

Environment and Social Development Organization



Annual 20 Report 17



Our Journey Towards a Toxic-Free Future

A message from the Chairperson

From the very beginning ESDO's aim is to create a toxic free environment for the sake of human and environment. In the year 2017, several initiatives towards a pollution free environment has been taken by ESDO and implemented successfully. To establish the dentistry mercury-free was a great challenge and after an endless effort we are now on the verge of success. A major portion of dental professionals are convinced to stop using mercury dental amalgam in practice. The whole world is now concerned about environmental pollution and toxicity. As an environmental organization ESDO is trying to give its best to work for environment and to cope with the advancement of other countries in this regard. Lead free paint certification was another great achievement this year. Elite paint and chemical industries achieved Lead Safe Paint certification, which is one of the success of ESDO's movement against leaded paint in Bangladesh.

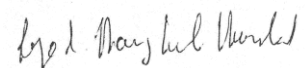


ESDO, the pioneer organization of anti-plastic bag movement in Bangladesh is still working for a plastic free future. In line with this ESDO made its first intervention on combating the pollution threat from micro plastic litter to save marine health in the Bay of Bengal. Throughout the year ESDO did awareness raising activities on the above environmental issues and submitted petitions to government.

ESDO and its partners are taking huge strides to protect our world. We are working with leaders in different countries to promote toxic chemical and plastic free environment. We are bringing political leaders together to phase down the use of mercury in dentistry, microbeads in personal care products, lead in paint, single use plastics, PTE nonstick cookware all of which could save the world from pollution. We are helping to strengthen the fight against poisoning skin whitening cream and other cosmetics.

We are trying to connect more and more people to make the world greener and more sustainable. A combined effort will never go fruitless. All the biggest movement in the world started with a small but with time that got succeeded only due to the dedication and devotion of interested group of people.

Everyone can be a change maker. We should never give up by being frightened by the problems and dangers heading towards us. We should face them boldly by being courageous not coward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Syed Marghub Murshed". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Syed Marghub Murshed
Chairperson, ESDO

Introduction

ESDO is one of Bangladesh's leading organizations in policy advocacy, environmental capacity building and policy intervention. Since its inception in 1990, ESDO has helped more than 1 million people in Bangladesh to achieve a sustainable and self-reliant lifestyle and live in harmony with their immediate environment. ESDO has also been influential in guiding national policy; the organization's most significant achievement being the banning of plastic (polythene) bags throughout the country.

ESDO's Dedication

ESDO is dedicated to advocating for awareness of environmental conservation amongst schools and youth, and urban and rural communities in Bangladesh; building community's capacity; conducting research to advocate for policy change and conserving indigenous knowledge in the name of environmental protection.

In addressing the lifestyle practices of the poorer population of Bangladesh -who are forced to satisfy short-term needs which contribute to long-term depletion of resources - ESDO is continuing to empower communities by building individual and collective capacity and inspiring people in the field of environmental management and conservation. Through encouraging participatory involvement through our holistic approach, ESDO therefore works to build the capacity of our beneficiaries to enhance their ability to: take leadership in promoting a safe and sustainable environment, improve the socioeconomic situation of their communities, and be more in control of their own future. Our major capacity building activities include: education (literacy and environmental), alternative income generation, awareness-raising (conservation and community health), sanitation, Information Technology training, and organic farming.

ESDO's steps to achieve its goals

- ↻ Safe and sustainable environmental livelihood design and building
- ↻ Environmental justice and governance
- ↻ Policy advocacy and lobbying
- ↻ Environmental and social research and documentation
- ↻ Environmental and chemical management
- ↻ Nature & wetland conservation
- ↻ Waste management and organic composting
- ↻ Environmental and health education
- ↻ IEC campaign and communication development
- ↻ Social and community mobilization
- ↻ ICT/IT capacity building and promotion
- ↻ Environmental leadership building

ESDO's Profile

Type of NGO : Environmental NGO (National)

Years of Association : 27 years (Since 1990)

Certification

Date	Registration Authority	Reg. No.
16-11-1992	Social Service Department	Dha- 02831
12-08-1995	NGO Affairs Bureau	962
2012	Europe Aid	BD-2011-ESS-0903019783

ESDO Centre

Dhaka (Head Office) : 8/1, Level#5, Block # C, Lalmatia, Dhaka- 1207.

Phone: 880-2-9122729

Philosophy of ESDO

ESDO is a Bangladeshi organization working to spread the crucial message about the need for environmental conservation – to ensure the protection of biological diversity and ecological balance. Since ESDO's official formation in 1990, we have focused on generating knowledge amongst the wider community about how human activity can negatively impact on the environment of Bangladesh. As a service oriented non-profit, non-government organization, ESDO strive to improve the livelihoods, the socio-economic status and simultaneously the environmental education of some of the most vulnerable communities in Bangladesh. ESDO invests in the people to care for the environment through providing essential inputs and capacity building. Environmental and social development will ensure self-reliant rural communities who live in harmony with their environment.

ESDO's Mission & Vision

The mission of ESDO is to promote and encourage an environmental movement through a participatory democratic framework involving diverse social groups, and to assist them with ideas, information, and leadership for promoting a safe and sustainable environment.

ESDO's vision is to see Bangladesh achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and in contributing to this works to: Protect the environment; Reduce poverty; Increase literacy rates and education; Empower women in rural communities, and Improve sanitation and health services.



Environmental governance for conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources	Environmental protection and conservation of biological diversity
Environmental education and motivational programs to encourage a second generation of environmental advocates	Social mobilization, participatory programs and campaigning
Policy advocacy and lobbying for social justice	Capacity building and skills development
Advocacy and capacity building services addressing: human rights, governance, NRM, indigenous rights, child and women rights	Policy intervention for the rights of the child, including early childhood development, and ECD for environmental livelihood
Community and social forestry and land rehabilitation	Environmental movement focusing on youth
Promotion of renewable energy sources for sustainability	Building Eco-village for safe and sustainable environmental livelihoods
Providing hygienic sanitation and safe drinking water	ICT for rural communities and indigenous knowledge dissemination and preservation
Research, appraisals, documentation and publications	

ESDO's Areas of Expertise

ESDO has experience in successfully running community mobilizing and awareness-raising campaigns. We initiated the “Anti-polythene/plastic Campaign” in 1990, which resulted in a complete ban of polythene shopping bags throughout Bangladesh. This campaign has been replicated around the globe in; India, Japan, UK, Ireland, New Zealand, France, Nigeria, Egypt, USA and Australia.

ESDO is working to raise awareness among mass people about the adverse effects of dental amalgam on human health and environment as well. ESDO promote environmental education and mass awareness about the harmful effects of mercury containing dental amalgam. ESDO is implementing a campaign in a village of Narayanganj - Munshiganj to address current lifestyle practices to ensure sustainability, self-reliance, and conservation. In this area, ESDO has popularized the sustainable management of natural resources, and helped to raise awareness of conservation of biodiversity amongst the villagers. The initiative has made individuals and communities more aware about the need to protect the environment to combat health problems, food shortages, and dependency. ESDO has run community forestry programs where we not only helped the community tree plantations, but ensured that knowledge relating to the need for land rehabilitation, including the use of particular plant species, was shared.

Training and Capacity Building is one of the ESDO's main activities and a major source of income. Every year the organization provides training and capacity building programs for NGO staff and government representatives on various issues, particularly related to environmental management and advocacy. ESDO's Secretary General Dr. Hossain Shahriar is the Official Country Representative of Advocacy Institute (AI), Washington D. C. USA.

ESDO also has experience working in Cox's Bazaar and Teknaf. Our project conducted in the area from 1999 to 2000 was primarily an awareness-raising campaign on the importance of sea beach protection and marine life conservation. Approximately 1,500 people were directly involved, but it is estimated that 7,500 individuals benefited indirectly. The project was geared towards students of schools and colleges.

ESDO has initiated community based sustainable eco-tourism in the northern part of Bangladesh. Already experienced with foreign guest through the village community at Hatiandha village in Natore District introduced home stay program.

ABOUT ESDO

ESDO's Programs - At a glance:

Major Programs since 1990 to 2012

No	Programs	Duration	Outcomes	Source of Fund/Remark
01	Anti-polythene & Plastic Campaign	1990 to to-date	Govt. has banned the production, use and sale of plastic bags in Bangladesh. Majority of the population are now aware of the adverse effects of polythene.	Members of the organization, UNDP/MoEF/S EMP and World Bank
02	Eco-village Program: Eco-village 1: Munshiganj Eco-village 2: Rangpur Eco-village 3: Natore	1995 to to-date	The target villagers now practice environment friendly practices: plantations, organic farming for biological diversification, using environment friendly products, developing eco-friendly enterprises.	Aus-Aid (till 1999), Organization members, contributors, Canadian CIDA (2005 to to-date), SAMHATI, USA
03	Rehabilitation Program	1998 to 1999	ESDO distributed aid and provided humanitarian support amongst the flood affected people of Munshiganj Sadar Thana	Aus-Aid
04	Environmental Sanitation	1997 to till date	Installed environmental friendly hygienic sanitary pit latrines amongst the selected beneficiaries- 500 units of pit latrines installed in four villages of Munshiganj and another 1000 units in the municipal area of Khulna. Post flood monitoring and installation of sanitary latrines and environmental hygiene practices- Gangachara of Rangpur and Munshiganj District.	LGED/ADB/SAMHATI/Canadian CIDA/Aus-Aid
05	Safe Drinking Water	1995 to to-date	Installation of 25 units of tube-wells in Eco-village- Munshiganj and Rangpur.	Organization members, contributors / Canadian CIDA
06	Environmental Camp for Nature Conservation- ECNC	1995 to to-date	Providing environmental education and practical camps to eleven schools and college in Munshiganj, Rangpur and Dhaka. About 500 school children are now very enthusiastic regarding environmental protection and conservation. The students developed eleven environmental clubs (green club) in their schools and colleges.	Sponsorship of business entrepreneurs, members, contributors and Canadian CIDA
	Continue: ECNC		Working for the protection of the environment through the technical assistance of the organization	
07	Tree Plantation	1995 to to-date	The two Eco-village areas are covered with sufficient trees. In Munshiganj, a road of 3km to Eco-village is covered with plants, provided by the organization.	Regional Forest Department, Organizations income.
08	Community Forestry	1998 to to-date	The project started in June, 2000 and the target location has been selected, a 7km road of Munshiganj. The beneficiaries are the community people living in the villages beside the road and they are the key undertaker of the program.	Forest Department/ ADB
09	Green Club	2000 to to-date	Formed eleven Green Clubs in Dhaka, Rangpur and Munshiganj together with the ECNC program.	Member's contribution, registration fees of the clubs.
10	Study and	2003 to	Developed a first-hand country situation report and	ESDO

