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 ‘CounterMEASURE’)
- 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 have been conducted on the methodology for identifying plastic leakage pathways and emerging know-how on the science-policy 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-SAFAII SATHIS-largely women towards enabling circularity in the plastic product 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 impact 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 – OPTOC E 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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