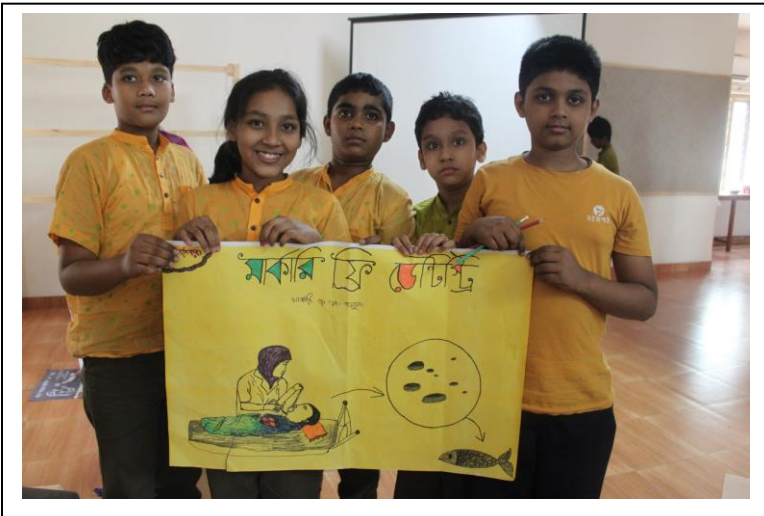


Annual Report 2018

presentation of environment and social innovation



Executive Summary

Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) has delivered on key themes within its mandate for 2018.

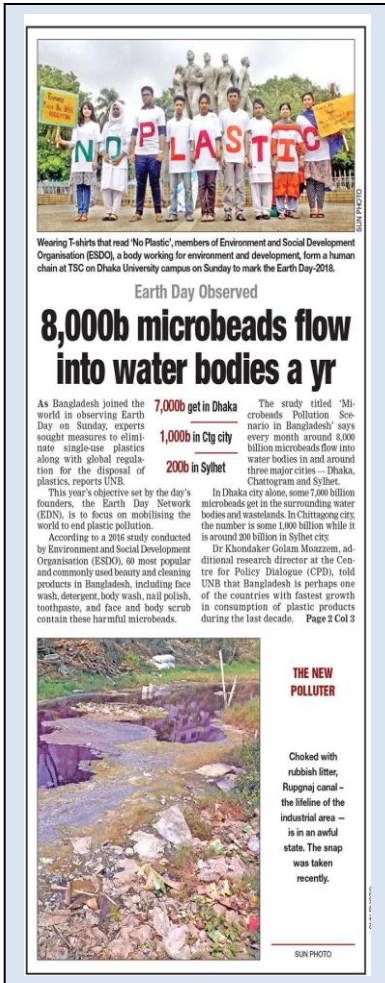
The specific tasks achieved were within a wider umbrella of mandated issues. These issues included combating pollution threats from micro plastic litter to save marine health in the Bay of Bengal, ratifying and implementing the Minamata Convention on Mercury to phase out mercury added products in Bangladesh and the Lead Elimination Project, including work done on Mercury Free Dentistry.

At a glance, the different tasks achieved for the mandates above included workshops, open forums, consultations with stakeholders participation, market assessments, research, campaign and policy advocacy and other related activities.

ESDO thanks all its partners around the world, including financial donors and partners who contributed to the making and funding of its myriad projects and initiatives.

This report is a tally of all our activities for 2018. ESDO looks forward to the upcoming year of 2019 with renewed zeal, ambition and hope.

Siddika Sultana
Executive Director
ESDO



Combating the pollution threat from micro plastic litter to save marine health in the Bay of Bengal



- Dialogue with Directorate General of Health Service
- Public education campaign
- Consultation with Stakeholders
- Petition Submission
- Dialogue with Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute-BSTI
- Dialogue with Department of Environment (DoE)
- Mobile Campaign
- Celebration of International Plastic Bag Free Day in Bangladesh
- Press briefing (1) on Plastic Bag Free Day
- Press Briefing (2) on Single Use Plastic (SUP) Pollution in Bangladesh
- Open Forum with DoE
- Training of volunteers and staffs for Brand Audit event
- Brand Auditing and Market Survey on Microbeads and Single use Plastic Products
- Meeting with BANGLADESH STANDARDS AND TESTING INSTITUTION (BSTI)



In July 1, 2018, ESDO team announced the “Beat the Plastic Pollution, Ban the Bag” slogan for this year’s International Plastic Bag Free Day. Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO Chairperson and former secretary Govt. of Bangladesh, Syed Marghub Murshed formally announced the day event and month long program through a press briefing.

The Plastic Bag Free day poses significance this year as UN Environment also announced the theme of world environment day “Beat the Plastic Pollution” and UN member states (over 193 countries) celebrated the day with the commitment. ESDO urged the government to execute the bag ban law and phase out all single use plastics. ESDO also published a poster for the International Bag Free Day 2018 in the same day.

Introduction:

Plastic pollution is caused by the accumulation of plastic waste in the environment. At present, humans are using several disposable plastic products, microbeads and single-use plastics. These plastics cause great harm to the environment in the form of air, water land and specially ocean pollution. Environment and Social Development Organization, ESDO has initiated a project entitled "Combating the Pollution Threat from Microplastic Litter to Save Marine Health in the Bay of Bengal" to reduce and ultimately stop use of microbeads and single-use plastics pollution (in the form of sachets and plastic tube packaging) as well as stop their flows into the Bay of Bengal. The following activities were held in 2018 to fulfill this project’s goal.

