

Newsletter (April - June 2020)

Environment and Social Development Organization - ESDO

COVID-19 Pandemic Outbreak: 14,500 Tons of Hazardous Plastic Waste in a Month in Bangladesh!

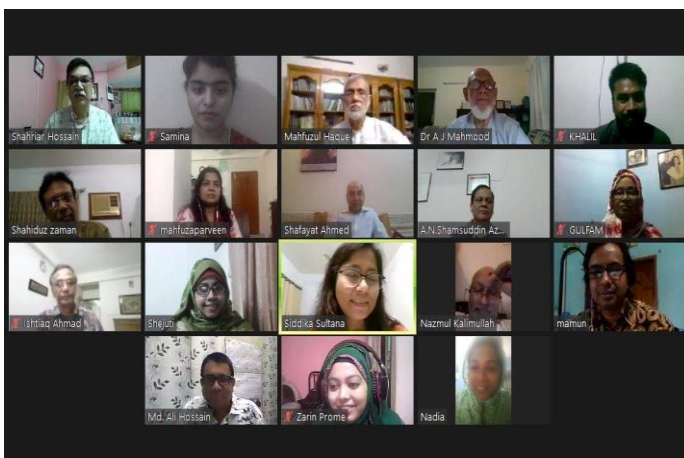
Bangladesh has been undergoing the Community Transmission Phase of the pandemic COVID-19 disease. As a potential strategy to prevent or slow down the process of virus spread, the country has been put under an official lockdown since 25 March 2020. Since the commencement of the lockdown phase, use of single use plastic items has dramatically increased in communities around Bangladesh in the forms of single use surgical masks, gloves, polythene shopping bags and other PPEs. ESDO has commissioned a comprehensive study on the rising use of single use plastic (Masks, gloves, polybags) materials at the advent of COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh and the potential health and environmental threats associated with the unsafe dumping of such infectious wastes.

The study shows that, Bangladesh has spawned some 14500 tons of infectious masks, hand gloves and other related single use plastic in just one month of COVID-19 community spreading throughout the nation. Based on the study findings a study report entitled “COVID-19 Pandemic Pushes Single Use Plastic Waste Outbreak: No Management, No Protection: High Health and Environmental Risk Unveil” has been released.



To officially launch the study report and share the findings publicly, ESDO organized a virtual press briefing over digital platform Zoom on 10th May 2020. About 16 participants attended the meeting including guest speakers, Professor Dr. Abu Jafar Mahmood, Principle Technical Advisor, ESDO; Md Ziaul Haque, Director of Department of Environment; Prof. Dr. Humayun Kabir Bulbul, Principal of Dhaka Dental College and Secretary General of BDS, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General ESDO; Siddika Sultana, Executive Director, ESDO along with media representatives from different print, electronic media, TV Channels and ESDO team members.

ESDO Celebrated its 30th Anniversary!



On 6th of June, 2020 Environment and Social Development Organization – ESDO celebrated its 30th Anniversary. ESDO urged the people and the government to ensure environmental education, awareness and enforcement of law to protect nature and life at its 30 year anniversary celebration event arranged virtually. ESDO team members are walking down this path to create a toxic free world for the past 30 years successfully. The online discussion was participated by Prof. Abu Jafar Mahmood, Prof. Abul Hasam, Prof. Najmul Ahsan Kallimullah, Former Secretary, Dr. Mafuzul Haq, Sumsuddin Azad Chowdhury, Former, CCF Istique Uddin Ahmed, Former Additional IGP Moklusur Rahman, ESDO Secretary General, Dr. Shahriar Hossain and Executive Director Siddika Sultana along with other ESDO team members.

Former Secretary and ESDO Chairperson Syed Marghub Murshed said, COVID-19 is a great lesson and learning for the world. In a small developing country we have given the high cost of the environmental pollution and degradation. So it is high time to protect our nature and life. He urges the government to create second generation of environmental leaders.

Executive Director, Siddika Sultana said, it is a celebration of the achievements of ESDO over the last 30 years. We couldn't have done this without the confidence and support of our members, government, donors and partners – we know our performance is connected to them directly. ESDO will continue do its work and they think that one day they will make a positive change to this world – a toxic free green world.

ESDO attended Webinars

All kinds of national and international organizational workshops or seminars are being held in online platform since COVID -19 outbreaks. ESDO attended more than 10 webinars in the past three months. The webinars held in different countries with different subject to be discussed.

As it was the time of outbreak, ESDO also attended on webinars that relate to COVID – 19 outbreak such as ‘Do Not Harm: In the time of COVID-19 Pandemic’, ‘COVID-19 Waste Strengthening Best Hospital Practices and do away with Waste Incineration’ etc. Executive Director of ESDO Ms. Siddika Sultana Madam herself attended a webinar titled ‘Women and Mercury’ and participated.

For example, ESDO attended webinars related to plastic such as ‘Plastic free campus’, ‘Drone and Machine learning (artificial intelligence) to combat plastic pollution’, ‘Plastic leakage survey and its findings and data visualization platform’ etc.

These webinars has enlightened our knowledge and broaden our point of view on many critical issues that we face all the time.



