducts of various processing streams or biohazard wastes from these segments. “Medical waste is being mainly generated at hospitals followed by clinics and laboratories. Pharmaceutical waste, including expired medicine constitutes another (sub)stream,” says Jules Adem, Chief Commercial & Marketing Officer, Suez Middle East Recycling. “The second main stream can be put under the umbrella of Industrial Hazardous Waste, although we all agree that the risks vary a lot and people might not always agree on the rating of hazards and risks associated or which comes first, second... however, there are more advanced regulations already developed in the USA, UK, OECD and EU that can be adopted in this respect. I would like to state in particular the Basel Convention and EU 1013/2006,” he comments.

“As per statistics the emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai which account for major industries and medical services generate close to 86 percent of the total hazardous waste generated in the UAE, with Sharjah around 10 percent and the balance by all other emirates,” says Madhumohan Sreeram, Chief Innovation Officer, Dulsco. “Since hazardous waste is more industry specific, the established rules and regulations in the UAE for controlling transport and disposal of such waste have contributed to establishing specific focused facilities,” he notes.

Following are some examples of facilities that are operational in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, where certain segments of hazardous waste are handled locally:

“In the Oil sector, various types of hazardous waste generated by ADNOC group, Abu Dhabi are handled in their own centralised treatment facility in Ruwais, which consists of incineration, centrifuge, thermal desorption, solidification, mercury distillation, class 1 and 11 landfills, double lined evaporation ponds etc.,” Sreeram notes. There are also specific treatment facilities established by private sector which are operational in Fujairah, Khorfakkan, Jebel Ali, etc.

“A recycling facility has been established in Abu Dhabi under Centre of Waste Management (CWM) and in Dubai under Dubai Municipality for Used engine oil, which again is hazardous waste.

As for medical waste, an Incineration facility has been in operation in Dubai under the municipality and in Al Ain, Abu Dhabi under CWM. In Sharjah, medical waste is handled by wekaya established with the municipality.

“Since hazardous waste is more industry specific, the established rules and regulations in UAE for controlling transport and disposal of such waste have contributed to establishing specific focused facilities.”
There are also lined class I landfill cells developed in Abu Dhabi and Dubai by the relevant authorities where other types of hazardous waste can be stored for future treatment. Dubai Municipality recently commissioned a Physico-chemical treatment plant for liquid hazardous waste. "Dulsco does work closely with the ministry of environment and the local municipalities to handle hazardous waste through their established facilities or in instances where there are no treatment facilities locally, provide service to export hazardous waste to specialised treatment facilities in Europe as per Basel convention norms," Sreeram explains, adding that they also do in situ treatment of specific waste streams as per ground requirements.

In Oman, a large amount of waste is being generated, especially in the industrial areas and it is estimated that a majority of the total amount of industrial waste is produced in Sohar. As per recent statistics, around 1.5 million tons of industrial waste is being generated in Oman annually.

Following are some waste streams based on the study conducted in 2014, says Abdulkareem Qasim AlBalushi, Department Head, Integrated Hazardous Waste Management, be’ah. These include (but not limited to): Iron smelter slag, Chromite smelter slag, EAF dust, Mineral waste, Oil waste (liquid and solid), WEEE, Dust from miscellaneous sources, Inorganic chemical waste, Batteries, Organic solid without halogens and sulphur, Organic solid containing halogens and sulphur, Healthcare waste, Slag, Mercury containing waste, Organic solvents without halogens and sulphur and so on.

Currently, a full treatment system is not present in Oman, but be’ah is bringing a sustainable solution for industrial waste, says AlBalushi. "Our Industrial Waste Strategy involves setting up an integrated industrial waste treatment facility in North Al-Batinah." At present the integrated facility for hazardous waste treatment in the northern area is under construction and should be ready for full-fledged operations by 2023, he says. The Industrial Waste Treatment Facility in North Al-Batinah is being established in a phased manner.

Phase 1 of the project is nearing completion, which includes: Infrastructure (internal roads, drainage system, fencing, offices, lab and weighing bridge, etc); Industrial waste landfills (Non-lined, Single-Lined, Double Lined); and storage facilities (closed and open).

AlBalushi says partial operation of phase 1 started in June 2018 for: Inert landfill with a capacity of 500,000 m³; Single-lined landfill with a capacity of 400,000 m³; Double-lined landfill with a capacity of 400,000 m³. “Phase 1 is ready to receive inorganic solid waste for treatment and organic solid waste to be stored for later treatment. The rest of the industrial waste is either stored or exported for treatment”.

**Regulations**

UAE has ratified the Basel convention regulations on 17 November 1992. “The federal laws like the Law No 24 of 1999 and Law No 21 of 2005 and the regional guidelines of various emirates which are well laid out policies and regulations do address the requirements for Hazardous waste handling, transport and treatment in the UAE and therefore would be adequate to address the various controls and requirements,” says Sreeram.

Some of the specific laws and regulations which guide the hazardous waste regime in the major emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai where about 86 percent of the hazardous is waste generated are as follows:

In Abu Dhabi there is a Regulation on Handling of Hazardous substances, Hazardous Waste and Medical Waste (2001); Article 10 - General Rules and Procedures for Hazardous Waste Management; Policy Affecting Waste Management and Pest Control in Abu Dhabi, 1st June 2010 – Center of Waste Management Abu Dhabi. Key policies to control hazardous and medical wastes are: WMP1:
enterprises in the transportation of industrial waste, hence contributing to the in country value.

**Challenges**

For any operator in this space, the challenge is the proper identification of the waste, review of existing facilities where it can be handled, and if such local facilities are not available, to establish a viable option and solution for the client in coordination with the regulatory bodies. "Once the solution is identified the challenge would also include ensuring control in collection and transportation and availability of adequate quantities to provide an economically viable local solution with the ultimate option of export to established facilities through Basel norms if required," Sreeram emphasises.

Adem is of the same opinion. And along with the issues of identifying the hazardous waste, categorising it as per the local regulations and finding the proper disposal/treatment, affording the proper solution and convincing the producer of the related costs is also an area of concern, he states.

Hazardous waste treatment are covered under the federal laws and the specific regulations of each emirate and the treatment and disposal of the same are localised in each emirate "with very little option of inter emirate movement of such waste material," Sreeram highlights.

As regards the treatment cost, currently there are specific costs stipulated for disposal of medical wastes and hazardous wastes which has helped in establishing units where economical capacities have been found to set up such treatment plants.

"Classification of all types of hazardous waste generated in the region and its quantification is a major exercise to be dealt with as there are over 405 types of hazardous wastes specified as per EU norms with the type of treatment or disposal norms provided for the same," Dulsco chief innovation officer remarks.

In Adem’s view, Data is key in defining the problem or the risk before looking for the corresponding solution. “There is a need to know the trends in hazardous waste generation to be able to choose the appropriate solutions,” he says, adding that these have to be environmentally and economically sound as well.

