



ClimateNXT 2025 – Ending Plastic Pollution
World Environment Day, 5th June 2025
India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India
Post-event Press Release, 6th June 2025

The ClimateNXT 2025 – Ending Plastic Pollution was organized by National Productivity Council (NPC), DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Tokyo, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), Massive Earth Foundation (MEF), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, on 5th June 2025, the World Environment Day. More than 100 delegates representing policymakers, industry, academia, civil society, research bodies, service sector enterprises, and multilateral organizations deliberated on strategies to manage plastic pollution and catalyze climate-tech innovation across the Asia-Pacific.

The Summit began with sapling plantation at NPC Park by the Chief Guest, Mrs. Leena Nandan, former Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, and Mrs. Neerja Sekhar, Director General, NPC, under the theme “*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam*”. Welcoming the participants, Mrs. Neerja Sekhar underscored the vital link between productivity, sustainability, and efforts to eliminate plastic pollution and reflected on macro and microplastics assessment studies undertaken by NPC in the Ganges. However, plastic pollution needs to be controlled on a large scale. Ms. Rekha Jain, National Project Coordinator, UNIDO highlighted UNIDO’s commitment to advancing the circular economy, emphasizing the pivotal role of rethinking, redesigning, and repurposing materials to curb plastic waste. Dr. Indra Singawinata, Secretary General of the Asian Productivity Organization, Tokyo, pointed out that the widespread use of plastic is driven by its affordability and ease of fabrication, making it a persistent challenge despite growing environmental concerns. Dr. Benno Böer, Programme Specialist, Natural Sciences, UNESCO, emphasized the role of Biosphere Reserves in fostering sustainable, plastic-free practices through community involvement, environmental education, and conservation. Inaugurating the Summit, Mrs. Leena Nandan stressed the importance of mindful consumption by adoption of LIFE – Lifestyle for Environment, and the relevance of the development of certified environmental auditors similar to energy auditors for effective plastic waste management. She highlighted key initiatives such as the development of an EPR portal in 2022 to create a connected ecosystem for plastic collection, segregation, and recycling.

The panel discussion on opportunities and challenges in combating plastic pollution, moderated by Mr. Shailesh Vickram Singh, Founder and Director, Massive Earth Foundation, emphasized decarbonization and chemical recycling of plastics. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) was highlighted as a transformative approach that shifts the recycling cost burden from informal recyclers to producers, enabling better quantification of recycled plastic and greater inclusion of the informal sector.

Mr. Hiroshi Tachikawa, Propharm Japan Co., Ltd, Tokyo, Japan, shared key insights on Japan’s strategies for managing plastic pollution. He highlighted the implementation of the Plastic Resource Circulation Act, which emphasizes eco-design, reduction of single-use plastics, and recycling throughout the product lifecycle.

In the panel discussion on microplastics moderated by Dr. Benno Böer, notable initiatives such as the CounterMEASURE Project and *Sea of Solutions* were discussed. Perspectives on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) comparing glass and plastic bottles were shared to better understand material safety and environmental impact. Emerging technologies for microplastic detection were discussed, including the identification of 42 types of polymers in oceanic samples. Finally, the session also addressed the need for institutional redesign, product composition disclosure, and cost-effective strategies for adopting alternative materials.

Startups such as Bambrew, Ishitva Robotic Systems, Five Elements Environmental Technologies, Plastics For Change, Baeru, PolyCycl, each playing a key role in addressing plastic pollution, showcased their products/technologies during the event.

The Summit also featured the launch of the 5th edition of the LowCarbon.Earth Accelerator, aimed at supporting early-stage climate-tech startups, and the release of a national report on the “State of Plastic Recycling” by the Massive Earth Foundation.

The ClimateNXT 2025 fostered meaningful dialogue on innovative solutions, financing mechanisms, and circular economy strategies to combat plastic waste, highlighting the importance of collaborative action to build a sustainable, plastic-free future.

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