

JANUARY-MARCH 2023

NEWSLETTER

Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO



Inside Issues

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ESDO Team Orientation

New employee orientation is an exciting time both for the new hire and the organization. To give a warm welcome to the new members of ESDO, create a friendly bond among the members, make them enable to understand ESDO's culture & norms and get fully involved in ESDO, a 3-day long "Orientation Workshop" with Dhaka and Rangpur team between 01-03 January 2023 at the "Surer Dhara" Auditorium.

Different sessions starting from Introductory session, Ice breaking session, Team building exercises, presentations on ESDO initiatives, successes and visions, presentation skills and interpersonal communication were discussed and performed. Different types of exercises were conducted where teams were divided for various competitions. All team members performed the tasks gracefully. The respected Secretary General of ESDO presented a valuable presentation on ESDO research, which created a clear image for all team members.



#No_Plastic

Inception workshop on the “Plastic-Free Campus” Project to Enhance a Sustainable Environment

To enhance a sustainable environment, the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) and Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTBL) initiated the "Plastic-Free Campus" project. An initial workshop was officially inaugurated on January 22, 2023, in Dhaka. By educating the younger generation about the toxicity of plastic and preparing young students to reject single-use plastic, this initiative aims to encourage leadership in the next generation.



The "Plastic Free Campus" project, will assist educational institutions in Bangladesh in the global fight against single-use plastic pollution. The purpose of Plastic Free Campus (PFC) is to support educational institutions in their fight against single-use plastic pollution. PFC promotes schools in improving our health, social justice, and the environment. Two of Bangladesh's primary sources of plastic pollution are schools and universities. [Read more](#)



Orientation workshop on “Plastic-free Campus” with Teachers and Girl Guides Association

Following the successful inception workshop for the "Plastic-free Campus" initiative, the Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO organized a two-day orientation training with the teachers of the targeted schools and the Girl Guides on January 23 and 24. By giving the teachers and volunteers an in-depth insight into the project's activities, this orientation provided to prepare them for forthcoming PFC project activities..

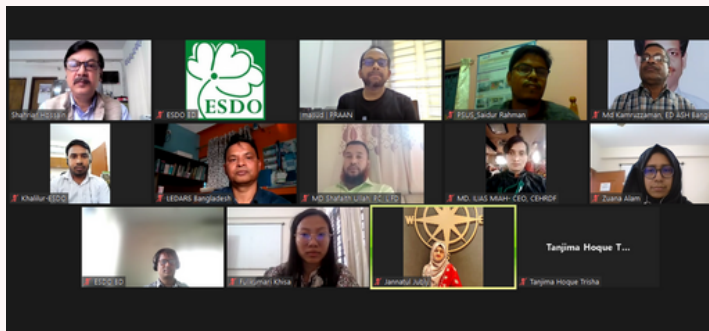
[Read more](#)



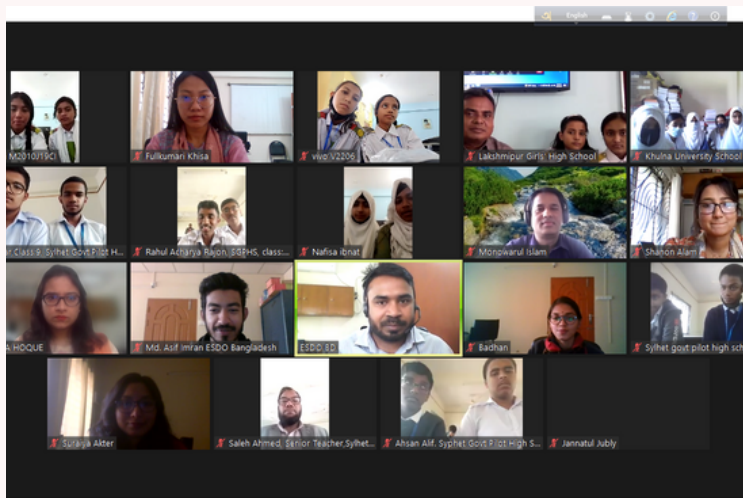
Stakeholder and Consultation meeting on “Initiating a Platform in Bangladesh Network on Banning Single-Use Plastic from the coastal area of Bangladesh”



Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO organized a virtual stakeholder and consultation meeting on "Initiating a Platform in Bangladesh Network on Banning Single-Use Plastic" to discuss this topic and the ways to ban SUP from the 12 coastal areas of Bangladesh. CSO members participated in the meeting as stakeholders and actively voiced their opinions on SUP. The major discussion topic at the meeting was not all types of plastic but single-use plastic products and how to gradually remove them from Bangladesh's coastal areas. Single-use plastic products (SUPPs) may be the essence of convenience, but the damage they cause to the environment and to human health through production, distribution, and littering makes constitute a serious hazard. [Read more](#)



Ban Single-use Plastic



Girl Guides and Boy Scout Online Orientation Workshop

Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO held a virtual orientation training with the selected five-division Girl Guides and Boy Scout association on February 28, 2023. By giving the volunteers in-depth knowledge of the project's activities, this introduction provided to prepare the volunteers for upcoming PFC project activities. Both the Boy Scout Association and the Girl Guides Association give opinions on this effort, highlighting their gratitude for it and expressing a willingness to involve students in this outstanding effort to make selected campuses plastic-free. [Read more](#)

