



PRESS RELEASE

23 May 2020

National Productivity Council, under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India, has organized the National Policy Workshop through a series of webinars during 12-22 May 2020 comprising of six on-line sessions as part of the UNEP led project “Promotion of Countermeasures against marine plastic litter in Southeast Asia and India”, funded by the Govt. of Japan. The Webinar - 6 on theme ‘Scenarios to Counter Plastics Litter by Overcoming Barriers and Identifying Enabling Measures’ as part of the National Policy Workshop on Countermeasures for riverine and marine plastic litter has been organised on 22 May 2020 during 14.30 – 16.00 hrs followed by a high level online policy dialogue on the subject till 17.30 hrs.

The Webinar 6 via eight insightful presentations highlighted the following aspects (a) Revisiting the essence of Webinars 1 to 5, whereby reflecting on Science and Technology of Plastics and recognizing the importance and value of plastics as well as of the plastics pollution problem and its assessment and investigation methodology developments towards a toolbox with use of GIS and mapping techniques and fuzzy logic etc, and importance of national marine litter policy and related initiatives; Significance of material balance of plastics across value chain and addressing the leakage scenarios via various types of hotspots and undertaking detailed macroplastics and microplastics assessments and their correlation; Engagement in outreach activities and encouraging behaviour shifts in utilization and management of Single Use Plastics (SUPs) by suitably defining and addressing the phase out and appropriate substitution etc by involving suitable national / local policy measures and application of by-laws as per specific contexts, and by educating / motivating / incentivising change to check the instinct to litter; identifying and promoting a spectrum of plastics circularity initiatives and case examples and new range of innovations in this regard and creating a responsible environment and capacity for recycling; Encouraging and enabling Extended Producer Responsibility ethic and related initiatives and models; strengthening and harmonizing methodologies of macro-plastics, microplastics assessments and regarding impact assessments from plastics and their monitoring and evaluation nationally/regionally/internationally; recognizing the emergent challenge from COVID – 19 and the dynamics in plastics products consumption and disposal, including as a range of PPEs, and the issues of biomedical and infectious waste management challenges in health care facilities and systems and at and from locations such as households / quarantine homes / laboratories etc., following and capacitating the application /adoption and practice of suitable guidelines with due innovations, standards and protocols / testing and innovation space and utilization of appropriate equipment; (b) Use of data and modelling techniques for plastics leakage scenario construction and facilitating strengthening of monitoring, evaluation and regulatory capacity alongside the drivers of recycling in plastics sector and encouraging LCA across plastic products and polymer streams; (c) Collection and channelizing plastic bottles via Deposit Refund Systems, and other plastics products/litter components via appropriate circularity models / options including co-processing etc and the regional contexts; (d) Encouraging, facilitating and adopting innovations from the point of view of substitutes/alternatives, designs, processes etc, including innovations in polymers/packaging/Delivery/Consumption domains and exploring and adopting plastic Xchange and a plastic index of measurement; (e) shaping a national plastics riverine and marine litter policy engaging spectrum of

stakeholders and arresting plastics on land as well as checking land and ground water pollution from plastics and developing necessary instruments; (f) Reviewing status of SUP related bans in India and public and industry participation / response and addressing the data gaps, the local contexts, the importance of marking and labeling of plastics, and enabling measures towards a national action plan recognizing material qualities, recyclability, availability of alternatives, and livelihood security of the informal sector working with them; (g) Understanding and generation of quantitative data and qualitative insights in the South Asian region regarding marine litter in the context of SACEP and adopting strategies in the SAS region to establish regional institutionalized structure to implement international conventions, agreement, laws, regulations and treaties on marine litter and undertake suitable projects to address the marine litter problem in a cooperative arrangement.

The webinar was attended by 700 plus participants as located across 18 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. It is indicative that the Webinar series that concluded on 22nd May 2020 has been highly appreciated by participants and attracted attention from a wide range of stakeholders.

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