

The City of Waste



Synthesis of Events

February 12 to May 26 2018

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Cover Page: drawing of Anjali, daughter of a waste picker, who have contributed to the exhibition together with other children from Chintan Learning Centre: *"My father, like a hero, climbs the garbage mountain to collect waste"*



12th Feb – 26th May 2018: New Delhi and Kochi

As part of **Bonjour India 2017-2018**, the 4 months long, ongoing journey celebrating Indo-French partnership, sustainable development related issues are being highlighted through research, art and debates. Encompassing a global issue, New Delhi saw the launch on 12th February of **'The City of Waste'** in form of seminars, month long photography exhibitions and workshops co-organised by Rémi de Bercegol together with Christine Ithurbide (in Delhi) and François Grosjean (in Kochi).

The City of Waste focuses on discovering the world of recycling in a new light and aims at changing the way waste is treated in India, offering alternative methods of waste disposal.

Supported by : Institut Français en Inde (IFI), CNRS (Umr 8586 PRODIG), Labex ICCA, Indian Habitat Centre, Chavara Cultural Centre, Chintan, Centre for Policy Research, Agence Française de Développement, Alliance Française de Trivandrum, Centre de Sciences Humaines

Special Thanks to: Shankare Gowda (CPR), Bénédicte Florin (University of Tours), Pascal Garret (Photographer).

| The City of Waste |

Statement

Waste represents a serious challenge for contemporary societies as it puts into question the unsustainability of our lifestyles which generate increasing quantities of refuse. Given the contamination associated with it and the disorder it evokes, garbage has long been concealed from view. However, today waste is the object of reclassification processes that serve to extract the recoverable material before it is permanently scrapped. Thanks to its composition – plastics, metals, paper, etc. — waste constitutes a valuable resource.

Contrary to the common representation of waste workers often shown in deleterious working and living conditions, this exhibition aims to portray the world of “the city of waste” in a different light, wherein waste workers are freed from the stigma attached to waste.

From Paris to Cairo and Mexico to Delhi, photographs document the conditions waste workers live and work in: open landfills, waste containers, public spaces from where they collect waste, as well as garbage dumps, warehouse, factories, markets and recycling workshops, where waste is reclassified and transformed into a profitable resource. They show the clothes that protect their bodies - rags, strips of cloth, or even plastic bags - but also the gloves and uniforms worn by those whose work is better recognized. The techniques and tools they use – baskets, hooks, chariots, carts, etc., the materials they extract and transform – plastic, cardboard, metal, glass, fabric, etc. also reveal the diversity of the practices and the ingenuity the recyclers bring to their work.

Women and men are presented as normal workers, busy doing their jobs; workers who want to be recognized for their work and considered equal to others in their society. All over the world, waste workers increasingly demand social rights, as well as a rightful recognition of their contribution to recycling, waste management, and more globally, to the environment. The pose they adopt, quite naturally or on the photographer's request, and their smiles and gazes directed at the camera, show their desire to depict a normal portrait of themselves and their activity. This staging/posing contributes to a recognition and a reclassification of their profession, and hence of their image.

Translated and adapted from Claudia Cirelli and Bénédicte Florin's original text (University of Tours, France).

Photographs were first displayed in Paris (France) as part of the exhibition “La mise en image du rebut” that later travelled to numerous cities. The City of Waste is an adaptation of this exhibition presented for the first time in India in Delhi and Kochi.

| Delhi |

On the 12th : experts seminar at CPR

A seminar co-organised with Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and held at Centre for Policy Research presented different perspectives with the contribution of Irène Salenson (AFD), Rémi de Bercegol (CNRS-Prodig-Paris), Swati Singh Sambyal (Center for Science and Environment), and Naveen Agarwal (Director of Swachh Bharat Mission, MoHUA). The purpose of this workshop was to develop out of the box strategies for waste recovery in unequal urban settings. One of its main goals was not to lose the valuable part of waste material by supporting reuse and recycling, while another important objective was to assess the economic, social and environmental costs of the various waste processing options.

The room was over capacity (we expected no more than 30 people as is typical for this kind of seminar at CPR, but the audience was around 50-60, with people sitting outside of the room to listen our talks). Watch it online here: <http://www.cprindia.org/events/6658>

Collaboration with CPR was already existing and this seminar will strengthen it.



The CPR Scaling City Institutions for Sanitation (SCI-FI) programme and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) are pleased to invite you to a seminar on **Valuing Waste or Wasting value?**
Rethinking waste processing in fast growing middle-income cities

Presentations by Irène Salenson, Rémi de Bercegol, Swati Singh Sambyal, and a representative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Monday, 12 February 2018, 2:30 p.m.

Conference Hall, Centre for Policy Research



Image: Rémi de Bercegol

Waste management was often neglected in urban policies, until waste became a major issue in the world's urbanization. There is now an acknowledged need to control the socio-environmental impacts of waste flows, since they may generate various kinds of pollution and environmental injustice. Moreover, waste management became a strategic tool for urban marketing since it helps to strengthen the attractiveness of the "best practices" cities.