*Let's Keep Our Campus
Plastic-free*

Volunteer Orientation Workshop on Plastic-free Campus at Rangpur Zilla School



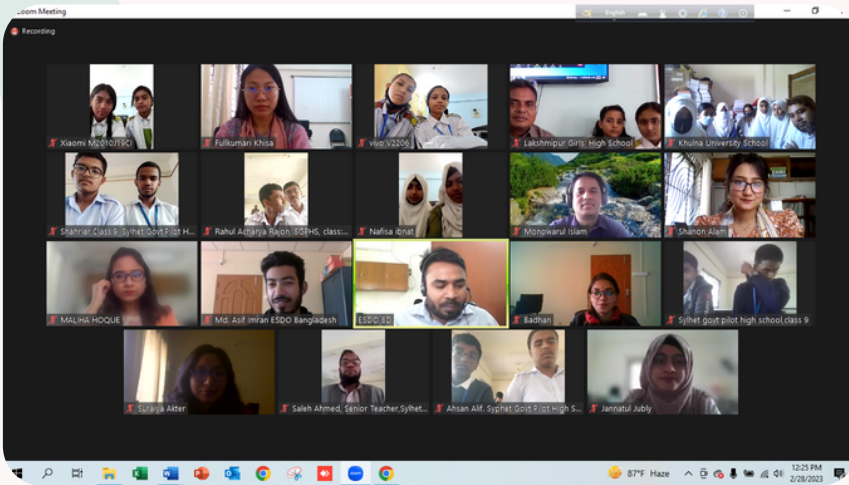
The "Plastic Free Campus (PFC)" project was developed by the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) in collaboration with the Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTBL), Bangladesh; Plastic Solution Funds (PSF); and Break Free from Plastic (BFFP) in order to assist school children in Bangladesh in the fight against single-use plastic pollution. Ten schools in five divisions of Bangladesh—Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet, and Rangpur—have been included in the project.

Building second-generation leadership, educating the younger generation about the dangers of plastic, and empowering young people to reject single-use plastic are the goals of this project. As a result, on February 16, 2023, in Rangpur Zilla School, Rangpur, an orientation workshop with the girl guides and scouts was organized. Together with teacher representatives from both institutions, six female guides from Rangpur Government Girls High School and seven scouts from Rangpur Zilla School attended the orientation workshop.



The session was intended to be participative and engaging. The project goals, plans, and primary activities of ESDO were revealed at the workshop. In addition, they have been informed of their roles and obligations as volunteers. The session helped the participants understand their roles and duties as well as the project's anticipated outcome. In order to ensure the successful execution of the Plastic-free Campus initiative, this workshop created a connection between the volunteers and ESDO.

Girl Guides and Boy Scout Online Orientation Workshop



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” Both the Boy Scout Association and the Girl Guides Association give opinions on this effort, highlighting their gratitude for it and expressing a willingness to involve students in this outstanding effort to make selected campuses plastic-free. [Read more](#)



Let us wipe out plastic before it wipes us out.



Change your habits. Stop using plastic.



ESDO Team Orientation for Classroom Sessions of Plastic-free Campus Project

Before going for the classroom session and environmental education camp of Plastic-free Campus Project, ESDO organized rehearsal sessions for the team member associated with this project. It was a training session for the members where they were instructed the approaches for the classroom.



Members individually prepared power point presentations in various topic i.e. about earth, environment, environmental pollution, plastic and plastic pollution, health and environmental impacts of these pollutions along with audio visuals and have rehearsal of giving presentation among the team. This was the preparatory session for the PFCP team before they go to the schools and take sessions with the students.



By Working Together We Can Stop Plastic Pollution



ESDO's New Research

Media Briefing and Report Launching of “Visual Pollution in the City of Dhaka: A Public Health, Environment and Traffic Distraction”



Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) recently launched its new study report entitled “Visual Pollution in the City of Dhaka: A Public Health, Environment and Traffic Distraction” through a media briefing. Visual pollution is a major cause of vision and mental health problems. Every year, an estimated 270,000 children in Dhaka suffer from eye fatigue and severe headaches due to this visual pollution. This information was revealed in ESDO’s new study report.



ESDO’s study has found that visual pollution causes more than 24% of people to suffer from eye fatigue among which children are the worse sufferers. Each year approximately 270,000 children in Dhaka city receive treatment for suffering from eye strain and severe headaches, based on data compiled from 27 hospitals and clinics in the city of Dhaka. Furthermore, the residents of Dhaka city who are suffering from mental illness have reached nearly 17%. [Read more](#)



#Chemicals



Media Briefing on “Lead in Paint: A Significant pathway of Lead Exposure in Bangladesh”



Lead in Paints A Significant Pathway of Lead Exposure in Bangladesh



Environment and Social Development Organization



Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution-BSTI has set a standard of 90 ppm for using lead (Pb) in paints but lead paint is still available in Bangladesh. This information was revealed in a research conducted by Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO in 2022. Based on the research findings, ESDO prepared a report entitled 'Lead in Paint: A Significant pathway of Lead Exposure in Bangladesh'. This report was launched through a media briefing on 19 January, Thursday at ESDO head office. This research was conducted to compare the presence of lead in decorative and industrial paints. [Read more](#)

Report Findings

- Among 63 samples, 63% of the total samples were mentioned as lead-free.
- The remaining 37% of paint samples did not clarify any information on any aspects of lead safety.
- 30.8% of the decorative paints were found to possess lead, containing a range of 90ppm – 250ppm.
- For industrial paints, 50 % of the total samples were identified as having high lead content, 97,000 ppm for orange color industrial paints.

