

## Summary for Overseas Travel WENDI 2018-2019

Name	Bekele Haregewoin Mekonnen
School	Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies
Grade	L2
Supervisor's name	Prof. Masayoshi Shigeta
Travel period	March 08, 2019- March 20, 2019
UN agencies/International organization visited	UN-Habitat, University of Cape Town
Theme of overseas travel	Comparative perspective to understand Addis Ababa's and Cape Town's municipal solid waste management initiatives

### Outline of the activities (4 pages including photos, figures, etc.)

#### (1) Global leadership

Solid waste management is a global concern that requires multi-sectoral collaborative effort and political commitment at global level. There are successful and replicable solid waste management systems in different parts of the world. To tap on and make use of the good ones for impacting change, leadership commitment is a necessity. The idea of this exposure visit is to take best practices which are replicable in the solid waste management sphere and the first step is establishing network within the area in order to make use of it for future collaborative actions. Identifying a contact person on both cities of Addis Ababa and Cape Town who are relevant for future collaborative research as well as to understand the top down approach is initiated. The contribution of universities in knowledge generation and participating in problem solving is key for sustainable development.



Photo 1 The solid waste collection service at Cape Town 13/03/2019



Photo 2 Cape Town city municipality 13/03/2019

## (2) Scientific significance

The development of urban areas creates opportunities as well as challenges of social, economic and environment. Contextualizing appropriate practices from other countries has been tried by the Addis Ababa city government in order to improve the solid waste management practice of the city. The rehabilitation of Reppi dumping site implementing the Fukuoka method of Japan has meaningful contribution in addition to the intended purpose of rehabilitation of the waste dumping site which was a threat for the community. Around 30 waste pickers are trained and take part in the renovation project. These actors could be an important workforce for the future management of the rehabilitated dumping site in order to ensure sustainability. The impact of rehabilitating the Reppi dumping site has already become noticeable by the community who reside around the dumping site and waste picker who have got the opportunity to be involved in the project as mentioned by the UN-Habitat National Program Officer, Ethiopia. The bad smell of the dumping site significantly improved that could also positively contributes for the public health of the nearby residents as well as for the entire residents of the city.



Photo 3 The rehabilitated part of Reppi dumping site using Fukuoka method 19/03/2019

## (3) Originality/Universality

The issue of waste management involves several actors in the system. Among them waste



producers by and large are in the heart of it. The cleanliness of cities tells many things that could serve as a mirror image of the culture, economic situation, environmental education, commitment, the responsible bodies etc. To achieve certain standard in the proper solid waste management, active community participation and behavioral change is a key for a step forward. The observation from Cape Town clearly indicates the need for proper waste management information communication and utilizing it as appropriate. The residents are well informed and environmentally conscious. The responsible daily action of the residents of Cape Town clearly seen on their waste handling culture, responsible use of public spaces in maintaining a beautiful Cape Town. This exemplary waste handling culture is a result of collaborative effort of several relevant stakeholders locally and beyond. Through, their expertise as a model and it could be possible in improving the situation of the political capital of Africa, Addis Ababa. In this regard, the university of Cape Town might have an important interdisciplinary resource in sharing the best practices worth regional and global importance.



Photo 4 University of Cape Town 11/03/2019



Photo 5 Segregated solid waste for recycling at the research area in Addis Ababa 19/03/2019

#### (4) Reasons and motivations for visiting UN agencies / International organizations

In our world, the number of people residing in urban areas is increasing at a fastest rate. According to the world cities data booklet in 2016, cities in Africa and Asia are considered as one



of highly growing in the world. Population increase and high urbanization always comes with a challenge for cities across the world. As urbanization flourishes, the need for making the development sustainable and inclusive remains to be the ongoing assignment for the global community. In this regard, the contribution of UN-Habitat in rehabilitating urban spaces in an effort for the betterment of lives on urban areas are significant. Particularly, one of the challenges of cities across all corners of lives is solid waste management which UN-Habitat takes part. This organization has now two active projects on urban solid waste management in Addis Ababa [my research area] and Bahir Dar cities of Ethiopia. Their active involvement on the core problem of the city which is in line with my research topic encourages me to visit the organization.



Picture 6 Waste pickers small plastic house next to Reppi dumping site Addis Ababa 19/03/2019

The project implements Fukuoka method to rehabilitate the old dumping site of Addis Ababa. UN-Habitat leads this project in close collaboration with Addis Ababa city administration using a fund mainly received from the government of Japan. This project is initiated following the recurrent dump site slides which claimed the lives of more than hundred in the recent disaster happened on March 2017. The Fukuoka method used in rehabilitating the collapsed area is an excellent example of "Build back better" principle of rehabilitation that is believed to prevent such disasters happening in the future. As per the information I got from UN-Habitat, Ethiopia the response of the surrounding community as well as waste pickers at the dumping site is encouraging. This is a good implication for the ownership, sustainability, management of the project in the future that benefits the residents of Addis Ababa. The Reppi dumping site rehabilitation project is a testimony on how timely and best practice from elsewhere could be used to address having a larger environmental impact.

This exposure visit was also an educating experience on how need-based development activities could be implemented with the involvement of the local community for protection and sustainability. Moreover, involving the urban poor in development activities and inclusively benefiting them socioeconomically in the way address the Goal No. 11 of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) for the better future.