For ISWA, 2017 was an incredible year of knowledge build-up, action, and awareness raising. Over the past twelve months, we have once again taken major steps towards achieving our ambitious goals. ISWA has made key contributions to all of the major topics in the waste and recycling industry.

From climate change to circular economy, the necessary dialogue with the design sector and marine litter, ISWA has been part of the international debates by providing solutions and guidelines to various stakeholders and policymakers. ISWA partnered up with IFU and UN in e-waste and the need to monitor it within a common global framework, further shaping our understanding of the most globalised waste stream.

Our work on the world’s largest dumpsites, their global environmental and health impacts, the Roadmap and the initiative to close the world’s dumpsites were our first global efforts to deliver change in a tangible way, and they were accepted enthusiastically by almost all the major international stakeholders and our members. ISWA was the first international stakeholder to accept such a mandate to our mission to deliver sustainable waste management worldwide. ISWA was also part of the discussions at COP23 and present at the annual conferences of both the World Health Organisation and the International Labour Organisation. In being part of these conversations, ISWA recognised the need for collective effort and action to tackle the world’s waste issues. We will continue to reinforce our work with international organisations and we are excited to cooperate further with the international community going forward.

I am incredibly proud of our achievements and I offer my gratitude to all the scientists and professionals that contributed, in one way or another (and most of them voluntarily) to increase ISWA’s profile to the level of a respected international stakeholder, capable of influencing the global discussion.

Your help and contributions, your hearts and minds, your voluntarism and your loyalty to our mission to deliver sustainable waste management worldwide have enabled ISWA to be in a stronger position to help create a cleaner and healthier planet!

Antonis Mavropoulos
ISWA President

We begin 2018 with a new team structure at ISWA: the reorganisation will see new team members taking on new tasks and responsibilities within the General Secretariat. For many, these changes also mean a new position and a fresh challenge; for me this means joining the team as Interim Managing Director, having been involved in Waste Management & Research for 20 years and being part of the Editorial Group since 2006.

I am pleased to present the new look ISWA Annual Review 2017 which reflects on the many achievements of ISWA over the past year. However, many exciting new developments are just around the corner so we also look forward to even more challenges and successes awaiting us in the next 12 months.

A number of exciting reports and projects are under development including further regional follow-ups to the Global Waste Management Outlooks and a more detailed analysis to expand on ISWA’s research into unregulated waste dumpsites. Further reports and activities are being planned through our cooperation with global international organisations including UNDP, WHO and UNU to name a few. Furthermore, a number of internal projects are aiming to release reports this year including research on biosequestration, extended producer responsibility and a follow-up to our work on the 4th Industrial Revolution.

2018 will be a very important and crucial year for ISWA. With the on-going restructuring of the Association, the discussions regarding our business model and the new scientific programme that will soon be announced, ISWA aims to open up to a broader number of stakeholders in order to take on the global waste management challenges of the future.

Finally, I would personally like to invite you all to the 2018 ISWA World Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October. ISWA2018.org promises to deliver an exciting technical programme focusing on the fundamental waste issues of our time. Topics such as marine litter, resource efficiency and the circular economy will be tied together under the theme of “Sustainable Consumption towards Waste Minimisation”, focusing on driving strategic change and technological innovation towards sustainable consumption solutions whilst reducing our ecological footprint.

Not only is this a chance to share ideas and learn about the latest innovations in waste management, but also a great opportunity to do business and build new partnerships in Southeast Asia. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible there.

See you in Kuala Lumpur!

Arne Ragossnig
Interim Managing Director
ISWA - The International Solid Waste Association is a global, non-profit making association working in the public interest to promote and develop sustainable waste and resource management around the world. ISWA is open to individuals and organisations from the scientific community, public institutions and companies working in the field of and/or interested in waste management. As the world’s leading waste management association with members in 109 countries and growing, ISWA is a global network of 30,000 waste management professionals. ISWA promotes the adoption of acceptable systems of professional waste management through technological development and improvement of practices for the protection of human health and the environment as well as the conservation of materials and energy resources.

ISWA’s Vision and Mission
ISWA - The International Solid Waste Association is a global, non-profit making association working in the public interest to promote and develop sustainable waste and resource management around the world. ISWA promotes the adoption of acceptable systems of professional waste management through technological development and improvement of practices for the protection of human health and the environment as well as the conservation of materials and energy resources.

