

Fourth Technical Exchange Mission Report

Niagara Region – Tuy Hoa Municipal Partnership Program

(Version as of February 13, 2007)

The Fourth Technical Exchange Mission of the Niagara Region – Tuy Hoa Municipal Partnership Program was held in Tuy Hoa from November 12 to 20, 2006.

MISSION OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission were as follows:

To observe the Pilot City of Tuy Hoa People's Committee Hall Office Recycling Program, review the communication plan, assess the success of the program, and determine the next steps of the program;

To review possible initiatives in respect to integration of waste management themes into the Tuy Hoa education curriculum, and possible initiatives to enhance the Tuy Hoa school recycling program, identify a short-list of initiatives, reach agreement on one or two proposed pilot initiatives from the short-list of initiatives, and prepare draft work plans of the pilot initiatives;

To review the draft Waste Disposal Site Design Peer Review Toolbox and test the toolbox as part of the peer review of the design of the new Tuy Hoa waste disposal site, if the design is available;

To carry out a field trip to the location of the new Tuy Hoa waste disposal site to better understand the field conditions with respect to the key landfill design and operational considerations;

To review possible stakeholder consultation activities for Tuy Hoa, identify a short-list of activities, reach agreement on one or two proposed pilot activities from the short-list of activities, and prepare draft work plans for the proposed pilot activities; and

To discuss and develop a safe scavenging protocol to address health and safety issues at Tuy Hoa waste collection areas and at the new Tuy Hoa waste disposal site.

During the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission, meetings were held to discuss the following:

Municipal Partnership Program (goals, objectives, expected short and long term results)

Fourth Technical Exchange Mission (mission objectives, detailed itinerary, mission accomplishments and next steps, and mission observations)

During the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission, the following site visits took place:

Pilot City of Tuy Hoa People's Committee Hall Office Recycling Program

Truong THCS Tran Quoc Toan School

Location of new Tuy Hoa waste disposal site

City of Tuy Hoa Women's Union

PLANNED ACTIVITIES, MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND NEXT STEPS

The following are the planned activities, accomplishments and next steps of the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission:

Activities	Accomplishments	Next Steps
<p>Niagara Region and Tuy Hoa identified the following two pilot initiatives to improve the existing Tuy Hoa waste collection and diversion service:</p> <p><i>i. Pilot City of Tuy Hoa People's Committee Hall Office Recycling Program</i></p>		
<p>a) Tuy Hoa to identify an interdepartmental team to develop a draft strategy for the pilot program. Each of the five departments located in the People's Committee Hall should be represented on the team.</p>	<p>Tuy Hoa did not provide any information with respect to an interdepartmental team to be established to develop a draft strategy for the pilot Tuy Hoa People's Committee Hall Office Recycling Program.</p>	<p>No further steps identified.</p>
<p>b) The Third Technical Exchange Mission delegation to provide a briefing to the team to share and discuss ideas from the mission.</p>	<p>Tuy Hoa advised that the Third Technical Exchange Mission delegation provided a briefing to the chiefs of the City departments about establishing a pilot office recycling program for the employees.</p>	<p>No further steps identified.</p>
<p>c) The team to develop a communication plan to engage departmental staff.</p>	<p>Tuy Hoa did not provide any information with respect to a communication plan.</p>	<p>No further steps identified.</p>
<p>d) The team to share and discuss ideas with junior and senior departmental staff.</p>	<p>Tuy Hoa did not provide any information with respect to discussions with junior and senior departmental staff.</p>	<p>No further steps are identified.</p>
<p>e) The team to prepare a draft strategy for the pilot program and present strategy to the Tuy Hoa People's Committee for approval.</p>	<p>Tuy Hoa did not provide any information with respect to a draft strategy for the pilot program or information about presenting the strategy to the Tuy Hoa's People's Committee.</p>	<p>No further steps are identified.</p>

Activities	Accomplishments	Next Steps
<p>f) As part of the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission, Tuy Hoa to organize a meeting between the Niagara Region delegation and staff to assess the success of the program and determine the next steps.</p>	<p>The Fourth Technical Exchange Mission included a meeting to discuss the success of the program and the next steps. A tour of the Tuy Hoa People's Committee Hall was made to observe the pilot Tuy Hoa People's Committee Hall Office Recycling Program. Containers had been placed in the offices to collect fine paper. No information was provided about how the material is collected from the building and delivered to a paper broker. Tuy Hoa indicated that they have good awareness about recycling and the first step is the pilot program. Tuy Hoa did not express an interest to either expand the recycling program to include other materials or to implement recycling programs in other City buildings.</p>	<p>No further steps are identified.</p>
<p><i>ii. Integration of Waste Management/ Environmental Themes in Education Curriculum and Enhancements to School Recycling Programs</i></p>		
<p>a) Tuy Hoa to review with Education Department staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the concept of integration of waste management/environmental themes into education curriculum (e.g. mathematics, science, literature, arts, and music); 	<p>Tuy Hoa did not provide any information with respect to their discussions with Education Department staff on the concept of integration of waste management/environmental themes.</p>	<p>No further steps identified.</p>