ABOUT ESDO

	Awareness Campaign & Policy lobbying on POPs	to-date	information pack for mass awareness. Created a national POPs network- BPEN, 32 NGOs, GOs and media organizations are now under this association.	contributors, IPEN, Toxics Link
11	ICT for rural livelihood and Indigenous knowledge dissemination	2003 to to-date	Established two rural ICT centers and provided training to 115 adolescents, farmers and women.	SAMHATI; USA, ESDO contributors
12	Street Children Program	1997 to 1998 & 2006 to to-date	A group of children of Shonargaon Park and Dhanmondi lake areas were taught about issues related to health and hygiene, were given informal education on environmental matters, personal cleaners and garden development.	BIWA, Indonesian Hich Commission/RMT (Australia) Students Forum, member's contributions
13	Study and Awareness Campaign on Lead in Paints	2008 to date	Conducted Research and publication on the harmful effect on health & environment. Published South Asian double standard lead in paints report. Conducted Workshops with multi sector group of people, (producer, consumer, retailers, NGOs) Press conference, policy lobbying with Govt. awareness raising educational campaign with schools, universities discussed about health effect and environmental degradation through the issues. Published communication materials(book, flyer, festoon, poster, bookmark, sticker, educational kits)	Toxics Link, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation-SSNC and IPEN Swiss Asia project
14	Study and Awareness campaign and policy lobbying on E-waste	2008 to date	Conducted Workshops with multi sector group of people, (producer, consumer, retailers, NGOs)Press conference, policy lobbying with Govt, Awareness raising educational campaign with schools, universities discussed about health effect and environmental degradation through the issues. Published IEC materials: Poster, bookmark, publications, sticker, educational kit	Toxics Link, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation-SSNC
15	Study and Awareness and policy lobbying on Mercury Phase out program	2008 to date	Conducted research on mercury in health care sector, mercury in consumer (beauty) product, mercury in dental amalgam. Conducted Workshops with multi sector group of people, (Doctors, health care sector consumer, NGOs and others)Press conference, policy lobbying with Govt, Awareness raising educational campaign with schools, universities discussed about health effect and environmental degradation through the issues. Awareness campaign on mercury free dentistry Publication on: Estimation on Hg uses, mercury phase out, mercury usages on health care sector. A petition on mercury free dentistry has been submitted to the Ministers of Ministry of Environment and Forest, and Ministry of Commerce on 12 June, 2012 to band on mercury dental amalgam use ,sell and trade in Bangladesh.	Toxics Link, SSNC, NRDC and WAMFD
16	IPEN-SWITCH Asia Lead Paint Elimination	2012 to date	Conducted awareness campaign, consultation with paint manufacturers, alliance formation with BPMA, & Government agencies, policy dialogue, trying to introduce third party certification and eco-labelling for lead free paint manufacturers	The European Union
17	Hg Phase out from dentistry	2012 to till date	Countrywide awareness campaign on harmful effects of mercury dental amalgam on human health, conducted research on people's perception about mercury dental amalgam use and its impact on health.	

Local Networking Partners

BD	DEBTEC	CFSD	JJS
BELA	DoE	MoEF	SARPV
BRAC	FEJB	SEHD	MoHFW
CDL	IUCN	MoCom	BPMA

International Networking Partners

Earth Day Network	Environment News Network (ENN)
Clean up the World	IPEN
Ashoka: Innovators for the Public	CSE (Centre for Science and Environment)
Green Peace International	Toxics Link
Asia Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ)	British Council International Network E-Civicus

Membership

Sl	Name	Origin	Address
01	NGO Forum for ADB	Philippines	4 th Floor, Room: 402, 107- A Kaleyaan Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines 1101; Tel: ++(63)2-9297987; Email: forum@asiagate.net
02	National Geographic Society	USA	National Geographic Society PO BOX 98199, Washington DC 20090-8199, www.nationalgeographic
03	IUCN	Switzerland	The World Conservation Union- IUCN Rue Mauverney 28, CH- 1196 Gland, Switzerland Email: mail@iucn.org ; URL: www.iucn.org

Study and Research Partnerships

Centre for Science and Environment 41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area; New Delhi- 110062; Tel : 91-11-6981110 Email : cse@cseindia.org Centre for Environmental Research- CER, Duke University, Durham N. C, USA	RMIT University Melbourne 3001, Victoria, Australia Tel: +61-3-99252952 Fax: +61-3-99251855 URL: tce.mit.edu	International POPs Elimination Project/UNDO/UNEP Switzerland URL: www.ipen.ec.cz Dept. of Environmental Engineering Nagasaki University Nagasaki, Japan
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Executive Board

ABOUT ESDO

Position	Name	Profession	Address
Chairperson	Syed Marghub Murshed	Environmental Activist	House # 11 Road # 68 Gulshan- 2, Dhaka- 1212
Vice-Chairperson	Prof. Ainun Nisat	Academician	House # 50, Road # 2A Dhanmondi, Dhaka- 1209
Secretary General	Dr. Hossain Shahriar	Ecologist, journalists and social justice advocate	House # 13, Apt # A-4, Road # 01, Dhanmondi, Dhaka- 1205
Executive Director/ Treasurer	Siddika Sultana	Gender &Environment Development consultant	House # 13, Apt # B-1, Road # 01, Dhanmondi, Dhaka- 1205
Member	Syed A. Qadir	Business Entrepreneurs	House # 10, Road # 3 Baridhara DOHS, Dhaka- 1212
Member	Dr. Najmul Ashan Kallimullh	Academician	House # 82, Road # 128, Gulshan, Dhaka- 1212
Member	Shahnaz Monir	Development Consultant	House # 13, Road # 3 Dhanmondi, Dhaka

ESDO's Organogram



Overview of the Project

The Asian Center for Environmental Health was founded by Environment and Social Development Organization (headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh) and the World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry (headquarters in Washington, DC, USA) on 28th December, 2013. It aimed to meet the emerging need of an institution to work on Environmental Health in Asia Pacific and facilitate the expertise to, and cooperation with governments in Asia Pacific to protect environment and public health. It also aimed to serve the entire Asia-Pacific region to work with and welcome input from international agencies, national and local government, academic institutions, and the breadth of civil society.

Mercury Free Dentistry


In 2014, Asian Center has exclusively functioned to “Phase out Mercury from Dentistry,” a joint venture of ESDO and World Alliance for Mercury Free Dentistry (WAMFD) in Bangladesh and in south and south-east Asia. It has worked on to promote and implement project for mercury free dentistry in Asia and the Pacific; to gain support for ratification of the “Minamata Convention on Mercury”, and its implementation, and proper funding, expertise and cooperation with, governments in Asia and the Pacific, and attempted to provide assistance to NGOs who share similar goals.

The Asian Center shall collaborate with funding agencies and charities to advance its mission. It may engage in shared funding projects with INGOs, NGOs or others in civil society’s organization and the government agencies directly and indirectly.

Mercury dental amalgam is the major source of mercury toxicity in health and environment. Amalgam emits mercury vapor when it is implanted into the body. It crosses

the placenta, accumulates in the fetus and cause serious damage. Mercury dental amalgam is the known health risk for children, pregnant women,

nursing infants and people with impaired kidney function. Due to mercury exposure from amalgam in the workplace, dentists, students, the technician and patients may suffer from the problems of elevated mercury level in blood. Amalgam pollutes air, water and soil via dental clinic release. Experts describe that once mercury is released into the environment, it gets converted into more toxic methylmercury. It acts as the major source of mercury pollution in fishes we eat. Many alternatives such as glass ionomers, resin composites are now available. Many developed countries are now switching to safer alternatives.



**MERCURY
FREE
DENTISTRY**

Objectives of this project

The overall goal of ESDO is to eliminate the use of mercury dental amalgam in Bangladesh. This project was working to achieve this goal by meeting the following objectives:

- To encourage doctors/dentists for avoiding mercury containing dental amalgam and hence to promote alternatives to dental amalgam.
- To increase awareness among mass people about the detrimental effects of dental amalgam on human health.

18 IPEN is a global non-government organization (NGO) with participating organizations in more than 100 countries working for a toxics free future.. It is also the Scheme Owner for the Lead Safe Paint® standard and certification mark. For information, visit www.ipen.org.

- To aware dentists to follow appropriate way to discharge the mercury waste after filling to save the environment.
- To aware relevant ministries for formulating a national policy to stop the use of dental amalgam in health care sector.
- Motivating dental institutions and colleges to promote practice of mercury free dentistry in their course curriculum.
- To activate national level alliance with the doctors and institutions through ensuring commitment to work with Asian Center to eliminate mercury amalgamation.
- Create regional (South Asia) network for mercury free dentistry.
- Mass awareness and dissemination of information on mercury free dentistry as well as Mercury treaty article on dentistry.
- To aware relevant ministers for formulating a national policy to stop the use of dental amalgam in health care sector.
- To foster collaboration with the journalists and making people understand, hence, building awareness more effectively about the specific issues through electronic and print media.

Approach

This project has taken a strategic approach to awareness raising in Bangladesh, South-Asian countries and policy intervention for mercury free dentistry. ESDO has formed key alliances with dental colleges, universities, professional dental associations as well as individual professionals (dentists, professors, students, journalists and health professionals-pediatrician, gynecologist and rural dental practitioners).

Actions/ Initiatives Taken in 2017

Asian Center kept continuing its close contact with regional and sub-regional partner organizations- Asian Center and World Alliance conducted several Skype meetings with- All China Environment Federation-ACEF, (China), Toxics Link (India), CEPHED (Nepal), OSVSWA (Odisha), CCHIP (Vietnam). Asian Center and World Alliance helped the partner organizations in their strategic planning and shared their views how to move forward. Also, the center provided them with Information, Education and Communication materials which would be reproduced and used by them in the upcoming campaigns. The center also gave consultation to Indian delegates on how to communicate with their Army to phase out dental amalgam from their sector. Following the consultation, Indian Army took the step to stop dental amalgam procurement in their core. Asian Center also shared their experience based on bringing change in dental school curriculum. The meetings were mainly focused on:

- Stopping amalgam on the treatment of mother and child
- Bringing change in dental school curriculum

Asian Center is proceeding with a firm aim to phasing down to phasing out dental amalgam from Asia. The center continues its assistance to the partner countries by sharing the Information, Education and Communication materials. It is expanding its network gradually. The way World Alliance cooperates Asian Center is an example how a campaign can expand its magnitude throughout the world.

MERCURY FREE DENTISTRY

BDS and ESDO Organized Round Table Meeting To Propose Changes in Dental Curriculum

Bangladesh Dental Society-BDS and ESDO jointly organized a round table meeting to propose changes in Dental School Curriculum on January 12, 2017.

5 members of curriculum revision committee along with 35 dental academicians (professors) all over Bangladesh spontaneously took part in the meeting. President, Secretary General and other executive board members of BDS expressed their earnest solidarity with the movement of 'Mercury Free Dentistry' in Bangladesh.



*ESDO
Chairperson,
Syed Marghub
Murshed
Delivering
Speech in
round Table
Meeting on
'Dental
Curriculum
Revision and*

Professionals and environmental experts emphasized the need of education and hand on knowledge of mercury free alternatives for the next generation of dentists. They urged the authority to exclude dental amalgam from dental school curriculum and to adopt mercury-free alternatives.