1) Dialogue with Directorate General of Health Services

A dialogue was arranged with the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Masud Reza Kabir; Program Manager, Community Based Healthcare, DGHS said that no work is been done yet by DGHS regarding microbeads/ microplastics. Following ESDO's policy advocacy work, DGHS has decided to put the microbeads issue into their running projects.

School education & awareness campaign

ESDO started public education and awareness raising campaigns in school, colleges and universities. In this quarter ESDO conducted campaigns in 3 different schools. 400 youths and 80 teachers in 5 educational institutes were a part of this campaign. Students were well informed about the dangerous aspects of microbeads and raised their voice against microbeads. The youth community was mobilized and they started social media campaigns against microbeads and microplastic pollution in Bangladesh.



Consultation with Stakeholders

ESDO stepped forward with a view to sharing knowledge with key stakeholders for the project 'Combating the pollution threat from microplastic litter to save marine health in the Bay of Bengal' through a consultation being held on 19 February, 2018 at Four Seasons Restaurant, Satmasjid Road, Dhamnondi, Dhaka. As part of the 1st cluster activities of project implementation strategies, ESDO organized the consultation with relevant stakeholders from distinguished representatives. Representatives from the Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI), Department of Environment, Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association, different plastic packaging industries and other government, non-government organizations and INGO's, were present at the consultation along with academicians from different universities. Government representatives and stakeholders agreed to work together as a way forward to eliminate the use of microbeads in personal care products. All of the participants stressed on raising more awareness about microbeads and its dangerous effects on human health, ocean and marine environments.



"Ban Plastic Microbead"



16 Comments



**Combat Microplastic Pollution:
Save the Bay of Bengal and
Marine Life!!**

The marine life in the Bay of Bengal is threatened by microplastic and microbeads. Microbeads is a new phenomenon in Bangladesh. In addition, microplastic has not been recognized until Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO published their study report entitled, "[Microbeads! Unfold Health Risk and Environmental Pollution](#)" on 15 October 2016.

vipeitions.com/petition/ban-plastic-microbead#

Petition Submission

Petition was drafted and submitted to Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Fisheries. The Ministry of Environment and Forest accepted the petition and forwarded it to the secretary for further activities. ESDO launched an online petition and got a good number of responses against microbeads.



Dialogue with Department of Environment (DoE)

ESDO arranged a dialogue with Director General of DoE. Dr. Sultan Ahmed, DG, DoE appreciated ESDO's initiative toward plastic free environment and assured ESDO that DoE will always cooperate with ESDO. ESDO will get full support from DoE whenever needed.

DoE wanted to collaborate with ESDO and jointly conduct a seminar with a view to celebrating World Environment Day with the theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. He also asked DoE focal person to work on the SRO (statutory regulatory order) to stop the use and sell of micro beads containing products immediately.

2) Dialogue with Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute-BSTI

ESDO arranged a dialogue with BSTI personnel with a view to ending the trade of microbead added product manufacture and supply. BSTI appreciated ESDO's activities and took a great initiative towards solving the microbeads issue. On the 12th meeting of 'Cosmetics and Related Products' sectional committee of BSTI, a decision was taken by the authority to add 'microbeads/microplastic' in the List of Substances which must not be the composition of cosmetic products (BDS 1340(2)) included within the Guidelines for cosmetic products. Expressing solidarity with our appeal to ban microbeads, Prof. Dr. Md. AbulHashem, Chairman, Chemical Division of BSTI facilitated the addition of microbeads/microplastic in the above mentioned lists under BDS 1340(2). The draft proposal was passed by Cosmetics Division and has been sent to BSTI Chemical Division for approval.

Mobile Campaign

ESDO conducted Mobile campaign in order to make people aware of the health and environmental impact. A day long mobile campaign was arranged in different spots of the capital city; attracting the public with flyers, placards, festoons and radio jingles. A signature campaign was also conducted alongside this campaign. Around 200 people signed the banner supporting a ban of micro beads.



Press briefing on Plastic Bag Free Day

Environment and Social Development Organization urged the government through a press briefing to execute the plastic bag ban law and phase out all single use plastic. In the Press Briefing Syed Marghub Murshed, ESDO Chairperson and former Secretary, Prof. Dr. Md. Abul Hashem, Chairman (Chemical Division), BSTI; Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General and Siddika Sultana, Executive Director ESDO were also present.



Celebration of International Plastic Bag Free Day in Bangladesh

Plastic Bag Free Day is a day of action which was first introduced in Bangladesh by Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO in July 1st, 1997 and after 10 years in July 2007, Barcelona based organization Rezero initiated the day in Europe. A mobile campaign was organized by ESDO on 'International plastic bag free day, 2018'. As ESDO works for the well being of the environment and has been working since 1990 against plastic pollution in Bangladesh, ESDO organized a Human Chain at TSC, Press Club and in front of SangsadBhaban to create public awareness. The goal of this day is to raise awareness of just how bad plastic bags are for the environment and encouraged people to find alternatives.



3) Training of volunteers and staffs for Brand Audit event

5 staff members from ESDO and 10 volunteers were trained for the Brand Audit event. A training session was arranged for a group of 10 youths who have joined in the Brand Audit event as volunteers. All youths are members of Bangladesh Girl Guides Association from different study/academic backgrounds. Trainings were done with a focus on Brand Audit tool kits and were also shown how to fill up a Brand Audit form during cleanup activities. It was mainly arranged to build the capacity of project staff and volunteers to conduct the Brand Audit properly.