**Treatment processes and advanced solutions**

In this region, specific hazardous wastes like mercury containing wastes, pesticides, HCH wastes, infectious hospital wastes, acids, bases and cutting oils, paint, lacquer, contaminated filters, contaminated soil, ashes, slag, dross, used oil, galvanic sludge, developer, fixer, catalysts, etc., are generated, all of which need specific treatment processes. Such treatment options and proven technologies are available including rotary kiln incineration, Physico-chemical treatment, enhanced plasma system, special recovery processes, mining, refining, electrolysis, etc.

“These systems do need minimum quantities for treatment and therefore establishing local treatment facilities are a constraint unless optimal quantities are available.” Sreeram advocates a three pronged approach to hazardous waste handling and treatment as it would ensure its complete management: Local treatment facilities where such waste quantities generated locally are sufficient to establish an economical capacity. Where local quantities are less, have a consolidation of all the waste from all emirates at a central facility with specific inter emirate movement of such waste addressed; Where the quantities are too low even for consolidation and processing locally, have proper storage and export to established facility.

Other developed countries’ approaches can also be considered and adopted in this region, says Adem. “In view of the limited quantities generated or identified of particular streams, the final treatment solution does not have to be within the area/emirate/municipality... not even in the country or region. We could opt for segregation and neutralising facilities which could stand as intermediary solution points prior to dispatching the remaining hazardous material to existing and operational facilities elsewhere (mainly Europe) noting that some of these facilities lack the volumes needed to operate efficiently. We have to think global!” he underscores.

In his opinion there are plenty of opportunities for putting forward more advanced solutions. "One essential condition for these solutions to be brought to the market, be implemented and be effective is the regulatory framework that will invite them and the
initial R&D and studies leading to such selective invitations.”

Looking ahead
In the 2nd phase (2019-2023), be’ah will focus on the establishment of an incineration plant; solidification plant; physical and chemical treatment plant; and several pre-treatment plants, says AlBalushi. “From 2023 onwards the facility will be able to handle all kinds of hazardous waste (except explosive and radioactive waste) adopting European standards and best practices,” he comments. The plant will have state-of-the-art equipment and treatment methods. “be’ah’s integrated industrial waste treatment facility will provide a long term sustainable solution, reducing the environmental impact and conserving the environment of our beautiful Oman for future generations,” AlBalushi concludes.

Cover Story

6 key tips for handling Healthcare waste (HCW) generated from households (insulin needles & expired medicines):

Jassim Mohammed Al-Wahaibi, Department Head – Health Care Waste, be’ah, Oman, talks about be’ah’s solutions since taking over HCW waste management in 2012. The service began through the first treatment facility in the Muscat Governorate, which compromises of two technologies (Incinerators & Autoclaves). The capacity has increased from 5.5 tonnes per day in 2012 to 14.5 tonnes per day in January 2016 with the introduction of two lines of Autoclave device. be’ah has completed rolling out the service through this facility in 2016 to four governorates.

They have also established another treatment plant in Liwa located in North Batina Governorate, and the said facility currently serves five governorates in that region. The facility is equipped with two lines of Autoclave with a capacity of 6 tonnes per day. Their third facility in Dhofar Governorate that was officially commissioned in August 2016 aiming to serve two governorates is equipped with two lines of Autoclave devices with the capacity of 6 tons of waste per day.

“be’ah has covered more than 99% of the health institutions across the country since third Q of 2018,” says Al-Wahaibi.

Household Healthcare Waste:
The random disposal of the above said waste that was practiced by people was a challenge as plenty of sharps and medicines were found in Municipal waste bins, he remarks. They have addressed this issue seriously and has adopted numerous procedures to control such situation, he says. “In 2017 be’ah addressed this issue by raising awareness among the public through media and demonstrating the risk of discarding such waste in a random manner.”

In 2018 be’ah also introduced an awareness video highlighting the following:

1. Dos:
   • Collect insulin needles and sharp medical tools in a dedicated solid plastic container, which has to be empty and clean, such as (Sharp containers, Plastic water Bottles, Detergent Containers).
   • Collect expired and damaged medicines in a cardboard which has to be properly sealed in order to prevent any spillage.

2. Don’ts:
   • Leave sharps & medicines unattended
   • Throw needles in the garbage.
   • Flush sharps down the toilet or drop into storm drains and sinks.
   • Clip, bend or recap needles.
   • Fill the container more than ¾ of its size.

   • Share your insulin pen with others even after replacing the used needle with a new one, as this might increase the chance of transmitting diseases between the users.
   • Keep the needles & expired medicines for more than 3 months.

3. In case of a needle prick injury, clean the affected area immediately with soap and water and report the incident to the nearest healthcare institution.
4. Keep the plastic container and cardboard in a low temperature room away from direct sunlight and away from children’s reach.
5. Make sure to seal the needles container and medicines cardboard before disposal.
6. Take the needles container and medicines cardboard to your nearest health centre for disposal.
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Coalition Circle join hands to transform plastic recycling model

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE), UAE has teamed up with the Coalition of Innovation in Recycling towards a Closed Loop Economy ( Coalition Circle) to pilot a closed loop recycling model for plastic bottles, beverage cartons, and other packaging in Abu Dhabi.

H.E. Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, recently hosted a roundtable at MOCCAE’s Abu Dhabi premises to discuss the new partnership. During the roundtable, His Excellency Engineer Saif Al Shara, Assistant Undersecretary for Sustainable Communities Sector, and members of the coalition signed a pledge representing a voluntary commitment to developing a circular economy model to tackle plastic and packaging waste pollution by improving mechanisms of collection and recycling, as per the press statement.

Highlighting some of the issues that make tackling plastic pollution an urgent priority for the UAE, H.E. Dr. Al Zeyoudi said: “Statistics indicate that nearly 13 million tons of plastic enters the world’s oceans every year, causing annual ecological losses of over US$13 billion to marine ecosystems. It is also expected that there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish by 2050.

“As for the terrestrial environment, studies have shown that plastic releases toxic chemicals into the surrounding soil, which can then seep into the groundwater or other water sources. This can cause diverse harmful effects on species that grow in the soil and consume the contaminated water.”

“Recognising the gravity of this issue and in a bid to address the root cause of plastic pollution, the UAE government is taking active measures to shift towards a more plastic-circular economy and adopt environment-friendly waste management solutions. Our integrated approach to waste management is in line with the country’s ambitious target of diverting 75 percent of municipal solid waste away from landfills by 2021,” he added.

On behalf of the coalition, Murat Ozgel, General Manager of Coca-Cola Middle East and Deputy President of Coca-Cola Middle East and North Africa, said: “We need to take urgent and important steps to address plastic and packaging waste pollution. This coalition’s objectives are aligned with the UAE’s Green Agenda 2030 and the National Sustainable Consumption Plan to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns that achieve sustainable management, reduce environmental stress and support the transition to a circular economy.”

“As part of the initiative, the coalition will launch a pilot project in Abu Dhabi to test the economic and environmental impact of plastic and other packaging material circular economy. From here we will develop recommendations to accelerate sustainability solutions for an optimized waste management infrastructure,” he added.