Mr. Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary, Govt. of Bangladesh and Chairperson of ESDO recommended the need of medical and dental council (BMDC) initiative to change and adoption of dental

educatio
n curriculum. Dr. Shahriar highlighted the World Alliance initiatives of mercury-free dentistry and Minamata Convention ratification and implementation process.

"We need to take joint initiative to revise the current dental curriculum and adopt a new chapter of alternatives of mercury amalgam. It's our duty and responsibility to protect public health from mercury pollution".

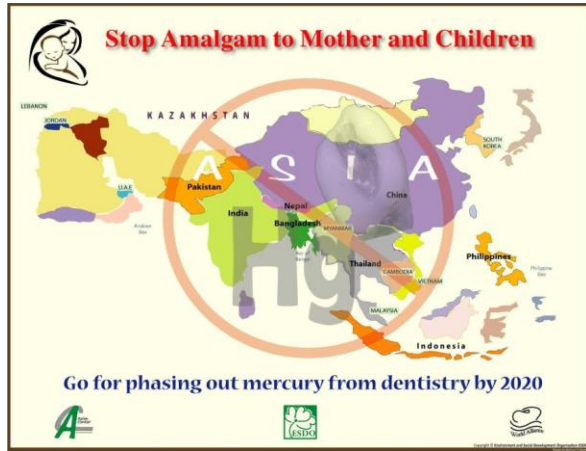
*Professor Abul Kashem,
BDS President*

Senior professors opined that due to mercury exposure from amalgam in the workplace, dentists, students, the technician and patients may suffer from the problems of elevated mercury level in blood. All of them expressed their willingness to work with and assist ESDO and BDS to ensure mercury free dentistry and ultimately a mercury free environment in Bangladesh.

At the end of the event, all the invited dental professionals expressed their willingness to

work and assist ESDO and BDS to ensure mercury free dentistry and ultimately a mercury free environment.

MERCURY FREE DENTISTRY



Happy “World Oral Health Day” 2017

World Oral Health Day is celebrated globally every year on 20 March to highlight the importance of oral health for a healthy body, with an objective of raising global awareness of the issues around oral health and the importance of oral hygiene so that governments, health associations and the general public can work together to achieve healthier mouths and happier lives.

Meeting with Directorate General of Medical Service (Army Medical and Dental Core)

A meeting was held at Combined Military Hospital, Dhaka on February 9, 2017. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO, Brig. Gen. Dr. Golam Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Sayda Mehrabin Shejuti, Program Associate of ESDO were present at the meeting. It was clear from the meeting that Army sector has reduced their dental amalgam use to almost 90%. Their plan is to completely phase out dental amalgam from their sector within 2018.

ESDO has been working in collaboration with World Alliance for mercury free dentistry to ban mercury in dentistry since 2011. ESDO is trying to eliminate the use of mercury in dental treatment and raise widespread awareness among dentists, dental students, and patients as well as the mass population about the adverse human health impacts of using mercury dental amalgam. In line with this, this year ESDO published an electronic poster on World Oral Health Day, 2017.

The message of the poster is banning the use of mercury in the treatment of mother and children by 2017 and to establish mercury free dentistry in Bangladesh by 2018 and in Asia by 2020.



Inception of Dental Amalgam Phase Down Project in Vietnam

Asian Center made an approach in reference with Mr. Le Viet Thang, Official in Division of Convention and International Cooperation of Ministry of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam on- on 31st August, 2016 to Center for Community Health and Injury prevention (CCHIP) of Vietnam to collaborate for mercury free dentistry campaign. They responded with interest on September 5, 2016 and hence the communication between Asian Center and CCHIP started. Asian Center assisted the organization in preparing a yearly action plan to initiate the campaign in Vietnam. They proved a good team work and prepared an action plan accordingly. The center reviewed the plan and gave their prudent feedback. Considering the limit of estimated amount of fund and the country situation, Asian Center suggested CCHIP to redesign their action plan. CCHIP again made a plan of action and shared with Asian Center. Continuous communication remained between the two organizations. Again a skype conference between Asian Center, World Alliance and CCHIP took place on 17th February, 2017. Dr. Shahriar Hossain, representing World Alliance, visited Vietnam being invited by CCHIP and kicked off the joint intervention. The contract to initiate implementation of Annex A-II, Minamata Convention on Mercury (Dental Amalgam) towards Mercury-Free Dentistry in Vietnam, 2017 was signed between World Alliance for



Mercury-Free Dentistry

MERCURY FREE DENTISTRY

and CCHIP. Again getting back to Dhaka, Bangladesh, Dr.

Shahriar Hossain shared the meeting reflections with Asian Center. The center again assisted CCHIP by providing a simple matrix format for 'The Vietnam Dental Mercury Phase-Down Project'. Asian center shared several campaign materials, mercury free dentists declaration format with CCHIP to assist them with a view to establishing mercury free dentistry in Vietnam.

World Alliance for Mercury free Dentistry in association with Asian Center for Environmental Health started their intervention on Dental Amalgam Phase Down Project in Vietnam this year. As a part of this



intervention, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Vice President of World Alliance visited Vietnam on April 2-6, 2017 and met the members of Center for Community Health and Injury Prevention (CCHIP); with a view to get an idea of their capability and plan regarding this issue.

The Center for Community Health and Injury Prevention (CCHIP) has 9-year experiences combining On April 2nd and 3rd, Dr. Shahriar Hossain conducted a meeting with CCHIP team on World Alliance goal and objectives as well as the draft plan of action of CCHIP towards Mercury-Free Dentistry in Vietnam. Also Conducted orientation and planning workshop on the campaign. To address their question, especially on activities in relation with small budgets; he tried to clarify the position and work strategy of Asian Center with a small budget to start any project of action. He also shared his experiences in the path of implementing Mercury Free Dentistry in Asian countries.

On April 4th, CCHIP organized meeting with different stakeholders that make sense of their ability and relationship with influential professional groups and individuals. On April 5th, Dr. Shahriar Hossain visited the Vietnam National Institute of Odonto- Stomatology (under National University of Hanoi). He also visited two private and two government dental clinics.

Workshop on Mercury Free Dentistry in India

During World Alliance President Charles G Brown's visit to South Asian NGOs, Dillip Patnaik, General Dr. Mahanti, Dr. G.S Patnaik and all others for organized a successful workshop and conference at Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Guwahati, Assam and Kolkata, West Bengal, India from April 27-May 2, 2017. Secretary General of ESDO, Dr. Shahriar Hossain participated at the meeting.

World Alliance President

MERCURY FREE DENTISTRY

visited Sapporo Dental College

During the three days Bangladesh



visit, President and Vice President of World Alliance, Charles G Brown and Dr. Shahriar Hossain along with ESDO team visited Sapporo Dental College of Bangladesh to share their views about the global campaign

of 'Mercury Free Dentistry' with the faculties of the college on Thursday, May 4, 2017. Principal, vice principal, and other faculties of the college were present to welcome the whole team. A big crowd of intern doctors gathered to receive Mr. Charlie Brown and the team. Then the team moved to meet the faculties. All of them warmly welcomed the guests with bouquet of flower. Then the representatives of World Alliance, Asian Center and ESDO discussed about the use and present scenario of amalgam use.

Meeting with Environment Minister

Charles G. Brown, President, World Alliance for Mercury Free Dentistry made a courtesy visit to the honorable minister, Mr. Anwar Hossain Manju, MP, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) on 4th May, 2017 at 2.30 pm. Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chairperson of

ESDO, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Executive Vice President, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry and Secretary General of ESDO, Ms. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO and Sayda Mehrabin Shejuti, Program Associate of ESDO was present during the visit. The honorable minister warmly welcomed the team. Syed Marghub Murshed shared the story of Asian Center with the honorable minister. He told that Asian Center was founded jointly by ESDO and World Alliance headquarter of which is at Dhaka. He explained that Asian Center is a network of Asian countries which aims to address environmental health related issues. He added that the center is opening a new pathway to work closely with environment. Charlie Brown informed that the center is steadfast.

In connection with the present status of mercury free dentistry movement in Bangladesh, ESDO and World Alliance submitted a petition to the honorable minister requesting legislation by the Government to ban amalgam for children and for pregnant and lactating women in 2018, and phase out the trade of amalgam in 2020, and phase out its use in 2022.

The petition was to ban amalgam for children under 15, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers in 2018, stop the trade in dental mercury in 2020 and phase out amalgam as of 2022.

The honorable minister showed his interest in the subject issue. He asked Mr. Charlie Brown about the status of amalgam use in USA. He replied that consumer awareness is rising day by day which is very positive. Dr. Shahriar Hossain emphasized that if government delegates join the intergovernmental meetings of Minamata convention, then the ratification process would be faster for Bangladesh. Syed Marghub Murshed added that Ministry of Health and Family Welfare should also be involved otherwise ratification process would be delayed. Finally, the honorable Minister assured that he would forward the petition to the secretary of MoEF and would follow up to reach the goal.

Update Dental College got Award for Mercury Free Dentistry Initiatives

A private dental College of Bangladesh, Update Dental College and Hospital is completely free of mercury use. Dentists of the college do not use dental mercury amalgam in their practice. In recognition of their such kind of practice, World Alliance, BDS, Asian Center and ESDO awarded the college a plaque of appreciation in an open forum on 'Mercury-Free Dental Care and Education'. The open forum took place at the auditorium of Update Dental College in presence of about 120 dentists including faculties of the college. Charlie Brown was so elated to acknowledge the college for their role in connection with mercury-free dentistry campaign. The overall goal of the award ceremony and open forum was to inspire and encourage the dental professionals for mercury free dentistry practice. The Specific objectives were to set Update Dental College as a role model for example of mercury free dental college in Bangladesh, to promote of benefits and access of non-mercury dental restorative filling materials, to spread the message of the necessity of development of alternatives friendly curriculum and study material that facilitate the subsequent phase out of amalgam related technology and practices.

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on 'mercury free dentistry' were distributed among the participants to disseminate the information in order to create awareness about the issue among them. Mercury free dentistry related sticker, poster etc. were the materials. Dr. Humayun Kabir Bulbul, Secretary General of BDS expresses their solidarity with the global campaign. He mentioned that MOU between ESDO and BDS is a good step towards the campaign. He assured their commitment to continue their efforts to banish dental mercury amalgam from Bangladesh. He also

proposed the dentists to immediately stop the use of amalgam in treating children and pregnant woman.

Charlie Brown, President of the World Alliance, promoted leadership in Bangladesh. He shared the 3 key points of using dental mercury amalgam. He explained that dentists are the most susceptible group to be affected by the mercury vapor. He reminded that lady dentists are likely to be in great danger as they can carry baby and in turn their children can be affected too. Charlie also focused on the impacts from environmental aspect. He connected Minamata convention in this regard. He also proposed dentists to let their patients know about the adverse impacts of mercury amalgam.

