

## FOREWORD

There has been a concerted effort in latter years by the authorities in Trinidad and Tobago to set up agencies whose prime responsibilities are the organization of systems, which in the long term, will serve to ensure the conservation of our environment for the future and promote public health interests at large. The Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Co. Ltd. is one of these agencies charged with the chief responsibility to set up an integrated solid waste management system as primarily outlined in the Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Master Plan (October, 1980).

In the following chapters, the proposed, entire, Trinidad and Tobago integrated solid waste management system will not be addressed. One element of the system - sanitary landfilling in Trinidad and Tobago - will be the subject of this paper. Other elements of the system can be the subject of future papers. In this paper, the aim is to present a systematic approach to the setting up, operation and final use of a sanitary landfill facility, within an area like Trinidad and Tobago.

The process was segmented into five main divisions:

- (1) The quantifying and characterization of wastes of the region.
- (2) The selection process.
- (3) The design stage.
- (4) The operation to final use.
- (5) Implementation of the approach as it applies to Trinidad and Tobago.

Criteria were presented and factors discussed in an attempt to explain the different aspects that encompass the sanitary landfilling process.

A great deal of the information for this project came from work done by Planning and Stanley Engineering Associates, under the direction of the Public Health Engineering Division for the management plan study, and under the direction of the Solid Waste Management Co. Ltd. for the implementation of the recommendations of the study. The latter information along with information from other sources and the author's personal experiences were combined to form the body of guidelines on setting up and operating a landfill site as discussed in Chapters 1 to 5. Chapter 6 is seen as the most relevant, as well as the most important to Trinidad and Tobago. It outlines what has been done to date and what is expected to be done in respect of the master plan study and the implementation of its recommendations.

The author believes that this project can prove to be useful to anyone who is involved later in the waste management field in Trinidad and Tobago. Due to the dynamic nature of a solid waste management plan, there may be times when the plan may require updating to meet needs, unforeseen at the time of conception of the original plan. A clear understanding of the principles that contribute to the establishment of sanitary landfills in Trinidad and Tobago could assist in evaluating the relevance of the method to the new needs.