Open Forum with DoE

As part of the World Environment Day 2018 celebration, ESDO and the Department of environment-DoE jointly organized a seminar on "Plastic Pollution in Bangladesh and its Impact on Environment and Health", a quote from the seminar reads; 'This year, the World Environment Day is another reminder that our river and marine life are now in new dangers of high concentrations of plastic pollution entering our freshwater rivers and oceanic systems', experts said at the seminar. The event was organized by ESDO in collaboration with DoE at Bana Bhaban, Dhaka. The session was chaired by Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary, People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chairperson of ESDO. Chief Guest was Mr. Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury, Honorable Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The guest of honor was MD. Mokhlesur Rahman, Additional Inspector General of Bangladesh Police, Special Guest Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Director General (Additional Secretary) of Department of Environment (DoE), Dr. Ahmed appreciated ESDO's initiative toward a plastic free environment and express his and department support to Environment and Social Development Organization's all relevant initiatives. He said we will work together for pollution and plastic free environment.

Brand Auditing and Market Survey on Microbeads and Single use Plastic Products

ESDO conducted a Brand Audit and market assessment of personal, household and food product packaging with single use plastics (sachets) and microbead containing packaging products in different parts of Dhaka. Now a days, various personal care products such as face wash, toothpaste, exfoliating scrubs and anti-ageing creams contain thousands of microbeads. Most of these products are packaged with sachets. These products, when washed cause microbeads to run down into the river and sea, where they have harmful effects on aquatic life and human health. The objectives of the study were to pinpoint items containing microbeads, also pinpointing local and popular brands selling products containing plastic sachets within markets in Dhaka. The study was conducted in Chokbazar, Kawran Bazar area as well as in the Mohammadpur krsishy [farmer's] market and town hall area through a questionnaire survey. From the study, it is found that among all the cosmetics items, [please highlight name here] shampoo mini is highly packaged with sachets and [please highlight name here] scrub face wash mostly contains microbeads.



Our Ocean Conference 2018

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia hosted the fifth Ocean Conference in Bali on 29 and 30 October, 2018. This conference was focused on generating commitments and taking actions to maintain the sustainability of our oceans. Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO attended this conference. The main objective of the conference was to increase as well as enhance collaboration and partnership between various ocean stakeholders translated into concrete and actionable commitments. Participants were encouraged to announce their commitments during the conference, as it critically contributes towards global efforts to preserve the oceans' health. Discussions during the Conference highlight/highlighted/highlit integrated and actionable solutions, which remove barriers between sectors, disciplines, and financing streams to comprehensively address oceanlife/marine environmental issues as an inter-connected system and economy/important/relevant environmental issue



Meeting with Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI)

ESDO conducted a meeting with BSTI about microbeads in cosmetics products. Through this meeting, they have shared their views, experiences and initiatives about the issue on microbeads in cosmetic and other toiletry products. This discussion will add a new dimension to stopping the use of microbeads in products of Bangladesh. In the meeting, the Director General (DG) of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution, Mr. Sardar Abul Kalam said that they have already taken initiatives to look into the issue of microbeads and their harmful effects within their guidelines. He also encourages people to not use microbeads in their products.



Press Briefing on Single Use Plastic (SUP) Pollution in Bangladesh

ESDO arranged a press briefing on 14th November on Wednesday at ESDO's head office, Dhaka. The press briefing was organized to release the initial findings of the study entitled "Stop using single use plastic (SUP) to protect human health and Environment". ESDO Chairperson and former Secretary Syed Marghub Murshed, Prof. Md. Abul Hashem, Chairman of chemical division (BSTI), Secretary General of ESDO Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO were present at this press briefing.





Lead Elimination Project

- Policy Intervention
- Level Lead Safe Paint National Certification Program (LSPC)
- BSTI has finalized standard for paint industry
- Meeting with BSTI
- Meeting with Pure Earth
- Technical Workshop on Assessing Sites Contaminated by Chemicals
- Human Chain on 'Ban Lead Paint, Act Now'
- Round Table Meeting
- Study on Lead Acid Battery Hotspots of Bangladesh

Policy Intervention

Bangladesh Standard of Testing Institution-BSTI is the authority to develop/set up the legal limit on products. It is under the Ministry of Industries. ESDO is a campaigner against use of lead. In this line, ESDO is working as a pioneer organization to eliminate lead, especially from paint. ESDO has given a proposal to BSTI about fixing up the limit of lead content in paint. According to the proposal, BSTI has prepared a draft standard to fix up the limit of lead in Paint as 50 ppm. This year, ESDO had done/held several meetings with BSTI to determine legal limits on lead paint.



Level Lead Safe Paint National Certification Program (LSPC)

ESDO has taken several initiatives to promote paint industries as LEAD SAFE PAINT (LSP)-certified industries. For this purpose/to this end ESDO advises on a regular basis industrial authorities by continuous communication and highlights the maximum benefits of being an LSP certified industry. After successful intervention of ESDO, a renowned paint industry, Elite Paint has taken steps to promote their LSP-certified paints this year. SGS Global Services, under the supervision of IPEN, has given an LSP Certificate to Elite Paint as 'First Paint Industry in Bangladesh' [very confusing]. Inspired from these activities/by ESDO/our activities and also being benefitted from the initiatives/ESDO initiatives, Elite Paint has also reached out to different stores, vendors, dealers, distributors and painters to inform and orient them about LSP-certification.



Syed Margub Murshed, chairperson of Environment and Social Development Organisation, and Mozahar Hossain, director for operations and head of management committee at Elite Paint, pose with the "Lead Safe Paint" certificate of Elite Paint, developed by IPEN, a global non-government organisation and international leader on chemical safety, at a programme at Begum Sofia Kamal Public Library in Dhaka on Tuesday.