Professor Dr. Abul Kashem, President of Bangladesh Dental Society welcomed the dental professionals to the group of mercury free dentists. He also mentioned that quacks should be eradicated from Bangladesh otherwise complete phase out of amalgam would not be possible as they use a large amount of amalgam due to its low cost.

Dr. Osman Ghani, Principal of Update Dental College, thanked BDS for their cooperation. He stressed on the change in dental college curriculum. He also added that there is no more chance to compare the cost as both amalgam and composites are of same price. He also expressed his expectation from government to work together in the issue.

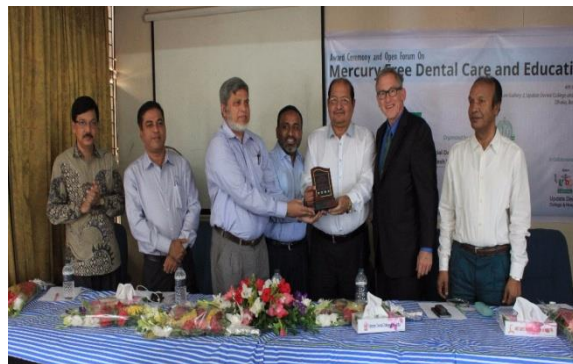
Dentists And Government Representatives Demanded To Phase Out Mercury From Dentistry By 2018

Dhaka, 6 May, 2017: Dentists, dental professionals, Government representatives and environmental leaders urged the Government for phasing out mercury from dentistry sector by 2018. They demanded to take immediate step regarding this issue. Bangladesh Dental Society(BDS) and Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO in association with Asian Center for Environmental Health organized this workshop entitled, "Mercury Free

Dentistry:
Way
Forward"
at Four
Seasons Restaurant, Dhanmondi.

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The session was chaired by Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary, People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chairperson of ESDO. Charles G Brown, head of the American National Counsel of Consumers for



Dental Choice and President of the World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry, was the Special Guest of the program.

Mr. Charlie Brown, is the pioneer to address environmental and health risk by mercury dental amalgam and the key personality of the global campaign for "Mercury-Free Dentistry". He is passionate about the Environmental health and welfare of the Bangladeshi people. He is a graduate of Yale Law School. He was twice elected as the



Attorney General of the state of West Virginia, and he has argued a case before the US Supreme Court. Mr. Brown.

Experts in the meeting said, Dental amalgam is a filling material used to fill cavities caused by tooth decay. It is the known health risk for children, pregnant women, nursing infants and people with impaired kidney function. Due to mercury exposure from amalgam in the workplace, dentists, students, the technician and patients may suffer from the problems of elevated mercury level in blood. Amalgam pollutes air, water and soil via dental clinic release. Many alternatives such as glass ionomers, resin composites are now available.

In 2013, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)'s Intersession Negotiating Committee formalized a global, legally-binding mercury treaty named "Minamata Convention on Mercury" which has now been signed by over 128 countries, including the U.S. Bangladesh is signatory to the Minamata Convention.

"I urge the Government to implement law against the dental amalgam in order to protect mass health and environment from Mercury pollution" said Mr. Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary, Govt. of Bangladesh and Chairperson of ESDO.

Amongst other Dr. Humayun Kabir Bulbul, Secretary General, BDS; Dr. A.K.M. Shariful Islam, Vice President, BDS; Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General; Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO; Executive members of BDS and dental professionals were present at the meeting. At the end of the event, all the invited dental professionals, Government representatives expressed their willingness to work and assist ESDO and BDS to ensure mercury free dentistry and ultimately a mercury free environment.

0.0 Mercury Pollution

MERCURY FREE DENTISTRY

n Costs Billions in Lost Earning Potential in Bangladesh

Communities in Bangladesh stand to lose 8 to 144

million taka in earning potential every year due to mercury contamination, according to a new study

0.0

"This study gives us just a small sample of the extent of the damage that is happening throughout similar sites in Bangladesh. The high cost of mercury contamination should trigger actions to address pollution sources in our country."

Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO



published in The Journal of Environmental Management. The report is the first peer-reviewed analysis to estimate economic losses due to IQ damage from mercury pollution in Bangladesh and 14 other countries. The study evaluated mercury concentrations in hair samples from 236 participants from 17 sites in 15 countries. These study findings were disclosed through a press conference arranged by Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO in association with IPEN and BRI on 8 June, 2017 at ESDO head office. Researchers from Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO, a non-government organization of Bangladesh contributed to the

global study, collecting hair samples from participants living in Dhaka, which has a hazardous waste landfill and high capacity cement kilns, sources specifically named in the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which obligates governments to take actions to minimize and eliminate mercury pollution to protect human health and the environment. The landfill is situated close to a river and residential area and contains a mixture of industrial, medical and municipal waste. The cement kilns are also located along a river with a combined production capacity of 7400 metric tons per day.

“The Minamata Convention needs to be ratified and fully implemented to prevent lost earning potential Dhaka and other communities in the Bangladesh. On May18th, the Convention reached the 50-country ratification milestone and will become international law August 16th.”

“Government initiatives to hasten the ratification and implementation of Minamata convention has become an urge,” says Syed Marghub Murshed, Chairperson of ESDO. Mercury levels in hair from participants in the Dhaka area ranged from 0.20 parts per million (ppm) to 2.68 ppm. More than one fifth of the participants had levels greater than a 0.58 ppm standard, the reference dose that has been proposed in light of data suggesting harmful effects of mercury at low levels of exposure.

Mercury exposure damages the nervous system, kidneys, and cardiovascular system. Developing organ systems, such as the fetal

nervous system, are the most

MERCURY FREE DENTISTRY

sensitive the toxic effects of mercury, although nearly all organs are vulnerable. Human exposure to mercury occurs primarily through the consumption of contaminated fish, although rice and direct exposure to mercury vapor can also be sources.

Involvement of Health Sector in the Implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Dr. Shahriar Hossain participated in a workshop on ‘Health Sector Involvement in the Implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury’ which was organized by World Health Organization (WHO) at the Regional office for South-East Asia at United Nations Convention Center, Bangkok in the first week of July, 2017.

1.1 World’s First Health & Environment Convention on Mercury Becomes International Law

The Minamata Convention, the world’s first legally binding global agreement to reduce mercury pollution, becomes International law on Wednesday, August 16, 2017. In a joint press statement ESDO and Zero Mercury welcomes the new protocol. In a press statement both expert express their concern on the convention implementation and said, “Only a global pact can curtail this dangerous neurotoxin.”

In October 2013 the convention text was adopted and signed by 128 countries, but would not take legal effect until at least 50 countries had ratified it formally. This milestone was reached in May of this year, and the convention will enter into force on August 16 2017. “We are now on the right track line.” said Elena Lymberidi- Settimo, Project Manager, European Environmental Bureau and ZMWG co-ordinator. “Over time, the Convention is expected to provide the necessary technical and financial resources to reduce exposure risks worldwide.

Governments must therefore move swiftly towards efficient implementation of the Treaty’s provisions”. The aim of the Convention is “to protect the human health and the environment” from mercury releases. The treaty holds critical obligations for Parties to ban new primary mercury mines while phasing out existing ones and also includes a ban on many common products and processes using mercury, measures to control releases, and a requirement for national plans to reduce mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. In addition, it seeks to reduce trade, promote sound storage of mercury and its disposal, address contaminated sites and reduce exposure from this dangerous neurotoxin.

The First Conference of the Parties will take place from 24 to 29 September 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. Over 1,000 delegates and around 50 ministers are expected to assemble in Geneva to celebrate and lay the groundwork for the treaty’s overall effectiveness. The Minamata Convention joins 3 other UN conventions seeking to reduce impacts from chemicals and waste – the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

1.2 New Initiation on Mercury Phase Out from Skin-lightening Products

Dhaka, 22 August 2017: ESDO has been conducting research, policy advocacy and

awareness raising campaign to phase-out mercury from products since long. In continuation of this, ESDO got an opportunity to work with Eco-Peace Leadership Centre (EPLC) on a new project entitled, Reduction of Demand of Mercury in Mercury Containing Products: Skin Lightening Creams in Bangladesh.

As Bangladesh is a signatory of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, phasing out

of use of mercury in different products will advance Bangladesh accordingly. Focusing the health and environmental impacts of mercury in skin whitening/lightening creams and raising awareness about the issue will supplement the existing project which focuses mercury containing products. The activities of this project will be co-ordinated and supervised by Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO. Sayda Mehrabin Shejuti, Program Associate of ESDO got selected as the fellow of this program .

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1.1
“While there are alternatives to mercury, there are no alternatives to global cooperation,”

- **Michael Bender,**
Coordinator ,
Zero Mercury Working Group

“Mercury respects no boundaries and exposes people everywhere”

Dr. Shahriar Hossain
Secretary General,
ESDO



The EPLC leadership program is provided for those leaders who wish to get solution for facing environmental problem in their region by supporting their hands-on activities or project through the on/off learning process. They are providing the opportunity to learn state-of-art technology and information through the programme and sharing the experience of other CSOs. The leadership

1.2

“Many children in developed countries are being protected from amalgam. Now it is time to protect all children from the dental industry’s mercury, including children in developing countries, children in low-income areas of developed countries, and indigenous peoples’ children.”

**- Dr. Shahriar Hossain
World Alliance’s
Executive Vice President.**

support from UNEP and Eco-Peace Leadership Center. Korea will share its precious experience with other leaders in AP regions to solve the various environmental disasters and problems.

Celebrate “World Environmental Health Day” by Making Dental Amalgam History!

Geneva, 26 September 2017: The World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry is celebrating World Environmental Health Day by urging the nations party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury to make dental amalgam history! It complements the theme of the parties to Minamata, whose theme is “Make mercury history.”

At the first conference of the parties (COP1), the World Alliance launched its new “Make Dental Amalgam History” campaign, a step-

by-step plan to phase out the use of dental amalgam.

MERCURY FREE DENTISTRY

In its opening statement, presented by president Charlie Brown of the United States, the World Alliance specifically called on nations to take the first step:

“When you return to your home nations, please do as the European Union as done: phase out amalgam for children now. For one simple reason: The children of your nation are equally important to the children of Europe.”

Dominique Bally of Cote d’Ivoire, the World Alliance’s vice president for Africa, reports that “The African region is ready to end amalgam use in children, but developed countries continue to dump amalgam into our region.

Sending amalgam for use in African children (and others vulnerable population) is not charity – it’s an environmental health disaster.”

As Dr. Graeme Munro-Hall of the United Kingdom, the World Alliance’s chief dental advisor explains, “There is

2.2

“I appreciate the way Chattagram International Dental College has approached towards a mercury free dentistry. Their efforts are praiseworthy. I hope Chattagram International Dental College will act as a role model for other dental colleges in Chittagong.”

**- Syed Marghub
Murshed**

just no reason to use amalgam in children's milk teeth – these teeth are less complex, they don't last long, and there are so many mercury-free fillings available for them.”

Maria Carcamo of Uruguay, the World Alliance's vice president for Latin America, adds “No child should be subjected to an utterly unnecessary dose of mercury exposure from amalgam.”