MOCCAE and Coalition Circle urge organisations, institutions, and residential communities in Abu Dhabi to play a role in the nation’s transition to a green economy by contributing their segregated packaging (bottles, multi-beverage carton, bag and other materials) for the pilot project.

Members of Coalition Circle include BASF, Borouge, Tetra Pak, Carrefour, Coca-Cola, Dow Chemicals, Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association, McDonald’s UAE, Nestlé, Procter&Gamble, PepsiCo, Unilever and Emirates Nature - WWF.
In your capacity as Director, Pulp & Paper at WARAQ, what is your normal day at work like? How has your journey been so far?

I joined WARAQ over two decades ago. We had one Kraft Paper machine at the time and were the only such operation in the Kingdom. As we progressed, we added two more machines increasing our production capacity from 70,000 MT to 500,000 MT today. A lot has changed over the years and from largely virgin grades of containerboard being used by local corrugated carton producers, the industry has moved toward sustainable recycled paper options. The paradigm shift has been painstakingly achieved by educating end customers that recycled kraft paper is an eco-friendly alternative and that it also performs as well as virgin grades in most applications. At present, virgin grades of linerboard represent hardly 15 percent of the market.

There was a time when local production of Recycled containerboard was not enough to cover the demands of the GCC market however today through a string of investments and capacity enhancements over the years, we now have several producers aggregating a sizable capacity in the market. The current installed capacity of Corrugating Base Papers is enough to cover not only the demands of the entire GCC market, but also for export of almost all grades. In addition to containerboard, we have production of folding boxboard and several tissue mills in the region. Lately, there has been a significant change in paper demographics and the first mill to produce premium writing and printing paper from virgin pulp is headed into commercial production in the UAE shortly.

Atul Kaul, Director, Pulp & Paper, WARAQ

“There is no constant in the containerboard industry, the supply and demand curves are both dynamic and challenging”

Atul Kaul, Director, Pulp & Paper, WARAQ speaks to Swaliha Shanavas about his experience in this sector and shares his views on the latest developments as well as significant issues faced by the industry in an ever-changing business environment.
The journey so far has been extremely rewarding and I saw WARAAQ as well as the regional industry grow and achieve maturity. I joined the company as head of marketing & sales, more so on a frontline basis. However, over a period of time we developed a strong team and my role is now largely to serve key accounts in a supervisory capacity. Today, a major part of my time is devoted to product and brand building as well as identification and development of new products and markets. Apart from this, I supervise the procurement of recycled fibre from overseas and pulp which goes in the production of our premium grades.

A typical day would start with review of all MIS reports and engage with relevant departments as required and guide or interact with related departments. We imbibe product quality and service leadership. One of the greatest sins a senior executive can commit is to isolate himself within one's organisation. I do not believe in silos management and am keenly working with the Executive Management team for a unified result and growth of the corporate.

I believe that a happy customer is a permanent customer and an excellent point of referral, and follow a simple and straightforward motto “Customer Delight”. If one can manage to keep his customer happy and satisfied he does not need to find new ones as his old customers will never abandon him and will bring fresh business; and this is exactly what happens at our company.

What triggered your interest in this sector?

My entry to this segment, believe it or not, was by accident. I was working in the IT sector (to be precise Office Automation) selling HCL products and a chance meeting with a senior executive from the Thapar Group which has BILT paper mills under its fold, now a part of Avantha Group, saw me enter paper sales. I started with retail trade of BILT grades, moving on to sales of coated paper & boards and before joining WARAAQ worked with the largest recycled newsprint plant in India.

What do you love most about your job, and what is the most challenging aspect?

The thing I love most about my job is change. There is no constant in the Containerboard industry. The supply and demand curves are both dynamic and challenging. To be ahead in the game one needs to have the ability to forecast what is going to happen in next few quarters if not years, and the wiser you guess the better for your business. Located in the Middle East, I serve customers from China to North America across several geographies, so handing the time zone differences is a good challenge as the work ethics and methodology unique to each region. One has to be alert to the market dynamics and react accordingly. This helps in securing best value as well as new geographies for business thrust.

How important is Recycling for the economy and what are the hurdles to the growth of this sector in the Middle East? What are the measures needed to improve the standards?

Recycling is vital universally in order to preserve the planet for future generations. The earth is over the last growth period cluttered with mountains of waste. Developed and developing countries generate waste, which, if not disposed of in a sustainable manner, will negatively affect our ecosystem. For instance, many countries are banning plastics and similar materials that are not easily biodegradable.

Paper packaging, which had lost its foothold to plastics, is back in vogue. More and more public-private participation and legislation are required to ban detrimental products in favour of easily recyclable and biodegradable products.

Please provide an overview of the paper industry in the Middle East. What are the developmental challenges and domestic issues facing the paper mills in the region?

The current scenario in the regional paper industry is quite challenging. Box plants in general sold much less than their budgeted forecasts and ran up huge inventories. Thus we opened 2019 with several months of inventory and no inquiries. In addition, western economies were not doing well. Europe overall was affected due to a multitude of reasons and Britain had to deal with the Brexit deluge. Lack of demand saw premium containerboard producers push prices down. Even close to a million tons off the market could not change the sentiment, and there are more shutdowns to follow in the short and long term.

Paper mills are capital-intensive projects, not easy to set up and even more challenging to run efficiently. Chemicals, consumables, machine fabrics and spares have to be imported, most of them at a high cost also involving long delivery periods. Thus, we need to have more than the required inventory as safety stock. Qualified work force essentially has to be outsourced.

We are not only facing the challenge of international competition, but the challenge of diminishing fibre quality with lower realisation as well. Add to this the challenge of raw material (OCC) export, which stokes prices higher than global recovered paper prices making us uncompetitive as compared to mills in Asia and Europe who dump excess capacities in our region.

The main trigger of this crisis was the trade war or standoff between US and China which typically consumed
600,000/MT Virgin Grades of Containerboard as per 2018 estimates. This year, US will not sell even 40 percent of that, so additional volume is and will be hitting other markets in incremental volumes. China itself is losing GDP percentile alongside the population crisis and a host of other reasons to worry about. OCC for the same reason is at ludicrous levels. Record lows on OCC are due to negative takeoff of recycled fibers. Pulp has also softened considerably. We need to see if there is any offtake in July/August for the Christmas season in China; if that does not happen then things would be grim. I personally see some shifts in Q3/Q4. The demand could improve in the short term for recycled containerboard along the same lines as buyers restock, but as we now enter the summer season, traditionally a little quiet. In my view, customers are expecting a decline in prices based on industry reports. As a result, they are only buying what they really need and demanding price reductions in each transaction. We also see further delays in payments and more credit days requested and offered.

How has the paper and containerboard sector been faring over the past two years?

The challenges looming in the market are in VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity) phase. This is triggered by the current geopolitical and economic situation surrounding us and putting pressure on all the stakeholders within the industry and the supply chain. The customer does not know how much to buy, the supplier does not know where to sell and most importantly comes the question of revenue realisation. I expect that the challenges will remain in the near future unless the USA – China trade relations are resolved. In addition, the Brexit issue is still unsettled and the Turkish economy is very grim.