ELITE PAINT



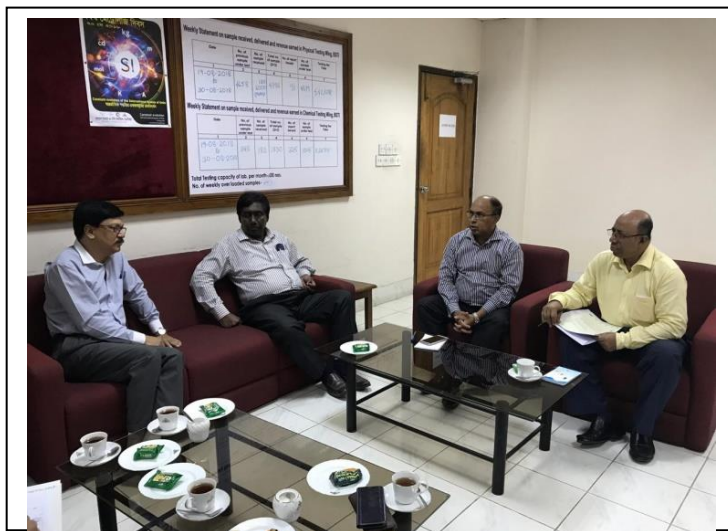
Meeting with BSTI

ESDO has conducted a successful meeting with Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) on 05 September, 2018 at Maan Bhaban, Tejgaon Industrial Area in Dhaka. The main objective of the meeting was to stop the use of lead in paint.

During the meeting, the Director General of BSTI Mr. Sardar Abul Kalam discussed lead in paint. He said that, “since it has many years passed but small paint companies yet did not stop using lead free paints. That’s why in reality we have to work with brand wise.”

Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO also added that, “our neighbor countries have already banned lead in paints but why Bangladesh do not yet stop use lead in paints. One of the reasons are large companies are supporting the local small paint companies on their work though they are not using lead. They are doing all these because to hold popularity.”

Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO said that, “as to ban lead in paint the law is already imposed and local paint companies have given enough time to stop use lead in paint so this is high time we should take necessary steps against them.”



Meeting with Pure Earth

ESDO arranged a meeting with Pure Earth on 17 September, 2018 at ESDO office. Pure Earth is an international non-profit organization dedicated to solving pollution problems in low- and middle-income countries, where human health is at risk. Pure Earth, formerly known as the Blacksmith Institute, is a leader in global toxic pollution cleanup.

The meeting was attended by Andrew McCartor, Director of Global Policy and Planning and Regional Director for South Asia and East Asia, Emily Nash, Program Associate of Pure Earth, Mohammad Lutful Kabir, Environmental Researcher, Syed Marghub Murshed Chairperson of ESDO, Prof. Dr. Md. Abul Hashem, Chairman (Chemical Division), Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General and Siddika Sultana, Executive Director ESDO.

During the meeting, discussions emerged about joint project and initiative on lead contamination issues with an emphasis on contamination resulting from the informal recycling of used lead-acid batteries.

Technical Workshop on Assessing Sites Contaminated by Chemicals

Pure Earth organized a Technical Workshop on Assessing Sites Contaminated by Chemicals in association with Pure Earth.

It was held on Sept 18-19, 2018 at Department of Geology, Curzon Hall Campus, University of Dhaka and funded by USAID on the identification and assessment of sites contaminated by chemical pollution in Bangladesh.

As part of the workshop, ESDO members made a field visit to demonstrate the methodology for assessing human health impacts of toxic sites. For this purpose, we visited Kamrangirchar near Panna Battery Ltd., the largest lead-acid battery manufacturer in Bangladesh.



Study on Lead Acid Battery Use and Impacts & Hotspots of Bangladesh

Lead Acid Batteries are widely used in large scale of auto mobile, solar power system, TV, computer and electronics sector of Bangladesh. There are no research has yet been carried out on the harmful effects of the dumping site of used lead acid battery waste. It directly affects on environment and hazardous issues. Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO has taken a pioneer step to conduct a primary study to find out mainly recycling industry and KII of different place and also the current level of awareness of the lead acid battery users and about their toxicity. The study report will officially release by mid June 2020.



Round Table Meeting

ESDO arranged a round table meeting on 21st October, 2018 at Chameli conference room of Paribesh Bhaban in Department of Environment (DoE).

A group of government representatives like representatives from Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Commerce, paint company agents like members of Bangladesh Paint Manufacturer's Association (BPMA), experts, scientists, environment activists, bureaucrats, youth groups, civil society members, journalists, reporters and ESDO members were present at the round table meeting.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Director General of DoE; present distinguished guests present at the meeting took part in the open discussion where they opined about the subject issue.



Policy Intervention

Bangladesh Standard of Testing Institution-BSTI is the authority to develop/set up the legal limit on products. It is under the Ministry of Industries. ESDO is a campaigner against use of lead. In this line, ESDO is working as a pioneer organization to eliminate lead, especially from paint. ESDO has given a proposal to BSTI about fixing up the limit of lead content in paint. According to the proposal, BSTI has prepared a draft standard to fix up the limit of lead in Paint as 50 ppm. This year, ESDO had done/held several meetings with BSTI to determine legal limits on lead paint.