A new way of campaign for mercury-free dentistry: mobile campaign in Bangladesh

NOVEMBER 26, 2017: Youth showed a new method of campaign called “**Mobile Campaign**” on mercury free dentistry in Bangladesh today. To phase out Mercury amalgam use in dentistry and save children and child bearing mother from the harmful effect Mercury was the main motive of the Mobile Campaign. Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO team and Young Dentists moved different areas of Dhaka to let mass people know about the harmful implication of dental amalgam. World alliance for Mercury free dentistry and Asian Center for Environmental Health supported the Mobile Campaign.

The main purpose of the Mobile Campaign is to draw Govt. attention to ban Mercury from Dentistry and to create awareness among the mass people about the harmful effect of Mercury. The Mobile Campaign gets a very good response from the general people. They express their willingness to know about the effects of using Mercury in dental amalgam and after knowing they demand to ban Mercury. ESDO has been working on banning mercury from dentistry since 2010. ESDO's major strategy for establishing mercury-free dentistry in Bangladesh is to conduct community mobilizing and awareness raising campaigns. ESDO makes people aware of the negative effects of mercury amalgam and keeps them updated by arranging social media campaigns, mobile campaigns and awareness raising campaigns in educational institutions such as schools, colleges and universities. Several workshops have been

and are being conducted by

MERCURY FREE DENTISTRY

ESDO, involving dental professionals, dentists, academicians, government representatives, and other relevant stakeholders

At the end of the event, General people, Students, Doctors expressed their willingness to work and assist ESDO and BDS to ensure mercury free dentistry and ultimately a mercury free environment. The main aim of such kind of activities of ESDO and BDS is to complete phase out of Mercury from dentistry within 2018.

2.2 Mercury Free Dentistry Being Encouraged Through Awarding A Dental College In Chittagong

Dhaka 28, November, 2017: A plaque of appreciation was awarded to Chattagram International Dental College and Hospital for practicing mercury free dentistry in Bangladesh as a part of the vibrant global campaign to ban mercury in dentistry. The award giving ceremony and also an open forum was jointly organized by Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO and Bangladesh Dental Society-BDS in association with Asian Center for Environmental Health and World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry at Chattgram International Dental College and Hospital on 28 November, 2017.

Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chairperson of ESDO, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Executive Vice President of World Alliance for Mercury Free Dentistry and Secretary General of ESDO, Dr. Abul Kashem, President of BDS, Dr. Humayun Kabir Bulbul, Secretary General of BDS, Prof. Dr. Muslim Uddin, Principal of Chattagram International Dental College along with the faculties of the college were present at the ceremony. The award ceremony was

attended by prominent dentists and academicians.

In line with the mercury free dentistry initiatives of ESDO and BDS in Bangladesh Mandy Dental College, Pioneer Dental College, and Update Dental College were awarded for practicing mercury free dentistry earlier. More and more dentists are practicing mercury free dentistry being aware of the health and environmental impact of mercury dental amalgam. Great progresses are being made in Bangladesh due to the joint initiatives of Bangladesh Dental Society and Civil Society and this continuous trend of being mercury free among the dental colleges will help achieving the goals of global campaign.

Dr. Shahriar Hossain congratulated Chattagram International Dental College and said "European Union (EU) has already banned the use of mercury amalgam in dentistry. Many countries are on the way to ban mercury. But we are still far from achieving our goal. We should work hand in hand to fix this problem as soon as possible."

Dr. Abul Kashem, President of BDS said, "From the very beginning BDS is working closely with ESDO for establishing mercury free dentistry in Bangladesh. Only the combined effort of all the dentists, academicians and practitioners, dental association and civil society workers can lead to a complete phase out of mercury from dentistry." Commenting on the award Dr. Humayun Kabir Bulbul, Secretary General of BDS Said, "We are glad to institute this award which honors the endeavour of dentists to achieve mercury free dentistry. We aim at phase out of mercury completely from dentistry by 2018 and I hope CIDC will encourage other dental colleges to practice mercury free dentistry".

Prof. Dr. Muslimuddin Sabuj, "This award ceremony is a great opportunity for our dentists to come together to discuss, network and celebrate the achievement of Chattagram International Dental College. I thank BDS and

ESDO
from the
core of
my heart

MERCURY FREE DENTISTRY

to give CIDC such warm appreciation and at the same time congratulate all the dentists and faculties of CIDC."

The overall goal of the award ceremony and the meeting was to make the dentists and academicians informed of the international movement of Mercury-Free Dentistry. The Specific objectives were to inspire and encourage other dental colleges and dentists to stop using mercury in dentistry for the sake of human health and environmental protection, to promote the benefits and access of non-mercury dental restorative filling materials, to spread the message of the necessity of development of alternatives friendly curriculum and study material that facilitate the subsequent phase out of amalgam related technology and practices.

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials such as poster, bookmark, sticker, booklet etc. on 'mercury free dentistry' were distributed among the participants to disseminate the information in order to create awareness about the issue among them.

Summary of the Project

Bangladesh is experiencing increased economic activity that has negative impacts on the environment. Economic activities associated with industry, health services, and other service sectors generate electronic wastes which are causing serious environmental problems that threaten public health and endanger economic sustainability of the country. In Bangladesh, this electronic waste is reused, broken down into parts or thrown out completely. Every year, Bangladesh generates roughly 2.7 million metric tons of e-waste. Currently this type of informal practice is not being carried out safely and has become a danger to human health and the surrounding environment. Since 2011, ESDO has been working on E-waste management program with the support of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), under the auspices of the International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP). ESDO has done many awareness and education program regarding this issue. It has conducted a survey in 2009 to 2010 to determine the volume of e-waste generated by a nominated six 'E-waste' products which include the televisions, computers, mobile phones, CFL bulbs, medical equipment and dental equipment. ESDO is working to raise awareness and conduct policy advocacy for e-waste rules and regulations in Bangladesh with a view to proper management of e-waste in Bangladesh.

Objectives

- Summarize current knowledge concerning health hazards and environmental impacts associated with the handling and end-of life treatment of electronic waste. This includes hazards and risks that may arise during traditional waste handling processes, such as land filling and incineration, as well as those arising during direct recycling processes.



- Review hazardous compounds that have been added to the products that may be released during the end-of-life treatment, and compounds that may be formed during the disposal or treatment processes.
- To provide guidelines for handling and management of e-waste in an environmentally sound manner to establish a base for a policy and regulatory frameworks on e-waste management and raise public awareness on sustainable management of e-waste in Bangladesh.

ESDO E-waste Documentary Broadcast

Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO got invited in a live talk show of renowned television channel, "Boishakhi TV". There he expressed his opinion and experiences on e-waste pollution and management. They keenly discussed the country situation of e-waste in Bangladesh. The documentary highlighted the threat e-waste has become to the environment and human health.

Non-Stick cookware is the name of one of those technologies, that make our daily life comfortable and easy. But it can act as a threat to our health and environment. Cooking in non-stick cookware allows food to get brown without sticking to the pan. It requires least amount of oil for cooking. According to the study, the non-stick surface is coated with Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), commercially known as Teflon. When the cookware is over heated it releases Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOAs). PFOA has been labeled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as carcinogenic.



“It is responsible for severe illness such as cancer, hormonal imbalance, birth defect in new babies, polymer fume fever in human and can kill birds. This toxic element is also released during manufacturing process and possesses risk to workers, especially female workers. Because female organs are vulnerable to this toxic element. It can be exposed to their body and cause harm to the babies through infecting the fetus.”

- Abu Jafor Mahmood,
Superannuated Professor,
University of Dhaka

In response to question from journalist, In Bangladesh, housewives, children and pet

NON STICK COOKWARE

animals are becoming the greatest victim of the poisonous gas release from it because of the increased use of non-stick cookware.

Hidden Health Hazard in Non-stick Cookware

Use of non-stick pots and pans on a daily basis, means exposure to hidden dangers. Non-stick cookware is made using a carcinogenic chemical which starts emitting toxic fumes that one inhale every time while cooking with a non-stick pot! Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO disclosed these findings through their study report entitled, “Uses of Non-stick Utensils and Associated Health and Environmental Impacts”. Syed Marghub Murshed, former Secretary and Chairperson of ESDO launched the study report at the press briefing at its



head office in Dhaka.

According to ESDO’s recent survey, in Dhaka city, women of all ages are getting affected by

this pollution. Among 450 women, about 421 are suffering from the problem of kidney and asthma. Among 378 women about 25 to 35 women are suffering from pregnancy related problem. Among children, about 310 are suffering from the problem of kidney and asthma. In case of households, (who keep pet animals), according to the survey result , about 211 pet animals died with 6 months. This primary survey is showing this kind of destructive picture, which is a threat to our future generation.

In a pursuit to make non-stick coating manufacturing safer, industry officials of developed countries have made pledges to limit the use of PFOA and eventually phase it out of all production methods. But, there is no initiative on this issue in Bangladesh. Ceramics and stainless steel are considered non-reactive and can be used as alternative to non-stick cook ware.

In response to question from a journalist, Syed Marghub Murshed said, toxic pollutant in non-stick cooking utensils is a new phenomenon in Bangladesh but it can act as a serious health and environmental threat. He said that, we need to address this issue with high priority to protect our ecosystem, wildlife and human health.

Secretary General of ESDO and ecosystem expert Dr. Shahriar Hossain informed that, non-stick cookware is not the main problem. Our main concern is the toxic chemical used to manufacture it. When toxic compound like Teflon is being used in non stick coating, it becomes a threat to both health and environment. Teflon releases toxic fumes while cooking. "Incineration of Teflon wastes produces different toxic gases like PFOA, Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), which get released into the atmosphere. PFOA and TFA are very persistent, take literally millions of years to biodegrade. All these toxic gases go into air, water, soil and pollute them. Water bodies near the manufacturing industries get readily polluted by the toxic discharges. High concentrations of TFA in

water can be toxic to plants.

NON STICK COOKWARE

When TFA enters the atmosphere, hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and hydroflurocarbons (HFCs) break down and it exits in rainwater. We really cannot imagine that how long-term the environmental impacts can be!", he added.

Amongst other, Siddika Sultana, Executive Director, ESDO, were there to share their opinion about the importance of regulation to limit the use of Teflon in manufacturing non-stick products. Afrida Nazibah, researcher of this study, presented the findings and related information of the study at the event.

ESDO urge the government of Bangladesh and the people to come forward and raise the voice to enact legislation to phase out the use of Teflon in the manufacturing of non-stick cookware. They stressed formass public awareness for immediate ban of Teflon containing products, stop production, sale and import of them.

Overview of the project

IPEN-SWITCH Asia Lead Paint Elimination Project is being implemented to minimizing and eliminating the manufacture, import, sale and use of lead decorative paints in Bangladesh with 6 other project partner countries in order to reduce and prevent childhood lead exposure. The project is promoting sustainable production and consumption, and contributes to global efforts to eliminate the production and use of all decorative lead paints. Its overall objective is to reduce childhood lead poisoning in the seven participating countries by decreasing production and use of lead paint with a trend toward their elimination. This will contribute to the reduction of the environmental and social costs of production and consumption and will help reduce poverty by contributing to improved school performance and children's educational achievement. Additionally, eliminating lead paints will also help reduce barriers to trade. Lead paint coatings on exported toys and other children's products have triggered massive recalls and created international distrust of Asian produced products.