ISWA's Mission and Goals
ISWA’s objective is the worldwide exchange of information and experience on waste management. ISWA’s declared mission is to Promote and Develop Sustainable and Professional Waste Management Worldwide. ISWA achieves its mission through:

- Promoting resource efficiency through sustainable production and consumption
- Providing support to developing and emerging economies
- Advancement of waste management through education and training
- Promoting appropriate and best available technologies and practices
- Professionalism through its programme on professional qualifications
- Worldwide exchange of information and experience on waste management

ISWA’s ambitious vision is a world with as little waste as possible and in which waste no longer has a negative impact on health or the environment. Waste should be reused and reduced to a minimum and then collected, recycled and treated properly. Residual matter should be disposed of in a safely engineered manner, ensuring a clean and healthy environment.

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World’s leading waste management association
Members in 109 countries
30,000 waste management professionals

Every person on the planet should have the right to enjoy an environment with clean air, earth, seas and soils. To be able to achieve this, we need to work together to improve waste and resource management approaches and practices on technical, behavioural and governance levels.

Every person on the planet should have the right to enjoy an environment with clean air, earth, seas and soils. To be able to achieve this, we need to work together to improve waste and resource management approaches and practices on technical, behavioural and governance levels.
The inadequate removal and treatment of waste poses multiple threats including to human health and the environment. ISWA and UNEP’s Global Waste Management Outlook (GWMO) estimates that around 2 billion people lack access to waste collection services, while the waste of 3 billion people is not managed in an environmentally sound manner. According to the Global Methane Initiative, uncontrolled waste dumpsites are the third largest source of global anthropogenic methane, a greenhouse gas 24 times more potent than CO2. More than half of the 50 biggest dumpsites worldwide directly threaten public health, increasing the risk of diseases and posing a tremendous threat to waterbodies with unmanaged waste having a direct pathway into the world’s ocean ecosystems. An estimated 113 individuals died in the landfill collapse in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in March 2017. And in the following month, April 2017, the Maathottamulla Garbage Dump in Sri Lanka collapsed, with over 30 people confirmed dead, dozens missing, and over 140 houses buried and destroyed. From August to November 2017, the WHO reported that there were 2,348 probable cases of plague (including 202 deaths). ISWA has garnered international attention through its presence in high-level fora, presenting fundamental waste management solutions and raising awareness of the threat posed by uncontrolled dumpsites. ISWA has presented closing dumpsites as one of its flagship projects for the future at The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – Habitat III, held in Quito (Ecuador), released a petition on Avaaz, collecting over 2,500 signatures from over 100 countries, launched a website dedicated to closing dumpsites, and placed closing dumpsites on the agenda of the WHO Special Session of the Executive Board in November 2017. At this event ISWA addressed the WHO Executive Board urging them for further global efforts in closing dumpsites, as they are a health emergency. ISWA was also present at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi in December 2017 where we presented the links between unsound waste management and the generation of plastic marine litter. UNEA’s resolution included specific details on beating plastic pollution and marine litter at the global level. ISWA continues further action by supporting local communities affected by the indiscriminate dumping of wastes, connecting vulnerable communities with ISWA experts to facilitate the implementation of integrated solid waste management systems.

ISWA’S Technical cooperation team affirms that ISWA, as the world’s leader in waste management, will take the lead to promote and develop sustainable and professional waste management worldwide and become the beacon of hope for the future generations to come.

ISWA’s Technical Team
Aditi Ramola and Jennifer “Faa” MacDonald

ISWA – ANNUAL REVIEW 2017

THE ROAD AHEAD

Waste management is fast becoming one of the key problems of modern society as a result of a growing urban population, an ever-expanding volume and complexity of discarded domestic and industrial waste, and changing household consumption patterns.
Over the course of 2017, marine litter emerged as one of the most urgent issues of our time. Initiatives, from local to global, gained momentum. In September 2017, ISWA’s Task Force on Marine Litter launched its report “Prevent Plastic Marine Litter – Now!”, which cast new light on this topic.

The report outlined how sound waste and resource management around the world, and in particular in the Global South, can make a major difference in mitigating marine litter, by preventing waste from entering waterways at all. With a waste management approach to the crisis, we can achieve tangible effects within the near, rather than distant, future.