Scarcity of natural resources combined with recent growth in plastic and electronic waste generation led to the illusion that municipal waste has a potential high economic value, some even saying that gold is hidden within our garbage bins and landfills. Indeed, raw material can be extracted from disposed goods and waste can be burnt in order to produce energy. But these solutions require segregation and processing which are not costless. On the other hand, even the conventional waste management systems generate significant costs.

This workshop proposes to think out of the box about waste recovery. A main goal is not to lose the valuable part of garbage, by supporting reuse and recycling, but another important objective is to assess the economic, social and environmental costs of the various waste processing options.

Irène Salenson (AFD) will present the results of a research programme comparing six cities in Latin America, Africa and Asia (ORVA2D 2014-2017). Rémi de Bercegol (CNRS) will focus on the case study of Delhi and the policy of waste-to-energy. Swati Singh Sambyal (CSE) will present alternative options for waste management such as decentralized processing. A representative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will present the results of the Swachh Bharat mission and the implementation of the new Solid Waste Management Rules.

Further to the event, you are cordially invited to a cocktail in AFD's garden:
19A Rajdoot Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021.

Kindly RSVP at afdnewdelhi@afd.fr

Reading: *Informal Recycling vs municipal Waste Service in Asian cities: Opposition or Integration?*

Authors: Rémi de Bercegol, Jérémie Cave, Arch Nguyen Thai Huyen
Coordinator: Irène Salenson, AFD - Research Paper n°64

This is a seminar organised by CPR (SCI-FI) and Agence Française de Développement (AFD-Delhi/AFD-Paris). It is the first event of 'the City of Waste', a cycle of events organized in Delhi and Kochi within the framework of Bonjour India. Find out more about 'the City of Waste' [here](#).



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2: Q&A:



Watch it online here: <http://www.cprindia.org/events/6658>

On the 13th : Official Opening of the exhibition at Indian Habitat Centre

Different events were held at Indian Habitat Centre:

- The Photography Exhibition (India Habitat Centre, Open Art Gallery from February 13th to 25th) displays 45 photographs by six French researchers - Claudia Cirelli, Bénédicte Florin, Adeline Pierrat, Mélanie Rateau, Pascal Garret, Rémi de Bercegol -, a special project realized with the NGO Chintan displaying 15 drawings of waste pickers children and **an installation of 1.3 tons of recyclable waste materials.**



Photographs: Pascal Garret / aerial image: Gina Giuzi

- From 4pm to 5pm at Open Art Gallery, 45 children from Chintan learning centre came to IHC for a private visit of the exhibition with their teachers, guided by Rémi de Bercegol and Shankare Gowda.

"DRAW YOUR FAVORITE HEROES"



NO CHILD IN TRASH

Chintan's 'No Child in Trash' (NCIT) programme aims to enable wastepickers' children and youth between the age group of 4-22 years to move from dumpsites into schools and colleges. The programme runs learning centers with specifically-designed curricula which is taught by dedicated teachers. At present there are 27 learning centres in Delhi NCR catering to 2200 children staffed by 70 teachers.

The 15 drawings presented here are created by children at Chintan's learning center at Nizamuddin. The children depicted their parents, their "favorite heroes", as they see them at home or at their place of work.

Some of the children's contributions to the exhibition describing their parents (waste pickers) at work/home (out a total of 15 drawings displayed)

A certification ceremony was organized for the 15 children who contributed to the exhibition by drawing their parents (waste pickers) at home/at work.



Graphic Design: Philippe Derik derikderik@gmail.com



Photographs: Pascal Garret

- From 6pm till 7pm, walkthroughs of the exhibition on the opening day were organised with the participation of Bénédicte Florin and Pascal Garret. Approximately 50 people divided in different groups benefited from these tours, as they were able to understand the photographs as well as the making of the “Waste tower” displayed at the centre of the exhibition



Photographs: Pascal Garret

- From 7.30pm till 9.30pm, a discussion panel was organised at the Amaltas Auditorium where Ravi Agarwal (founder of Toxics Link and artist) Bénédicte Florin (researcher and photographer), Pascal Garret (researcher and photographer), Chitra Mukherjee (Head of Programmes, Chintan) and Asim Waqif (artist) challenged representations of waste in urban context, through their experiences related to waste, recyclers and recycling process. Jai Prakash Chaudhury from Safai Sena (waste pickers association) and Vijay Chouhan (waste dealer - PVC market association) presented their claims at the end of the debate.



More than one hundred people were present at this evening debate.



The panel of artists, activists and researchers have challenged representations of waste in urban context, through their experiences related to waste, recyclers and recycling process. A special attention has been given to recycling solutions, recyclers' working conditions and methods to raise awareness.