ESDO Kick-off Lead free Paint Certification Process

January, 2017: ESDO collaborated with Elite Paint Industry and SCS Global Services by preparing paint samples for the analysis of lead content. Center for Ecological Research (CER) which is a sister concern of ESDO conducted this paint sample preparation. SCS Global Services is a trusted leader in third-party environmental, sustainability and food quality certification, auditing, testing and standards development.

Elite Paint and Chemical Industry applied to SCS for the certification of lead free paint manufacturing industry. After the approval of the application, CER coordinated Elite Paint

LEAD PAINT ELIMINATION

and SCS in this regard and made the arrangements for paint sample preparation which will later be transferred to testing laboratory for analysis. Associates of CER prepared 48 paint samples with 2 replications each. And after drying of the samples they scratched the paint dusts. Then samples were collected and preserved in zip lock bags and were sent to SCS for further laboratory analysis.

Elite Paint Receives First Lead Safe Paint® Certification In Bangladesh

Elite Paint is the first paint company in Bangladesh to achieve Lead Safe Paint®



certification. The news was announced publicly through a press briefing organized by Elite Paint and Chemical Industries at Begum Sufia Kamal Public Library on 29 August, 2017 in Dhaka. The certification program, established in 2015 by the international non-profit IPEN, was created to let customers know that the paints they are purchasing contains less than a total concentration of 90 parts per million (ppm) lead – the strictest regulatory standard for lead content in paint established by any government anywhere in the world.

Paints from Elite Paint were certified by leading third-party certifier SCS Global Services (SCS), the program’s exclusive certification body in Bangladesh. SCS’ independent analysis confirmed that paint brands from the company contained less than a total of 90 ppm lead. As a result, Elite Paint is licensed to use the Lead Safe Paint® certification mark on their paint can labels and other promotional materials. Using this mark will provide consumers with confidence that these paints will protect their families from the hazard of lead exposure.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), “lead paint is one of the largest sources of exposure to lead in children.” Lead exposure during early childhood years has been linked to an increased likelihood of impaired cognition and executive function, impulsiveness, aggression and delinquent behavior. Brain damage caused by chronic, low-level exposure to lead is irreversible and untreatable, so reducing lead exposure is an important worldwide health issue.



“Elite Paint is proud to” said Mozahar

LEAD FREE PAINT

Hossain, Director (Operation) and Head of Management Committee of Elite Paint. “We strive to make our paint products environmentally friendly and our next target is to produce VOC (Volatile Organic Carbon) free paint.”

“Phase out of lead paint is essential for our society. We must act with urgency as the health of our children can be permanently and irreversibly damaged even at very low exposure to lead” said Syed Margub Murshed, Former Secretary, Government of Bangladesh and chairperson of ESDO. “Elite Paint has

proved that paints can be produced in a manner that will not pose health and environmental hazards, and that paint companies in Bangladesh are in a position to shift to non-lead raw materials. I believe, success of Elite Paint in securing Lead Safe

Paint® certification will hasten the issuance of the country’s much-awaited lead paint regulation,” he added.

“Since 2008, ESDO is working to phase out the use of lead in paint manufacturing. We have done research and public awareness campaign in this regard. Amongst all paint manufacturing industries in Bangladesh, we have found Elite Paint as the most enthusiastic in producing lead free paint. It is the pride of Elite paint as well as the whole country that, they have succeeded to produce all of their paints with less than 90ppm lead content”, said Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO.

“Paints with high levels of lead continue to be sold in many countries in the world. We commend Elite Paint for seeking Lead Safe Paint® certification and voluntarily committing to producing lead safe paint products. We encourage other companies and brand leaders around the world to join Elite Paint and seek certification” said Sara Brosché, IPEN.

Nicole Muñoz, Managing Director for SCS Global services stated, “Elite Paint’s Lead Safe Paint® certification demonstrates the growing global demand for safer paint products. SCS is proud to partner with IPEN and work with leading brands to expand this program and make lead safe paint available for wider consumer use.”

Amongst other, A.K.M. Mohibullah, G.M. Sales; Harunur Rashid, Senior GM Sales and Marketing of Elite Paint was present in the event.

Lead Safe Paint® is an independent, third party certification program that verifies paints contain less than 90 parts per million (ppm) total lead (dry weight)—the strictest mandatory regulatory standard for lead content in paint established in e.g., the United States, the Philippines, Nepal, and India. A 90-ppm standard is achievable when a manufacturer avoids the use of lead pigments and driers in its products and when reasonable care is given to avoid the use of ingredients that are contaminated or falsely labeled. More information is available at www.lead safepaint.org.

An Action: A Legislation To Ban Lead Paint

Government delegations urged for an immediate regulation to ban hazardous lead paint and expressed the necessity to immediately publish the gazette for a standard of 50 ppm lead content in paint. A high level policy dialogue was organized by Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO on October 26, 2017 on

Thursday 11:30 AM at ESDO

LEAD IN PAINT

Head Office, Lalmatia, Dhaka.

Syed Marghub Murshed, Chairperson of ESDO and former Secretary, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh presided over the meeting. Government officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Environment (DoE), Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), and ESDO officials were present at the meeting.

In 2011 a four-year SWITCH-Asia regional project was launched, to decrease production and use of lead paint in different countries including Bangladesh. European Union (EU) Switch Asia Program started their lead paint elimination project in Bangladesh through ESDO in 2012.

To eliminate lead in paints globally, Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint (GAELP) observes ‘International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week’ every year. The International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, co-led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Environment, was established to raise awareness of the widespread availability of lead paint. IPEN and Partners have taken part in awareness-raising activities and other actions during the Week of Action since 2013. ESDO conducted the dialogue as part of observing International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week in Bangladesh. The objective of this meeting was to hasten the process of publishing a gazette with standardization of lead content in paint and to enact the regulation to ban lead paint in Bangladesh.

Syed Marghub Murshed, Chairperson of ESDO and former Secretary, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh said, “Although paint manufacturers association supports the regulation in this regard, it can’t be implemented until or unless government

take immediate initiative. It is high time the government enacted the regulation”.

ESDO Secretary General, Dr. Shahriar Hossain said, “ BSTI should be strengthened to immediately publish a gazette”. He added, “ the standard of lead in paint given by WHO should be given much importance”.

Jahora Sikder, Deputy Director (Chemical Division), Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI) said, “We are on the verge of a gazette to limit lead content to 90 ppm in paint of Bangladesh. Now it is a matter of time to reach our common goal”.

Mahmood Hasan Khan, Former Director (AQM), Department of Environment (DoE) praised ESDO’s tremendous effort towards lead-free paint and said, “The standard parameters should be based on country perspective instead of being biased by other factors. So, in Bangladesh paint should be completely lead free”.

Md Saidur Rahman Khan, Senior Assistant Secretary and Deputy Programme Manager, Health Economics Unit, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) said, “Bangladesh government welcomes ESDO’s multi-dimensional activities towards creating Bangladesh lead free.” He focused on continuous policy lobbying to enact a regulation on ban of lead paint in Bangladesh. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director, ESDO expressed that ESDO hopes that government will immediately take proper steps to ban lead in paint. She also said “We are now observing this week but we are hoping to celebrate it in near future”. She thanked everyone who participated at the dialogue.

Human Chain at National Press Club Demanded Ban On Lead Paints

On the eve of International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week-2017 (22 to 28 October) a huge crowd of youths demanded ban of lead paint production in Bangladesh. Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO

in
associat
ion with
IPEN

LEAD IN PAINT

organized the human chain and a rally under the theme ‘Learn the Risks, Educate Community and Ban Lead Paint’ in front of the National Press Club on 28th October to ban lead paint in Bangladesh by 2018 and to phase out lead containing paints globally by 2020.

The human chain was formed by around 80 girls guide members along with 20 youths of ESDO Green Club. These teenagers were from various Bangla and English medium schools, colleges and universities who joined the campaign to demand for a ban on lead paint. They said that they don’t want to live in a leaded environment any more.

Lead paint is a major source of potential lead poisoning for young children. The International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, co-led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Environment, was established to raise awareness of the widespread availability of lead paint. IPEN and Partners have taken part in awareness-raising activities and other actions during the Week of Action since 2013.

ESDO has been working for a specific regulation of lead free paint in Bangladesh and thus, has been conducting policy advocacy since 2010. In line with this ESDO has conducted study, paint sample analyses, awareness campaign and ultimately prepared a draft regulatory frame work and submitted it to Department of Environment (DoE). ESDO look forward to achieve a toxic free future through a complete regulation on lead paint in Bangladesh.

“It’s essential for our society to respond to this global challenge and make the phase out of lead in paint a top public health priority. We must act with urgency as the health of our children can be permanently and irreversibly damaged even at very low exposure to lead,”

said by Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO at the human chain.

WHO considers lead as one of the ten chemicals of major public concern has and stated “there is no safe level of exposure to lead.” “Lead paint is a serious threat to the long-term health of our children. Yet lead paint is still on sale in many countries and is used to decorate homes and schools. WHO calls on all countries to phase out lead paint by 2020 to protect the health of this and future generations”, said Dr. Maria Neira Director, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization

At the recently-concluded International Conference on Chemicals Management, government, industry, and civil society delegates from over 130 countries affirmed the global consensus to eliminate lead paint by 2020. The multi-stakeholder conference is the implanting body of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), which is managed by UNEP. Lead in paint was banned and eliminated from paint in most industrialized countries decades ago, but countries to be widely sold in many developing countries, including Bangladesh. According to WHO “children are most likely to be exposed to lead from ingestion of flakes and dust from decaying lead-based paint which affects children’s brain development and their measurable level of intelligence (IQ). Children lead exposure is estimated to contribute to 600,000 new cases of children with intellectual disabilities every year.” The youths at the human chain demanded, “We want to grow up in a toxic free world. We

don’t want to live in an environment polluted by heavy toxic like lead. Everyone should know about it and act accordingly to make Bangladesh lead free.”

ESDO Observed "International Plastic Bag Free Week of Action"

The International Plastic Bag Free Week is a unique opportunity to spread the word that a plastic bag free world is possible and that sound environmental alternatives to single use plastic bags are available. ESDO team celebrated this day through a chain of awareness raising activities.

ESDO team developed IEC materials like posters, placards, video clippings and kept their social media sites updated to spread the message of preventing plastic pollution. ESDO



team conducted an awareness campaign on June 22, 2017. The team covered different shopping malls of Dhaka city. They disseminated the information about harmful impacts of plastic pollution through oral description, showing placards on the issue. They tried to reach the passer by, the students of local school, college and university, guardians of the students, teachers and described them what harms to human health and environment are caused by mercury amalgam.