Mercury free Dentistry

Key Points:

- Press Briefing of Declaration by the Bangladesh Dental Society (BDS)
- Mercury free Dentistry and Health Care Services Week of Action
- Consultation towards Mercury-Free Dentistry among ESDO, BDS and Asian Center
- Mercury-Free Dental Treatment Through Free Dental Checkup
- Global Workshop
- Booklet Launching Ceremony
- Memorandum of Understanding Between ESDO and BDS
- Dental chamber recognition
- Successful intervention by World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry in COP2

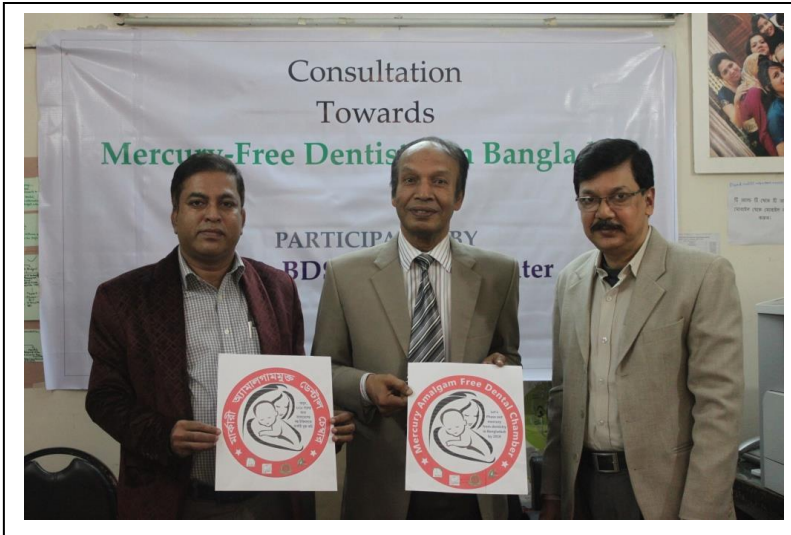
Dental chamber recognition

Bangladesh Dental Society-BDS and Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO made a new approach towards mercury-free dentistry in Bangladesh through recognizing 'Mercury Amalgam Free Dental Chamber'. The Secretary General of Bangladesh Dental Society and a very well known dental surgeon, Dr. Humayun Kabir Bulbul received recognition for using Mercury-Free products in his medicine/surgical work. Dr Bulbul's dental chamber named 'Orient Dental' situated in Shantinagar, Dhaka was appreciated as a 'Mercury-Free Dental Chamber' by Bangladesh Dental Society-BDS and Environment and Social development Organization-ESDO.

On 28th January 2018, ESDO and BDS in collaboration with World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry and Asian Center for Environmental Health inaugurated the program as a part of their vibrant campaign to ban mercury from dentistry in Bangladesh through visiting and recognizing mercury-free dental chambers. Dr. Humayun, the principal dentist of the dental chamber was provided with a sticker logo denoting 'Mercury-Free Dental Chamber' for his chamber.

Consultation towards Mercury-Free Dentistry among ESDO, BDS and Asian Center

ESDO has organized awareness campaigns and various movements collaborating with the Bangladesh Dental Society-BDS and the Army Dental Core with a view to phasing out mercury amalgam from the dental sector of our country by 2018. To achieve the goal of phasing out mercury amalgam from Bangladesh, ESDO organized a consultation among ESDO, BDS and the Asian Center on January 18, 2018 at the head office of ESDO. The consultation session was attended by the President, Secretary General and some dentists associated with BDS, Executive Vice President of World Alliance, the Director of Asian Center and the ESDO team.



Memorandum of Understanding Between ESDO and BDS

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Joint Action seeks to eliminate “Mercury Dental Amalgam” from the dentistry sector in Bangladesh by 2018 and initiate policies /advocacy for regulations to ban amalgam use, import and sale revisions to this effect and adopt alternatives in academic curricula by 2020, signed in April 12, 2018. This represents a shared understanding betwixt Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO and Bangladesh Dental Society (BDS), signed in the presence of a representative of the World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry.

Press Briefing of the Declaration by Bangladesh Dental Society (BDS)

An exemplary step has been taken by the Bangladesh Dental Society-the national professional body of the dental surgeons of Bangladesh -by making a declaration on 'Phase out Mercury Dental Amalgam in the treatment of pregnant women, nursing mother and children within June, 2018' through a press briefing on 10 March 2018. The Secretary General of BDS, Dr. Humayun Kabir Bulbul made the announcement in front of the press. The Chairperson of ESDO, Executive Vice President of the World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry, Director of Asian Center for Environmental Health, President of BDS,[please mention names here] some members of ESDO team [who?] and BDS [who?] were present at the briefing among the reporters. BDS and ESDO jointly held the press conference at the Shagor Runi Milonayoton, Dhaka Reporter's Unity.

ESDO and BDS signed an MOU on 26 April, 2016 and has worked diligently to establish Mercury-Free Dentistry in Bangladesh since then. Children, pregnant women and nursing mothers are the worst sufferers of this type of poisoning.The briefing began with the Director of Asian Center for Environmental Health & Executive Director of Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO, Siddika Sultana welcoming all the guests and introduced the concept of this press briefing. The Secretary General of ESDO and Vice President of the World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry, Dr. Shahriar Hossain declared the importance of this event and the declaration made on prevention of dental mercury poisoning. Following this, the Chairperson of ESDO, Syed Margub Morshed gave his speech thanking all his colleagues, reporters and dental professionals present at the briefing. The declaration was then stated by the Secretary General of Bangladesh Dental Society-BDS, Dr. Humayun Kabir Bulbul. After the declaration, the President of BDS, Dr. Md. Abul Kashem justified it. At the end, a question-answer session was conducted to clarify the importance of the declaration and the movement.