I am mentioning these three issues because all of them will affect the paper industry in one way or another. USA is currently not shipping its paper scrap to China as it used to, Brexit keeps the pressure on the German and French agriculture industry, and Turkey with its devaluated Turkish Lira is able to compete and sell at prices lower than the COGS (cost of goods sold).

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I have always been a voracious reader and I firmly believe in knowledge as a source of inspiration. Due to time constraints, I read fewer books these days, but there are very good resources online where I nurture my mind. The medium has changed from paperbacks and hardbacks to blogs and vlogs. The message is essentially the same, but just more contemporary and constantly updated.

I also try to contribute to social causes and participate in community service, community kitchens etc. Being an animal lover, I try my best to feed strays as well as birds around my house, occasionally nursing the sick ones...
Recent months have brought higher-than-normal collection volumes but quality is declining owing to the combination of “fast fashion” and “an increasing awareness from consumers that textiles can be recycled”, observed Martin Böschen of Switzerland-based TEXAID Textilverwertungs AG at the BIR World Recycling Convention in Singapore.

Given that collection and sorting of used textiles are financed by the resale of second-hand goods, the key question is who will pay for this service if quality and share of second-hand goods continue to decline, the new President of the BIR Textiles Division said at the meeting in Singapore on May 22. He called for the textiles and fashion industry to embrace design for recycling and to commit to using secondary raw materials “even if they are more expensive than virgin materials”.

In his presentation, Böschen pointed to payment problems among the used textiles customer base in Africa, also noting that, “Demand from Eastern Europe and other markets is still intact, but customers’ demands in regard to product quality are increasing.”

According to Alan Wheeler of the UK’s Textile Recycling Association, a recently-released document from the country’s Environment Audit Committee (EAC) has been described as “a game-changer” for the global fashion industry. The “Fixing Fashion” publication proposes that fashion retailers “take responsibility for the waste they create by introducing an extended producer responsibility scheme for textiles and reward companies that take positive action to reduce waste”. The document claims that a £0.01 levy on each item sold could raise £35 million per annum (approaching Euro 40 million) for reuse/recycling and other initiatives to improve the circularity of the clothing/textiles industry.

Other proposals in the report include incorporation of eco-design principles in fashion production and an investment fund to stimulate markets for recycled fibres. The EAC, whose remit is to evaluate the performance of environmental policies and programmes, describes the UK government’s recent pledge to review and consult by 2025 on how to deal with textile waste as “too little, too late”, added Wheeler.

The Textiles Division’s guest presentation from Dr. Gloria Lei Yao, Director of Project Development at the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA), focused on her organisation’s wide-ranging research, development and technology transfer initiatives in the mechanical, chemical and biological recycling of post-consumer textiles. Among the highlighted ventures, she pointed to a four-year project sponsorship involving the H&M Foundation which has been investigating practical solutions to converting blended textiles into new fabrics and yarns. The technology, which is currently in the scale-up phase, will be “licensed widely to ensure broad market access and maximum impact,” she revealed.

The speaker also provided details of a dry upcycling process encompassed within a 40-foot double-glazed container that completes the entire process of garment-to-garment recycling - from sanitisation and fibre opening to spinning and knitting - in a period of four hours to two days. One of the major benefits of this initiative is as “an educational tool” that enables the public to visualise the value of old garments, she explained.

The BIR World Recycling Convention & Exhibition was held in Singapore from 19-22 May 2019.
When Norway proposed in June 2018 the creation of a special category for plastics scrap, the general trade and industry were skeptical about the impact of the proposal. They were skeptical as to whether the proposal would even be accepted for serious consideration.

No one would have thought that it would pass so smoothly during the discussion at the Basel Convention in May this year. As much as it passed without too much protest, there are enormous implications for the international trade in plastic scrap.

The governments of 187 countries have passed a resolution calling for advance approval for international movement of plastic scrap. The USA is not a signatory to the BASEL CONVENTION. The Basel Convention is a mechanism to control the transboundary movement of hazardous waste. Even though the US is not a signatory, this will have a
serious impact on exports to the rest of the world.

The Advance Approval involves detailed information including the individual details of the place of storage and/or origin of the scrap, names of trucking companies with a license to transport scrap, shipping lines, used ports, bank guarantees, environmental permits, names and license of buyers, etc. Administrative work will increase even more. Those who are strong in legal compliance will be the winners.

The inflow into the developing world will be reduced. Recycling will become uneconomical owing to lack of inputs. The recycling process will suffer in these developing regions.

The volume of international trade in plastics used to be about thirteen million tons as recent as in 2016. Now it has come down to about eight million tons in 2018 and I even expect a substantial reduction in 2019.

Even before the change, the clean and sorted plastic materials had no dearth of demand. It has been most of the time in demand in domestic markets in the developed world. It is the mixed and contaminated materials which will have serious issues in international trade.

The principle of proximity will come into play. Recycling will take place at the place of origin of the scrap in case of mixed and contaminated materials. Under the changed scenario the volume of trade will be substantially reduced even for the recyclable materials. This will have a serious impact on the growth of the recycling industry in the developing world.

There is need for economy of scale to be competitive in the recycling business. A production capacity of about 20k tons is essential to be competitive. In the developing world it would be difficult to have such quantity in one location. Therefore, the industry will suffer.

The experience of UAE in the plastics recycling industry clearly demonstrates that UAE recycling failed due to lack of inputs. Plastic scrap import was not allowed. The domestic collection was not enough in terms of quality and quantity for the economy of scale.

As it is the world that is suffering from ignorance, such measures get disproportionate attention amongst the press, public and eventually politicians. The impact will be strong and powerful in a negative manner unless there is proper explanation and knowledge sharing between the developed and developing world.

Plastic pollution has become the poster child of the world. It is very important that stakeholders (e.g. the resin producers, converters, brand owners and recyclers) invest heavily in educating the people. The mindset of the general public has become staunchly anti-plastics. We need to inform them that we cannot live without plastics even for 24 hours. Without plastics the food waste will increase; without plastics the fuel consumption will increase due to heavy vehicles and without plastics there will be challenges in hygiene and health.

The intention of the new regulations is good; we only hope that the administration in international trade is not too onerous for transboundary movements of recyclable plastics scrap.

Surendra Borad Patawari is Founder and Chairman of Gemini Corporation N.V., Belgium. A well-known personality in the global recycling industry, he has served as the Chairman of the Plastics Committee of Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) for over a decade.
UD Trucks launched the New Quester in the Middle East, East and North Africa (MEENA) choosing Bahrain, one of their key markets, as the launch platform. This new version of the brand’s heavy-duty truck introduces a range of enhancements that will enable logistics companies across the region to tackle critical industry challenges and boost their bottom line through Smart Logistics.

UD Telematics. Building on proven robustness and reliability, the New Quester introduces key features such as ESCOT automated manual transmission (AMT), engines with higher horsepower and user-friendly telematics to deliver greater fuel efficiency, productivity, driver efficiency, safety and uptime.

