

## Preface

In recent years, the consumption levels in Asian countries signify to a great extent due to the rapid economic growth. For this reason, solid waste problems that have been ignored are being regarded as a crucial issue. After the Japanese advocating of the “3R Initiative” to the world, Japan makes a lot of efforts promoting the 3R activities in developing countries. Nowadays, as an advanced environmental country, the solid waste field in Japan could be regarded appealing on the basis of the important contributions to the global society. For this purpose, proposed by the Solid Waste Management Research Center of Okayama University, the “Practical Research and Education of Solid Waste Management Based on the Partnerships among Universities and Governments in Asia and Pacific Countries” project is adopted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan in 2010. This project would be implemented during FY 2010 and FY 2012. This project is an extended one based on the past achievements made by Graduate School of Environmental Science of Okayama University including “the 21st Century COE” program, “Initiatives for Attractive Education in Graduate Schools: Environmental Ethics-Health and the Environment,” “Development of Environmental Specialists Program for the Creation of an International ESD Center via the UNESCO Chair” and “Program for Enhancing Systematic Education in Graduate Schools (Graduate School GP Program).” Based on the successful outcomes from the abovementioned projects, this new project of the Solid Waste Management Research Center mainly aims at developing international human resources and contributing to the global society with the research establishments of universities, focusing on the Asia/Pacific countries, at the higher level that integrates research and education. This project would be implemented cooperating with the Japanese/foreign universities and research institutes, the central government and local authorities, and the environmental NGOs/NPOs which play active roles in local issues.

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