United Nations Environment Assembly

In December 2017, ISWA’s Task Force presented its Marine Litter Report to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi, Kenya where Task Force Chair, Costas Vellas called for better focus on upstream solutions.

In an unprecedented statement of unity and action, the 230 member states declared marine litter to be a “planetary crisis” and that “sound waste management must be assigned the highest priority.”

The resolutions adopted made very specific recommendations at a global level, which are fully aligned with the evidence and recommendations presented by the ISWA Task Forces, including to “develop and implement action plans for preventing marine litter and microplastics; encouraging resource efficiency, including prevention and increasing collection and recycling rates of plastic waste and re-design and re-use of products and materials; and avoiding the unnecessary use of plastic and plastic containing chemicals of particular concern where appropriate.”

Going Forward

ISWA is working with a number of stakeholders across the international community around the world to prevent marine litter at source. Specifically, sound waste and resource management can lead the fight against plastic marine litter pollution if three key areas are prioritised:

- Implement action plans for preventing marine litter and microplastics
- Encouraging resource efficiency, including prevention and increasing collection and recycling rates of plastic waste and re-design and re-use of products and materials
- Avoiding the unnecessary use of plastic and plastic containing chemicals of particular concern where appropriate.

Dumpsites are a global health and environmental emergency. They spread pollutants across our atmosphere and into our oceans, damaging the health of the hundreds of millions of people that are living on or around them. Working with the international community to close unmanaged, unregulated waste dumpsites is a top priority for ISWA.

Estrutural

In Spring 2017, ISWA’s #CloseDumpsites campaign inspired the city of Brasilia to close the Estrutural dumpsite, one of the largest in Latin America and possibly the world. Brasilia suffered this huge open dump for more than 50 years and the regional government, supported by the conclusions of the ISWA Roadmap, finally took the decision to inaugurate an engineered sanitary landfill to replace the old dumpsite, which is now completely closed. The dumpsite had been receiving the waste of almost five million inhabitants of the surrounding area.

ISWA is among the five entities that signed a commitment to monitor local government actions in relation to waste management at the Brasilia Sanitary Landfill. This is an ongoing process which ISWA will be part of all the way.

The new sanitary landfill is designed to receive 8.13 million tonnes of waste and has been in full operation since January 2018.

Going Forward

Following the Roadmap report and the success of Estrutural, ISWA’s Working Group on Landfills is currently exploring how to follow-up with more tangible results to improve the wellbeing of those in and around dumpsites. ISWA will continue to raise awareness, but will also set out clear, specific guidelines of how to close dumpsites in a sustainable manner and will offer support to help countries and cities looking to make the transition. A number of city-based studies are being prepared to assess the feasibility of potential replacements and the local, practical alternatives to dumpsites.

To follow the progress of ISWA’s initiative and for more information, visit: closedumpsites.iswa.org
Thousands of children worldwide work and play on active dumpsites. This severely dangerous and unhealthy practice is associated with the spreading of disease and increased crime rates.

According to ISWA’s Roadmap, the world’s 50 biggest dumpsites affect the daily lives of 64 million people - a population the size of France. Children growing up near the dumpsites are denied the basic human right of an education, as they have to support the family income by working instead. Young children work alongside their families hand-collating recyclables on dangerous garbage dumps in order to survive. The alarming contradiction – making your life cheaper – must be put to an end.

The ISWA Scholarship Programme - coordinated by Timothy Bouldry - aims to provide direct support and education to children living on or near dumpsites in La Chureca and Nueva Vida, in Nicaragua. Some of the kids on their first day of secondary school in 2017

2018 will see the opening of the new ISWA Centre, a recreational and training centre for the kids away from the dumpsites. The ISWA Centre will serve as a social and work space for the community away from the dumpsite. It offers kids a safe, supervised environment where they can participate in extra-curricular activities, complete their homework and develop the essential social skills required for life in the school and eventual workplace. It also ensures that they have a supervised space in which to spend their time, safeguarding them from the dangers of the neighbourhood and the temptations of the dumpsite, which some kids are still drawn to on occasion. Your donation will allow for the maintenance and further development of the ISWA Centre and thus a more all-rounded development of the kids in the programme. It also contributes to the betterment of the entire community, which once relied solely on the dumpsites as its only economic driver. To contribute and help take kids away from the dumpsites, visit: kids.iswa.org

The ISWA Centre will serve as a social and work space for the community away from the dumpsites. The ISWA Centre will also see the opening of the new ISWA Centre, a recreational and training centre for the kids away from the dumpsites. The ISWA Centre is leading the way in exploring the potential impacts that inexorable technological advancements will have on the waste management and recycling industries. ISWA is leading the way in exploring the potential impacts that inexorable technological advancements will have on the waste management and recycling industries.

