

Legal strengthening for sustainable waste management in Sri Lanka, in relation to Japan

**Gaya Akishani Rajapaksha* and W.J.M. Harini Chamathka
Jayaweera Bandara**

**Faculty of Law, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University,
Ratmalana**

***Corresponding author: rajapakshagaya@yahoo.com**

Abstract

The management of solid waste has become a growing concern worldwide due to the continuous accumulation of large amounts of waste due to development of technology, urbanization and growth of human population. This situation is getting worse as accumulated wastes are complex in nature. Though Sri Lanka has a National Policy on Solid Waste Management 2007 and a few sections from Municipal Council Ordinance, Urban Council Ordinance, Pradeshiya Sabaha Act, Police Ordinance and Nuisance Ordinance, it is clear enough that current legal frame work is not sufficient at all. In municipal solid waste management, the issues on e-waste are not properly addressed. Based on the qualitative and quantitative research methodology, authors have found out that a country like Japan which has a large population, successfully able to manage their solid waste by the modes of recycling, energy recovery as well as sanitary land filling and increasing laws. Moreover, a Japan has separate Acts in this regard. Thus, contemplating the Sri Lankan legal frame work it clearly elaborates that it is essential to have a separate legal process of establishing a Municipal Solid Waste Management Act by imposing liability towards the relevant authority while giving special attention to energy recovery through solid waste, recycling and landfilling, moreover it should be able to deal with new technological wastes such as discarded electronic devices and e-waste rather than a national policy which is unable to give a fruitful output.

Keywords: Energy recovery, recycling, e-waste, Municipal Waste Management Act