WOMEN AND MERCURY

Women living and working in areas contaminated with mercury are exposed to this heavy metal from various sources, including from mercury-contaminated food. Serious health effects result from mercury poisoning, which harms women and their children, resulting in irreversible damage and often death. Are there ways to address this problem? The HEJSupport webinar will bring together internationally recognized experts to share new approaches to minimizing mercury exposure.

SPEAKERS

YUYUN ISMAWATI, NEXUSS FOUNDATION
Mercury and Women: new ideas on how to reduce the risk

HEJ DONNA MERGLER, UNIVERSITY QAM
Grassy Narrows community health study: the intergenerational impact of mercury exposure

PROF MELANIE LEMIRE, UNIVERSITY LAVAL
The challenges of promoting local country foods while reducing Hg exposure during pregnancy in Nunavik

PAMELA MILLER, IPEN
Mercury Contamination in Women and Children from Arctic to Cook Islands: IPEN raises alarm and requires action

MARIANNE BAILEY, MINAMATA CONVENTION SECRETARIAT
The role of the Minamata Convention: what needs to be achieved at the policy and implementation levels to reduce women's exposure to mercury

PARTICIPATE

REGISTER HERE
<https://bit.ly/2M05SrD>

WHEN
June 17, 2020
4pm CET

hej+support
health · environment · justice



IM2030
One Million Youth Leaders

UNITAR
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

GLOBAL CHALLENGES
F · O · R · U · M

Youth is our present.
We must support them.

#IM2030 #beyond2030

At a glance of Mercury Free Dentistry Online Survey!

ESDO has committed itself to gradually phase out dental amalgam use in collaboration with Bangladesh government. Following a joint initiative, ESDO, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Dental Society (BDS), started conducting a Mercury-free Dentistry survey during the month of March. But unfortunately due to the outbreak of COVID – 19, ESDO had to halt its survey.

But this survey was very important as it was going to play a vital role in petition that ESDO and BDS is going to submit to the Bangladesh Government in upcoming November'20. So, ESDO started to take this survey virtually from June'20.

Over 600 dentists have been reached online till now and the response so far is quite impressive as most of them ensured that they don't use mercury in their dental treatment. This survey is a part of the national assessment on dental amalgam user and non-user.



Air Pollution study - Breath healthy and be healthy!

ESDO prepared a comprehensive report on Bangladesh air pollution condition throughout the last one-year and also how COVID-19 pandemic affected the air quality index. In this report, all the possible sources of air pollution have been mentioned and all the pollutants causing it have been identified. Another important factor of trans boundary movement of pollutants has been mentioned in the report. Possible health risks and environmental health damage have been discussed.

ESDO conducted two surveys on indoor and outdoor air pollution and those results have been added in the report. This report will help to educate people about air pollution status of Bangladesh and the facts, which is necessary to know for Govt. and other working groups and for general people to understand how our air is getting polluted by indoor and outdoor pollutants.



International Co-ordination



ESDO had coordinated with the international networks throughout the months. Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) has published an interview of ESDO's Executive Director, Siddika Sultana on May 31st, 2020 focusing on the pollution problems faced by Bangladesh. Besides that ESDO has been working constantly with other networks such as IPEN (International Pollutants Elimination Network), UNEP (United Nations Environment Program), ILA (International Lead Association), Pure Earth, etc.

Environment day Celebration: “We Care Nature: Keep Biodiversity”



People celebrate World Environment Day in many different ways all over the world: planting trees, cleaning up local beaches, organizing meetings, joining online protests. This year due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the celebration is happening digitally and all the activities are taking place within limits all over the world. This year, millions of people in more than 100 countries are celebrating World Environment Day in online platforms. Environment and Social Development Organization – ESDO has also kept its activities within the limit and prepared an awareness poster related to this year's theme, “We Care Nature: Keep Biodiversity”.

Every year around the globe World Environment Day is observed on 5th June, is the largest annual event for positive environmental action. Like other organizations, ESDO has limited their celebration by releasing a poster that portrait Biodiversity and nature.

May Day Celebration: Protect workers! Ensure safety and Health at work!





The International Workers' Day this year has come in the midst of a global pandemic, when work safety and health of the front line and essential workers in fighting COVID-19 pandemic has now become a pressing issue. And also safety of limited opened industrial workers are becoming an issue now, as the garments industries are resuming production with promise of ensuring social distancing and safety in work places. International Workers' Day, or commonly known as Labor Day is celebrated annually on 1st May to celebrate the working class and laborers across the world. Socialists and labor unions celebrate this day by organizing programs to improve wages and working conditions of the workforce.

This year, the campaign takes place indoors with the online platform amongst the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Two posters and awareness materials on workplace safety have been released on the occasion.

All the activist organizations around the world including ESDO has urged everyone to think about the social responsibility and lifestyle choices which are harmful to the planet we are living in, and to embrace a healthy and environment friendly lifestyle which in turn would save our own lives too.

May Day 2020


Protect Workers!



Wash your hands Wear a mask Keep your distance

Ensure Safety and Health at Work

Stop COVID-19 Pandemic

 Environment and Social Development Organization

Earth Day Celebration: Our Surrender to Nature!

