

Waste management

An area for profit for Seychelles

“Stop talking and start working together,” say students from the University of ETH Zurich of Switzerland.

by J. Malbrook

Students from the ETH Zurich along with their colleagues from the University of Seychelles suggest that Seychelles should make a collective effort to better manage waste in the country. They made the remark during a talk at the STC conference room on Wednesday as they presented the results of their studies.

The students pointed out that it will take significant investment to ensure good waste management

in the country especially involving the use of renewable alternatives. Nevertheless, they are sure that Seychelles can reap some benefits from such investments.

Their findings show that Seychelles can gain a net revenue of SCR59.9 million from waste management and can see a growth of 5% to 15% in use of renewable methods from 2020 till 2030.

Seychelles is commonly recognised worldwide for its natural beauty and cleanliness but the two week study showed that there is a lack of commitment by the gov-

ernment and other organisations involved. For example automotive and construction waste is not considered hazardous waste by the landfill operators. Data collected from 120 companies shows that Seychelles accumulates about 330 tons of such waste.

“Stop talking and start working together. There is a lack of political will and unrealistic plans which are barriers to effective waste management in Seychelles,” say the group of students.

Land Waste Management Agency (LWMA) was congratulated for



The talk was well attended and the students made recommendations directly to the LWMA

its well structured waste management features but was reminded of the fact that they lack in effective enforcement as they have almost SCR30 million outstanding from the levy on glass bottles.

The Chief Executive Officer of the LWMA, Flavien Joubert explained that the default in payment of levy is not a issue that can be dealt with under LWMA's

mandate.

Joubert welcomed the critics and stressed on the need to have a reasonable period to realise their objectives.

“We have the knowledge but we need more plans. We need to take that knowledge and use it as a spotlight to highlight the areas that we need to improve. I think it is important for us to appreci-

ate the quality of plans we have but most of the time it function in its own particular way. We have to aim for something that we can achieve in a reasonable period of time,” says Joubert.

The partnership between students of ETH Zurich and those of the University of Seychelles is seen as a good opportunity to foster growth in the field.