

**Waste management and circular economy study tour**  
**29 July – 01 August 2025**  
**Incheon, Republic of Korea**

**Concept Note**

**I. Background**

Countries across Africa are facing growing challenges in managing increasing volumes of waste, improving service delivery, and transitioning to circular economy models that support sustainable development. Through recent scoping missions to Madagascar (May 2024), Ghana (August 2024), and Comoros (March 2025), and ongoing engagement with Morocco, key national stakeholders have identified the urgent need to strengthen institutional capacities, improve policy frameworks, and adopt practical approaches to waste prevention, resource recovery, and circularity. These needs have been consistently echoed during technical consultations and reinforced by each country's commitment to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In response, the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) is organising a study tour to provide targeted knowledge exchange on waste management and the circular economy, with a particular focus on the Korean experience. The Republic of Korea has experienced a remarkable transformation from a low-income country in the post war period, developing essential basic services and resource circularity in the process of innovation, and stakeholder engagement. Since the enactment of the Wastes Control Act in 1986 and the introduction of the Volume-Based Waste Fee System in 1995, the Republic of Korea has actively pursued the systematization and modernization of waste management. The government has mandated the separation and recycling of waste and has continuously strengthened policies aimed at fundamentally reducing waste generation by applying the polluter pays principle. The study tour will equip participants with both theoretical understanding and practical exposure through a mix of classroom-based learning and structured field visits. The aim is to build the technical and policy capacities of participating officials, enabling them to translate these insights into national strategies and action plans.

This initiative builds on UNOSD's ongoing policy advisory services with Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, and Comoros, which support the development and implementation of coherent, SDG-aligned waste management strategies. Both Ghana and Madagascar have been identified as regional hub countries under the Waste Management and Circular Economy Policy Support System (WMPSS)<sup>[\[1\]](#)</sup>, serving as anchors for knowledge sharing and cooperation across West and East Africa respectively.

**II. Objectives and Methodology**

The objective of the study tour is to enhance the capacity of waste management experts by providing practical and theoretical training on effective and sustainable waste management practices, based on the Republic of Korea's development pathway.

Participants will gain exposure to Korea's advanced waste management systems through a combination of classroom-based training and structured field visits. In particular, they will visit a wide range of facilities that cover the entire waste management process from waste generation and separation, to recycling, incineration, and final disposal through landfilling. This experience will offer first-hand insights into innovative practices that could inform the improvement of waste management infrastructure and policies in the respective countries. The final day of the tour will focus on consolidating lessons learned, facilitating in-depth discussions, and planning the next steps for practical and context specific application.

### **III. Participants**

The study tour will primarily involve national delegations from selected United Nations Member States from Africa eligible for policy support from UNOSD. Each delegation will include a high-level representative alongside a mix of policy lead and technical-level staff working in the field of waste management. In addition, one minister from each participating country will be kindly invited to engage in high-level bilateral discussions with the Government of the Republic of Korea, to explore ongoing and future areas of partnership with UNOSD-DESA, and to participate in elements of the study tour.

### **IV. Engagement Expectations**

To ensure meaningful engagement throughout the study tour, participating countries will be asked to complete the Waste Management and Circular Economy Policy Support System (WMPSS) onboarding and questionnaire or, for those who have already used the system, to review and refresh any data previously inputted. Further details will be provided to the confirmed participants.

In addition, it is expected Member State delegations prepare short presentations highlighting key progress and ongoing challenges in the waste management sector. Active participation across all sessions will be important in fostering peer learning and strengthening cooperation and exchange among countries.

### **V. Language**

Consecutive interpretation will be provided in Korean-English and Korean-French

<sup>[1]</sup> To learn about the Waste Management and Circular Economy Policy Support System please visit <https://wastepolicysupport.org/>

## Waste management and circular economy study tour

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### Agenda

Day 1 (Tuesday, 29 July)	
Time	Session
8:30-9:00	Participant Registration
9:00-9:30	<b>Opening and Welcoming remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)</li> </ul> <p>Ministerial remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Ahmed Ibrahim, Minister of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Ghana</li> <li>H.E. Souef Kamalidini, Advisor to the President, Comoros</li> </ul>
9:30-9:35	<b>Group photo</b>
9:35-10:05	<b>Introductory session</b> <b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Youngah Kim, Associate Research and Policy Development Expert, UNOSD  <b>Presentations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why We Are Here: Context and Study Tour Vision</li> <li>Ms. Youngah Kim, Associate Research and Policy Development Expert, UNOSD</li> <li>Introduction to the Waste Management and Circular Economy Policy Support System (WMPSS)</li> <li>Ms. Sara Castro-Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>