ESDO Launches Electronic Poster on International Plastic Bag Free Day, 3 July, 2017

MICRO PLASTIC POLLUTION

The International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed every year on July 3 to highlight the need to phase-out plastic bags and to promote organic reusable bags. The day signifies the ability for the world to come together and create an environment that is plastic free and educating individuals about current alternatives to plastics and other wastes.

This day gives us an opportunity to remind ourselves, and others, that every action we take, and every bag we dispose of, affects the lives of everyone in the world for generations to come. So, we should work hand in hand to phase out plastic bags from our environment.

International Plastic Bag Free Day is dedicated to heightening awareness and pressing issues brought about by this most popular of disposable carrying devices. We are reminded that those bags we





Indonesia. The object

MICRO PLASTIC POLLUTION

ive of this meeting was to strategize ways to cut plastic waste from our lives.

MICRO PLASTIC IS THREATENING LIVES: IT IS THE TIME TO BAN!

A huge gathering of health and environmental experts, beauty experts and concerned stakeholders urged the ban of microplastic, especially microbeads in an inception workshop under the theme of “Combating the pollution threat from microplastic litter to save marine health in the Bay of Bengal”. The event was organized by Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO on

September 16, 2017, at Four Seasons Restaurant, Dhanmondi, Dhaka to make people aware about the emerging pollution threat from microplastic.

The session was chaired by Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary, People’s Republic of Bangladesh and Chairperson of ESDO. The guest of honor was Md. Ziaul Haque, Director (AQM), Department of Environment (DoE) and the panelists were Mahmood Hasan Khan,

pick up from the retailers are used for an incredibly short time, usually under 25 minutes, and are then disposed of. They may pass out of our thinking then, but they do not pass out of our world. Plastic bags remain in the world for anywhere from 100-500 years before finally decaying completely, and have a profound impact upon our environment as a result.

Out in the great reaches of the ocean are massive reefs made up of all sorts of plastic waste, and plastic bags play heavily among them. Such is the magnitude of the problem that these great floating islands reach hundreds of miles, like great monuments to mankind’s wastefulness, and disregard for the world upon which we live. International Plastic Bag Free Day gives us an opportunity to remind ourselves, and others, that every action we take, and every bag we dispose of, affects the lives of everyone in the world for generations to come.



Participation in Global Anti-plastic Movement in Bali, Indonesia

Dr. Shahriar Hossain joined the meeting of 90+ changemakers from the #breakfreefromplastic movement in Bali,

Former Director, DoE; Dr. Abu Jafar Mahmood, Rtd. Professor, Dept. of Chemistry, University of Dhaka; and Dr. Md. Abul Hashem, Dept. of Chemistry, Jahangirnagar University.

Plastic pollution is a global concern whereas microbeads used in personal care products are one of the largest contributors to this plastic trash. In Bangladesh, microplastics pollution is a new phenomenon and manufacturers and consumers are not aware of the negative impact of microplastic and the microbeads. ESDO is going to kick off the project with an aim to reduce or eliminate use of microplastics in Bangladesh.

According to the study findings of ESDO, three major cities of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet city dwellers release a huge quantity of microbeads every month. 6628.46 billions of microbeads from Dhaka, 1087.18 billion of microbeads from Chittagong and 212.38 billion of microbeads from Sylhet city are dumped in to the water bodies and wetland. The huge microbeads content will highly cost the environment and human health by causing heart disease, type-2 diabetes, cancer, obesity in human body, small tears in skin leaving it vulnerable to bacteria and by accumulating toxic contaminants – persistent organic pollutants. Experts in the meeting said, Microbeads are plastic particles less than 1mm in size that can be spherical or irregular in shape and produced in a multitude of colors. The types of plastic most commonly used as microbeads are: polyethylene (PE), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), nylon, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and polypropylene (PP). Sewage treatment plants are not equipped to remove particles that are small. Fish can confuse them as eggs or zooplankton and accidentally ingest them, which ultimately end up in human bodies. Microbeads being small in size have a large surface area by volume. As a result, they accumulate toxic contaminants. Consumption of these toxic chemicals may cause liver toxicity and disrupt the endocrine system.

Micro beads in beauty

products and toothpaste can be harmful to skin and teeth accordingly.

In response to question from a journalist, Syed Murshed said, there is no evidence of

MICRO PLASTIC POLLUTION



microbead's usefulness, rather it is a serious health and environment polluting agent. He said that we need to address this issue with high priority to protect our ecosystem, wildlife and human health.

Md. Ziaul Haque said, globally anti-plastic campaign has started in a wide magnitude whereas Bangladesh has not made such progress so far. It is high time to sort out the micro plastic added products and to move forward with the solution thereby.

Secretary General of ESDO and ecosystem expert Dr. Shahriar Hossain informed that the marine species are unable to distinguish between food and micro plastics and therefore indiscriminately feed on micro beads. These sea foods are regularly consumed by humans. This is the way micro beads will start accumulating in the food chain, transferring from species to species, with consequences ultimately to humans. Dr. Shahriar said, toxic chemicals added to plastic during the manufacturing process (such as plasticizers and flame retardants) leach out of plastic in the small to large water bodies,

wetlands and the marine environment and poses serious threats to marine fauna.

Amongst other, Siddika Sultana, Executive Director, ESDO, were there to share her opinion about the importance of the regulation to limit the content of micro beads in our daily personal care products. The ESDO team of experts said, the horrifying truth is that we don't know how much of this plastic junk is despoiling our rivers, wetlands and the sea and no one know the toll it is taking of wildlife and people. Tiny plastic beads in everything from personal care and cleaning products to toothpaste are poisoning our river and sea to oceans and threatening health. It's time for them to be outlawed.

ESDO urge the government of Bangladesh and the people to come forward and raise the voice to "ban micro beads". They stressed for mass public awareness, immediate ban of micro beads containing products, stop production, sale and import of micro beads containing products and legislation to ban the use of micro plastic and micro beads in Bangladesh.

At the end of the event, all the invited experts, academicians, beauticians, concerned stakeholders and consumers expressed their willingness to support ESDO's initiatives in addressing the microplastic pollution and thus ensuring a toxic free environment.

WiES Bangladesh (member organization INWES in Bangladesh) was established to become the voice of women in science, technology, engineering, entrepreneurship and mathematics in order to develop, promote and disseminate knowledge about women's roles in society and economic trends in June 2014 in Bangladesh. ESDO team has taken the initiative for arranging a gathering for similar minded women who has been in quest of share their views and opinions on this issue of women in science and technology for years in Bangladesh. They wanted more opportunities in the fields of both study and career based on science and technology.

Objectives

WiES Bangladesh is following the objectives and policy of International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES) and looks forward to its support, guidance and cooperation for its future activities. Objectives are,

Supporting women through

- (a) Confidence building
- (b) Leadership and communication training
- (c) Promotion of research, activities and best practices oriented toward rural women.
- d) Promoting partnerships at different levels of the society to address the goals of this network
- (e) Promotion of women's entrepreneurship and self employment
- (f) Exchange of good practices, as well as information, success stories and case studies to enable the members to share their information and to be inspired for their own projects and programs.

Formation of WiES Bangladesh

To create awareness and to encourage women in engineering and science and to promote women scientists and engineers, Women in Engineering and Science of

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June, 2014. A five member convening committee was established at the first meeting on June 20 under the facilitation of ESDO. At the meeting it was decided that Dr. Shahriar Hossain (founder and initiator of WiSE Bangladesh) will be the adviser of WiES Bangladesh. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO is the coordinator of the forum. WiES Bangladesh is following the objectives and policy of International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES) and looks forward to its support, guidance and cooperation for its future activities.

Celebration of International Women's Day, 2017

WiES Bangladesh celebrated International Womens Day, 2017 in line with the theme this year, Lead, Inspire, Empower Women in Science, Technology and Social Fields on March 8, 2017.



At the event, President of WiES Bangladesh, Siddika Sultana discussed with members of WiES Bangladesh on how to strengthen the strategies of WiES Bangladesh in order to meet its objectives and goals. Nishat Ferdousi, Member of WiES Bangladesh, described the present condition of women education and the story of some successful women engineer, doctor, entrepreneur through a power point presentation.

WiES Bangladesh (member organization INWES in Bangladesh) has been created to become the voice of women in science, technology, engineering, entrepreneurship and mathematics in order to develop, promote and disseminate knowledge about women's roles in society and economic trends in June 2014 in Bangladesh.

The main objectives of WiES Bangladesh are promoting and supporting female scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs and exchanging good practices to inspire them for their projects and programs. WiES Bangladesh follows the objectives and policies of International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES) and collaborates with INWES since June, 2014.

At the end of the event members of WiES Bangladesh cut cakes together.

Participation in International Meeting on Women Scientists And Engineers

Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO, participated in the INWES APNN Meeting, 2017 as an APNN representative of Bangladesh. The meeting was hosted by JNWES (Japanese Network of Women Engineers and Scientists, Chair, Kayako Sugahara) and held in Yokohama on July 14-15, in conjunction with GWST (Global Women in Science and Technology).

About
70
attenda
nces



from 11 countries participated the INWES APNN meeting on July 14. At AGM, the 3rd chair organization, TWiST (Chia Li Wu, president) started its term (2017-2020) and the 8th meeting, 2018 INWES APNN Meeting, was announced to be held at Hanoi, Vietnam, hosted by VAFIW. GWST held on July 15 was a great successful event, and about 500 people including professional mentors and INWES members, students (high school, college and graduate school), and people from major companies have mentoring and discussion session, which were well prepared



for last two years.

BIEN 2017 Conference and Smart Sister's Workshop in Seoul, South Korea

Afrida Nazibah, Program Associate of ESDO



and Raisa Sultana, the Research Assistant of ESDO attended the BIEN 2017 (International Conference of Women Scientist and Engineers 2017), under the theme of “YES, we are the future of Asia!” in Seoul, South Korea from August 31- September 2. The event was hosted by the association of Korean Woman Scientists and Engineers (KWSE). The association allows the next generation of women scientists and engineers in the Asia-Pacific region to enhance the global competitiveness with international cooperation while providing opportunities for quality global networking.



The main purpose of the program was to create a common platform for establishing networks and expand mutually-beneficial exchange among Korean, foreign resident, and Asia-Pacific women scientists and engineers. Meanwhile, to provide opportunities for Korean female science and engineering majors to enhance global capability and form networks.

The program is designed with the vision of offering a very dynamic and stimulating array of scientific programs. Experts and participants from all over the world e.g. Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Vietnam, Taiwan, Mongolia, Germany, New Zealand, Japan, Botswana, Tanzania, Malaysia, Srilanka, Brazil, United States of America etc. gathered together to discuss the latest developments and exchange information on the cutting-edge techniques emerging in the field of Bio, Information, Environment/Energy/Earth, Nano, and Space technology. The programs included academic plenary session of invited lectures, oral and poster presentation, group mentoring on research fields and youth leadership. Global issue discussion was held to introduce top emerging

technologies in the world in recent times. At the same time, APNN country exhibition and traditional costume presentation took place by the participants to represent the culture, people, food of participant country and a short cultural tour to Gyeongbokgung palace.