Speakers:

Ravi Agarwal, founder of Toxic link and artist
Bénédicte Florin, researcher and photographer
Pascal Garret, researcher and photographer
Chitra Mukherjee, Head of Programmes, Chintan
Asim Waqif, artist

Moderated by **Christine Ithurbide & Rémi de Bercegol**

With the presence of Jai Prakash Chaudhury from Safai Sena and Vijay Chouhan from the PVC market association (Mundka)

Speakers Biography



Ravi Agarwal has an inter-disciplinary practice as an artist, environmental activist, writer and curator. His work, explores key contemporary questions around ecology, society, urban space and capital. He works with photographs, video, installations, and public art and has been shown widely in events, like the Kochi Biennial (2016), Sharjah Biennial (2013) and Documenta XI (2002). He co-curated the Yamuna-Elbe, Indo German twin city public art and ecology twin city project in 2011 and is curator for a upcoming international public art and ecology event in Chennai.

Ravi is also the founder of the Indian environmental NGO Toxics Link which has pioneered work in waste and chemicals in India, and campaigns on conserving the river and the forest in Delhi. He serves on several high level policy committees, and writes extensively on sustainability issues in journals and books. He was awarded the UN Special Recognition Award for Chemical Safety in 2008 and the Ashoka Fellowship for social entrepreneurship in 1997. He is an engineer by training.

Chitra Mukherjee, Passionate humanitarian professional with over 15 years' experience in the development sector. Specialized in waste management and sustainable consumption with a deep commitment to environmental and social justice.

Currently operating as Head of Programmes at Chintan, New Delhi.

Has organized several multi stakeholder events on sustainable environment and waste management which brought together policy makers, environmentalists, informal sector workers and the public.

Responsible for leading the effort to publish key research reports which highlight key environmental concerns and put forth specific policy initiatives and recommendations. Also leads all trainings for urban local bodies to impart concepts on



solid waste management and identify gaps in current systems to provide sustainable measures. She is the lead spokesperson for the organization.



Architect (Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La Villette, 1995) and sociologist (EHESS, Paris, 1997). Freelance photographer, **Pascal Garret** works with social scientists on the theme of waste recovery and recycling. He devotes most of his work to big Mediterranean cities (Cairo, Istanbul, Marseille and Casablanca) and also to the Paris region. He participated to the preparation of the exhibition "Lives of garbage" (Vies d'ordures. De l'économie des déchets) at the Museum of Civilisation of Europe and the Mediterranean (MuCEM, Marseille), which was held between March 22 to August 14, 2017. Pascal Garret is member of the research network Urban Societies and Waste . You can see a part of his work on his personal Web site: <http://bab-el-louk.org>

Specialist on human and social geography, **Bénédicte Florin's** researches focuses on "waste workers" (recyclers, wholesalers, scrap dealers, etc.) in relation to waste management systems, urban policies and public service reforms.

From a comparative perspective, four fields have been privileged in her work since 2007: Cairo, Casablanca, Istanbul and Paris. This work is the part of research programs funded by the ADEME (2011-14), the CNRS (2013) and the ANR (2016-19). She was also in the steering committee of and contributed to the Lives of garbage exhibition from the MUCEM (Marseille, 2017). These works gave rise to numerous publications and papers in symposiums, as well as the creation of the research network Urban Societies and Waste, a research website (<http://sud.hypotheses.org/>) and an exhibition entitled "photographing the waste



Delhi-based **Asim Waqif** studied architecture at the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi and is teaching as a visiting faculty there. After initially working as an art-director for film and television he later started making independent video and documentaries before moving to a dedicated art-practice in 2010.

His recent projects have attempted a crossover between architecture, art and design, with a strong contextual reference to contemporary urban-design and the politics of occupying/intervening/using public spaces. Some of his projects have developed within abandoned and derelict buildings in the city that act like hidden activity-spaces for marginalized people.

Concerns of ecology and anthropology often weave through his work and he has done extensive research on vernacular systems of ecological management, especially with respect to water, waste and architecture. His artworks often employ manual processes that are deliberately painstaking and laborious while the products themselves are often temporary. He has worked in sculpture, site-specific public installation, video, photography, and more recently with large-scale interactive installations that combine traditional and new media technologies.

With the participation of



Jai Prakash “Santu” Chaudhary is secretary of Safai Sena waste pickers’ association in India. Santu has been working hard to mobilize waste pickers in Delhi, where the Okhla landfill provided a livelihood in recycling for about 700 waste pickers until about a year ago. He is actively involved in Safai Sena campaigns, fighting for social security for waste pickers and other informal workers.

Vijay Chouhan is a well-known plastic dealer at Tikri Kalan (Mundka), actively involved with the PVC market association. He plays for a better recognition of the market gross activities, the importance of the recycling industry in the context of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the needs for a better regulation, including adapted GST and better infrastructure provision.