Mourad Hedna, President of UD
“The new Quester delivers enhanced fuel efficiency of up to 10% over the current Quester, and this is aided by the Escot automated manual transmission, lighter tare weight and optimised driveline.”

Trucks MEENA, said, “The truck industry in the region is changing rapidly and customers are increasingly conscious of the total cost of ownership. With New Quester we have the ideal product to address these needs. Moreover, new Quester combines the best of three worlds: UD Trucks’ strong Japanese heritage and craftsmanship; Volvo Group’s innovative technology; and our strong local support for our valued customers, which we call our Gemba spirit.”

Speaking at the Media Roundtable Briefing a few hours after the company revealed their new truck range, Hedna said, when the company initially launched the Quester, they listened carefully to the customers to understand what they were looking for. The customer was looking for a simple, robust truck that was doing the job. So they launched the Quester in many markets in the region successfully and “the clients were very happy” with what UD offered, he elaborated. “But then the market is changing and customer demands are getting more sophisticated. The total cost of ownership becomes a serious challenge in the Middle East and Africa as it is worldwide.” Based on this, they collected feedback from all their customers and came up with the new Quester, Hedna noted.

They developed it in order to improve the operating costs of their customers, “so with our ESCOT, for instance, we have significant saving in fuel efficiency. Then we looked at the challenge around the shortage of skilled drivers and made a lot of improvements in terms of suspension and size of the cab. Again, with the ESCOT there is less fatigue for the drivers who will spend more time on their safety on the road rather than on changing the gears.” The third thing they looked at carefully was how they could help their customers improve their bottom line and the uptime of the trucks, and help them grow, said Hedna.

The new range aims to boost productivity and profitability for business owners and logistics companies, for whom a rise in fuel costs consequently increases operating costs. For this, the new Quester delivers enhanced fuel efficiency of up to 10% over the current Quester, and this is aided by the Escot automated manual transmission, lighter tare weight and optimised driveline. Fuel efficiency is also affected by the operating conditions, driving behaviour and vehicle maintenance. So Escot includes software which optimises gear shifting according to the engine revs, vehicle speed, loading weight and even road gradient. The smart system also includes a sensor that will select the optimum gear automatically instead of assuming a first gear selection.

Jacques Michel, Senior Vice President, International Sales, UD Trucks views the new Quester as a ‘game changer’ in the business. He emphasised that one major change they have made is the ESCOT gearbox. The technology was first introduced in the ‘90s and since then more than 90,000 models fitted with this technology have been sold worldwide. “So the gear box is not 100 percent new, and the reliability and durability is well tested,” said Michel at the media briefing. Considering the climatic conditions in the Middle East, he said they had rigorously tested the truck with the new configuration to ensure its suitability here, “so we’ve basically put the truck in the toughest application”.

The New Quester with ESCOT automatically selects the optimal gear at the right time based on the operating condition. This takes away the need for manual gear shifting which, depending on the transportation operations, happens 1,000 to 1,500 times a day.
In addition, the New Quester also aims to help businesses expand the pool of driving talent with an easy-to-operate gear lever that uses a straight shifting pattern. In certain target markets, for example, the number of female Quester drivers is said to be increasing due to its drivability.

We are focusing on helping improve the business of our customers and one of the main focuses has been on launching the new innovation, reducing cost of ownership and fuel consumption, Michel remarked. “In this region we see the oil price going up and the fuel consumption is a big cost for the customers. By launching the new ESCOT we have been able to reduce our fuel consumption by up to 10 percent for our customers. That’s a massive cost reduction and that has come through with a lot of innovation in our design and our product.”

First of all with the Escot gearbox the automatic manual transmission, which has been existing in the trucks since 1990 in trucks in different parts of the world, “we have a reliable gearbox, which is an intelligent automated gearbox, which basically will have much better fuel efficiency, much less wear and tear, and much less gear shifting and improving safety,” he stressed, also adding that they have designed the vehicle with a much lighter gearbox and have worked on the chassis to reduce weight. “We have reduced the weight of the truck up to one ton on some applications that’s allowing the customer to get a much bigger payload and a much better bottom line for his trip and fixed cost, also improving fuel consumption.”

One key point the Michel highlighted was the “Japanese heritage and the craftsmanship”.

The new range is equipped with UD Telematics, which make it possible to connect directly to UD Trucks workshops to monitor and detect each vehicle’s condition and service needs before a potential emergency occurs. Preventive maintenance analysis guides customers via monthly driving behaviour and fuel consumption reports, ensuring higher uptime and optimised fuel economy over time.

They have added a lot of features along with many functions embedded with their Telematics, geofencing, fuel efficiency, follow up and so on, “so that we don’t supply only the truck, but also a complete solution to support our customers in the region,” Hedna underlined.

The key message they wanted to convey to the market was that “for customers that are comfortable with manual transmission, we have it (and a good one at that). And for those who prefer the AMT, we have that solution as well,” said Hedna, adding that UD Trucks is now offering more than what many other manufacturers from different parts of the world are offering.

Responding to a point as to whether the range is now complete in the region in terms of their offering, Michel said, “It is the biggest range that UD has ever had in this region. And it is very important that we satisfy our customers with what we have. But we are always ensuring that we continue developing the trucks as per the requirements at any given time.”

It seems the new range of trucks will live up to UD’s commitment to “Going the Extra Mile” for customers’ businesses.
At the Media Roundtable Briefing held at the Bahrain International Circuit, Mourad Hedna, President of UD Trucks MEENA spoke to Waste & Recycling Middle East about UD Trucks’ keen interest and presence in the Waste Management sector with their dedicated trucks designed, tested and tailored to the requirements of customers in the Middle East. Following are excerpts:

What is your view on the MEENA markets and what are the opportunities associated with waste management in the region?

I'm glad you raised that question because we have been discussing extensively about logistics and construction. Actually, when I started with my team we thought if we were to put special focus on one other segment, it would be waste management. This is simply because we have the complete range of heavy duty and medium duty trucks. And there are not many players on the market that have this combination. In addition, we have a lot of flexibilities. We could easily get any variant that we wanted and this pushed us to think about waste management. And since then UD Trucks have won a lot of important deals. So now we are present in Jeddah; there are more than 100 UD trucks running in waste management. We also won a good waste management project in Riyadh this year. Thus, we have over 100 trucks and are still supplying them right now.

Last year was also a very good success story for us as we won a waste management project in Abu Dhabi, because in UAE this segment used to be reserved for Europeans, and it was the first time that UD Trucks was there and we delivered more than 100 trucks before the end of the year.

These were key milestones and right now we are very active on two other big projects in waste management. I cannot reveal the details right now, but maybe in three or four months I can tell you where we are present.

What gives UD Trucks the edge in this region?

