

Date: July 21st, 2026

INVITATION LETTER

Subject: Invitation to join the International Zero-waste City Network

Dear Excellency,

Waste pollution threatens human health, costs the global economy hundreds of billions of dollars each year, and exacerbates the triple planetary crisis: climate change, the loss of nature, land and biodiversity, and pollution and waste. Waste management is the third-largest emitter of methane, which contributes significantly to short-term global warming. Improperly managed waste can leach chemical pollutants into the soil, inhibiting plant growth and productivity and contaminating water sources.

The concept of a Zero-waste City is widely recognized. In December 2022, the UN General Assembly proclaimed March 30th as the International Day of Zero Waste and encouraged the implementation of zero-waste initiatives.

To facilitate experience exchange on zero-waste practices, BCRC China launched the International Zero-waste City Network in 2022, with seven other BCRCs as co-sponsors. BCRC China serves as the Secretariat of the Network, which consists of Members and Observers. As of July 15, 2026, the Network comprises 108 members (including 9 co-sponsors) and 8 observers from 28 Countries including Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Malawi, Malta, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Türkiye. Since 2021, BCRC China has hosted 6 Zero-waste City forums and 3 training sessions through the Network, inviting more than 90 cities worldwide to exchange experiences. Key information and outcomes of the Network's activities have been compiled into newsletters and circulated among the global Focal Points of the Parties to the Basel Convention and all Network members.

Provinces, cities, associations, universities, research institutions and group enterprises joining the Network shall have no financial obligations. Members and observers shall be entitled to the rights and services set forth in the Terms of Reference for the International Zero-waste City Network (Trial), which can be downloaded from the official website (<https://www.bcrc.cn/IZWCN>).

If your province, city or entity (including associations, universities, research institutions and group enterprises) accepts the invitation to join the Network and endorses the Declaration on Promoting Zero-waste City Implementation (July 2026 Edition) (Attachment 1), please complete the Application Letter (Attachment 2 for Members or Attachment 3 for Observers)

and the Applicant Information Sheet (Attachment 4), and return both documents to BCRC China (Mr. Qingyin DONG, Email: mea.waste@tsinghua.edu.cn) by October 31, 2026.

Attachment 1. Declaration on Promoting Zero-waste City Implementation (July 2026 Edition)

Attachment 2. Application Letter for Members

Attachment 3. Application Letter for Observers

Attachment 4. Applicant Information Sheet

Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards.



Prof. Jinhui Li,

Executive Director, Basel Convention Regional Center for Asia and the Pacific

Tel: 86 10 6279 4351/6279 9061

Fax: 86 10 6277 2048

E-mail: jinhui@tsinghua.edu.cn

Website: <http://www.bcrc.cn/en/>

Attachment 1

Declaration on Promoting Zero-waste City Implementation (July 2026 Edition)

Noting that the trend of economic and social development is facing tremendous pressure from the continued depletion of resources, while resources are extracted in an disorderly manner and discarded without being fully utilized, and that large amounts of solid waste in landfills occupy scarce land space and pose environmental risks;

Aware that the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon, resource-efficient and competitive economy has become the top priority of many national and local governments and regional institutions/mechanisms;

Recalling our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG12 (responsible consumption and production), and SDG13 (climate action);

Recognizing the importance of achieving environmentally sound management of all waste streams throughout their life cycle and significantly reducing its release to air, water, soil and biota in order to minimize their adverse impacts on living organisms' health and the environment;

Acknowledging that a zero waste strategy provides theoretical and practical principles for improving global resource efficiency through sustainable consumption and production, and for decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation;

Recalling resolution 4/7 of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4), which invites Member States, taking into consideration their differing national circumstances, and in cooperation with relevant national, regional and international organizations, to support innovative waste management initiatives, such as national and local “zero waste” initiatives, in some countries to minimize waste and develop adequate infrastructure and other facilities for waste management;

Recalling also the Ministerial Declaration of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), which commits to advancing sustainable consumption and production through circular economy and other approaches, the promotion of sustainable lifestyles and policy responses that promote resource efficiency, waste minimization, including local and national zero-waste initiatives, the prevention and minimization of exposure to hazardous chemicals and the reduction of air, soil, land and water pollution and

contributing to enhancing the design of products, taking into account life cycle assessments;