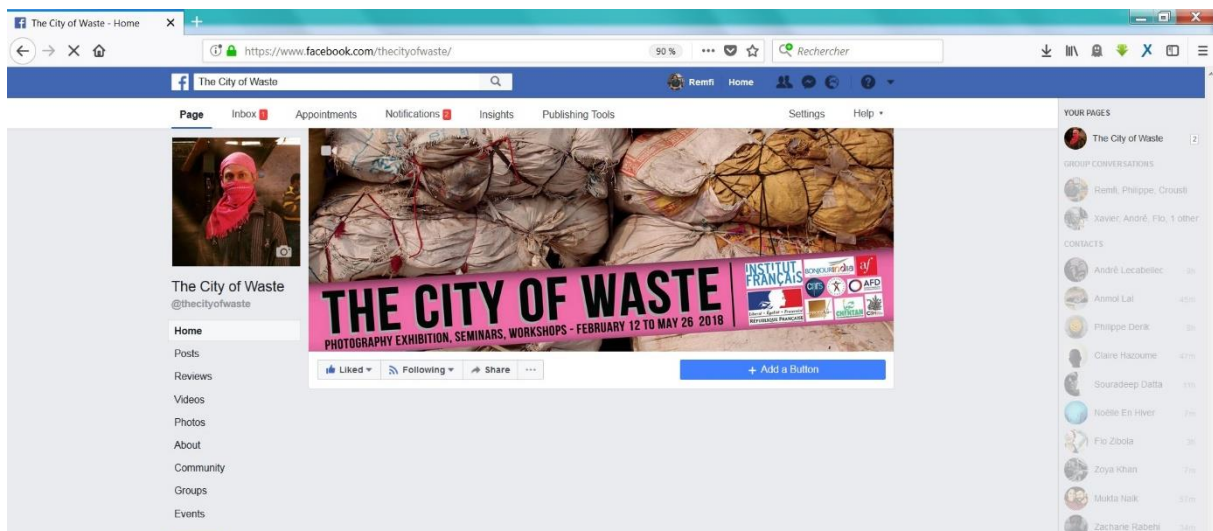
For “The city of waste”, with his son Ankit, he has helped providing one ton of plastic waste material from the market.



This exhibition allowed us to strengthen links with Indian Habitat Centre and Chintan.

We plan to continue working with Chintan in the near future.

Check our newly created facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/thecityofwaste/?ref=br_rs



Media

Audio legends for 20 photographs are available online through QR codes (in **English** as well as in **Hindi**):



Press coverage by Scroll:

<https://scroll.in/magazine/868716/photos-waste-pickers-deserve-more-dignity-and-respect-for-the-important-and-thankless-work-they-do>

Scroll.in

PHOTO ROLL

Photos: Everyone talks about Swachh Bharat. Spare a thought for those who make it happen

'City of Waste' is a photography exhibition that focuses on both the difficult and heartwarming aspects of a waste picker's life.

by *Zinnia Ray Chaudhuri*

Published Feb 25, 2018 · 11:30 am



Humayunpur, Delhi. | Rémi de Bercegol

| Kochi |

| Waste in the Smart City| at Chavara Cultural Centre



On Friday 16th : Students Posters day ; “Be Smart with Waste!”

Within the framework of “Bonjour India”, Alliance Française de Kochi and Chavara cultural Centre have organized a Students Posters day called “Be Smart with Waste!”

