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**Asian journalists and other participants gather at the 12th Asian City Journalist Conference.**

#### Strong partnerships key to solid waste management

Solid waste management still poses challenges for many countries around the world and there is a need for all nations to work together to address the issue urgently.

A strong partnership and cooperation from all sectors are key for effective solid waste management and the development of sustainable urbanisation in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These were among the suggestions at the 12th Asian City Journalist Conference that was held in Fukuoka, Japan, during November 27-28.

The conference was organised by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme's (UN-Habitat) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and the theme for the event was "Sustainable Cities and Communities – Situations of Solid Waste Management and Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals".

The conference was aimed at bringing together journalists from Asian cities, including those in Japan, Laos, Nepal, India, Indonesia and South Korea, to exchange opinions, share knowledge and discuss what roles media can play.

During the conference, journalists from Asian countries and other participants

visited the Clean Ene-Park Nambu, which uses the latest technology to safely process combustible waste from the roughly 600,000 residents of the southern metropolitan Fukuoka region.

The Clean Ene-Park Nambu is a great example of safe and reliable waste processing for a local community and a centre for environment study.

The participants also visited the Green Hill Madoka landfill site, a facility for environment-friendly landfill disposal of the residue of burnable rubbish.

On November 28, the Asian journalists made presentations on solid waste management in their countries.

A journalist from *Nishinippon* Newspaper of Japan, Mr Shinji Fujisaki, spoke about the measures put in place in Japan and Fukuoka for dealing with waste plastic and sustainable lives.

Mr Fujisaki said authorities had been promoting awareness about reducing waste in communities, and organising public campaigns on reusing and recycling plastic. He said, "Waste management is a big problem and needs strong efforts from the involved sectors to address the issue in order to move towards the Millennium Development Goals."

Mr Fujisaki said plastic waste is being collected by the authorities and brought to a factory where it is crushed and turned into oil.

In the Lao capital of Vientiane, although the collection and transportation of solid waste has been improved since 1997 with support and funding from the Japanese government through JICA, the issue remains a challenge due to illegal dumping, according to *Vientiane Times*. Many people living near canals and marshes still dump plastic and household garbage around the shores of the city's main lake, instead of disposing of it in a more responsible way.

A majority of people do not separate the waste in their households and still rely on old methodologies to get rid of garbage, such as burning or dumping waste in an inappropriate manner.

Another problem is that the waste management service is unable to meet the demands of all the people, and the vehicles for waste collection are insufficient for reaching all communities.

In order to take forward the issue of sustainable solid waste management in future, the Asian journalists reaffirmed their commitment to help localise the issue and related SDGs at the grassroots level, to bring international good practices to local communities and to report on the local best practices to encourage their replication.

**By Phaisythong Chandala**  
(Latest Update December 8, 2018)

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## All clear after bomb threat forces evacuation of CNN offices

NEW YORK (AP) — Police have given the all-clear after a phoned in bomb threat forced the evacuation of CNN's offices in New York.

Police said a man with a southern accent called CNN just after 10 p.m. Thursday and said five bombs had been placed throughout the facility inside the Time Warner building at Columbus Circle.

Police said the building was evacuated and building security did a preliminary search. Police units then swept the building with the NYPD bomb squad on standby.

Outside the building, CNN's Brian Stelter and Don Lemon continued to broadcast. Lemon said fire alarms rang and a loudspeaker told them they needed to evacuate during his live show.

In October, the building was partially evacuated after a suspicious package containing a crude pipe bomb was delivered to the company.

## Cold wave sweeps through Korea, suspending all ferry services at Incheon port



Cold wave sweeps through Korea.

—Photo Yonhap

SOUTH KOREA (The Korea Herald) -- With strong winds and cold wave warnings in effect in some parts of Incheon on Friday, all passenger ferry services linking Incheon to islands have been canceled.

On Friday, a strong-wind warning was issued for most parts of the eastern and western coasts of Korea.

According to the Incheon Weather Station, the temperature in Incheon dropped to minus 7.7 degrees C at 9 a.m. Friday, with the wind chill temperature at minus 14.5 C.

Strong winds at speeds of 14 to 20 meters per second were blowing Friday morning. Fourteen

ferry services operating 11 routes have been suspended, according to Incheon Port Management Corp.

Cold wave warnings have also been issued for Gyeonggi Province, Gangwon Province, North Chungcheong Province, and some cities and counties of North Gyeongsang Province.

## 2019 to see 5G commercialisation

(China Daily) -- An expert predicted that 5G commercialisation is expected to be realised in 2019, with large-scale 5G application being completed in two to three more years, the People's Daily Overseas Edition reported.

The 1G to 4G technology solved communication between people, while 5G will solve communication between people and things,

homes, remote services, virtual reality and augmented reality. As of November, a total of 182 operators have rolled out 5G tests, deployment and investment in 78 countries globally.

In June, the 3rd Generation Partnership Project, or 3GPP, a global organisation supervising cellular standards, agreed on the first specifications for the standard 5G network.

scale effect, will 5G network services rapidly become popular. In order to make 5G better serve the industry and society, there is a long way to go, Ge said.

However, it's possible that consumers could enjoy 5G services in the second half of 2019 or 2020, Ge added.

China is expected to become the world's largest 5G market by 2025, accounting for 430 million 5G



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