	<p>This session will introduce the objectives and overall vision of the study tour. It will provide participants with a clear overview of the sites to visit during the tour and the expected outcome of the visit. Also, a brief presentation will be delivered to explain the Waste Management and Circular Economy Policy Support System <a href="https://wastepolicysupport.org/">https://wastepolicysupport.org/</a></p>
10:05-10:20	<b>Coffee break</b>
10:20-11:10	<p><b>Session I: Foundational concepts in waste management and resource circularity and lessons learned in Korea since the 1980s</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Sara Castro-Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD</p> <p><b>Presentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of Waste Management in the Republic of Korea</li> <li>- Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p> <p><b>Field Site: Apartment Recycling Point</b></p> <p><b>Guiding questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How did the Republic of Korea manage waste in the 1980s compared to today?</li> <li>• What success factors ensured a transition towards more resource circularity and integrated solid waste management in Korea?</li> <li>• What can be replicated from the models and lessons learned?</li> </ul>
11:10-12:00	<p><b>Session II: Country presentation</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Sara Castro-Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD</p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ghana</li> <li>- Mr. Godfred Fiifi Boadi, Head of the Solid Waste Management Unit, Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs</li> <li>• Madagascar</li> <li>- Mr. Rivosoa Rabenandrianina, Director General of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development</li> <li>• Comoros</li> <li>- Mr. Nayim Said Abdallah, Deputy Executive Director, Comoros</li> </ul>

	<p>Waste Management Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morocco</li> <li>- Ms. Bouchra Fari, the Head of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p> <p>This session will feature key progress and ongoing challenges in the waste management sector of each participating country.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What key challenges and successes do countries have to share?</li> <li>• What are some lessons learned or success factors to discuss?</li> </ul>
12:00-13:00	<b>Lunch</b>
13:00-14:00	<b>Travel to field trip location</b>
14:00-15:00	<p><b>Field trip: Korea Environmental Corporation</b></p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of Korea Environment Corporation(K-eco)</li> <li>• The Korean EPR model</li> <li>• Introduction of Allbaro system</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p> <p><b>Guiding questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is EPR so important for waste management and circularity?</li> </ul>
15:00-15:20	<b>Travel to field trip location</b>
15:20-17:50	<p><b>Field trip: Sudokwon Landfill Site</b></p> <p>The Sudokwon Landfill Site is the largest landfill in Republic of Korea, serving as a large-scale waste disposal facility that receives waste from Seoul and the surrounding metropolitan area.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was the journey and transformation process at the landfill site?</li> <li>• What types of waste are managed at the site?</li> </ul>
17:50-18:00	<b>Daily Feedback Survey</b>

	Participants will complete a daily survey to reflect on lessons learned and the next steps.
18:00-19:00	<b>Return to Hotel</b>
<b>Day 2 (Wednesday, 30 July)</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
9:10-10:00	<b>Travel to field trip location</b>
10:00-11:30	<p><b>Field trip: Incheon Environmental Corporation, Songdo Branch</b></p> <p>A key environmental facility responsible for waste management and resource circulation in Incheon. Participants will tour the incineration facility, community facilities, and recycling sorting facilities.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are environmental impacts from incineration and sorting processes managed?</li> </ul>
11:30-12:00	<b>Travel to lunch</b>
12:00-13:00	<b>Lunch</b>
13:00-13:30	<b>Travel to field trip location</b>
13:30-16:00	<p><b>Field trip: Samyang Ecotech – Siwha Plant</b></p> <p>A specialized PET recycling facility which transforms collected PET waste into high quality raw materials for reuse.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the main steps in the PET recycling process?</li> <li>• What kinds of products are made from recycled PET?</li> </ul>
16:00-16:30	<b>Travel to field trip location</b>
16:30-17:30	<p><b>Field trip: Incheon recycling</b></p> <p>Incheon recycling specializes in the sorting and compression of recyclable materials, especially paper and plastic.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What technologies are used in the sorting and compression process?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where does the processed waste go after treatment?</li> </ul>
17:30-17:40	<b>Daily Feedback Survey</b>  Participants will complete a daily survey to reflect on lessons learned and the next steps.
17:40-18:00	<b>Return to Holiday Inn, Songdo</b>
18:00-19:00	<b>Welcome reception</b>
<b>Day 3 (Thursday, 31 July)</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
8:00-10:00	<b>Travel to field trip location</b>
10:00-11:30	<b>Field trip: Hanam Union Park</b>  A multi-purpose environmental and recreational complex that combines underground waste and sewage treatment facilities with resident-friendly amenities.  <b>Guiding questions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What types of environmental infrastructure are integrated at Hanam Union Park?</li> <li>How are the different facilities coordinated and operated together?</li> </ul>
11:30-12:30	<b>Lunch</b>
12:30-14:00	<b>Travel to field trip location</b>
14:00-15:00	<b>Field trip: Mapo Resource Recovery Facility</b>  A key environmental facility responsible for waste management and resource circulation in Seoul.  <b>Guiding questions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How is the energy generated from incineration utilized?</li> </ul>
15:00-16:30	<b>Field trip: Haneul Park (Nanjido)</b>
16:30-16:40	<b>Daily Feedback Survey</b>  Participants will complete a daily survey to reflect on lessons learned and the next steps.

