

National Policy Workshop Webinar Series
On
Countermeasures for Riverine and Marine Plastic Litter in India
12 -22 May 2020

Session 6: Scenarios to counter plastics litter in river and marine environment by overcoming barriers and identifying enabling measures and shaping roadmap and strategy ahead

Countermeasures Project

- Project "*Promotion of Countermeasures against Marine Plastic Litter in Southeast Asia and India*" was launched in **2019** (also named as '**Counter MEASURE**')
- Aiming to identify a region-based model for monitoring and assessment of plastic leakage and pollution reduction targeting land-based plastic leakage entering waterways
- Funded by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Government of Japan**
- Implemented by the **UN Environment** Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in collaboration with National Productivity Council and local partners Chintan, TERI, and Development Alternative.
- Since October 2019, following key activities have been conducted:
 - Technical consultations and expert group meetings in India has been conducted on the methodology for identifying plastic leakage pathways and emerging know-hows on the science-policy the interface on plastic leakage.
 - Data collection and surveys carried out in 4 cities in India: **Agra, Prayagraj, Haridwar, and Mumbai**.
 - Outreach activities have also been conducted with local partners in India to share findings from local surveys as well as to raise awareness about plastic pollution among citizens.
 - Identified about **50 categories of product based plastic litter** at hotspots near rivers Ganga and Yamuna and about **40 types of polymer-based micro-plastics**

Countermeasures Project

- Project deliverables:
 - Desktop review of plastics and plastic pollution
 - Plastic leakage pathways
 - Counter Measures
- NPC organized the **National Policy Workshop** through series of the webinar **during 12-22 May 2020 (Six on-line sessions)**
 - Sessions on
 - *Science and technology of plastic pollution assessment,*
 - *Community perception and behavioural aspects,*
 - *Plastic waste management through circularity concept,*
 - *Plastic pollution impact on the riverine and marine ecosystem,*
 - *Scenario to counter plastic litter*
- A specific session on plastic waste generation during **COVID 19 spread in India** has also been organized on 20th May, 2020

Webinar 1: The Science & Technology of Plastics & Techniques/best practices of plastics pollution assessment and investigation.

- First webinar was organized on 12th May, 2012 (2:30 PM – 5:30 PM)
- Attended by more than 700 participants from 12 countries representing public/private organizations, civil society, researchers, academia, and from across a range of national and multilateral institutions such as UN Organisations and the World Bank.
- Key highlights:
 - The importance of plastics and various polymers and their applications and concern
 - Need to revisit the behavioural approach to managing plastics including towards segregation and to have a system of well segregated plastic waste collection and recycling initiatives
 - Need to draft a national marine litter policy to control and manage the litter at the land boundary to prevent from entering the marine environment;
 - Importance of a detailed material balance of plastics production and consumption, and constructing a detailed leakage scenario; and Development of a standardized methodology for clean-up exercises for adoption
 - Types of plastic litter identified in 4 cities and efforts ongoing to develop a toolbox on plastic leakage scenario development and the need for constructing a harmonized methodology

Webinar 2: Community Perceptions and behavioural aspects for plastic management and promotion of countermeasures to address (Riverine and Marine) plastic litter

- 2nd Webinar was organized on 14th May, 2020 (2:30 PM – 5:00 PM)
- Attended by more than 450 participants from various countries representing public/private organizations, civil society, researchers, academia, and from across a range of national and multilateral institutions.
- Key highlights:
 - Plastic leakage scenarios in four cities Prayagraj, Agra, Haridwar and Mumbai developed by NPC using primary and secondary data and field observations
 - Perception surveys and outreach activities carried out by partner agencies, namely, Chintan in Agra, TERI in Mumbai and Development Alternative in Prayagraj and Haridwar
 - Importance of Faith-based Organizations (FBOs) for mass following, linkage to spiritual values and a scientific connect, influencing capacity on lifestyles etc.
 - Insights on recognition of Single Use Plastics (SUPs) and its understanding among the stakeholders
 - Systematic engagement and motivation of youth (middle school, colleges and Scouts and Guides) through game-based learning etc.
 - Education on plastic pollution science in youth which is considered more important than banning plastic items as better management of plastics will be the result.

Webinar 3: “Promotion of countermeasures against marine plastic litter in Southeast Asia and India

- 3rd Webinar was organized on 16th May, 2020 (2:30 PM – 5:00 PM)
- Attended by more than 700 participants from various countries representing public/private organizations, civil society, researchers, academia, and from across a range of national and multilateral institutions.
- Key highlights:
 - The importance of plastics product as well as product packaging redesign towards bringing circularity;
 - Creating a responsible environment with a social, institutional and economic construct for the WARRIORS – SAFAL SATHIS – largely women towards enabling circularity in the plastic products economy;
 - Need to incentivize recyclers to achieve circularity;
 - Reverse Vending machine for PET bottles as a solution towards organized segregated waste collection;
 - Issuance of plastic credit units as an economic instrument for plastic recyclers for encouraging collection of segregated plastic waste.
 - Co-processing is a preferred technology for the disposal of plastic waste and Plastic to Diesel conversion technology
 - Case study of implementation of Digital EPR Governance platform in Pune as a solution for Plastic Waste Management

Webinar 4: Assessment of plastic pollution impact on natural capital and riverine and marine ecosystems needing policy intervention

- 4th Webinar was organized on 18th May, 2020 (2:30 PM – 5:00 PM)
- Attended by more than 700 participants from various countries representing public/private organizations, civil society, researchers, academia, and from across a range of national and multilateral institutions.
- Key highlights:
 - Snapshots of work undertaken by NPC in respect of microplastic survey in river Yamuna and river Ganga;
 - Need to establish health related hazards due to plastic/microplastic on human health with rigorous studies.
 - Case study of development of a framework and assessment of the ecosystem services of Ganga River.;
 - Methodologies and challenges in microplastic assessment in freshwater; and impacts of plastic waste usage in road construction.
 - Aspects of Life cycle assessment of plastic products in Plastic value chain
 - Overview of Ocean Plastic Turned into an Opportunity in Circular Economy – OPTOCE project being implemented by SINTEF in India, China, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam
 - Overview of Indo-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative for Developing coherent systems for data collection and analysis for the state of Gujarat

Webinar 5: Impact of COVID-19 on plastics consumption, innovation, logistics and waste generation (including PPEs and wastes from Health Care Facilities) and related challenges.

- 5th Webinar was organized on 20th May, 2020 (2:30 PM – 5:30 PM)
- Attended by more than 630 participants from 13 countries representing public/private organizations, civil society, researchers, academia, and from across a range of national and multilateral institutions.
- Key highlights:
 - Research initiatives in health sector and beyond pertaining to COVID 19 and impacts across various sectors (positive and negative) and the emergent tsunami of plastics;
 - Elaboration by Doctors regarding types of personal protective equipment being used and breakthrough medical devices and equipment that signaled importance of plastics and polymers
 - Review of PPEs for COVID – 19, detailing the type (woven, non-woven, knitted etc), and the materials including polymers and composition, and standards and testing of parameters desirable for health sector;
 - Aspects of Demand and Supply of polymers and industry response for various plastics for health sector and issues concerning recycling / recyclability of plastic waste;
 - Pre-covid and during COVID 19 related Bio-Medical Waste Management systems and practices,
 - Insights on machinery and equipment to handle and manage Bio-Medical Wastes in the wake of COVID 19 and their operational considerations etc.

Thank you !

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