Contribution towards early ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and towards phasing out mercury added products in Bangladesh

- Meeting with key personnel of the Department of Environment
- Consultation on Minamata Initial Assessment
- Product Identification and Market Assessment
- Press Briefing on “High Level of Mercury in Skin Lightener in Bangladesh and Global Market”
- Participate in COP2-Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

1) Meeting with key personnel of the Department of Environment under the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and other relevant stakeholders.

With a view to outreach of relevant government departments pertaining to phasing out mercury added products and obtaining official endorsement to engage in the project through the existing national advisory committee on Minamata Convention on Mercury, a meeting with key persons of the Department of Environment under the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and other relevant stakeholders was held through the year. They were reminded about the emergence of the ratification of Minamata Convention on Mercury in Bangladesh.

2) Press Briefing

To create public awareness, two press briefings were organized in 2018. These press briefings were held on 30th January on mercury in skin lightening creams and 15th November on “High Level of Mercury in Skin Lightener in Bangladesh and Global Market”. Another press briefing will be held in the month of January 2019 because of the political issues in our country.

Consultation on Minamata Initial Assessment

As MIA is the key to determining the necessity of ratifying the Convention, it provides a basis for the development and implementation of phasing down/out strategies for mercury and Mercury Added Products (MAPs). For advancement of the project, ESDO arranged a consultation on MIA with responsible authorities held on 6th September in 2018. As Minamata Acting Focal Point and National Project Director of MIA, Dr. Masud Iqbal Md. Shameem, Director, Department of Environment (DoE), was present in the consultation. The committee will review and take various technical reports under the MIA project to monitor and implement various acts of the regional project. The committee will also review a road map for the inclusion of a National Development Plan and the important aspects of the country on mercury.

The director of DoE discussed the draft guidelines of government and pre-investment studies of mercury in products {in Dhaka/Bangladesh}? He remarked that the main objective of the Minamata Convention was to eliminate mercury in products and furthermore, no longer use mercury in any kind of products. He presented a brief about government initiatives to phase out mercury in products and also informed that they had formed a Mercury Coordination Committee under the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA).

Product Identification and Market Assessment

Skin lightening products were assessed in market places of Dhaka city in the month of May. A volunteer team visited some mostly crowded shopping malls and market places and talked to shopkeepers about the availability of products mentioned in the provided log sheet. Following the market assessment, skin lightening cosmetic products was purchased and sampling was done following the instructions and protocol of sampling. The standard code of conduct and guidelines were strictly followed.



Experiment with Lumex Ra-915

The EEB/ ZMWG has lent a machine LUMEX RA-915+ to ESDO for mercury analyzing. Lumex Mercury Analyzer is a compact instrument designed to address the problems of mercury pollution. For testing the amount of mercury in skin lightening cream, we took two types of skin lightening creams. The result is quite satisfactory; however, for better results, we need glass tubes for the experiment.



Survey on gender barrier in STEM

In response to the survey and data gathering for an international joint survey for APNN member countries by Association of Korean Woman Scientists and Engineers (KWSE), ESDO has conducted the survey. The Purpose of the survey is to evaluate how the young and future Scientists and engineers perceive “gender barriers” experienced by women in STEM. The term “gender barriers” is used in this study to describe hurdles and obstacles women in STEM experience in their educational and professional life because of their biological and social identity as women. About eighty engineers, scientists and professionals of Bangladesh responded to these activities. ESDO team conducted the survey at Dhaka Dental College, Dhaka University, BUET, Asia Pacific University and Dhaka Medical Collage.



Social Innovation and Sustainable Likelihood

ESDO has been continue conducting training, workshops, consultation, education programs on climate change in the most vulnerable areas in Bangladesh. In this year we focused the areas are: Dhaka, Mymensing, Rangpur, Manikganj, Naogaon, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Rangamati.

Zero Waste Village:

Oue initiatives towards sustainable waste management and climate change adaptation. ESDO has continue to the previous initiatives on “Waste to resource towards zero waste village”. Its main vision is to build a model of environmentally safe and sustainable village.

It is run basically under the project of Eco-village. Prior to the commencement of the zero waste village, waste was dumped indiscriminately across the village and the fields. Aside from the environmental and health impacts of open dumping, this was also a lost opportunity for the community to benefit from their waste resources.

Our approach is extreme poverty reduction and access to resource to ensure safe and sustainable livelihood.





Global Workshop on Mercury-Free Dentistry

Vital voices against mercury dental amalgams were raised through a global workshop held in CRI Center Bangkok, Thailand. The prestigious workshop was coordinated by UN Environment and World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry. Promoting Dental Amalgam Phase down Measures under the Minamata Convention and Other Initiatives, For “Especially Women, Children, and, through Them, Future Generations” is the foremost focus of this workshop. A total of 25 countries called for the world to act on Mercury Amalgam, the death-dealing dental filling material during the workshop. Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Executive Vice President of World Alliance and Secretary General of ESDO, was the co-chair of the workshop.

The two day long workshop was segmented/divided into different sections. The first day program was scheduled with the introduction of distinguished guests, welcoming remarks, overview of the Minamata Convention provisions & related UN environment initiatives, discussions regarding health and environmental impacts of dental amalgams and consultations on the range of measures available to phase down the use of dental amalgam.

The final session of the second day of the workshop was devoted to developing strategies for phasing down the use of dental amalgams, including phase-out opportunities in vulnerable groups.

ESDO along with Asian Center play key role to organize and facilitate the Global Workshop.