Summary of the project

The aim of the project is to involve the local community of some villages of Natore and Rajshahi District with sustainable environmental development activities in order to improve their socio-economic condition. This project is undertaken through a participatory approach fully engaging the people mostly women in this community. The main objective of the project is to empower the deprived women by providing educational facilities, building capacity, building awareness, facilitating alternative income generation ability and encouraging self-motivation, to lead to greater self-sufficiency and a better standard of living.

Objectives

- ☑ Widespread exposure through counseling, motivation and campaign. Adult literacy for knowledge and education.
- ☑ Operating the Gan Bikash Kendra (GBK) for knowledge and skills in ICT through training and internet access and provide necessary support for rural people.
- ☑ Library and mobile library set up within rural community.
- ☑ Health and hygienic education and services delivery
- ☑ Capacity building training for AIGA
- ☑ Women entrepreneurship building
- ☑ Materialistic support for poor students.
- ☑ Organic farming
- ☑ Alternative/renewable energy.
- ☑ Alternative income generating and fund support for self-reliance and self development for poor women.

COMMUNITY BASED SUSTAINABLE ECO- TOURISM

Activities Serve under this Project

- ☑ ESDO provides home stay local accommodation and hospitality - for local and international visitors
- ☑ Local community are engaged to be hosts for the guests and visitors.
- ☑ Local youth population are encouraged the to become involved in the project directly.
- ☑ ESDO also ensures capacity building through hands on training for the youth and host family.
- ☑ It ensures the involvement of the community at large with the direct economic flow on effects as a result of tourism in the community.
- ☑ Exposing people to the local culture, especially knowledge of the food, history and religion of the area.
- ☑ Moreover, ESDO contributes to its ongoing initiatives of environmental sustainability, environmental education, biological diversity and socio-economic development in th community, lovely homestay at Hatiandha village in Natore, Betgari in Rangpur, and Godagari of Rajshahi.

Swedish MP Meet ESDO Team: Emphasized On Environmental Pollution In Bangladesh

Dhaka 6, February, 2017: Two members Swedish Parliament Delegation met Environment and Social Development Organization team today at its office in Dhaka. They discussed on different environmental issues and emphasized on environmental pollution in Bangladesh, particularly e-waste pollution, traffic and urban pollution. Mr. Johns Holm and Ms. Nooshi Dadgoster, Member of Swedish Parliament meet ESDO team as part of their five day trip of Bangladesh. Swedish left party member Mr. Johns Holm said, we are now in a serious environmental degradation era and need to work together to protect our planet Earth. He said Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable



country for environmental pollution and population. So to achieve sustainable development goals these two issues in Bangladesh are most challenging. Mr. Holm appreciate and encourage ESDO initiatives on chemical management and particularly successful campaign on e-waste, plastic pollution and lead free painting in Bangladesh and in the region. ESDO chairperson and former secretary, Govt. of Bangladesh Syed Marghub Mourshed welcomed the Swedish parliamentary delegation. Amongst others Mohibul Ezdani khan, County Counselor, Stockholm county council; Professor Abu

Jafor
Mah
mood,

MISCELLANEOUS

Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka; Dr. Nazmul Ahsan Kolimullah, Pro-VC, Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP); Professor Dr. Md. Abul Hashem, Department of Chemistry, Jahangirnagar University.

Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO, Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO represented their work, knowledge and opinion on the above mentioned issues in Bangladesh.

Participation in Workshop on Cultural Tourism for Sustainable Urban Development in the Asia-Pacific Region

Executive Director of ESDO, Siddika Sultana participated in a training workshop on, "Cultural Tourism for Sustainable Urban Development in the Asia-Pacific Region" organized by UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/JITC in Jeju, Republic of Korea on May 10-13, 2017.

The workshop was organized with an aim to stimulate support of UN Sustainable Development Goals in its localization and implementation phase, to provide an international platform for knowledge exchange, supporting sharing and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned across cities and to promote city to city cooperation by establishing a strong network that leads to the development of the region.



UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/JITC is a part of CIFAL network (International Training Center for Local Authorities/Actors) of UNITAR, a training, a training arm of the UN system. The Center has been established to provide workshops/seminars to help local governments capacity building especially in the the areas of sustainable urbanization and environment, economic development and security nd safety in cooperation with UNITAR.

Participation in a Workshop on Sustainable Tourism Management for Coastal Destinations

June 27-30, 2017: UNITAR CIFAL Jeju, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province in Association with Jeju Tourism Organization organized a workshop on "Sustainable Tourism Management for Coastal Destinations in the Asia-Pacific Region".

The workshop was organized with an aim to build capacity of participants on coastal tourism policy, whilst promoting awareness and recognition on the importance of sustainable tourism management. Dr. Akter Mahal Gulfam, Director of ESDO, participated in the workshop. The entire training consisted of lectures and presentations by experts, self-assessment exercise, group work and discussion, action plan presentation and field visit to well-managed touristic spots. Dr. Akter Mahal Gulfam, presented a case study



on,
"Kuak
ata: A
Coast
al Town for Sustainable Tourism
Management".

MISCELLANEOUS

Central authorities and Representatives from NGOs, regional and community-based organizations, academic and training institutions and other local actors, who are working in the field of sustainable tourism within the Asia-Pacific region participated in the workshop.

Participation in the Training on Green Energy



The International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders in Jeju (CIFAL Jeju) in collaboration with the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STePI) and the Seoul National University's Technology Management, Economics and Policy Program (SNU TEMEP) hosted a workshop "Green Policy and Management for Eco-Innovation and Resource Efficient Cities" on 13-16 June 2017 in Jeju, Republic of Korea. Sayda Mehrabin Shejuti, Program Associate of ESDO, participated in the workshop.

The workshop brought together twenty-eight government officials and civil society leaders from 10 Asian countries including

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Vietnam, providing a platform to strengthen capacities in green policy and management related topics such as eco-innovation and resource efficient cities as well as environmental consulting and government resources coordination. Presentations focused on several key topics including sustainable production and consumption; green energy and technological innovation; Korea's management of research and development; resource efficient cities; sustainable urban growth and transportation; green village planning; circular and green economy; innovation and industry policy of Korea; as well as Korea's 'Ansim' (safe) village project and introduction of the CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) bus in Seoul metropolitan area.

The workshop concluded with a visit to the Korea Institute of Energy Research, the Woljeong-ri, the Seongsan Ilchulbong Peak (UNESCO World Natural Heritage) and the Cheonjiyeon Waterfall. Participants had the opportunity to closely witness green energy policy best practices and enjoy the beautiful scenery and rich culture of Jeju Island.

Emergence of political commitment was stated in the Asia Pacific Ministerial Summit on the Environment

Bangkok, 5 September 2017: Prudent statements in line with policy perspectives towards a resource efficient Asia Pacific Region were made today in the first day of a 4 day long "Asia Pacific Ministerial Summit on the Environment" at UNCC, Bangkok.

Dr. Shahriar Hossain, the Secretary General of Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO of Bangladesh stated the major challenges and the emerging need as way forward towards the resource efficient Bangladesh according to the agenda items of the summit. The summit is jointly organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and UN

Environment
which

started yesterday on 5 September and will continue till 8 September, 2017.

Dr. Shahriar said, 'On behalf of Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO, Bangladesh I would like to express my sincere thanks and support to ESCAP document 'Policy perspectives towards a resource-efficient Asia Pacific region.'

'In our region, we have resource to tackle the SDGs; but resource management is the biggest challenge particularly on natural resources. We believe it is high time to protect our forest, land and water bodies', he emphasized.

Dr. Shahriar also added that, 'As this document described that,

"sustainable and efficient

management of natural resources is a frequent and crucial aspect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global agendas, the present document provides an updated review of trends, challenges and opportunities emerging from the use of natural resources in the region in recent years.

He stated, "Taking this is an explanation, we believe collective national and regional approach is high demanding; a political commitment is an emerging need; real and practical participation of the grassroots people, including indigenes and marginalize group with multi stakeholders needed."

MISCELLANEOUS



“We strongly believe, regional cooperation is the key and coordination between govt. academia, CSOs will help to reduce information gaps, and this cooperation will foster more resource efficient approach in Asia Pacific region”, Dr. Shahriar concluded.

Emergence of political commitment was stated in the Asia Pacific Ministerial Summit on the Environment

Bangkok, 4-5 September 2017: Dr. Shahriar Hossain along with Environment ministers and high-level officials from over 30 countries in Asia-Pacific have committed to move towards a clean and green Asia-Pacific, one that is more resource efficient and pollution free at the first Asia-Pacific Ministerial Summit on the Environment in Bangkok. This will advance global agendas like the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the UN Environment Assembly resolutions and other global commitments.

The Summit culminated in a call for collaborative action to ensure that environment and development is approached in an integrated way, from promoting the sustainable management of natural resources, urban planning and spatial development, to fostering sustainable agriculture practices and advancing the green economy to reduce waste and pollution.

Participants at the Summit, jointly organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and UN Environment also highlighted the urgency of addressing environmental health risks associated with pollution, promoting resource efficiency measures and practices, and protecting natural capital and ecosystem integrity including wildlife, biodiversity and oceans.

United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Dr. Shamshad Akhtar said, “This is an important cornerstone of regional collaboration on sustainable management of natural resources

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Pacific. It underpins the agreement already reached in the regional roadmap for sustainable development and provides us with the vision of our member States on future cooperation.”

“There is a clear resolve to bring about a pollution-free Asia Pacific. Political leadership, private sector engagement and citizen action is essential to ensure that people’s basic needs like access to healthcare, water and proper sanitation are met. At the same time, it is imperative that we step up efforts to reduce plastic waste and marine litter,” said Erik Solheim, head of UN Environment.

Other issues addressed at the periphery of the Summit include gender and environment, oceans governance, climate geoengineering, investments in water infrastructure and the Astana Green Bridge Initiative.

Financial Statement and Audit Reports 2017

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আনিছুর রহমান এন্ড কোং
ANISUR RAHMAN & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO

House -8/1, Level -5, Block - C - Lalmatia , Dhaka.

Head Office Balance Sheet

As At 31th December, 2017

<u>Property and Assets</u>		<u>Taka -2017</u>	<u>Taka -2016</u>
Fixed Assets	Note - 1	1,914,945.00	2,015,731.00
Current Assets			
Cash and Bank balance	Note - 2	2,627,590.00	1,175,568.00
Total =		4,542,535.00	3,191,299.00

<u>Capital and Liabilities</u>		<u>Taka -2017</u>	<u>Taka -2016</u>
Capital Fund	Note - 3	4,532,535.00	3,181,299.00
Current Liabilities			
Liabilities for Audit Fees (HO)		10,000.00	10,000.00
Total =		4,542,535.00	3,191,299.00

Dhaka:
15, March - 2018.

MD. ANISUR RAHMAN FCA
Principal
Anisur Rahman & Co.
Chartered Accountants