Lumex Analyzer Functioning Orientation

On February 14, 2023, ESDO arranged a Lumex Analyzer machine operating orientation. The orientation program was supervised by Khalilur Rahman, ESDO's Assistant Program Officer. During the orientation, the Secretary General and other ESDO team members were present. Mr. Khalil demonstrated how to clean and operate the Lumex Analyzer Machine, which measures the amount of mercury in products. He also tested two skin-lightening products with mercury levels of 3 ppm and 1.5 ppm, respectively.



Sample sending to Ban Toxic_EEB project



The ESDO team sent 13 skin-lightening creams to the Ban Toxic laboratory to be tested for mercury content. All of the creams were purchased from various online stores. First, all of the creams were added to the inventory. They were then assigned a unique code and numbered. After numbering, they were wrapped in bubble wrap and shipped to the Philippines via DHL.



The participants shared their opinion about the working environment and other experiences in textile industries. They shared their working hour, types of work, food facilities, treatment facilities, limitations or challenges in the workplace etc.





Women's Month Celebration, 2023



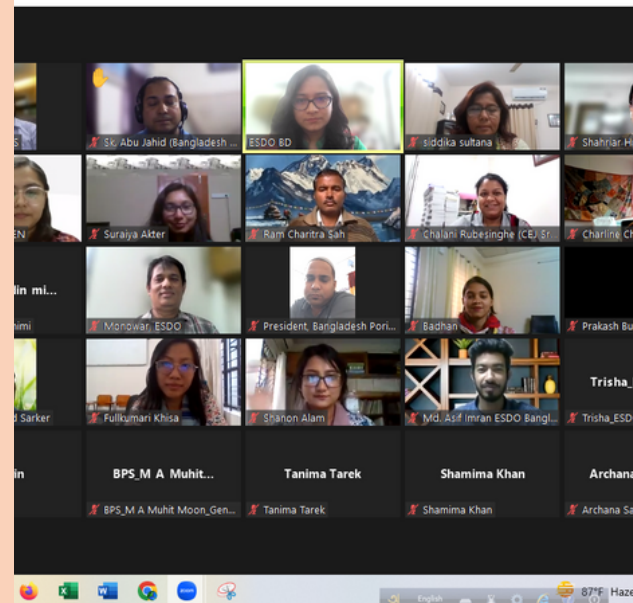
Chemicals in Agriculture and Textile: Affecting the Health and Development of Women

Date: 23 March, 2023
Time: 4.00 PM- 4.45 PM
Platform: Zoom

Organized By:
Environment and Social Development Organization

Women's Month is celebrated by Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO). On this occasion, the organization arranged a webinar at Zoom Platform on March 23, 2023, from 4 to 4:45 p.m. (GMT +6), titled "Chemicals in Agriculture and Textile: Affecting the Health and Development of Women." At that meeting, Siddika Sultana, the executive director of the ESDO, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, and other employees were present.

Ramcharitra Sah, Executive Director of CEPHED, Chalani Rubesinghe, Project Planning and Management Officer/ Instructor/ Researcher on Chemical Contamination, and Tripti Arora, Coordinator, IPEN SA Hub IPEN Gender Coordinator, were in attendance as guests and made an informative presentation. Suraiya Akter, Program Associate, presented excellently on Gender and Chemicals: Agriculture and Textile Sector on behalf of ESDO. The webinar was hosted by Maliha Hoque, Program Associate, ESDO. Siddika Sultana welcomed everyone by delivering her welcome address..



**BOTH MEN AND
WOMEN SHOULD
FEEL FREE TO BE
SENSITIVE AND
STRONG**

The guests shared their opinion and knowledge about gender and chemical. They also focused on the toxic chemicals used in agriculture and textile sectors. Women are mainly working in these sectors. So they are vulnerable to the toxicity of chemicals. How they are affecting, what are the main problems and how they can be safe from these chemicals were discussed by the guests. About 70 participants attended and some of them gave their valuable opinion on the session during the open discussion session. Dr. Shahriar Hossain gave thanks to all for participating and concluded the program.



A Step Towards Ensuring Food Security in the Future: Toxic-free Organic Farming in Betgari- 20 February 2023

Field Activities

ZERO-WASTE ●

ORGANIC FARMING ●

BETGARI, RANGPUR



Potato, Spinach, Brinjal, Cauliflower, Green Chili, Carrot, Onion, and Garlic were cultivated in this plot. Three varieties of potatoes were cultivated covering most of the plot area. After picking potatoes, a total of 340 kg of potatoes are available. Among these Desi Kukri 29 kg, Lal Bograi 22 kg, and Cardinal 289 kg. The nearby people of the farming plot are gradually being motivated for practicing organic farming.