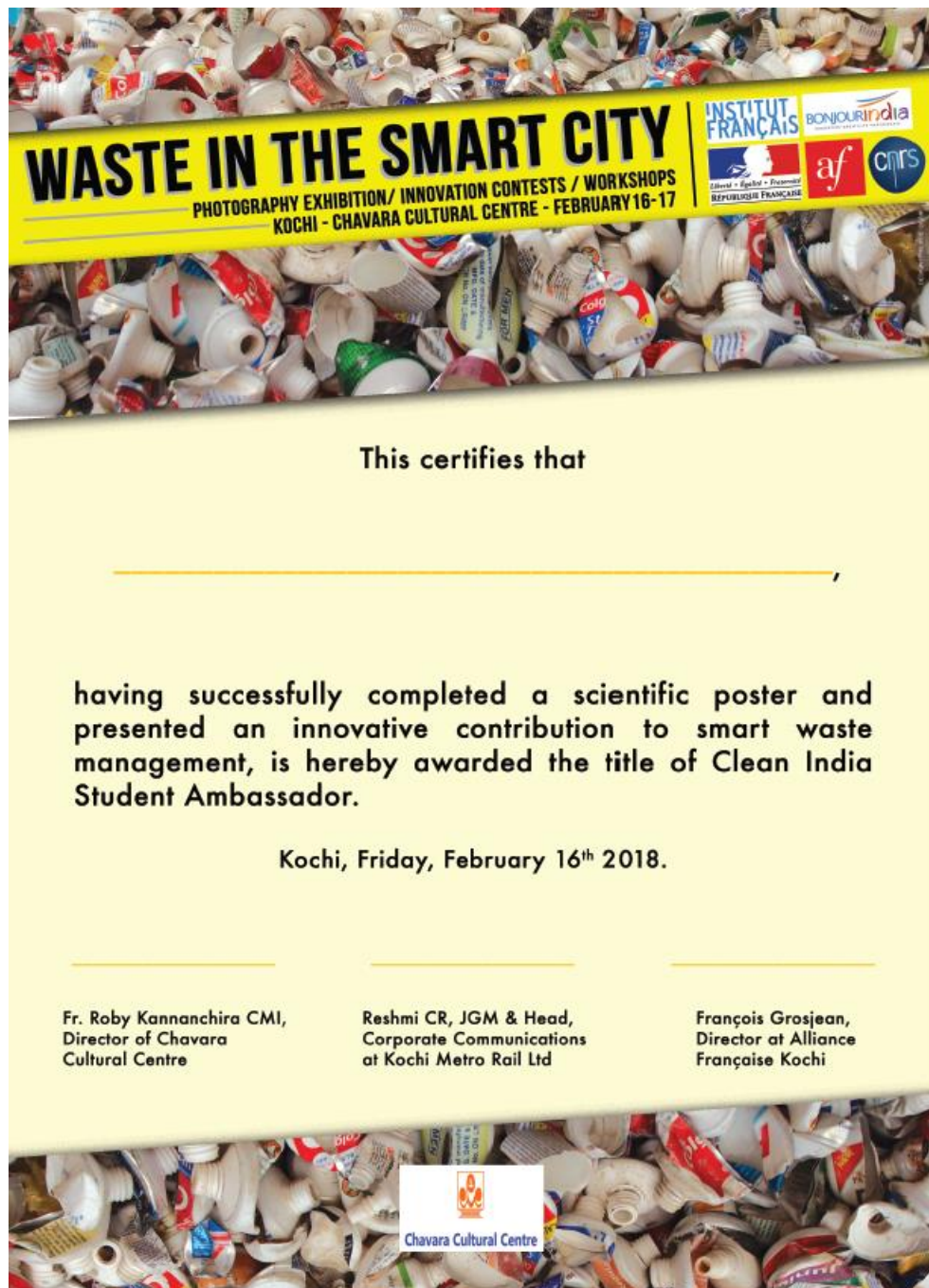
8 Groups of Students from Chavara Cultural Centre (tourism batch, Kochi), Jai Bharath College of Management and Engineering Technology, (Perumbavoor), KMEA Engineering College (Pookkattupadi), Rajagiri Engineering College (Kakkanad), LBS Engineering College (Kasargode), have presented their views on the waste management in Kochi. They will defend their ideas for preserving the environment through a presentation of visual posters highlighting the need to be smart with waste: “don’t be dumb, don’t dump it!”. François Grosjean (director, Alliance Française), Zazie Hayoun (French stage director), together with french photographer Pascal Garret (French photographer), Bénédicte Florin (French Professor) and Rémi de Bercegol (French Researcher) have commented their posters and

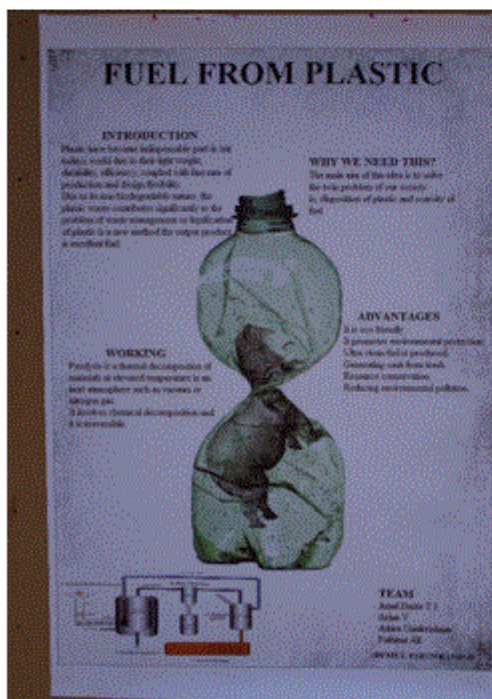
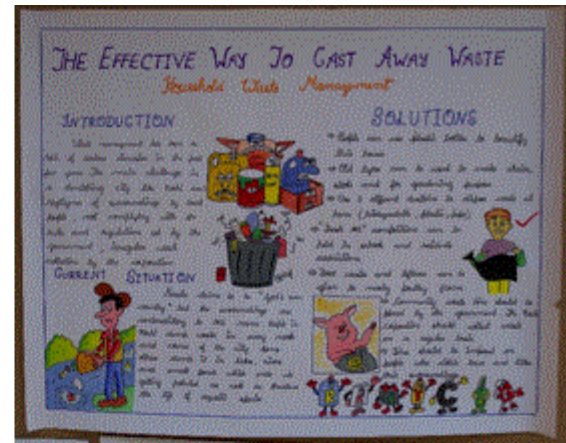
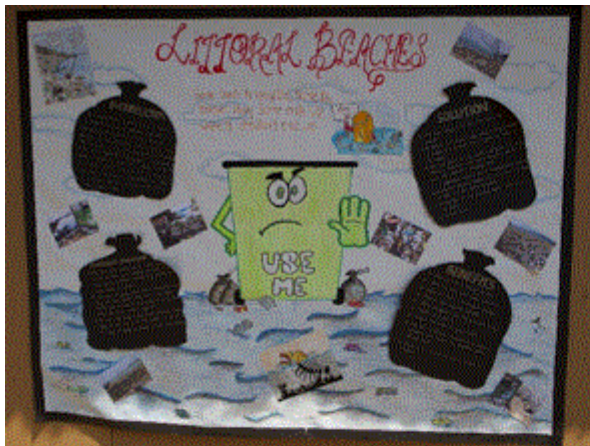
invited them to discover the world of recyclers through an photography exhibition and the screening of two short movies.



