

Newsletter (October – December'19)

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EVENTS

“International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action 2019”

ESDO observed the ILPPW-2019 along with the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint (GAELP) Week with great enthusiasm from 20-26th October, 2019. ESDO organized a human chain on 26th October 2019 in National Press Club and TSC of Dhaka University to promote its global week and a Round Table meeting at the ESDO head office with various stakeholders.

ESDO members with youth and civil peoples formed human chain with festoons, banners, and placards on ‘Ban Lead Paint’ demanding for an immediate ban of lead



paint in Bangladesh by 2019.

ESDO arranged a round table meeting on 27th October, 2019 at the ESDO Conference Room, ESDO, Lalmatia, Dhaka. A group of government representatives from Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Industry,

Ministry of Commerce, members of the Bangladesh Paint Manufacturer’s Association, experts, scientists, environment activists, bureaucrats, youth groups, civil society members, journalists, reporters and ESDO members were also present.

Press Briefing on Study Report Launching ‘Single Use Plastic: Hidden Costs of Health and Environment’

To share the findings of ESDO’s single use plastic research and to launch a summary report of the study, a press briefing was arranged on the 21st of October, 2019 at the ESDO Head Office in Dhaka. The press briefing was entitled as

—Single Use Plastic: Hidden costs of Health and Environment in Bangladesh and was mainly organized to reveal the initial findings of ESDO’s SUP study. The target groups for this particular event were media representatives

from various print and electronic media. The event was marked with the presence of journalists from print and electronic media.



**“Coca-Cola,
Pepsi, Unilever,
Nestle, Mondelez
– Top 5 plastic
polluters!”**

Human Chain to observe BFFP Global Week of Action 2019

On the occasion of BFFP Global Week of Action (6th- 15th November 2019), Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) organized a Human Chain in front of the National Press Club, Dhaka on 14th of November, 2019. The objective of this activity was to demonstrate against top, global corporate plastic polluters

who were identified from the Global Brand Audit, 2019 and encouraged them to adopt alternatives to single use plastics. About 80 people actively participated at the event including Girls’ Guide volunteers, ESDO Team members and the general public. This activity grabbed national attention as representatives from different electronic and

print media covered the event. The activity was marked with general public participation. The event was successful in grabbing media attention with people from all walks of life. The activity received appreciation from the international community as well.

Workshop on “Single Use Plastic: Hidden Costs of Health and Environment in Bangladesh”

A workshop was arranged by ESDO on 3rd September, 2019 at Four Seasons Restaurant, Dhanmondi, Dhaka to share findings from ESDO’s study on Single Use Plastic waste generation in Bangladesh. About 80 people from different stakeholder groups attended the workshop including- ministry representatives,

govt. and non govt. officials, development professionals, academicians, researchers, activists, medical professionals, media, students and the general public. The workshop was titled as —Single Use Plastic: Hidden Costs of Health and Environment in Bangladesh. A booklet with the same title was published and distributed

among participants on this occasion. The workshop aimed at ensuring the participation of different stakeholders to discuss the SUP ban issue and urge the government in regulating the production, use and import of single use plastic on an urgent basis.



Press Briefing on Online selling of illegal mercury-laced skin

lighteners

Skin lightening creams containing mercury – a heavy metal and dangerous neurotoxin – are still widely available to purchase in shops and online, despite being banned by governments. Based off this finding by a global alliance of NGOs

working to eliminate mercury pollution. ESDO held a press briefing on 12th December 2019 to discuss implications and consequences of this to partners and stakeholders at ESDO Head Office, Lalmatia, Dhaka. ESDO shared an International

report prepared by Zero Mercury Working Group to media in order to create awareness among people and govt. to take necessary actions against it.



3rd Meeting of the Intersessional Process Considering the Strategic Approach and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020 (IP3)



The 3rd Meeting of the Intersessional Process Considering the Strategic Approach and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020 (IP3) was held from the 30th September to 4th October, 2019. Participants at this meeting included, Siddika Sultana, Executive

Director and Greg Howard, Senior Research Fellow of Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO



We work towards a toxic free world!

Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Third Meeting the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General and Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO participated at the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

to the Minamata Convention on Mercury-7 October 2019



The Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP3)

The Third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury took place from the 25th to the 29th of November, 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Minamata Convention bans new and phases out

existing mercury mines, contains measures to control trade and release of air emissions and regulates the informal sector of artisanal and small-scale gold mining. Like every year, the Secretary General and Executive Director of

ESDO attended the conference. This year COP3 has published a report on mercury levels in skin lightening creams and an enforcement report looking into it in Bangladesh.



The Third Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics

The Secretary General of ESDO, Dr. Shahriar Hossain participates in the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics held at UNCC, on Bangkok from 18-22 November, 2019. The committee was formed on 17th October, 2019 online meeting of

the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Assessment on Marine Litter and Microplastics.



INTERVIEWS

Interview with BBC news Bangla on Plastic Pollution Situation in Bangladesh

Secretary General of ESDO had done an interview with the BBC news Bangla on Plastic pollution situation in Bangladesh on the 17th of December, 2019.

Link:
<https://youtu.be/vh4FCAYUcY0>



Stop using toxic chemicals - PFAS

Go for Zero Waste Community!

Interview with Independent News on Plastic Pollution

Secretary General of ESDO had done an interview with the Independent news channel on Plastic pollution situation in Bangladesh on the 30th of December, 2019.

Link:
<https://youtu.be/TKWzH7KwKM>





Team Orientation, Training and Yearly Planning -2020

An orientation and training was held on the 30th & 31st December, 2019 and 1st January, 2020 at the ESDO office. On the first day this orientation and training workshop covered ESDO background, introduction, story sharing on plastic, lead and other toxic chemicals, briefs ongoing

projects of ESDO, interpersonal communication, yearly plan, role play on two different issues. On its second day, participants prepared an action plan on plastic projects and POPs elimination project. On the third day in the morning session participants performed different tasks

and discussed works and rules of the organization. These three days were hosted by ESDO Secretary General Dr. Shahriar Hossain and Shahnaz Monir, Executive Committee Member, Director International Program.

RESEARCH AND REPORT

Dangerous, mercury-laden and often illegal skin-lightening products

A report was revealed on the 3rd meeting of Conventions of the Parties (COP3) about the danger levels of mercury laden illegal skin lightening products. ESDO sent some cream samples to be measured for mercury levels in.

tabular forms included in a report in the form of a study.

ESDO shared this report in a press briefing held on the 12th of December, 2019



Enforcement measures to restrict high mercury cosmetic products under the Minamata Convention

A report was revealed on the 3rd meeting of Conventions of the Parties (COP3) about enforcement measures to restrict mercury in cosmetic products under the Minamata Convention. This report shows the action needed to be taken against

Mercury usage

ESDO shared this report in a press briefing that held on the 12th of December, 2019

ESDO

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, and micro beads including lead-containing products. In this quarter, ESDO primary objective was phasing out mercury free products and plastic pollution through consultations and campaigns to raise awareness among the general people, government officials, stakeholders and policymaking.



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