Activities	Accomplishments	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the document entitled <i>School Recycling Program Niagara Region Schools</i>; and • the identification of possible initiatives in respect to integration of waste management themes into education curriculum, and possible initiatives to enhance recycling in the schools. 	<p>Tuy Hoa did not provide any information with respect to their discussions with Education Department staff on the document entitled <i>School Recycling Program Niagara Region Schools</i>.</p> <p>Tuy Hoa did not provide any information with respect to their discussions with Education Department staff on the identification of possible initiatives associated with integration of waste management themes into the education curriculum and possible initiatives to enhance recycling in the schools.</p>	
<p>b) As part of the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission, Tuy Hoa to organize a meeting between the Niagara Region delegation and the Education Department to discuss possible initiatives with respect to integration of waste management and themes into education curriculum and possible initiatives to enhance recycling in the schools, identify a short-list of initiatives, reach agreement on one or two proposed pilot initiatives from the short-list of initiatives, and prepare draft outlines of the proposed pilot initiatives.</p>	<p>A meeting was held between Tuy Hoa Education Department, Truong THCS Tran Quoc Toan School staff and a select number of students and the Niagara Region delegation during the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission. Tuy Hoa/school staff advised that Vietnamese education curriculum can not be changed without central government approval. They expressed an interest to learn about Niagara Region's initiatives to enhance student's awareness of the environment and waste management particularly the Student Green Teams.</p> <p>They indicated that with this information, extracurricular activities could be organized at the schools. In addition, other activities to enhance students' awareness of the environment and waste management could be organized by other youth organizations such as the Tuy Hoa Youth Union.</p>	<p>Niagara Region to provide information to Tuy Hoa on initiatives carried out in Niagara Region to enlarge student's awareness of the environment and waste management.</p>

Activities	Accomplishments	Next Steps
	<p>Based on the meeting discussions and a tour of the school, it was determined that there was no recycling being carried out at Truong THCS Tran Quoc Toan School. Using the Tuy Hoa People's Committee Hall Office Recycling Program as a model, Niagara Region delegation suggested that a pilot paper recycling program be implemented at Truong THCS Tran Quoc Toan School. There was much discussion on this suggestion, however, Tuy Hoa/school staff concluded that prior to starting school recycling programs, Tuy Hoa needed to construct a recycling facility.</p>	

Activities	Accomplishments	Next Steps
<p>Niagara Region and Tuy Hoa developed a draft Waste Disposal Site Design Peer Review Toolbox which is a list of key landfill design and operational considerations.</p> <p>a) Tuy Hoa to review the draft Toolbox with technical staff, Province of Phu Yen staff, and landfill design consultant(s) and revise accordingly.</p>	<p>Tuy Hoa did not provide any information with respect to technical staff, Province of Phu Yen staff and landfill design consultant(s) reviewing the draft Waste Disposal Site Peer Review Toolbox. Tuy Hoa indicated that the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) has “good knowledge” about the draft Toolbox. Tuy Hoa did not indicate if the BTC had any comments on the draft Toolbox.</p>	<p>No further steps identified.</p>
<p>b) Tuy Hoa to provide draft design of new waste disposal site to Niagara Region in advance of the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission, if available, for Niagara Region to carry out a preliminary design peer review.</p>	<p>The draft design of the new waste disposal site was still being prepared at the time of the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission and, therefore, it was not possible for Niagara Region to carry out a preliminary design peer review prior to or during the mission.</p>	<p>Tuy Hoa to provide the draft design of the new waste disposal to Niagara region, when available, and Niagara Region to carry out a peer review of the draft design.</p>
<p>c) As part of the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission, Tuy Hoa to organize a meeting between the Niagara Region delegation, Tuy Hoa technical staff, Province of Phu Yen staff, and landfill design consultant(s) to discuss the Toolbox and use it as part of the peer review of the design of the new waste disposal site, if available.</p>	<p>Province of Phu Yen staff and the landfill design consultant(s) were not in attendance at the meeting during the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission. Tuy Hoa indicated that BTC staff were in Tuy Hoa just prior to the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission but could not stay to meet with the Niagara Region delegation. Tuy Hoa technical staff (Lê Khải Linh, Nguyễn Ngọc Anh) who did attend the meeting was not familiar with the Waste Disposal Site Design Peer Review Toolbox and how it would be used by Tuy Hoa. A peer review of the design of the new</p>	<p>No further steps identified.</p>

<p>d) As part of the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission, Tuy Hoa to organize a field trip for the Niagara Region delegation to the location of the new waste disposal site (including the valley floor) to better understand the field conditions with respect to the key landfill design and operational considerations.</p>	<p>waste disposal site was not possible during the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission because the design was still being prepared.</p> <p>During the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission, a field trip to the location of the new waste disposal site was organized for the Niagara Region delegation. The field trip was of limited benefit since the field trip did not include the valley floor, the trip was not videotaped as previously agreed, and Tuy Hoa technical staff was not briefed about the purpose of the field trip.</p>	
		<p>No further steps identified.</p>