The 4th industrial revolution will drastically alter the way the industry works. In its scale, scope, and complexity, the transformation will be unlike anything humanity has experienced before. In 2017 ISWA conducted the world’s first global survey into the future of waste management with the findings presented in September at the ISWA World Congress 2017.

The Results
The survey invited the opinions of the waste management industry’s leading CEOs, scientists, professionals and decision makers, many of whom came together to discuss the future of the industry and the impacts of the 4th industrial revolution at the ISWA World Congress.

According to the report, 97% of the participants believe that the waste industry will be affected in one or another way by technology and 50% of these believe that the impact will already be significant by 2030, signalling a major perception that changes are already on the way.

ISWA’s survey anticipates that the largest impacts will be on fully robotic waste sorting and recycling plants and digitalised consulting and engineering, among many others. It also highlights the hope that the 4th Industrial Revolution will deliver solutions to several challenges related to waste management: from eco-design to waste prevention and circular economy around the world.

For more than 80% of the respondents the 4th Industrial Revolution will make circular economy a reality for most of consumer goods. For around 50% mobile apps, new sensors, and the investments during the coming years.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND THE 4TH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Going Forward
ISWA will continue to play a leading role in ensuring that the waste management industry keeps up with the inescapable pace of technology. We are currently reaching out to organisations and industry leaders to further elaborate on this survey in order to compile a library of the use of technology in waste management. Look out for the follow-up later this year.

To read the report in full, visit the ISWA Knowledge Base: http://www.iswa.org/media/publications/knowledge-base/
**Collective Action**

Everyone is a stakeholder, and everyone is affected by the often intangible repercussions of improper waste management. But there is reason for optimism if we work together to bring about change.

ISWA recognises that necessary change requires a collective effort and one organisation alone cannot achieve this. A shared energy to initiate this change and improve waste management practices globally will allow us to meet the sustainability challenges ahead as the world works towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

For this reason, ISWA strives to achieve its goals in cooperation with several international partners. Alongside our membership base, ISWA has developed strong partnerships with several NGOs, financing institutions, and development agencies. Listed below are a few of the organisations we collaborate with:

- **Basel Convention**
- **Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)**
- **UN Environment**
- **The World Bank**
- **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**
- **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**
- **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**
- **US EPA Global Methane Initiative (UHI)**
- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**
- **United Nations Framework Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Conservation of the Living Resources of the Sea (UNCMC)**

**Think globally, act locally**

ISWA strives for a better environment for everyone on Earth. To achieve global improvements, the best course of action is to drive change locally. The context-specific local differences are best understood through ISWA’s National Members who are at the core of our work, acting to effect real change in their regions. They represent ISWA in their country, share and disseminate ISWA’s research in different languages, and organise ‘local training and technical workshops’ alongside ISWA experts. Importantly, they shape the understanding of the global waste situation by ‘adding a local context’ to ISWA’s knowledge.

Furthermore, National Members constitute the governing body of ISWA – the General Assembly. Thus, National Membership comes with significant responsibility. ISWA currently has 44 National Member representatives around the world. This is expected to grow again substantially in 2018.

Contact Daniel Purchase for more information: dpurchase@iswa.org

**Sustainable Development Goals**

During the next 15 years, the world will mobilise efforts to tackle climate change, and all forms of poverty and inequality, and solve global sustainability challenges through the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sustainability and waste management are inseparable and solving the world’s waste management problems form an integral part of this global call to action.

In 2016, ISWA began working with the International community, including national and regional governments, to support their efforts in achieving these difficult targets. After launching in 2016, ISWA’s Close Dumpsites Project aims to target more than half of the 17 goals by providing vulnerable communities in developing countries with recommendations for implementing appropriate, integrated solid waste management strategies. Strengthening these systems will promote work, thereby facilitating economic growth and save many lives from disease, caused by vectors and pollutants, found on or near these sites. Establishing solid waste management programmes in vulnerable communities will additionally mitigate litter that often land into the global water courses. These improved practices ensure safe access to drinking water and food resources (e.g. fish free of microplastics). Working in parallel with the Close Dumpsites campaign, the ISWA’s Task Force on Marine Litter tackles the SDGs most evidently by minimising marine litter, ensuring healthier aquatic ecosystems for coastal populations in the global south (SDG 14), while addressing the importance of and professional solid waste management for all (SDGs 11 and 12). These two flagship initiatives drawing attention to how these critical issues, marine litter and waste management, are closely linked.

ISWA will be a leading player in this concerted international effort to mitigate climate change and achieve the SDGs. Waste and resource management is becoming increasingly fundamental on the political agenda, emphasising ISWA’s role in raising awareness, sharing knowledge, capacity building, and supporting the important international players. Continued work on these two flagship projects will impact the lives of many and will help the UN to achieve their targets.

Alongside ISWA’s flagship programmes and initiatives, we also collaborated on a wide number of publications with international organisations. The following publications can be found on the ISWA Knowledge Base at [http://www.iswa.org/media/publications/knowledge-base/](http://www.iswa.org/media/publications/knowledge-base/)

**The Global E-Waste Monitor 2017**

Following on from ISWA and UNEP’s** Global E-waste Monitor 2017**, a joint effort of the ITU, the United Nations University (UNU) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), this report provides the most comprehensive overview of global e-waste statistics to date, including an overview of the magnitude of the e-waste problem in different regions.

**Asia Waste Management Outlook**

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**Barriers To Sustainable Resource Management**

These two booklets present the recommendations and commitments resulting from a series of workshops and dialogues with the designers’ world. They provide a series of useful recommendations for all stakeholders along the value chain including suppliers, producers and waste managers.

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The ISWA World Congress 2018 promises to deliver a world-class technical programme designed to advance scientific and technical knowledge for sustainable solid waste management.

The theme, Sustainable Consumption Towards Waste Minimisation, is focused on driving strategic change and technological innovation towards sustainable consumption solutions while reducing our ecological footprint.

Join us in October 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a diverse country rich in culture and tradition with a thriving and dynamic economy.

Register now at: www.iswa2018.org

In 2017, ISWA offered more landfill management training in line with our #CloseDumpsites campaign. For example, both the Winter School in Arlington, led by Shahadal Hossain of the Solid Waste Institute for Sustainability (ISWIS), and the Summer School in Kuala Lumpur, led by Agamuthu Pariatamby of the University of Malaya, focused on upgrading dumpsites to regulated and sanitised landfills in developing countries. Akelai Atudorei, ISWA’s board member, supported landfill training in Istanbul, led by Günay Kocasoy, at the Bilkent University.

ISWA study tours are always popular. The week-long training is certainly challenging: intense information delivery alongside daily technical site visits. But, the opportunity to talk directly to facility managers, to see how policies become effective practices, altogether with cultural exchange is a winning combination. ISWA now offers Study Tours in Waste-to-Energy, Collection, Sorting and Recycling and Bio-waste Management.

In September, ISWA’s National Member in North America (SWANA) combined their annual WASTECON® with ISWA’s World Congress in one colossal event, with 2,300 participants from more than 60 countries meeting in Baltimore, MD, USA. ISWA would like to thank the wonderful SWANA leadership and their team: David Biderman, Meri Beth Wojtaszek and Sue Bumpous for this ambitious and valuable opportunity for exchange.

In November, ISWA and ISWA Italia co-hosted a booth at Ecomondo with over 115,000 attendees. The ISWA programme included more interactive than in previous years with presentations on the 4th Industrial Revolution by ISWA Vice President Carlos Silva Filho; the promotion of the World Congress 2018 by WMAM president Ho De Leong; the successful Adria-themed day and the freshly launched Women of Waste (WOW!) testimonial panel supported by Beatrice Giordani of the Newster Group.

ISWA sends great thanks to the many presenters and guests supporting our activities in 2017. ISWA events are set to grow as 2017 showed development in advocacy activities promoting our key initiatives and campaigns. Check out the ISWA Calendar to see our upcoming events: www.iswa.org/events/calendar
Join the conversation and be part of the global network

Be part of a global network of 30,000 professionals in 109 countries

Join us at: www.iswa.org/membership

JOIN THE GLOBAL WASTE MANAGEMENT NETWORK

THANKS TO OUR MEMBERSHIP!

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