Successful intervention by World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry in COP2

The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP2) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury took place from 19-23 November 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. The World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry has urged countries to end amalgam use in children by 2020. The submission is contained within the World Alliance's position on dental amalgam released on Sunday, November 18, 2018 to the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP2) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury held in Geneva, Switzerland. The World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry is a global coalition of non-governmental organizations.



Participate in COP2-Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP2) took place from the 19th to the 23rd of November 2018 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland. The Conference was preceded on Sunday, 18th November by preparatory meetings, regional and other meetings. The Convention drew attention to a global and ubiquitous poisoning of mercury that is released into an airborne atmosphere, soil /land areas and water bodies from a variety of sources. Controlling anthropogenic releases of mercury throughout its lifecycle has been a key factor in shaping obligations under the Convention.

Other activities

Asia Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management

23-25 January, Bangkok: Adopted by the First International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM1) on 6 February 2006 in Dubai, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world. The 5th Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was held in Bangkok, Thailand. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director, ESDO took part in the meeting and successfully intervened on ESDO's emerging policy Issue 'Lead Safe Paint'.



Second meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

The Second Meeting of the Intersessional Process for Considering the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020, convened in Stockholm, Sweden, from 13-15 March 2018. Approximately 360 delegates attended, including representatives of 68 governments, 51 industry and non-governmental organizations, and 16 intergovernmental organizations. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO represented ESDO in the meeting.



Participation in GAIA Asia Pacific Communication Workshop 2018

The Bandung workshop is the second communication workshop of Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) Asia Pacific Communication Group organized jointly by GAIA and Break Free From Plastic (BFFP). This workshop aimed at enabling about 30 participants from 9 different countries in the Asia-Pacific region to jointly conceive a communications strategy for 2018. Such a communications strategy would help thwart some of the dominant narratives around plastics and waste, empower the silenced voices and make discernible the stories of successes from the different communities that deserve to be shared and celebrated. ESDO is a member of GAIA and Afrida Nazibah, Program Associate and the communication person of ESDO participated in the workshop being a GAIA AP COMMS Group member.



International Zero Waste Cities Conference 2018

“Circular City is the Future City” - with the theme [what theme?] International Zero Waste Cities Conference held from 5th to 7th March, 2018 in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia. This year's conference was jointly organized by the members of #breakfreefromplasticmovement, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives Asia Pacific (GAIA Asia Pacific), Yayasan Pengembangan Biosains dan Bioteknologi (YPBB), and Alliance Zero Waste Indonesia (AZWI) with an aim to share an understanding of the Zero Waste principle in waste management to various stakeholders.

IZWCC 2018 participants consisted of civil society groups and local government officials who came from various regions in Indonesia. The conference also presented civil society and government officials from other countries that have experience in implementing the Zero Waste approach in each country. This conference was a platform for GAIA COMMS Group to experience communication tasks of an event. Each and every member of COMMS Group was assigned with different tasks e.g., photography, videography, taking notes, preparing graphics, social media engagement etc. Communication group members applied their skills and knowledge obtained from two consecutive workshops.

Mercury free Dentistry and Health Care Services Week of Action

Secretary General of ESDO and Executive Vice President of World Alliance For Mercury-Free Dentistry (WAMFD) Dr. Shahriar Hossain visited Nepal and attended 'Mercury free Dentistry and Health Care Services Week of Action' observed by Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED) in Bharatpur, Chitwan in line with celebrating World Oral Health Day, jointly with District Coordination Committee (DCC), District Public Health Office (DPHO), Bharatpur Metropolitan City (BMC), Private Hospital Coordination Committee (PHCC), Chitwan Medical College (CMC), Saptagandki College, Balkumari College, Balkumari Higher Secondary School of Health Science etc. along with the self-declaration of 5 mercury free dental clinics and hospitals in Chitwan. The week of action programmes were conducted as a part of ongoing project entitled "Reduction of POPs and Mercury from Health Sector of Nepal through Awareness raising, helping CTF set up and policy influences", supported by UNDP GEF SGP Nepal and WAMFD. CEPHED, a partner organization of Asian Center for Environmental Health, a sister concern of ESDO. It's an environmental NGO established in the year 2004, by and through contribution and coordination of a group of activists and experienced people from medical, environment and public health sectors.



ESDO Represent the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics

ESDO Intervened in Adhoc Open-Ended Expert Group meetings on Marine Litter and Microplastic Pollution in a resolution adopted at the third meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3), where member states agreed to establish an Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group to examine options combating marine plastic litter and micro plastics from all sources, including global legally binding mechanisms. The ad hoc open-ended expert group meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 29-31 May 2018.

Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO took part in the meeting as a representative of ESDO and NGO Majore group and made an intervention on marine plastic litter.



ASIA and Pacific Regional consultation for the second meeting of the parties to the ‘Minamata convention on Mercury’