I think the edge first is that previously there were many contractors or other entities that were not looking closely at the budget and it was more about the major brands, prestige, etc. Now, under tough market conditions, the focus is on getting the best truck for the job, but one that is most cost-effective. And this is one of the value propositions of UD Trucks to say “we have all that you need” and much more than that. As I’d earlier mentioned, the flexibility we have is an added advantage. Because in waste management it’s quite a mix of applications and these two platforms we have – heavy duty and medium duty, will cover all the needs for waste management.

Both the Quester and the Croner are popular as they are designed to make superstructure installation easy. They can be adapted for all kinds of assignments be it the compactor, tipper, sweeper and other applications.

What about the market share?

We are looking to have in each waste management segment, at least 25 percent market share in the Middle East. We have not yet gone aggressively into the East and North Africa market, but we are definitely looking at it.
Divisional President Greg Schnitzer said he was pleased to announce the publication of the tenth edition of “World Steel Recycling in Figures”. Since the BIR Ferrous Division launched the first edition during the Convention in Istanbul back in 2010, this compilation of important statistics relating to the global ferrous scrap markets has been extremely well received, he noted.

“In our tenth edition, the final figures for 2018 show an increase in world crude steel output and in global steel scrap use as a raw material for steelmaking. It also highlights the strong growth in China’s steel scrap usage last year.”

It is also worth noting that the final figures for 2018 show positive developments in external steel scrap trading, he stated. “We have included an overview – supported by graphs – not only for the main suppliers of Turkey as the world’s foremost steel scrap importer and of the Republic of Korea as the second-largest steel scrap importer, but also for India which claimed third place in the steel scrap importer league table last year.”

The report as a whole contains eight flow charts covering steel scrap exports for 2018 - features which have received a particularly warm welcome. For an even more accurate appraisal of the market, the Ferrous Division wants to continue the ferrous scrap figures at their disposal, including quarterly updates of the world statistics, as per the press release.

Rolf Willeke, Statistics Advisor of the BIR Ferrous Division, summarises below the main news and findings contained in this report, which covers the five-year period from 2014 to 2018:

- Overall, the tenth edition of the report incorporates a total of 59 graphs and tables - the same as its predecessor.
- World crude steel production increased last year by 4.5% to 1.808 billion tonnes, according to worldsteel. The global increase in basic oxygen furnace production (+1.8% to 1.267 billion tonnes) was bettered by the upturn in scrap-intensive electric furnace production (+12% to around 524 million tonnes). Besides this, there was a small increase in global blast furnace iron production (+2.3% to 1.248 billion tonnes) but stronger growth in global DRI production (+11.9% to 84.3 million tonnes).
- According to our figures, steel scrap consumption soared 27% in China last year to 187.8 million tonnes; this compares to 147.9 million tonnes in 2017 and underlines China’s position as the world’s largest steel scrap user. As indicated in our quarterly reports, this increase in steel scrap usage is mainly due to the fact that the Chinese government has established stricter environmental quality standards and thereby higher
pollutant emissions standards for the steel industry. To meet these new thresholds and in order to avoid production restrictions, most basic oxygen furnace mills have actively increased their steel scrap input. It has been reported that their steel scrap/crude steel ratio is currently around 25-30%. In addition, many new electric furnaces are being installed or are in the pipeline for the near future. Worldsteel confirms that China's electric furnace production increased from 54 million tonnes in 2017 to 120.7 million tonnes last year. As a result, further investments in steel scrap processing are planned, especially in shredder capacity.

- The Republic of Korea was the world's second-largest steel scrap importer in 2018 with a year-on-year increase of 3.5% to 6.393 million tonnes. The country's main supplier was Japan (+0.7% to 4.041 million tonnes).
- The world's third largest steel scrap importer last year was India with an 18% increase over 2017 to 6.33 million tonnes. The country's main supplier was the United Arab Emirates (+57.6% to 1.160 million tonnes).
- Also higher in 2018 were steel scrap imports into the USA (+8.5% to 5.030 million tonnes), Taiwan (+24.3% to 3.629 million tonnes), Canada (+64.1% to 3.471 million tonnes), Indonesia (+35.2% to 2.510 million tonnes), Mexico (+7.4% to 1.913 million tonnes) and Belarus (+10.6% to 1.497 million tonnes). Conversely, import declines were recorded by the EU-28 (-7.2% to 2.850 million tonnes), Thailand (-1% to 1.724 million tonnes) and China (-42.3% to 1.345 million tonnes).
- We have also received an official 2018 steel scrap import figure for Pakistan of 4.366 million tonnes (-8.8% compared to the previous year).
- Steep upturn in US steel scrap exports:
  - 2018 produced a steep upturn in US overseas steel scrap shipments of 15.4% to 17.332 million tonnes, the main buyer being Turkey on 3.433 million tonnes (-5.5% year on year).
  - The EU-28 remained the world's leading steel scrap exporter last year in upping its outbound shipments by 6.7% to 21.436 million tonnes. The major buyer of EU-28 steel scrap was Turkey (-5.7% to 11.091 million tonnes).
  - In 2018, an upturn was apparent in steel scrap exports from Russia (+4.2% to 5.542 million tonnes) and Canada (+15.8% to 5.107 million tonnes). In contrast, there was a year-on-year decline in Japan's overseas shipments of steel scrap (-9.8% to 7.405 million tonnes). Drops in overseas shipments were also recorded last year by Australia (-0.6% to 1.968 million tonnes), Hong Kong (-6.2% to 1.295 million tonnes) and Singapore (-1.9% to 0.775 million tonnes).
  - In 2018, there was a sharp decrease in steel scrap exports from China (-85% to 0.337 million tonnes).
  - Most of the world's leading steel scrap exporters are major net steel scrap exporters: last year's export surplus was, for example, 18.6 million tonnes for the EU-28 and 12.3 million tonnes for the USA.
- Over the past 10 years, we have been able to show the worldwide use of ferrous scrap as a raw material in steelworks and foundries, as well as to underline that ferrous scrap is an ecological raw material and an internationally-traded commodity subject to world market prices.
SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF LEBANON’S VERY FIRST WASTE MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE 2019

Lebanon Waste Management Exhibition & Conference held from 9-11 April 2019 addressed a wide variety of waste management issues in an effort to answer some of the burning questions facing our environment, health, industry and economy. These issues include collection, forwarding, storage, reprocessing and recycling of industrial and residual waste.

Lebanon Waste Management Exhibition & Conference served as a platform for waste management professionals in Lebanon to exchange ideas and information about the latest and advanced waste management and recycling methods. The event also presented a tremendous opportunity for leading industry companies to showcase their waste and recycling products and services to the largest gathering of governmental, municipal and private sector waste and recycling professionals in Lebanon, according to the event organiser.

The event was inaugurated by His Excellency Fady Jreissati, Minister of Environment, Lebanon.

The exhibition spanned an area of 1250 sq. m. and attracted more than 2200 professionals from various industry profiles. “It is the perfect marketplace for exhibitors to showcase their products, services and technology in the waste management sector to industry professionals and to make promising new business contacts.”

