

**Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies - Experiential Field Trip  
at COREC January 24, 2019**



*The WMI students and staff engage with the COREC Director Dr. Aghan Oscar on sustainable solid waste management during a field experiential trip which is a unique component of training graduate students at the institute, photo credit, Dr. Mutheu Mutune*

Solid waste is a key environmental concern not only to the national but also to county governments who may have scanty knowledge that waste is not just waste but a resource. Nairobi County alone generates more than 1500 tons of waste per day which goes uncollected and if collected by private garbage collectors, mostly, ends in the landfills thus contributing to greenhouse gases mostly methane. The Wangari Maathai Institute's January 24, 2019 experiential learning trip for the postgraduate students was held at the Continental Renewable Energy Co Ltd (COREC) to enable engage the company on its waste management initiatives.

COREC's contribution to waste management is commendable. The company is playing an important role to reduce the amount of waste in landfills, curb deforestation rates, mitigation of climate change and stem slum proliferation and vandalism. The company recycles about 100 tons of plastics waste into building materials per month. The hardware is sold to developers whose problem is high material cost thus COREC

***Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi***

provides alternative affordable and durable construction products. The Eco-friendly building materials recycled from plastics include poles, pathway cabros besides manufacture of aluminum chain links. These products are ideal for fencing on farms, homes, national parks, forest reserves, and commercial places. A case in point, the plastic poles has been used to fence off and conserve Aberdare Conservancy (a major water tower) which has reduced conflicts between humans and wildlife in the areas. The fence has also become the World longest conservation fence nearly 400km protecting over 2,000 sq. km of the prime forest and water catchment of the Aberdare Conservation Area. Other sister companies to COREC include BENTOS whose core mission is to make briquettes and Vanguard company that manufactures cement.

The COREC is an employer to more than 30 youth self-help groups mostly constituted of street boys and girls. Dr. Oscar Aghan spends time and trains these youth on waste segregation and handling besides linking them with commercial banks. Needless to say, COREC activities are a milestone in the governments' four big agenda particularly manufacturing and affordable housing and remarkably to sustainable development goals 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Read more about COREC- <https://www.corec.co.ke/>

Brief by Dr. Jane Mutune, Lecturer WMI [mutheumutune22@gmail.com](mailto:mutheumutune22@gmail.com)