The farming plot is being cultivated using compost only. The cultivator is happy to observe the growth of the crops. Therefore, the cultivator is willing to continue farming using compost in the long run. It's completely visible that the crops grown in the organic farming plot are healthier in comparison with the nearby crops that were grown using chemical fertilizer.



Those who taste the vegetables from this organic farm said that the taste is really very good and there is no bad smell in these vegetables which was found in those vegetables that are cultivated with chemical fertilizers.



Let's Practice Organic Farming to for a Healthy Life



International Webinar Webinar on SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation

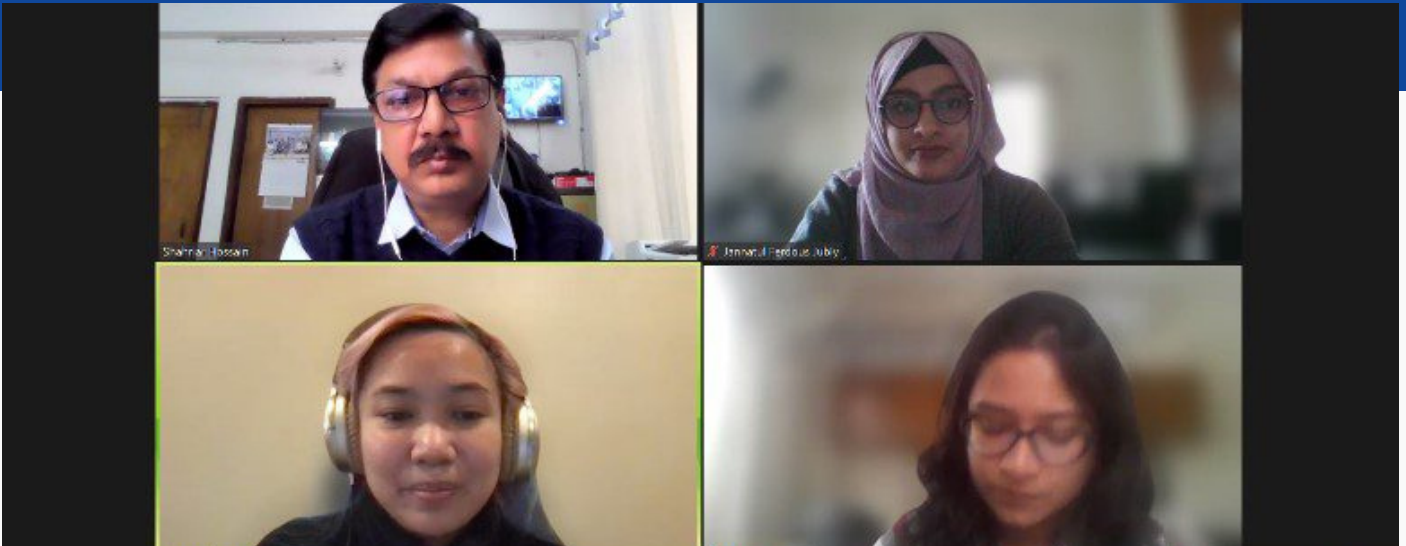


A Webinar was organized by the Stakeholder forum for a sustainable future. This webinar will focus on SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation and synergies and tradeoffs with other goals. It will continue to investigate ample opportunities for establishing integrated approaches to SDG implementation with a particular focus on methods that unite a variety of stakeholders to quicken the goals' advancement. In order to empower communities, sectoral players, and cross-sectoral partnerships at various levels, good practices will be discovered. The goal is to encourage the development of communities of practice that will make progress together up until and after the 2023 SDG Summit.



Webinar on SDG 7 on Energy and SDG 8 on Sustainable Economic Growth

SDG 7 on access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all and SDG 8 on sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all, and synergies and tradeoffs with other goals. In order to empower communities, sectoral actors, and cross-sectoral alliances at various levels, good practices will be found. The goal is to encourage the development of communities of practice that will keep working together up until and after the SDG Conference..



Meeting on Plastic Education Program Implementation with BFFP

A zoom meeting was arranged by BFFP to discuss plastic education curriculum implementation. The expected action plan, inception, and orientation activities, teachers’ manual, and Plastic-free related activities were also discussed. The event was successful through the active participation from the networking countries and participants were able to have a clear conception of the upcoming project and already start.



Break Free From Plastic AP Policy WG Meeting on Plastic pollution Science Policy



A zoom meeting was arranged by break free from plastic on the plastic false solution with CSO members. Since there are some exciting possibilities for joint/coordinated action campaigns, they have invited members from the False Solutions, Petchem, and Corporate Accountability WGs to our upcoming meeting, which will have a fantastic agenda. The meetings will focus on taking action, so any additional suggestions for action from members would be greatly appreciated.

Minamata Convention On Mercury-Implementing The Children's Amendment In Africa - Make Africa Mercury Free Webinars Series



The Minamata Convention on Mercury has been revised by the world's states to call for the elimination of amalgam usage in children and women who are pregnant or nursing, reflecting a notable shift in global opinion. This new modification reflects the general opinion that dental amalgam is unsafe for use on children and other vulnerable groups, both in their mouths and in their surroundings. Leading the fight to gain this amendment was the Africa Region.