Spotlight on Visitors
The exhibition was attended by industry professionals from the below profiles:
• Government Officials and Authorities
• Municipalities
• Building and Construction Agencies
• Hospital and Health Agencies
• Waste Management Agencies
• Wastewater Management Agencies
• Training Institutes and Research Agencies
• Private and Institutional Investors
• Commercial and Industrial Contractors
• Students and Researchers
• Commercial and Industrial Cleaners
• Environmental Instruments Suppliers
• Building Services
• Environmental Consultants
• Pharmaceutical Industry

**Overall satisfaction with the event:**
96% of the visitors were satisfied with their visit overall
97% of the visitors are more than likely to attend in 2020

**Spotlight on Exhibitors:**
There were 40+ exhibitors from 11 countries namely Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, Lebanon, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Qatar.

**Overall satisfaction with the event:**
93% exhibitors have expressed their satisfaction with the international profile of the exhibition
86% exhibitors are interested in participating again in the next edition

**Spotlight on Conference:**
The 2-day Conference welcomed local waste management specialists, internationally renowned experts, industry professionals, businesses and practitioners from all over the world to discuss the prevailing waste management situation in Lebanon and to explore potential solutions, best practices and technologies to resolve the waste crisis in the country.

The Conference connected decision makers, industry experts, businesses, investors, entrepreneurs and academia from Lebanon, United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, France, UAE, Oman, Jordan, Tunisia, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and Finland.

**Conference Statistics**
• 27 Speakers
• 10 Sessions
• 17 countries represented by speakers
• 270 Delegates
• 25 countries represented by delegates

**Organiser’s Profile:**
Lebanon Expo is a Lebanon-based professional specialised B2B trade exhibitions, conferences and events organiser founded and managed by a group of experts who are well-versed and have long experience in the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) industry. It is composed of a team of highly capable and experienced members with a collective 30-year experience in developing and organising successful events across industry verticals.

**Next edition:**
After a successful first edition, the 2nd edition (RAWMEC) will be held from 1-3 April 2020.

For more details, please visit http://www.sustainabilityweek-leb.com
Not only has Brexit not been achieved but also the United Kingdom has, slightly to its surprise, taken part in the European elections. With approximately half of the population still wishing to leave the European Union, the election became polarised about that single issue with the Conservative party being punished for failing to deliver Brexit and the Labour party punished for failing to have a policy about Europe that the electorate could understand. Broadly those that wished to leave the European Union voted for the newly formed Brexit Party and those that did not for the Liberal Party with a sprinkling of support for the Scottish Nationalist and Green Parties. General Parliamentary frustration about the lack of progress or options has led to the Prime Minister resigning after she has hosted Donald Trump as part of his state visit to the United Kingdom. The vast range of candidates lining up to replace her within the Government shows how fractured it is and possibly forewarns a general election in the not too distant future.

As if there was not enough to keep everyone entertained the UK Environment Department launched four consultations broadly aimed at reducing litter, reacting to the widespread public aversion to plastic and raising additional funds as a carrot for local authorities to improve the quality of their collections, amongst other public spending ambitions.

It is all packaged together as Extended Producer Responsibility. Wholesale change to the Producer Responsibility regime is proposed under the belief that the current system will be unable to deliver the increased targets required under the European Circular Economy Package. Packaging
producers have been picked upon slightly bizarrely since it has been the most effective system so far in the UK. Proposals include a packaging tax based on a minimum of 30% recycled content, eco-modulation for hard to recycle packaging, overlooking that it is already in place, and a deposit scheme on beverage containers. Despite cries guidance from industry of the complexity of starting something that is not UK wide, the Scottish Government have announced that it will start a scheme in 2021, some two years earlier than anything that is being proposed for England and Wales. Full ‘Net’ Costs is the cudgel being used to beat Producers with plenty of costs and almost as many proposals for a solution. Sadly all lack of implementation, which leaves many wondering if there is a less costly way to achieve the ambitions!

After three relatively strong quarters of demand for recovered paper everything seems to have gone wrong at once bringing back memories of the beginning of 2018. Firstly China’s buying seems not only to have reduced, initially generous import quotas have dried up in Quarter 2, but also continued to shift away from OCC towards Mixed Paper as have other Paper Mills, which as a consequence has been commanding higher prices than OCC, and. In the United States, who face a tariff to import into China, paper is being landfilled. So paper traders are looking to Europe and elsewhere for a market, under cutting European traders with better quality, higher primary content in their secondary raw material. Some has even found markets in the UK despite the significant surpluses here for which markets need to be found so that the UK can meet its recycling targets. Although there has been stable demand within the UK and a significant shift in end markets for both OCC and Mixed Paper, China remains a key destination. Meanwhile India, Indonesia, Taiwan and Thailand have all significantly increased their market share since National Sword first impacted in 2016. Finally after last year’s perfect, some say too hot, summer this year we have returned to steady rainfall showing perfect timing for the Cricket World Cup!

Here is hoping that summer will provide all the solutions, but at the moment the Crystal Ball is looking distinctly cloudy and slightly pessimistic with further price falls predicted for June as prices for all grades continue to converge. There are new mills due on line but others are closing down. There is a shift from production in China to elsewhere, but at the moment insufficient to absorb all the secondary material available. The only certainty is uncertainty!

Website: www.t2e.co.uk
European plastic scrap market was moving positively in the first quarter of year 2019 and business sentiment was up in the month of April, but on reaching the month of May, the situation started to show reverse effect. Prices of plastic scrap were going up due to high demand of clean LDPE natural film from the Indian market, which had a deadline to close its import of plastic scrap by the end of August. The other grades of LDPE film also followed this increase and exporters across the world pushed the recyclers to accept this increase. In the month of May, demand from Indian recyclers faded down as they had bought enough material in the previous two months. This slowness in demand circulated very quickly in the market and exporters started to find alternate markets to maintain the price level, but it could not be sustained.

All Indian recyclers have an obligation under their license to export the granules which they make from imported plastic scrap in SEZ (Special Economic Zone) Units. After the China ban there was good demand for recycled granules in the country. This demand supported Indian recyclers to produce the granules and export to China. Over the last two months, China...
has reduced the import of recycled granules from India citing the low demand for their final product. This was another reason for the low demand of plastic scrap from the Indian market in the month of May.

Indian importers have challenged the decision of MOEFCC, to ban the import of plastic scrap, with the argument that they already have a condition to re-export their recycled material made from plastic scrap imported by them into India. So, it should not affect any local recycling targets which are set to be achieved by 2021. In the month of May India had its general election and the same government is back for a second five year term, so Indian recyclers are waiting for the bureaucrats to join office and look into this petition.

On the other hand, Malaysian environment authorities are taking very serious actions and have started checking each and every container arriving at the port. The environment minister has announced that they would start sending the plastic scrap containers back to the exporting country, if it was found to be contaminated, low grade, household or unsorted material. They made a very clear and straightforward statement that Malaysia is not going to be a dumping ground for all the developed nations and developing countries like Malaysia will take all necessary action to keep their environment free of pollution so their citizens can have fresh air and water just like any developed nation.

