



*Box composting. Photo: UNHABITAT*

## Introduction of Cardboard Composting In Nepal

**K**ATHMANDU, 31 December: Composting itself is familiar to many cities and towns in Asia, the concept of utilizing used cardboard boxes with locally available materials was an innovative yet very feasible solution for many cities which face serious waste management and collection issues. Among the cities who expressed keen interest in adopting the method on a trial basis, UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP), in cooperation with UN-HABITAT Water and Sanitation Team, decided to conduct a composting workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop was held jointly in 2009 with the Government of Nepal, inviting total 40 solid waste representatives from municipalities.

Further up-scaling of the Cardboard Box Composting Training was conducted in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2010. This time, the objective of the training was 'ToT' (Training of Trainers), for municipality staff who would actually be introducing and 'teaching' the people and the communities how to practice

cardboard box composting at the household levels. The TOT was conducted for two days, where the twenty municipality representatives (the 'to-be' trainers) of eight municipalities participated and learned how to mobilize the community, various tips on how composting can be used as a tool in environmental education in primary and secondary schools, and as part of community development activities, in addition to the techniques and knowledge on composting. The Cardboard Box Composting is now being implemented on a pilot scale with 300 first households in Baglung municipality and is expected to expand further.

The municipality has selected three communities to introduce cardboard composting in their households as a part of managing waste at source. Introduction of this new technology in these three communities has become talk of the town. In regards of cardboard composting experience sharing among neighborhood has become the daily routine. The experimentation phase is ongoing. Along with

introduction of cardboard composting, other household level waste management initiatives like source separation, recycling, and collection of plastics. With the experience of the first phase cardboard composting, the municipal officials are quite motivated with the successful experiences and looking forward to expand it in more communities of the municipality.

The knowledge gained by these workshops is very valuable and practical as well as it is the first of its kind introduced for individuals participated in the workshops. The technology itself is quite simple that municipalities of Nepal can easily promote and replicate it to address the most "difficult to handle" organic waste. Even during the workshop itself most of the municipalities planned to promote the technology immediately. If the municipalities of Nepal can promote this technology in massive scale, larger portion of the generated household waste will be managed at the source itself that will contribute towards urban environment improvement as well as reduce the management cost of municipalities to the larger extent.

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## New links in UN.org

### World Youth Report 2010

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/WYR2010Final%20online%20version.pdf>

The 2010 World Youth Report focus on youth and climate change, and is intended to highlight the important role young people play in addressing climate change, and to offer suggestions on how young people might be more effectively integrated as individuals and collective agents of change within the realm of climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Report is designated to assist youth and youth organizations in

educating themselves and to become more actively involved in combating the threat of climate change.

### Harmful Traditional Practices and Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women in Afghanistan (UNAMA/OHCHR)

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/ASAZ-8BYHSG/\\$File/full\\_report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/ASAZ-8BYHSG/$File/full_report.pdf)

Widespread harmful traditional practices – child marriage, giving away girls for dispute resolution, forced isolation in the home, exchange marriage and "honour" killings – cause suffering, humiliation and marginalization for millions of Afghan women and girls.