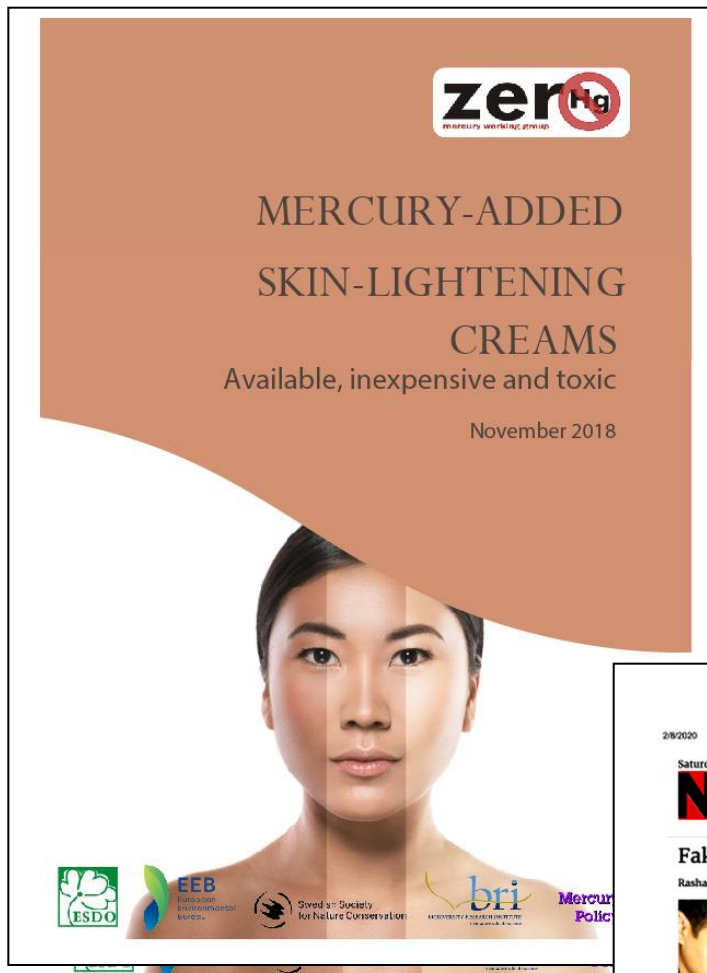
Siddika Sultana, giving her speech at the ASIA and Pacific Regional consultation

In October 23-24, 2018, Asia and Pacific Regional consultation for the second meeting of the parties to the “Minamata Convention on Mercury” was held in Bangkok, Thailand. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director ESDO, and Director of Asian Center for Environmental Health attended the meeting.













ESDO Assistant Program Officer Syeda Mehrabin Shejuti, receiving award as one of the best fellow under Eco-peace leadership program of UNEP of the Ministry on Environment, South Korea

Publications and media campaign innovations:



Major International Project Partners :

 <p>Asian Center for Environmental Health</p>	 <p>The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation</p>
 <p>Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives-GAIA</p>	 <p>Toxic Links</p>
 <p>International Pops Elimination Network</p>	 <p>United Nations Environmental Program</p>
 <p>International Union for Conservation Nature</p>	 <p>World Alliance for Mercury Free Dentistry</p>
 <p>Natural Resources Defense Council</p>	 <p>Zero Mercury Working Group</p>

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Annual Audit of Accounts:

Environment And Social Development Organization(ESDO)

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Head Office

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st December-2018

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Taka - 2018</u>	<u>Taka - 2017</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
<u>Opening Balance</u>		
Cash in hand	2,150	5,341
Cash at Bank	2,625,440	1,170,227
Donation (Note - 04)	450,000	550,000
Receipt from Advocacy Training	589,600	776,800
Receipt from Book Sale	52,400	69,860
Receipt from capacity building Training	945,250	865,400
Receipt from Training materials Development	53,240	634,500
Paper selling	28,750	22,340
Material sales	221,400	187,900
Receipt from Eco-Village	764,500	575,600
Sundry Receipts	124,560	100,580
Donation from Consumer for Dental Choice	9,005,043	6,236,029
Bank Interest	121,691	42,591
Donation from Switch Asia IPEN/EU	91,240	80,911
Donation from Micro Plastic Project	3,286,830	6,412,784
Donation from EEB- Mercury in products	574,424	4,705,000
Donation from Chemicals in Skin Lightening Creams	995,420	1,295,000
POPs and Chemical in Food	1,602,450	
TOTAL=	21,534,388	23,730,863

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Taka - 2018</u>	<u>Taka - 2017</u>
<u>PAYEMENTS</u>		
Printing and Stationary	514580	598,740
Communication	213690	213,200
Convayance	188370	173,290
Remuneration & Logistics Support	1965140	1,579,200
Salary and Allowance	2892170	2,419,909
Festival allowance	345420	257,600
Office rent (HO) and utility	1115580	917,118
Repair ,Cleaning and Maintananace	74512	60,970
Entertainment	58420	42,777
Bank Charge	9791	13,913
Source Tax	18723	



<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Taka - 2018</u>	<u>Taka - 2017</u>
Liabilities for Audit Fees (HO)	10000	10,000
Documentation of Study & Survey	494910	786,800
Project Information & Miscellaneous	233870	185,430
Awareness campaign (Human chain, Rally in School & College)	2403050	2,348,000
Seminar, Workshop, Open discussion	4187280	2,223,420
Cost of Training	890680	2,185,220
Cost of Mercury free Logo/ Certificate	126000	155,400
Cost of Poster	413760	636,140
Cost of Festoon	105270	186,354
Cost of Book Mark	80010	105,400
Cost of Flyer	37646	46,160
Press conference & Media campaign	1481540	1,390,229
Research and report preparation		280,000
Tel. Mobile, Internet, sundry & Communication Cost	132640	133,271
Stakeholder meeting	25460	354,440
Awareness rally		576,540
Workshop with Research & Student	224300	295,470
Develop a guideline and regulatory framework		248,650
Consultation with mass media		678,500
National workshop	387400	356,800
Salary & allowance		724,360
Administrative, Communication and Logistics Cost	595215	919,972
Closing Balance		
Cash in hand	5,420	2,150
Cash at Bank	2,303,541	2,625,440
TOTAL=	21,534,388	23,730,863



ESDO Lights, the path

for future generations