Photographs: Pascal Garret and local Malayalam newspaper

The day was concluded by Father Robby (Chavara Cultural Centre) with a certification ceremony for awarding the students the title of Clean India Student Ambassadors. The nicest posters will be exhibited in the metro thanks to Reshmi CR (Kochi Metro Rail) (in process).





Best students' posters (to be exhibited in Kochi metro)

On Saturday 17th : Waste innovations fair “Waste in the Smart City”

Within the framework of “Bonjour India”, Alliance Française de Kochi with Chavara Cultural Centre have organized a **Waste Innovations Fair, exhibition and Workshop entitled | Waste in the Smart City| on Saturday 17 February 2018, Chavara Cultural from 1.00pm.**

Participants of the innovation contest presented to the public very diverse possibilities for being smart with waste. Prototypes of different technologies, as well as re-used and recycled materials, tools and proposal posters were exhibited at Chavara before being discussed later that afternoon. There were presentations by Clean for Kochi Foundation, Mr Raveendran (executive director CCCM CREDAI), Harshavardhan (Director of Peepal Waste Managers), Kudumbashree, Plan@Earth, Babu Syed from Ecorycle, Ms. Diya Mathew (from Bin It India), Nimmi Xavier and Mr. Marudhachalam who presented Wow (Wellbeing Out of Waste), Alif Shahul (“Smart Bin” proposal with his two colleagues Athul R and Febin Jishal), Hedi Reghioui, Nadia and Rajesh George (architect) presented their "Ecohouse Network" concept.

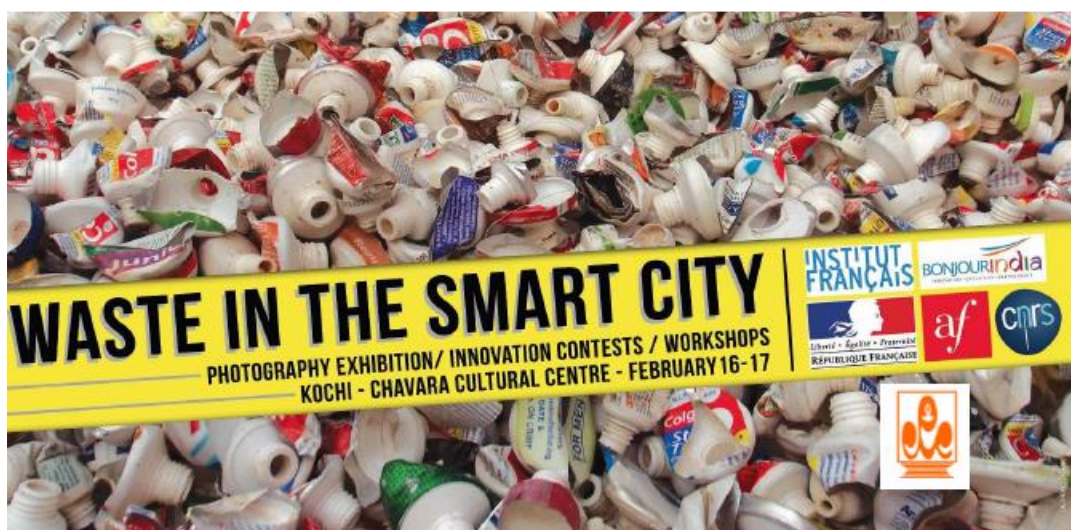


Logos of some of the contributors

At 6pm, Prasant (Johnson) Palakkappillil C.M.I. (Principal, Sacred heart College), Fr. Roby Kannanchira CMI (Director of Chavara Cultural Centre), and Nicolas Fornage (French

Development Agency) presided an Award ceremony “Waste in the Smart City” innovation 2018. This was followed by an inauguration of the photographic exhibition ‘A World in Common’, by the French Development Agency (AFD) (7th floor) with the presence of Soumini Jain, Mayor of Kochi Municipal Corporation.