50th Anniversary of the Earth Day: Our Surrender to Nature



No More Plastic Pollution

Stop Toxic Chemicals

Prevent Waste Pollution, Go for Zero Waste

"Earth is Our Ultimate HABITAT, We Must Protect It"

Let's act responsibly to Protect our Planet!

 Environment and Social Development Organization



The Earth Day observed its 50th anniversary of this global movement. But this grand occasion of celebration came in a situation when the world is adjusting to the new reality of living with the COVID-19 pandemic to fight with.

Fifty years ago, Earth Day became the people's largest protest in the history of the world. And that changed the world for the better, by creating clean air and clean water laws—with the help of scientists, policy leaders, and a movement that couldn't be stopped. Today's environmental threats of extreme climate change, pollution to our air and water can feel overwhelming.

Environmental and Social Development Organization (ESDO) has observed the Earth Day every year on 22nd April since the formation of the organization with awareness campaign activities. This year the campaign takes place indoors with the online platform amongst the COVID-19 pandemic situation. A poster, fact sheet and COVID-19 awareness info graphics have been released on the occasion.

International Biodiversity Day: 'Our solutions are in nature'

Every year ESDO celebrates "International Day for Biodiversity" on 22nd May. It is a day where people all over the world gather physically or virtually and talk about biodiversity and how to save it. This year's theme was "Our solutions are in nature".

This year due to corona virus pandemic, any physical activities wasn't possible. So, ESDO prepared a posted that portrait how plastic has become one of the greatest problems to our biodiversity. And with that view, ESDO urged to everyone to stop plastic pollution and to save biodiversity and ecology.

The Earth Day should not be seen as a deadline but rather a spark that inspires future action. This year on Earth Day, a project launched on a global platform with two research areas—plastics and air quality. These researches are hoped to contribute to existing environmental data to help promote better environmental policies, ranging from single use plastic bans in local communities to monitoring progress against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**If we conserve biodiversity,
we all will eventually be saved !!**

"International Day for Biological Diversity 2020"



Plastic Pollution is KILLING BIODIVERSITY

STOP PLASTIC POLLUTION



Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO)

World Ocean's Day: Our oceans, our future!

World Oceans Day 2020

Our oceans,
our future

"Temporary shutdown has decreased sea traffic and created an opportunity for the ocean to rebound from pollution, overfishing and the impacts of climate change."

Environment and Social Development Organization

The World Oceans Day is a world-wide opportunity for ocean research groups, governments and NGO's to strengthen public involvement and develop greater ocean literacy so that we can all understand better what we can do to protect our oceans health.

The pace at which people in the world by their mindless action pollute the oceans is alarming. Plastic waste, decreased water levels, impurities in water and others are causing huge damage to the oceans, and serious measures is need to take to conserve our oceans.

On 8th June, ESDO observed world oceans' day with a theme "Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean" to remind people that during pandemic, temporary shutdown has decreased sea traffic and created an opportunity for the ocean to rebound from the pollution, over fishing and the impact of climate change and we should maintain this to protect our ocean.

A Day to combat Drought and Desertification!

Each year, on 17 June, the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is celebrated to encourage public understanding of international efforts to combat desertification. This year's observance is focused on changing public attitudes to the leading driver of desertification and land degradation: humanity's relentless production and consumption.

Every year Bangladesh's .50 ha of land is affected by severe drought and about 40% of the land affected by silent drought. The day provides an opportunity to realize this very fact and also that the neutrality of land loss is possible by addressing issues, active community participation and collaboration on every level.

Food. Feed. Fibre.
Sustainable production and consumption

17 June 2020
DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT DAY
www.esdo.org

** Today, more than two billion ha of land previously productive is degraded. But by 2030, food production will require 300 million hectares of land.*

** Over 70 percent of natural ecosystems have been transformed. By 2050, this could hit 90%*

** By 2030, the fashion industry is predicted to use 35 percent more land-over 115 million hectares, equivalent to the size of Colombia. Sources: www.am.org*

** Every year in Bangladesh average 0.50 ha land is affected by severe drought and 40% of the land affected by silent drought*

#DesertificationAndDroughtDay #ESDOInAction

Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO
www.esdo.org www.facebook.com/esdobd info@esdo.org

Contact us

**Address: House # 8/1, Level # 5,
Block # C, Lalmatia, Dhaka –
1207.**

Phone: +880-2-9122729

Fax: +880-2-9130017

Website: www.esdo.org

Email: info@esdo.org



ESDO is working to promote the coherent implementation of environmental dimensions of sustainable development since 1990. It should be mentioned that ESDO is the first organization to ban polythene bag in 2002. ESDO's activities continue with different issues like mercury-free dentistry, single-use plastic pollution, building zero waste community and micro beads including lead containing products.

In this quarter, ESDO primary objective was to make awareness plastic pollution during Covid-19 pandemic through consultations, webinars, publishing report and campaigns to raise awareness among the general people, government officials, stakeholders and policymaking. ESDO also celebrated its 30th anniversary, The Earth Day, World Ocean Day, World Desertification Day for expanding awareness in order to protect the world from environmental degradation.