On this regard, Dentists' Committee for a Mercury Free Africa organized a series of webinars from 15th March - 31st July, 2023 to train present and future generations of African Dentists, to partner with other institutions (public or private) to promote 21st century mercury Free Dentistry in Africa, to promote a new oral health policy update framework to leapfrog Africa and other developing economies to 21st century Mercury Free Dentistry, to promote mercury free oral health community outreaches and the training of community health workers.

On behalf of ESDO, ESDO's project associates Janntul Ferdous, and Tanjima Hoque, and Program Associate Maliha Hoque are participating in these webinars.



Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment Webinar Content

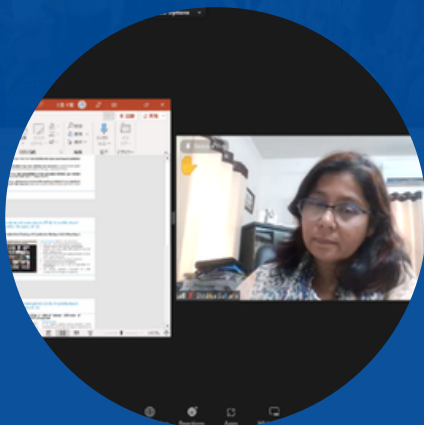
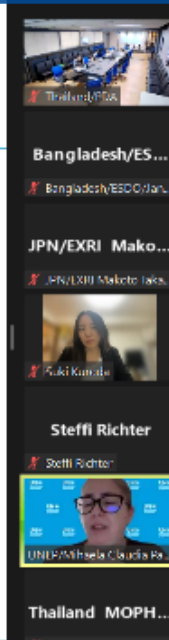
“Environmentally sound management (ESM) of used lead-acid batteries (ULAB) in Bangladesh” (6)

Activity 5 - Capacity Building Workshop & National Strategy Submission of Environmental Sound Management of ULAB in Bangladesh



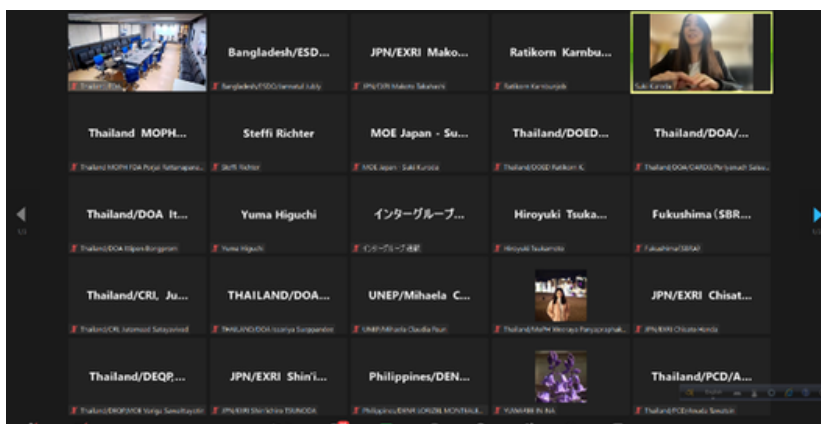
Event outcomes:

1. The capacity building training provided a better understanding of the technical aspects required for the sustainable, safe and environmentally sound recycling of ULAB in a manner that minimizes occupational and population lead exposure.
2. Submission of National Strategy of Environmental Sound Management (ESM) of ULAB in Bangladesh was successfully conducted and the government authorities gave their consent about the strategy.
3. Designated guests from government authorities, lead acid battery association and journalists were made aware of the disadvantages of informal ULAB recycling for the environment and human health.



Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO shares the Bangladesh ULAB update information referring to the experience of other countries, it is clear that to achieve the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of ULAB in Bangladesh. She mentioned that it is necessary to introduce effective legislation, regulations, and guidelines, as well as financial incentives and instruments that keep the LAB life cycle in a formalized licensed sector, that is overseen, with an active monitoring and enforcement regime for ULAB collection, handling, transporting, and end-life management.

The Thematic Working Group on Chemical, Waste, and Health is hosting an online seminar on the responsible management of lead-acid batteries. (TWG-CWH). This webinar to help strengthen regional partnerships to address chemicals and health issues. The 10th High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE), the secretariat of which is co-organized by regional offices of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), was held in September 2019, and it was agreed that the Thematic Working Group on Chemical, Waste, and Health (TWG-CWH) is co-chaired by Japan and Thailand from 2020 to 2024. In the Case Study section Mihaela Paun, from UNEP introduce ESDO’s activities on Improving the Management of Used Lead-Acid Batteries (ULAB) in Bangladesh and Available Resources.



Webinar on Women Defining Zero Waste



SHERMA BENOSA
Host

WOMEN DEFINING ZERO WASTE



KUMUDA
Hasiru Dala



NETHRA GOLLAR
Hasiru Dala



JANE BREMMER
National Toxics Network



AKIRA SAKANO
Zero Waste Japan



LUBNA ANANTKRISHNAN
Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat
(KKPKP)



YUYUN ISMAWATI DRWIEGA
Nexus3 Foundation

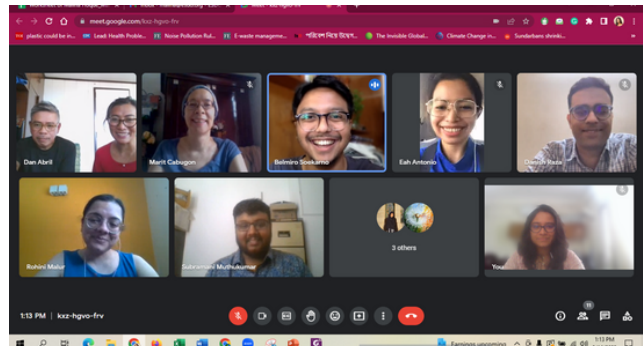
CH 16, 2023

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PM SYDNEY

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@zerowasteasia
no-burn.org

Celebrate Women's Month and to share women's journey in building a zero waste community GAIA organized a webinar entitled "Women Defining Zero Waste." The objective of this webinar was to acknowledge the contribution of women in building a zero waste community and what zero waste actually is and to share stories on zero waste lifestyle. On behalf of ESDO, Maliha Hoque, ESDO's Program Associate joined the meeting.



AP Comms Group Meeting

In Every two months, GAIA organizes a meeting with communication representatives of different organizations in between their network. The purpose of this meeting is to share the country activity update of different organizations and sharing the future activities also. On behalf of ESDO, media and communication lead Maliha Hoque joined the meeting.





A webinar on Regional Report-Strategy discussion



A Regional Situation Report on Plastics waste or pollution meeting was held to discuss the plastics issue around India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka which has a growing concern at the moment. This was a brainstorming session; all the countries' representatives share their activities on regional reduction strategy for plastic pollution. The meeting was conducted by Tripti Arora, Coordinator, at IPEN SA Hub | IPEN Gender Coordinator from New Delhi. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director at Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO from Bangladesh, Chalani Rubesinghe, Project Planning, and Mgt. officer/ Instructor/ Researcher on chemical contamination at the Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ) from Sri Lanka, Piyush Mohapatra, Senior Programme Coordinator at Toxics Link, from India, was also present in this webinar.

All the representative from these countries shared their ideas and regional strategy for plastic pollution and single-use plastic reduction, Ban on plastic polythene bags, and a proposal for the plastic treaty. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director from ESDO also shared their study report on the Transboundary movement of plastic pollution, documentation on plastic pollution in Bangladesh rivers, Refused Derived Fuel from plastic waste, single-use plastic pollution in Mangrove Forest in Sundarbans, Bangladesh.



High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution Webinar titled "Reducing Plastic Production and Consumption"



Governments of Norway and Rwanda, organized a webinar on a High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution titled "Reducing Plastic Production and Consumption" with speakers from Government, Business, Scientists, Civil Society and the UN. The focus discussion point of the webinar was to identify which one is a feasible option for plastic pollution; plastic recycling or refusing plastic. On behalf of ESDO, Maliha Hoque Program Associate of ESDO and Jannatul Ferdous, Project Associate of ESDO joined the webinar.

Collective leadership institute organized a series of Multi-Stakeholder-Partnership Training Programme for CSOs consisting of training on thematic learning on visioning, Theory of change, impact matrix & indicators, and MSP basic training. The goals of these trainings were to experience the power of visioning at a personal level, learn how the Dialogic Change Model and collective Leadership Compass can support visioning for your MSP, co-create a visioning process for your planned MSP. ESDO's Head of program, Monowarul Islam joined these sessions on behalf of ESDO.



Multi-Stakeholder-Partnership Training Programme for CSOs

#External Meetings



Field Visit on E-Waste Recycling Site and Impact on Health and Environment



Environment and Social
Development
Organization- ESDO
have conducted a field
visit program which was
focused on the recycling
site of E-waste at
Nimtali area in Dhaka
city on 19 March, 2023
along with UNICEF,
Bangladesh team.



Maya Vandenant, Chief of Health, UNICEF Bangladesh and her team, Didarul Alam, Consultant, Unicef, Khalilur Rahman, Asst. Program Officer, ESDO visited this site and collected more information from local workers. Maya Vandenant asked different types of work to know about the health condition and working environment here. Local workers were responsive and they shared opinions. They said that they work here in risky conditions.

“Concerns and Issues and Potential Ways to Tackle Dhaka City’s Waterlogging Problem, Exacerbated by Poor Waste Practices A knowledge Coproduction Workshop”



a workshop organized by BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. The key objective of this study was to involve communities and schools in understanding and incorporating healthy and sustainable waste management techniques and practices in their daily lives. It also aimed to strengthen the co-production of knowledge between researchers and community partners to reduce gaps and barriers in waste management policy implementation and practices.

The session started with the registration and welcome address. Then an open discussion session was conducted by creating POLL. All participants shared their opinion about waste management in Dhaka city through a poll. Dr. Zahidul Quayyum, Professor (Health Economics), BRAC University presented his presentation on “Waste Management and Waterlogging in Dhaka City.”