Around 150 people were present at these 2 days of events.



| Waste in the Smart City |

- Best innovation 2018-

This certifies that

is awarded the title of best innovation “Waste in the Smart City 2018”.

Fr. Prasant
(Johnson)
Palakkappillil
C.M.I., Principal,
Sacred heart
College

Fr. Roby
Kannanchira
CMI, Director of
Chavara
Cultural Centre

Nicolas
Fornage,
Director, French
Development
Agency

François
Grosjean,
Director,
Alliance
Française

Awards have been given to: Harshavardhan (of Peepal Waste Managers), Kudumbashree, Babu Syed from Ecorycle, Nimmi Xavier and Mr. Marudhachalam from Wow (Wellbeing Out of Waste) + for the best proposals: Alif Shahul Athul R and Febin Jishal (“Smart Bin” proposal) and Hedi Reghioui, Nadia and Rajesh George (“Ecohouse Network” concept).

| The City of Waste |

Coordinators:



Rémi de Bercegol is a Research Fellow at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). He has a doctorate in Urban Planning from LATTIS (research group on technology, territories and societies) at ENPC/UMLV, Paris Est, France. He was a Visiting Researcher at the Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities (CSH) in New Delhi between 2008 and 2012. During this time, he undertook research for his book on small towns and decentralisation reforms in northern India (Small towns and decentralisation, Springer, 2017).

Beyond the scope of India, his research focuses now on world urbanisation and the transformation of cities in the global South, analysed principally in terms of their essential services (water, sanitation, waste management and energy)

Christine Ithurbide is post-doctoral researcher with the Labex ICCA (Cultural Industries and Artistic Creation), Université Paris 13, associated with the Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH), New Delhi and CEIAS in Paris.

Doctor in geography, her researches focus on art territories, cultural industry and economy in India in the context of globalization and digital transition.

Since 2015, she focused more specifically on art labor, informal economy, and networks of production in cultural metropolises. She has been Consultant for Unesco-Delhi in charge of a report on Art policies in India and coordinator for two years of the CSH-CPR Urban Studies Seminar co-organized with the Center for Policy Research.



François Grosjean is currently director at Alliance Française de Trivandrum. He has had a long association with India, especially Rajasthan and its magnificent 'Kathputli' (string puppet theatre) tradition. Grosjean's Indian connection began in 1994, when he teamed up with an Indian group and to create 'Tale of Lila in Old Delhi Market'. Later, visits to the Kathputli colony in Delhi and Udaipur lead him to create another theatrical production with a puppetry spectacle and a festival of Indian culture during 7 years before running a theatre in Paris called 'Le Grand Parquet.'

More info on:

<https://www.facebook.com/thecityofwaste/>
<https://www.bonjour-india.in/events/eco-energy-the-city-of-waste/>

Acknowledgments:

Photographers and researchers :

Rémi de Bercegol is a Research Fellow at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS, PRODIG, Paris). His research focuses on transformations of cities, analyzed principally in terms of their essential services (water, sanitation, waste management and energy) in India, Kenya and Tanzania.

Claudia Cirelli has a background in anthropology and geography. She is an associated researcher at UMR CITERES at University of Tours and conducts researches on the socio-cultural and spatial dimensions of water and waste management in Latin America, particularly in Mexico, and in France.

Benedicte Florin is a geographer at University of Tours. Her researches focus on waste workers (recyclers, wholesalers, scrap dealers, etc.) in relation to waste management systems, urban policies and public service reforms. Her work focuses on four cities since 2007: Cairo, Casablanca, Istanbul and Paris.

Adeline Pierrat is a doctor in geography and has been interested with waste recycling in African cities (Dakar, Addis Ababa, Antananarivo). Since 2016, she is project manager for solid waste management with the NGO Gret.

Mélanie Rateau is a geographer-planner. She is a PhD student at the University of Paris-Est (LATTs) where she works on services cities in the South and on off-grid energy in Africa.

Pascal Garret, sociologist and freelance photographer, collaborates with social scientists on the theme of waste recovery and recycling. He devotes most of his work to big Mediterranean cities (Cairo, Istanbul, Marseille and Casablanca) and also to the Paris region.

To find out more about the SUD research network, check out our blog on Hypotheses.org:
<http://sud.hypotheses.org/>

Special Thanks to :

Alka Pande and the India Habitat Center team especially Aditi Tandon, Dilpreet bhullar and Suprabha Nayak.