Mindful of the overarching objective of Basel Convention to protect human health and the environment against adverse effects which may result from the generation and management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, and of its core principles, which include the reduction of hazardous waste generation and the promotion of the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, the restriction of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, and a regulatory system applying to cases where transboundary movements are permissible;

Taking into account decision BC-17/1 of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (BC COP-17), which adopted a new strategic framework for the implementation of the Convention for the period 2025 – 2031, as well as the amendment to Annex IV to the Convention to enhance clarity regarding disposal operations;

Taking into account the core functions of the Basel Convention Coordinating and Regional Centre are training, technology transfer, knowledge sharing, consultation, and awareness raising;

We, the undersigned members and observers, declare that we will undertake:

1. To build the “International Zero-waste City Network” to strengthen cooperation among members and observers for sharing experiences, building consensus and promoting collaboration among stakeholders;

2. To promote the implementation of local and regional cooperation to facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration and reduce residue waste going to landfills, incinerators and the environment;

3. To encourage industry to maintain transparent accounting and reporting systems for resource utilization and waste management, and to inform workers, customers and communities about life-cycle environmental impacts of their production, products or services;

4. To increase accessibility, awareness, scale and inclusivity of reduction, reuse and recycling programmes and policies for communities, investing in city-wide communication and engagement efforts, offering resources in multiple languages;

5. To establish a framework to take leading roles in achieving the above functions and contributing to the 2030 SDGs;

6. To encourage the integration of the informal sectors and other vulnerable communities in the development of zero-waste policies; and

7. To request the Secretariat of the Network to consult with relevant city governments on the implementation of this declaration with available resources in the Secretariat.

Attachment 2

Application Letter for Members

[City], [Province], [Country] voluntarily joins the International Zero-waste City Network and applies to become a member, contributing to the development of international "Zero-waste" cities and the promotion of global sustainable development.

.....

[Province] [City] government (or authorized entity) (Seal)

Mayor or Authorized Representative (Signature):

Date:

Official Contact Point

Institution/department:

Address: *Street, number, Postal code, City, Province, Country*

Telephone number: *Country code – city code – local number*

Fax number: *Country code - city code - local number*

E-mail address:

Name of contact person: *Mr./Ms. Title – first name – surname*

Position of contact person:

Attachment 3

Application Letter for Observers

[Association], (or [University] / [Research Institution] / [Group Enterprise]), voluntarily joins the International Zero-waste City Network and applies to become an observer, contributing to the development of international "Zero-waste" cities and the promotion of global sustainable development.

.....

[Association] (or [University] / [Research Institution] / [Group Enterprise]) (Seal)

Authorized Representative (Signature):

Date:

Official Contact Point

Institution/department:

Address: *Street, number, Postal code, City, Province, Country*

Telephone number: *Country code – city code – local number*

Fax number: *Country code - city code - local number*

E-mail address:

Name of contact person: *Mr./Ms. Title – first name – surname*

Position of contact person:

Attachment 4

Applicant Information Sheet

Basic Information: A brief description of the province, city, or institution (association, university, research institution, group enterprise, etc.), including an overview of its "zero-waste"-related activities (approx. 300 words).

(☐ YES ☐ NO) Consent is given to share the above information with Network Members and Observers in the form of newsletters.

Suggestions for the work of the International Zero-Waste City Network (Optional):

Others: Supporting documents, Provinces or cities applying for Members (e.g., scoring 90 points or above in the national Zero-Waste City evaluation); received international honors (e.g., selected as one of the UN's "20 Cities Towards Zero Waste"); or joined relevant international networks (e.g., Waste Wise Cities, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, Zero Waste Europe, etc.) and Entities applying for observer (e.g., leading the formulation of relevant international or national standards, publishing high-level academic papers, or owning successfully implemented and scalable zero-waste technology application cases.), may be attached separately.



巴塞尔公约亚洲太平洋地区培训和技术转让区域中心

BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL CENTRE FOR TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION



斯德哥尔摩公约亚太地区能力建设与技术转让中心

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION REGIONAL CENTRE FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING AND THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC