



PRESS RELEASE

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National Productivity Council, under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India is organizing the National Policy Workshop through a series of the webinar during 12-22 May 2020 comprising of six on-line sessions as part of the UNEP lead project “Promotion of countermeasures against marine plastic litter in Southeast Asia and India” funded by the Govt. of Japan. Webinar 1 on the theme ‘The Science, Technology of Plastics & Techniques/Best Practices of Plastics Pollution Assessment and Investigation’ as part of the National Policy Workshop on Countermeasures for riverine and marine plastic litter has been organized on 12 May 2020 during 14.30 – 17.30 hrs.

The sessions highlighted the following. (a) The importance of plastics and various polymers and their applications in a vast spectrum of products, and the concern that humanity has an instinct to discard especially single-use plastics, and that there is a need to revisit the behavioral approach to managing plastics including towards segregation (b) While all plastics are not recyclable or most have limits to degrees of recyclability, there is a need to have a system of well-segregated plastic waste collection and recycling initiatives and that suitable labeling of the polymer types could facilitate for products in the market including value addition back to original products and for the circular economy to be realized; (c) The 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; (d) The importance of a detailed material balance of plastics production and consumption, and constructing a detailed leakage scenario; (e) Attention to periodic and geographically dispersed macroplastics assessments including the importance of polymer analysis at the plastic litter end; (f) Significance of comprehensive studies and mapping of microplastics in River Ganga and all rivers and linking / correlating to macroplastics in hotspots; (g) The development of a standardized methodology for clean-up exercises for adoption (h) The application of various methods in the analysis and identification of macro and microplastics and identifying polymers; (i) The deliberations highlighted the methodology and the framework adopted for the project, reflected on various types of plastic litter identified in the trash during clean – up studies in 4 cities and indicated the efforts ongoing to develop a toolbox on plastic leakage scenario development and the need for constructing a harmonized methodology.

The webinar was attended by 700 plus participants as located across 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. The Webinar has been highly appreciated by participants and is attracting attention from a wide range of stakeholders.

The upcoming webinars are scheduled on 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22nd May 2020 and shall be leading to a policy dialogue on the subject. The participants can register for the webinars via <https://www.npcindia.gov.in/NPC/User/unep>

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