Shankare Gowda, PhD Centre for policy Research, who have prepared all the research and managed as well the technical coordination in Delhi

Arkaja Singh from Centre for policy Research

Nicolas Fornage, Hélène Vernier, Augustin Delisle from AFD Delhi Irène Salenson from AFD Paris

Chitra Mukherjee, Rajat Rai Handa and Pitambara Somani from CHINTAN

(<http://www.chintan-india.org/>)

Jai Prakash Chaudhary, General Secretary of Safai Sena

Vijay Chouhan and Bhushan Ratwaya, PVC Market

Moolchand and the people from Hanuman Manzoor camp

Waste workers from all over Delhi, from Nangloi to Ohkla, from Bhopura to Narela who have been a part of the making of *The City of Waste* at different moments

Father Roby, Jolly Pavel, Jijo Palatninkal from Chavara Cultural Centre

Bindu from Alliance Française de Trivandrum

Gina Giuzi, photographer and film maker,

Zazie Hayoun, stage director

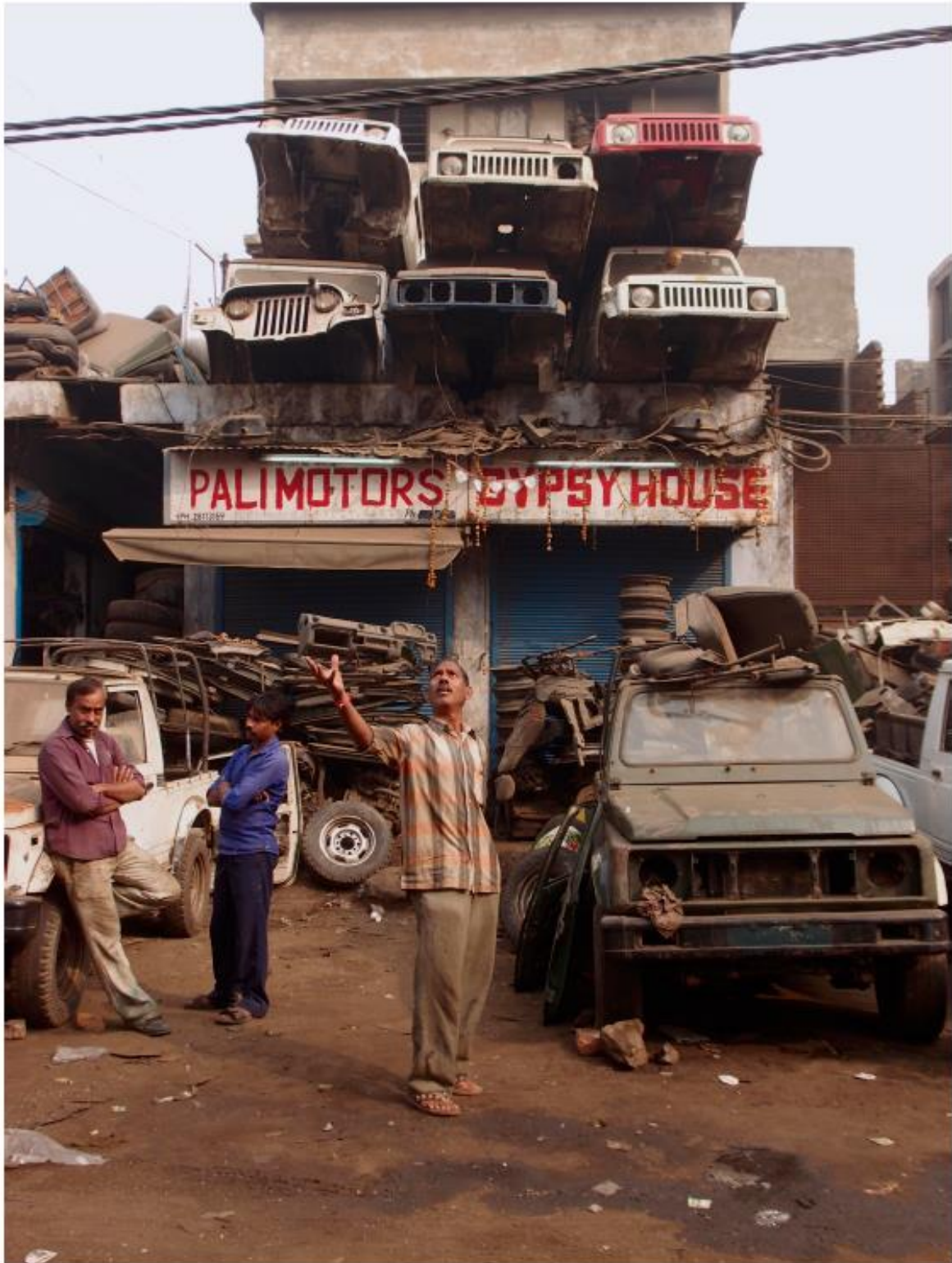
Aliya Tuzhilin, Jagori Grameen

All the technicians, assistants, pickers, dealers, workers and drivers who made this exhibition possible

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS Prodig, UMR 8586)

Centre de Sciences Humaines de New Delhi

CATCH IT !



Mayapuri, Delhi, India, January 2016, photo Rémi de Bercegol