Activities	Accomplishments	Next Steps
<p>Niagara Region and Tuy Hoa prepared a strategy to identify stakeholders, how concerns of stakeholders can be made know, and how they can be addressed.</p> <p>a) Tuy Hoa to review examples of Niagara Region communications to stakeholders in respect to various Public Works initiatives.</p>	<p>Tuy Hoa reviewed examples of Niagara Region communications to stakeholders in respect to various Corporate and Public Works initiatives.</p>	<p>No further steps identified.</p>
<p>b) As part of the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission, Tuy Hoa to organize a meeting between Niagara Region delegation, Tuy Hoa technical staff, Province of Phu Yen staff, and landfill design consultant(s) to discuss Niagara Region communications to stakeholders, and pilot stakeholder communication initiatives for Tuy Hoa.</p>	<p>Province of Phu Yen staff, and the landfill design consultant(s) were not in attendance at the meeting during the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission. Tuy Hoa technical staff (Lê Khải Linh, Nguyễn Ngọc Anh) who did attend the meeting was not briefed about the purpose of the meeting. The Niagara Region delegation presented information about Niagara Region's public consultation initiatives, public liaison committees and communication initiatives to stakeholders. Tuy Hoa did not provide any information about their current public consultation and communication initiatives, or proposed initiatives.</p>	<p>No further steps identified.</p>

Activities	Accomplishments	Next Steps
<p>Niagara Region and Tuy Hoa to jointly develop a safe scavenging protocol to address health and safety issues.</p> <p>a) As part of the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission, Tuy Hoa to organize a meeting between the Niagara Region delegation, Tuy Hoa technical staff, landfill design consultant(s) and key stakeholders such as the Tuy Hoa Women's Union staff to discuss a safe scavenging protocol.</p>	<p>The landfill design consultant(s) and key stakeholders were not in attendance at the meeting during the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission. Tuy Hoa technical staff (Lê Khái Linh, Nguyễn Ngọc Anh) who did attend the meeting was not briefed about the purpose of the meeting. Tuy Hoa invited six employees of the Company of House Development and Municipal Construction who were involved in the Tuy Hoa waste collection service. Tuy Hoa staff referred to Tuy Hoa waste collection staff as "public scavengers". The Niagara Region requested a follow-up meeting with the Tuy Hoa Women's Union and the Tuy Hoa Public Health Department to discuss a safe scavenging protocol to address health and safety issues for private scavengers who work at the waste collection areas and at the existing Tuy Hoa waste disposal site. A follow-up meeting was held with the Tuy Hoa Women's Union and the Tuy Hoa Public Health Department wherein the Niagara Region delegation was requested to provide suggestions for survey questions to develop a database on the health of scavengers.</p>	<p>Niagara Region to provide Tuy Hoa Women's Union and Tuy Hoa Public Health Department with suggestions for survey questions to develop a database on the health of scavengers.</p>

Mission Observations

Niagara Region and Tuy Hoa have completed many of the Stage 1 Consensus Building Activities, and Stage 2 Development of New Knowledge and Skills Activities for the two areas of cooperation activities (improve the waste collection and diversion services, and peer review the new waste disposal site design) as set out in the Project Proposal. Stage 3 Development of New Systems and Tools Activities, and Stage 4 Institutionalized Change Activities have not been completed.

The Fourth Technical Exchange Mission was not as effective as the Third Technical Exchange Mission for a number of reasons. Tuy Hoa did not carry out the next step activities identified in the Third Technical Exchange Mission Plan prior to the Fourth Technical Exchange Mission. The mission would have been more effective had a broader representation of staff attended the meetings with the attendees fully briefed as to the goals and objectives of the municipal partnership program, the technical exchange mission, and mission meetings. The interpretative and translation services provided by Tuy Hoa were not adequate for the mission.

At this time, Niagara Region believes that the municipal partnership program with Tuy Hoa has accomplished as much as it can and believes that this might be an appropriate time to conclude the program. If it is the wish of Tuy Hoa to move forward and complete the next step activities, it is recommended that Tuy Hoa prepare a report summarizing the work they have completed to date in support of the program and their plan to complete the activities in order for the program to move forward. Should it be the wish of Tuy Hoa to move forward, it is recommended that the information be submitted to Niagara Region by March 31, 2007 to allow sufficient time for Niagara Region to prepare for the Fifth Technical Exchange Mission.

Remaining Program Schedule

The following is the recommended schedule for the remaining missions, all to be held in Tuy Hoa.

Fifth Technical Exchange Mission (if required) June 2007

Evaluation Mission (if required) October 2007

Prepared by David Smith, P.Eng.
Local Coordinator
Niagara Region – Tuy Hoa Municipal Partnership Program