



NEWSLETTER (January–March'2019)

Awareness Campaigns

Think about future generations and Beat the Plastic



To raise awareness of the impacts of SUP and for the sustainable alternatives of single-use plastic products, ESDO arranged a mobile campaign on 02 March, 2019. The campaign covered the different locations of Dhaka (TSC of DU, press club, Gulshan 1 & 2 and also in front of National Parliament Bhaban). It focuses on the impact that different kinds of single-use plastics cause, highlighting sustainable, available and affordable alternatives that form the key to tackle the problem. The campaign shines a spotlight on different categories of single-use plastics items, including plastic cutleries, cotton buds, carrier bags, coffee cups, straws, lollipop sticks and sweet wrappers, and plastic bottles.



Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO and Dept. of Environmental Science and Disaster Management (ESDM), Daffodil International University organized an awareness campaign on Single Use Plastic pollution in Bangladesh. The campaign was held on 3rd February, 2019 at Banquet Hall of their university premises, Dhaka. ESDO Executive Director, Siddika Sultana, Chairman of chemical division (BSTI), Prof. Md. Abul Hashem, Professor and Pro-Vice Chancellor of Daffodil International University Dr. S.M. Mahbub -ul-Haque Majumder, Head of ESDM, DIU Dr. A.B.M. Kamal Pasha were also present in the event. The main objective of the campaign was to motivate young people to raise their voice against single-use plastic pollution in terms of saving the health and environment. Other objectives include knowledge sharing on SUP issues and their probable alternatives which are already existing in the different parts of the globe.

Since the beginning, ESDO has been working for a pollution and toxic free world. In this quarter ESDO has focused on Plastic, Lead, Mercury and Chemicals pollution through public awareness campaign, media advocacy, meetings, workshops, survey, policy advocacy, national and international level

International Meetings

A meeting on Mercury-Free Dentistry was held on 5 March 2019 at CAP Library, Pinang, Malaysia. Dr Shahriar Hossain Executive Vice President of World Alliance & Secretary General of ESDO, Siddika Sultana Executive Director of ESDO and Director of Asian Center for Environmental Health were present there.



IPENers and IPEN partners from 21 countries gathered from 30 March to 4 April, 2019 in Montevideo, Uruguay for the 3rd Open-Ended Working Group meeting, UNEP/ SAICM. Executive Director of ESDO also attended there.

A meeting was held with the Minamata focal person and director HS of Ministry of Environment on 28 February, 2019 at Indonesia.



Participation on Meeting



A meeting with the Department of Environment-DoE under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the Government of Bangladesh was held on 7th January, 2019 at Department of Environment-DoE. The main objective of the meeting was to provide update of the National Mercury Inventory Report for the MIA Project. Major areas of discussions include product inventory of mercury added products in Bangladesh and priority areas of implementation and also legal and institutional gap identification to implement the convention at national level. In the meeting, some recommendations were also made by the experts. For instance, phasing out dental amalgam was considered with high priority. The Director General of DoE agreed with the proposed recommendation about phasing out dental amalgam and said that they would give a timeline (tentative until 2020) for phasing out dental amalgam, the major outcome of the meeting.



A high-level policy meeting with south city corporation Dhaka was held on 20 January, 2019 at Nagar Bhaban to notify the ministries and introduce the project objectives and expected results of mercury and plastics projects.

Activities on Mercury



Mercury has serious impacts on environment and human health. A study was conducted by ESDO to assess the country situation of mercury added products, find the availability of its alternatives, suggest people to use suitable mercury free alternative products available in Bangladesh. Based on this study a press briefing was held on 19 March, 2019 at ESDO office, Lalmatia. On the press briefing, Syed Marghub Morshed, Former Secretary, The People's Republic of Bangladesh Govt. and Chairperson of ESDO, Prof. Dr. Abul Hashem, Chairman of Chemical Division, BSTI and Executive Board Member of ESDO; Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO; Ms Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO and other team members of ESDO were present. The main objective was to introduce the available alternatives of mercury added products in Bangladesh and encourage people to go for the alternatives.



An approach has been taken by ESDO, BDS and Asian Center for Environmental Health that includes recognition of mercury amalgam free dental chambers in Bangladesh and after covering certain numbers of dental chambers under this initiative, the principal dentists will be certified through a ceremony. Such visits and recognition process are done mainly to build up proper awareness about the harmful effect of using mercury amalgam in dentistry among the dentists and mass people. As the initiative is taken to achieve the goal of mercury free dentistry in Bangladesh, recently ESDO team have visited Seven dental chambers at Uttara and recognized them as mercury free dental chambers through pasting stickers. The dental chambers were IMA Dental Care, Dr. Kamrul's Dental and Orthodontics, Total Dental Care, Aristocrat Dental Care & Orthodontic Center, Specialized Dental Care and Orthodontics, Smile Zone Dental Care, The United Dental, Smile Line Dental Carte The event was carried out on February 20, 2019. This event was held with the presence of honorable Chairperson of ESDO, Syed Marghub Morshed, Dr. Humayun Kabir Bulbul, Secretary General of BDS, Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO.

Surveys Conducted

Waste water was collected by ESDO team on 25 March, 2019 at Bank town, Savar as part of the study heavy metals in water.



ESDO accompanied a primary questionnaire survey on 09 January, 2019, at Agargong, Mohammadpur area on Pharmaceutical Pollutant in Dhaka Area.

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International Conferences



The Third Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific took place in Singapore from 23-25 January 2019. Secretary General of ESDO, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, attended the Conference and voiced to the innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production.



Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO had Visited to the Ho Chi Minh Odonto-Maxillo-Facial Hospital (First AMALGAM – FREE HOSPITAL IN VIETNAM) on 08 March, 2019. They had discussed the activities to promote all dental facilities in the South to be “Mercury-free dental clinic”.



The fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) opened in Nairobi, Kenya on 11-15 March, 2019. Delegates established a Committee of the Whole (COW). Delegates presented their national actions toward SCP. Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO was also present there.



A Round table discussion on Mercury-free Dentistry was organized by Centre for Environmental Justice -CEJ, Srilanka at 30 January ,2019. Dr. Shahriar Hossain has attended there.

Vietnamese Health Service Administration Department recommended to stop use of dental amalgam to children under age of 15, pregnant women and lactating women by 1st April 2019. They also recommended to develop a road map to stop amalgam use in dentistry by 1st January 2020. The Health Department organized a high level meeting on 6th March in the Department of Health, Ministry of Health, Hanoi, Vietnam. World Alliance for Mercury Free Dentistry, Asian Center for Environmental Health and CCHIP was invited to represent their expert opinion. President of World Alliance Mercury Free Dentistry, Attorney Charlie Brown, Executive Director of ESDO and Director of Asian Center for Environmental Health, Ms. Siddika Sultana attended the meeting.



Other Activities




Additional Inspector General (Admin & Ops) of Bangladesh Police, Md. Mokhlesur Rahman has paid thanksgiving visit to ESDO office on 17 February 2019 to meet with the Secretary-General and Executive Director of ESDO and came to know about our project activities in Banladesh.




A workshop on Public health (Food safety) was arranged on 27 March,2019 at ESDO, hosted by Dr. Gregory Howard, a chemical expert from the USA.

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