

A recent study carried out by the 'Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF)' highlighted some very pertinent details relative to Pacific Island Countries and the issues we face, with regards to Solid Waste Management and Recycling. So if I may Madam Co-Chair I will share a few points from their report, as it sums up our Pacific Islands situation perfectly.

Fiji and other Pacific Islands Countries (PIC's), face significant challenges in providing sustainable management systems for the ever increasing, and diversifying range, of waste materials, including plastics and marine litter, driven mainly by changing urbanization patterns, globalized markets, wealth redistribution, and the resultant changing lifestyles. Unique challenges, associated with shipping commodities of low value, over long distances to recycle markets however, reduce the economic viability to do so.

Most Countries across the world are facing similar barriers to achieving cost effective and efficient waste and recycling systems.

However, these challenges are magnified for Fiji and other Pacific Island Countries as a result of our unique

circumstances including, geographical isolation, limited availability of environmentally suitable land for construction of waste management infrastructure, high costs of servicing small and largely dispersed populations, and an inability to achieve critical mass, due to a relatively small consumer base.

Additionally, many PIC's are heavily reliant on imported goods, International development assistance, and are often remotely situated away from International recycling markets. These same Countries are also extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and severe weather events which can generate shock loads to normal waste levels.

If there is anyone interested in reading this report please come and see me and I'd be happy to share.

Thankyou Madam Co-Chair