He shared his experiences and showed the current situation of waste in Dhaka city. Then a group discussion was conducted by constructing Problem Trees, Visions, Developing Network Perspective, Change Out, and Outcomes. All the participants were divided into groups and they presented their presentations. By sharing everyone’s opinion the session ended successfully.

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Key Information Interview (KII) at Ashulia, Dhaka

The FGD and KII aimed to identify the health impacts of industrial workers. Skills and opportunities for the industrial workers to promote empowerment Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were conducted in the target locations of Ashulia area. The main goal of the FGDs was to have primary insights about the health impacts, environmental changes, skills and to understand their interest for being involved in income-generating activities.

The participants shared their opinion about the working environment and other experiences in textile industries. They shared their working hour, types of work, food facilities, treatment facilities, limitations or challenges in the workplace etc.



To protect health and safety and ensure the livelihood of Garment workers ESDO organized a consultation with Ahulia Union parishod and the Labour organization United Federation of Garments Workers in association with Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies – BILS on 7 February 2023



Consultation Meeting On Health safety and livelihood of garment workers with Ashulia Union Parishod Member and Labor In association with Bills

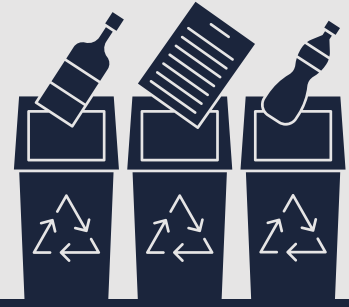


Dr. Gisela Burckhardt, Coordinator Campaigns, Femnet and Daniela Daniela Wawrzyniak, Coordinator International Projects were present at this consultation. There are 2 separate meetings organized. 1st meeting was organized at Union parishad with local ward member Mohammad Ali; He agreed to help us to implement this project.

2nd meeting was organized at the United Federation of Garments Workers. Labor and labor leader were present here. They shared the opportunities and lacks of their garments indoor and outdoor environments, livelihood, and what can they are getting such as bonuses, leave, and provident funds.



External Seminars by Government



Solid Waste Management in Bangladesh

1

“Following the government's sustainable plastic management action plan, efforts are being made to reduce the use of single-use plastic by 90 percent by 2026. In addition, we're planning to increase the recycling of plastic waste to 80 percent by 2030 and reduce the generation of plastic waste to 30 percent at that time”, said Md. Shahab Uddin.

The minister made the remarks while addressing a seminar as the Chief Guest at Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon on solid waste management.

Habibun Nahar, MP, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said that they have formulated a three-year action plan to stop the use of single-use plastic in coastal areas. People should use of environment-friendly and biodegradable materials it will be increased very soon.



Objective of this event was to completely eliminate waste disposal on open land, rivers, streams, canals and plains. to improve and rising practices about 3R concepts, to create a market for recyclable products, to build up an awareness rising activities.





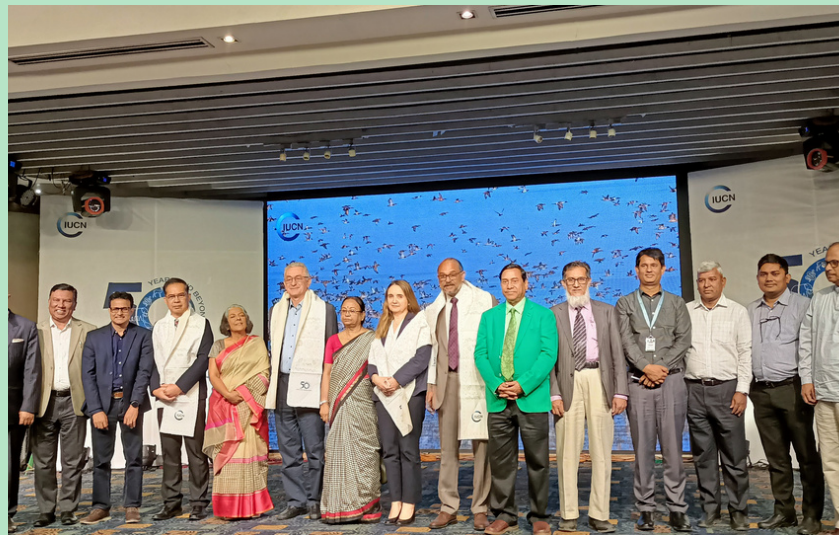
50 Years and Beyond IUCN and Bangladesh

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Bangladesh celebrated their 50th anniversary on 26th February, 2023 with an evening event in Radison Blu Water Garden, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The event brought together NGO's leaders, experts, and practitioners from the conservation community to reflect on past successes, address present challenges in their discussion, and envision future opportunities for protecting biodiversity.



The celebration included stall arrangements, presentation, meetings, and panel discussions focused on a range of conservation issues, such as climate change, sustainable development, marine conservation, and biodiversity protection. The event also showcased innovative solutions and best practices from around the world especially Bangladesh, highlighting the critical role of partnerships, innovation, and collective action in achieving conservation goals.