16:40-18:00	<b>Return to Hotel</b>
<b>Day 4 (Friday, 1 August)</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
8:20-10:00	<b>Travel to field trip location</b>
10:00-12:00	<p><b>Field trip: Goyang Biomass Energy Facility</b></p> <p>A facility converts organic waste into renewable energy through anaerobic digestion and combustion. It contributes to sustainable waste management and energy recovery for the local community.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What types of biomass are processed, and how is energy generated from them?</li> <li>• What are the environmental benefits of biomass energy?</li> </ul>
12:00-13:00	<b>Return to Holiday Inn, Songdo</b>
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00-15:30	<p><b>Session III: Best practices of waste management skills in Republic of Korea</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Sara Castro-Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD</p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Landfill gas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Woo-weon Lee, the representative of the SSKK Solution Co., LTD</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Landfill management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shin-hyun Kang, the representative of The Hammsolz Co., LTD</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Waste Management and Resource Circulation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Soo-on Kwak, the representative of Korea Incinerator Company</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15:30-15:45	<b>Coffee break</b>
15:45-17:00	<p><b>Session IV: Country reflections and adaptation dialogue</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Sara Castro-Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD</p>



	<p><b>Groupwork:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the WMPSS results of each country</li> <li>• Review of the study tour</li> </ul> <p>Participants will work in country groups to reflect on the full study tour, using the results of the daily feedback surveys. Discussions will focus on identifying which technologies and practices are most relevant to their national context, how they could be adapted, potential barriers to implementation, and the types of support needed for successful uptake.</p>
17:00-17:30	<p><b>Closing session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)</li> <li>• Ministerial remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Ahmed Ibrahim, Minister of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Ghana</li> <li>- H.E. Souef Kamalidini, Advisor to the President, Comoros</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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### **Annex**

#### **Korea Environment Corporation (K-eco)**

Korea Environment Corporation (K-eco) is a governmental agency under the Ministry of Environment of Korea, dedicated to advancing environmental protection and sustainable development. K-eco supports various environmental projects, such as pollution prevention, environment improvement and recirculation with maximum efficiency and establishing a circulatory resource management system.

<https://www.keco.or.kr/en/index.do>

#### **Sudokwon Landfill**

Sudokwon Landfill is the world's largest sanitary landfill, constructed on reclaimed land along the coastal area. Since 1992, it has received municipal waste from the Seoul Metropolitan Area, including Seoul, Gyeonggi-do, and Incheon. Participants will tour key facilities such as the landfill site, leachate treatment plant, landfill gas-to-energy facility.

[https://www.slc.or.kr/eng/index\\_eng.do](https://www.slc.or.kr/eng/index_eng.do)

#### **Incheon Environment Corporation, Songdo branch**

Incheon Environment Corporation, Songdo branch is a key environmental facility responsible for waste management and resource circulation in Incheon. At the Songdo branch, municipal solid waste incineration, food waste treatment, and various resource recycling activities are carried out, with the generated thermal energy also utilized for community benefit facilities. Participants will tour the incineration facility, community facilities, and recycling sorting facilities.

<https://www.eco-i.or.kr/main/main.asp>

#### **Samyang Ecotech – Siwha plant**

Samyang Ecotech is a specialized PET recycling facility. Through a series of steps including compression, scraping, flake production and pelletization, the facility transforms collected PET waste into high quality raw materials for reuse.

<https://samyangpackaging.co.kr/en/index>

### **Incheon recycling**

Incheon recycling specializes in the sorting and compression of recyclable materials, especially paper and plastic. Participants will observe the process of waste being received, sorted, and compressed.

### **Hanam Union Park**

This is Korea's pioneering environmental infrastructure, introducing a novel concept that combines an underground waste treatment plant and a sewage treatment plant. Underground, an incineration facility, a recycled waste sorting facility, a food waste recycling and processing facility, and sewage treatment facility have been installed. On the ground, Hanam Union Park offers various resident-friendly facilities such as an outdoor stage, a children's swimming pool, a multi-purpose gym, and outdoor sports facilities.

<https://www.huic.co.kr/www/contents.do?key=206>

### **Mapo Resource Recovery Facility**

Mapo Resource Recovery Facility is an advanced waste incineration plant located in Seoul. It incinerates municipal waste and recycles the generated thermal energy for distinct heating and electricity.

<https://rrf.seoul.go.kr/content/bcred240.do>

### **Haneul Park (Nanjido)**

Nanjido was formerly used as a landfill site for the city of Seoul, but it was transformed into the World Cup Park through a landfill stabilization project. Haneul Park is one of the four parks that make up the World Cup Park. Participants will tour the site to learn about its transformation history of the park and observe remnants of past leachate and landfill gas management systems.

### **Goyang Biomass Energy Facility**

Goyang Biomass Energy Facility converts organic waste into renewable energy through anaerobic digestion and combustion. It contributes to sustainable waste management and energy recovery for the local community.

<https://m.gys.or.kr/page/facilities/bio/info.php>