Crude oil prices have been sliding over the last month. Nymex quoted crude oil prices were at a level of USD 62 per bbl in the beginning of May and reaching the end of the month, it fell to USD 53 per bbl. This fall of around 15 percent in crude oil prices will certainly push the Prime plastic prices down and that will bring an immediate effect on recycled granules prices and demand.

China which was and still is a big consumer of Polymer, both Prime and recycled, having a trade war with USA is affecting their goods production a lot. The duty increases over the Chinese goods being imported into USA and a reciprocal duty over the USA goods entering China, have brought an adverse effect on the polymer business. On one hand Chinese products have become expensive for the US due to additional duty, and on the other hand raw material (polymers) which is being imported from USA to China is also burdened with additional duty. This has led to a lot of downward pressure on prices of Prime plastic across the world.

Looking at all these scenarios, the prices of plastic scrap is expected to remain under pressure for the month of June. The plastic scrap business is getting more difficult day by day. Vietnam ports are still filled with thousands of containers of plastic scrap. Slowly some re-export of the containers has started but there is no quick solution to clear the port.
BASE METALS OUTLOOK

DETERIORATING GROWTH

Base metals on exchange houses may continue to fall amid further uncertainty on resolution of the US-China trade conflict. Most base metals dwindled on threats from the US President Donald Trump to increase the tariffs to 25 percent from prior 10 percent on US $200 billion worth of Chinese imports. Further, China retaliated by imposing 5 to 25 percent tariffs on US metals, ores and ferro-alloys beginning June 1 this year. The escalating tensions between two of the world’s largest economies have steered uncertainty among investors. The chance and time span of reaching an agreement remains vague, adding more pressure on base metals.

ALUMINIUM

The global aluminium demand growth rate decelerates, resulting from economic challenges and uncertainty. The ongoing trade war between the US and China post a stake in aluminium demand and further slowing down the market. The International Aluminium Institute (IAI) data showed that global aluminium production continued to fall, down by about 2 percent in April compared to production levels in April last year.

COPPER

Copper demand is expected to remain silent this year and the likelihood of closing sales seems on the grim as consumers yearn for late deliveries having over bought for this year. Further the US-China conflict brings pessimism to investors on reaching a resolution and weighs down red metal, dropping to near four month low. Data from International Copper Study Group (ICSG) shows the global refined copper output marginally exceeded usage. Global refined output and usage were mostly unchanged in January – February year on year, showing small surplus of 41,000 tons as ICSG calculated.
LEAD
Lead market’s rising supply has overtaken demand this year. The International Lead and Zinc Study Group (ILZSG) indicated global refined lead may increase by 2.5 percent, projecting an excess of about 71,000 tons this year. Higher output of lead mine is mostly seen in China and India. Further, output in South Africa, Europe and Canada is also expected to rise this year. Demand in China may drop by 1.1 percent on the year but most likely be compensated from rising consumption in India, Japan and South Korea.

NICKEL
Nickel premium is seen stable and may be kept unchanged seeing slow activity in market selling and decreasing demand. Most consumers have booked their annual requirements and are anticipated cut down output most likely in June and July this year. As nickel prices continue to slide down, more inquiries may arise as buyers look for bargains with nickel prices falling on the LME.

ZINC
The world refined zinc output may rise by 3.6 percent this year, mostly driven by production upturn from China that is forecasted to increase by 5.3 percent this year, says the ILZSG. Output from China fell in 2018 since the closure of many smelters for not meeting the environmental standards. However, some may resume their operations this year. Market may anticipate the rally in supply and may weigh on prices.

Source: LME, Bloomberg, Reuters, Sayed Metal Commodity Risk Analysis
Disclaimer: This commentary does not purport to be an exhaustive analysis and may be subject to conflict. This report does not constitute a recommendation or take into account the particular investment objectives, financial conditions, or need of individual investor/trader. Issue date May 30, 2019.

www.waste-recyclingme.ae
EXPERTS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR RECYCLED PAPER INDUSTRY

Short-term pain should give way to longer-term gain for the paper recycling industry, senior experts said at the latest BIR Paper Division meeting held during the BIR World Recycling Convention in Singapore.

China is engaged in a policy shift, which seems likely to bring an end to its supreme dominance as an import market for recovered paper, despite the fact that domestic mills have an ongoing requirement for the fibre and are hoping imports will still be possible after the end of this year, the speakers told delegates at the meeting held on May 20, as per BIR press release.

The result of the Chinese government’s actions has been to create tumultuous market conditions for exporters in that they have been forced to explore and develop alternative outlets for a large proportion of their recycled products.

“China has been closing its doors since 2017,” said divisional Honorary President Dominique Maguin of La Compagnie des Matières Premières in France. But despite the “big turmoil” this has caused for suppliers, other existing buyers, including India, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, have already increased their import volumes significantly. “Now we have new possibilities to sell,” he said.

Looking ahead, Maguin suggested overall demand for paper will expand as a result of global population growth. “And the best way to produce that paper is from recycled fibre- it’s less expensive and less polluting,” he insisted. “So the question is simply where do we need to deliver the fibre to reach that demand.”

Equally bullish in Singapore was Ranjit Singh Baxi of UK-based J&H Sales International. “At the moment, we’re in a blip,” said BIR’s outgoing World President, “but in the long term I’m super-optimistic that demand for our product will continue to grow.” While the Chinese government is taking measures that will adversely affect the country’s imports of recycled fibre, it cannot control the inexorable growth in paper consumption worldwide and the widespread development of new production capacities. “So like water, fibre will always find places to flow,” he underlined.

The BIR Paper Division’s current President, Jean-Luc Petithuguenin of Paprec Recyclage in France, said that the recycling of paper “is a good solution for a greener planet” and that overall demand for paper is set to grow, particularly in the packaging segment. “For our industry, I’m very optimistic,” he insisted.

All three industry personalities were commenting during a panel discussion in moderated by Brian Taylor, Senior Editor within the Recycling Today Media Group.

The panelists also congratulated the paper recycling industry on its ability to adapt to changing circumstances. The 0.5 percent limit on non-paper components set by the Chinese government “had looked impossible two years ago, but it is the norm today,” pointed out Baxi.

Other issues debated in Singapore included Brexit, with BIR Paper Division Vice President Keith Trower of Viridor Resource Management arguing that the outcome will not have a major effect on flows. “The big issue is quality,” he said. “If the quality is right, then the material will travel. We have to ignore the politics and do our job.” ☝️
WE’VE GONE SOCIAL!

Join our network.

Waste & Recycling Middle East magazine is now fully active on all of our social media platforms including Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter! So you can easily catch up with the latest news and other developments in the waste recycling sector.

Do connect, like, follow and subscribe today!

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For a cleaner world...

In the products we bring to you, all bear a constant work ethic: “Recycle, Reduce and Reuse”. We have lived by these values for the last 35 years in the region – and will do so for many more… From our reusable linen towels, to our recycled paper, to our 99% biodegradable cleaning products, to harnessing solar energy for waste disposal – and so much more… For today… and tomorrow.