

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

EARTH ENGINEERING CENTER

December 24, 2016

Dear members and friends of WTERT,

On behalf of the faculty, scientists, and graduate students associated with the Global WTERT Council (GWC), in several countries and universities, we wish you the best for health and happiness in 2017 and thank you for your support in 2016. The past year has seen some additions to the WTERT family of organizations, including Colombia, Philippines, and Serbia plus groups under development in Cuba, Peru, Romania, and Slovenia. A highlight of our activities was the WTERT 2016 Conference at Columbia (October 6-7, 2016). Another, the workshop "Waste Management for Megacities" co-sponsored by the Earth Engineering Center of City College of New York and A.I.Ch.E. (April 25-26, 2016). The presentations at these meetings are available on the Columbia and CCNY webs.

This is the second year that Dr. Thanos Bourtsalas taught the first WTE course at Columbia. We expect that as of the fall of 2017 this course will be available through the Columbia Video Network to students around the world.

The EEC-Columbia WTE Guidebook (see Google) on sustainable waste management has been translated to Portuguese and Spanish, thanks to Prof. Alex Godoy of WTERT-Chile and Dr. Sergio Guerreiro of WTERT-Brazil. A Chinese edition is under way, supervised by Dr. Hanwei Zhang of China Everbright International. Mr. Werner Bauer, head of WTERT-Germany has undertaken to bring together publications, notices of meetings and other activities by all WTERT national organizations meeting in his widely read web page www.wtert.eu. A study of all global WTE facilities by WTERT-Columbia showed that, on the average, they were located at a distance of 5 kilometers from the center of the city they serve. We would like to thank our new sponsors, China Everbright International and the SACYR Group of Spain. We are also grateful for the generous research grants to EEC-Columbia and GWC by EEC-Columbia alumna, Dr. Li Wu.



**Happy New Year to all and thank you for contributing to the advancement of sustainable waste management worldwide.
Prof. Nickolas J. Themelis, Chair, Global WTERT Council,
www.wtert.org**