

GARBAGE FOR THE GREATER GOOD

**WILLIAM GOODINGS, WASTE MANAGEMENT EXPERT,
CANADIAN EXECUTIVE SERVICES ORGANIZATION**

WILLIAM GOODINGS KNOWS A THING OR TWO ABOUT getting rid of garbage. He spent 36 years at Proctor & Redfern as an engineering consultant before retiring in 1993 as a vice-president. During his long tenure, he helped establish many municipal landfills and waste management systems and is a founding member of the Composting Council of Canada. In fact, you could call him a composting guru: since retiring, Goodings has served as an expert advisor with the Canadian Executive Service Organization, where he helps developing regions cope with the ever-mounting waste problems that accompany modernization.

A robust 78 years young, Goodings has no problem getting down and dirty on assignment. He has done 16 so far—mostly through multiple trips to the Philippines and Bolivia, where his years of experience were apparent from the get-go. “My work in Bolivia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka on aerobic stabilization of solid municipal waste (composting) is a breakthrough for these countries,” Goodings says. That’s partly because dumping grounds in poorer countries are often picked clean of inorganic materials (like manufactured goods), leaving mostly solid organic matter behind.

Goodings believes developing countries shouldn’t have to build expensive sanitary landfills, as is now being required by law, and that the best

solutions involve using what’s readily available—indigenous resources and local supplies. In San Carlos, Philippines, he devised a plan to use rice hulls from local farms as the primary composting agent at a landfill that wasn’t being properly managed. On another placement, he taught farmers how to transform animal waste into fertilizer using chicken droppings and rice straw. In both cases, the goal was to convert the community’s organic waste to usable soil or fertilizer, an idea becoming popular in developing countries.

Gooding’s wife, June, often travels with him. In Sri Lanka, while he was pushing for a garbage-day bylaw, she taught English to children.