Throughout the evening, participants emphasized the urgent need for ambitious action to protect biodiversity and address global environmental challenges. The event concluded with a call to action for governments, organizations, and individuals to take bold steps to protect biodiversity and achieve sustainable development.

Overall, attending the IUCN and Bangladesh 50 anniversary celebration provided an excellent opportunity for conservationists and policymakers to network, learn, and share ideas about how to tackle some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time.

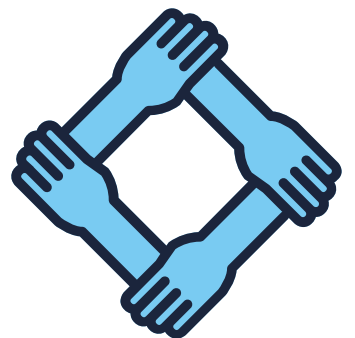
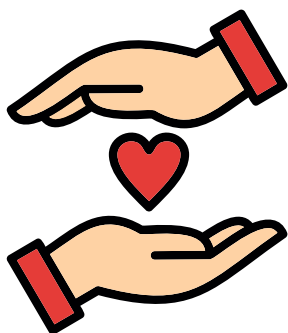




Open Discussion on the Current Situation of NGO Activities and Responsibilities



Dhaka District NGO Executive Committee and DC, Dhaka jointly organized an open discussion on current situation of NGO activities and their responsibilities at Shilpokola Academy, Dhaka on 28 March, 2023. Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Mominur Rahman, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kazi Hafizul Amin, Assistant Commissioner Bably Shabnam and 326 NGO representatives were present in this open discussion. Khalilur Rahman, Asst. Program Officer, representative from ESDO was present and shared his experience with them.





Science–Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution

In March 2022 the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) agreed in resolution 5/8 to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. Substantive discussions will begin at the resumed first Open-ended Working Group meeting (OEWG 1-2). The first session featured operational decisions and opening statements.

On behalf of ESDO and as a participant organization of IPEN, Executive Director of ESDO Siddika Sultana intervened on the 30th January session focusing on an integrated technique that would concentrate on the pollutants associated with chemicals at all stages of their lifecycle. [Read more](#)

Intersessional Process for Considering SAICM and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020



The resumed fourth meeting of the Intersessional Process (IP4) of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) convened on 27 February, 2023 and focused on: airing new formal proposals for the “Beyond 2020” formal proposals for the “Beyond 2020” instrument on the sound management of chemicals and waste; narrowing the proposed targets for the instrument to 20; discussing a name for the instrument; and developing a list of topics that need specific resolutions at the Fifth International Conference on Chemicals

Management (ICCM5) in September 2023.

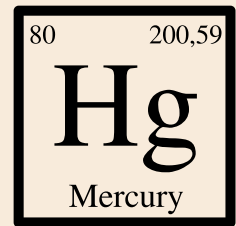
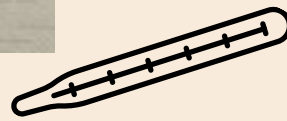
On behalf of ESDO, executive director Siddika Sultana stated, raising community awareness and suggested reducing the production of toxic and hazardous chemicals to ensure safe chemical management.





Mercury Waste Expert Meeting at Geneva

from 16 to 18 February
2023



ESDO's Statement for BRS Regional Meeting



The goal of the regional preparatory meetings is to support the conferences of the Parties (COPs) in 2023 in having successful meetings by providing regions with the opportunity to consult with one another beforehand, consider meeting materials, discuss substantive issues, pinpoint regional priorities and challenges, and facilitate the formulation of regional positions.



ESDO's Secretary-General Dr. Shahriar Hossain attended the BRS regional meeting for COPs in Bangkok, Thailand. On behalf of ESDO, he submitted a statement focusing on the presence of PFAS compounds in the environment, food, and human serum as a cause for concern, as these chemicals are known to be hazardous to human health and the environment and ESDO's study highlights of PFAS, Plastic waste in Bangladesh, its' regulations and implementations, lead pollution and its health risks, and E-waste management in Bangladesh.



Thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (OEWG-13)

The thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group took place from Tuesday, 21 February to Thursday, 23 February 2023, with pre-meetings, including Bureau and regional meetings, held on Monday, 20 February. Given the 3-day duration of the meeting, the Working Group turned its attention to items in its work programme deemed to be of high or medium priority.

On behalf of ESDO, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General Participated at the meeting and submitted a statement support the process of draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes.



ESDO's Statement for BRS Regional Meeting

After a three year, BFFP organized a global meeting on March 26-31, 2023 in Vietnam. Since the start of the pandemic, many of member have not had the opportunity to meet again in person as a global movement, so this year BFFP planned to meet in person with purpose review strategy and progress together,

to renew and strengthen bonds and the values that make BFFP a vibrant and cohesive movement, share skills , and to do joint planning around key projects and ongoing initiatives (eg Global Plastic Treaty, Reuse, etc). On behalf of ESDO, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO joined the meeting.





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1990-2023

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ESDO's unceasing effort to stop plastic pollution and make an environmentally empathetic Bangladesh had started back in 1990. The journey towards creating legislation is one of those efforts, through which, and with mass support, ESDO looks forward to achieving more significant outcomes for promoting environmental justice.