



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



SUSTAINABLE
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GOALS



Training Guidance

for the Management of **Medical Waste** during the COVID-19 Outbreak in China

► RESEARCH RESULTS OF FOREIGN ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION CENTER, MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT OF CHINA

► SERIES OF BOOKS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS

► OUTPUT OF THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION PROJECT



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Considerable appreciation is extended to all the above.

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PREFACE

Medical waste refers to waste with direct or indirect infectivity, toxicity and other hazards produced by medical and health institutions in medical treatment, prevention, health care and other related activities. Standardized management of medical waste is of great significance in providing a high-quality, people-oriented medical service basis, safeguarding effectively people's health and environmental safety, accelerating the construction of ecological civilization and promoting sustainable economic and social development.

2020 has seen the outbreak of a pneumonia epidemic caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and a surge in the amount of medical waste in countries and regions affected by the epidemic. The novel coronavirus has extremely high infectivity. It is therefore crucial to ensure the proper disposal of infectious medical waste and to block effectively the secondary pollution caused by virus transmission, so as to safeguard people's health and safety and win the battle against the pandemic. Ensuring the timely, safe, orderly and efficient disposal of medical waste during the epidemic has become a difficult challenge. In order to further strengthen the standardized management and disposal of medical waste during the epidemic, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (represented by the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO)) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) have swiftly cooperated, developed and implemented the Emergency Response Assistance to the Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 in China, with the support and coordination of the Ministry of Commerce. Under the guidance of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and with the support of the project, FECO coordinated the National Medical Waste Management Training Base (established by the Shanghai Solid Waste Management Center and Shanghai Solid Waste Disposal Co. Ltd.) to jointly compile and complete the *Training Guidance for the Management of Medical Waste during the COVID-19 Outbreak in China*, which benefited from the expertise of the Technical Center for Solid Waste and Chemicals Management of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Basel Convention Asia Pacific Regional Center (School of Environment, Tsinghua University), the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Henan Ecological Environment Department and other groups.

This Guidance, building upon China's current medical waste management system, combines actual work practices and a series of national measures on medical waste management and emergency response during the epidemic. It covers classified collection and packaging of medical waste, internal transport, temporary storage, handover and registration, disposal, environmental, health and safety (EHS) management, supervision and management within medical institutions, management regulations, management requirements for medical institutions, management requirements for medical waste disposal units, as well as management and disposal cases during the pandemic. The Guidance is also a collection of experiences and wisdom of the cities of Shanghai and Wuhan in the management and disposal of medical waste in the battle against COVID-19.

There are no national boundaries for the virus, and the epidemic endangers all races and nationalities. Mankind is a community with a shared future. Only through solidarity, cooperation and joint response can the international community overcome the epidemic. Solidarity and cooperation are the most powerful weapons. To fight the global war against COVID-19 resolutely, China is ready to share its beneficial practices in epidemic prevention and control with other countries and provide assistance within its capacity to the countries to which the epidemic is spreading. In order to promote the transformation of China's experience in effective disposal and management of infectious medical waste into a powerful tool for other countries, this Guidance was translated into English. In this global battle against the pandemic, it is believed that the publication of this book will contribute to helping mankind to overcome the epidemic.

The compilation of this book is an exploratory work. It is the result of significant joint efforts from all of the editors and reviewers, with generous guidance from relevant leaders and experts. Appreciation is extended to all of them. Due to the lack of time, certain deficiencies in this book are inevitable. Your valuable comments and suggestions are welcomed.

The Writing Group
May 2020



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