



Newsletter (October – December, 2020)

High-Level Policy Dialogue: “Stopping Toxic Plastic Waste and its Trans boundary Movement”

Government of Bangladesh will not allow Plastic Waste Trade



ESDO, one of the strongest vocals against plastic pollution in Bangladesh organized a virtual high-level policy dialogue in association with International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) and Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) Today on 13th December (Sunday), 2020 to discuss plastic waste trade and its trans-boundary movement in Bangladesh. To address the compelling issue of toxic plastic waste, this policy briefing and consultation with government regulators and administrators focus on drawing Govt. attention to urge for the implementation of the Basel Amendment to prevent toxic plastic waste trade and its trans boundary movement in Bangladesh.

Lead and Used Lead Acid Battery Recycling: Environmental activists urge Regulation for sound management



Project Inception Workshop and multi-stakeholder planning
and Coordination meeting
on
Lead and Used Lead Acid Battery Recycling:
Environmental activists urge Regulation for sound management

Dated: 13th October, 2020 (11 am to 1 pm)

Organized by:
Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO
In Association with
United Nation Environment Programme-UNEP and Pure Earth

Dr. A.K.M. Rafique Ahammed
Director General
Department of Environment

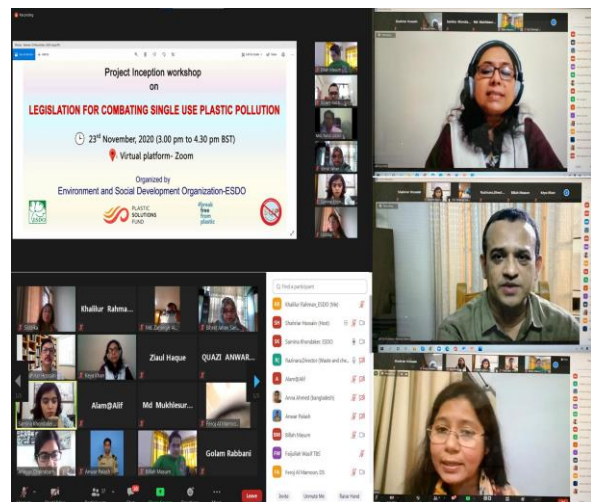
Dr. Desiree Montecillo- Narvaez
Programme Officer, Technology
and Metals Team
UNEP



Among many issues related to the burning concern of environmental pollution, toxic chemicals impacts are gradually drawing attention to the global and national policy. One such rising concern is the ramifications of the Lead Acid Batteries (LAB) and Used Lead Acid Batteries (ULAB). To introduce the project with the policy makers and the stakeholders, ESDO in collaboration with UN Environment and Pure Earth organized a Project Inception Workshop and Multi-stakeholder Planning and Coordination Meeting on "Lead and Used Lead Acid Battery (ULAB) Recycling" on 13th October, 2020 via online platform Zoom.

Single-use plastic threatens life Experts demand ban-legislation

Rapidly growing production and usage of single-use plastic (SUP) is causing severe environmental pollution in Bangladesh. A project inception workshop was organized by the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) on 23rd November, 2020 - eminent environment experts, activists, and concerned stakeholders addressed this compelling issue and urged the government for SUP regulation and enforcement. In the presence of numerous high-level government and policy officials, the discussion exclusively highlighted the urgency to make legislation to stop Single-Use Plastic pollution.



Dhaka 4th Polluted City Globally

Air Pollution Impacted Health, Economic & Ecology in Bangladesh



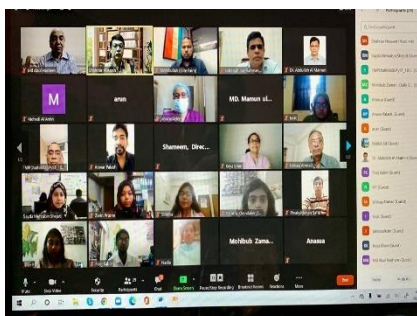
On 28 December (Monday), 2020, ESDO arranged a press conference to address the current air pollution scenario in Bangladesh and, in particular, in Dhaka City. The focused point of this briefing was to launch the study report on the air pollution scenario of Dhaka city and Bangladesh. In this briefing, ESDO presented the study purpose, the current status of air pollution and the major findings of this study. ESDO also pointed out the health impact on future generations due to the pollution and provided some recommendations through this study.

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week - 2020

Call for ban of all leaded paints

The 8th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) took place on 25th – 31st October, 2020. This week of action is an initiative of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (the Lead Paint Alliance), which is jointly led by the UN Environment Program and WHO. ESDO has been observing this week with GAELP since 2012. Due to pandemic situation, ESDO took an alternative initiative to observe this day. ESDO started "Creative Writing and Art Competition" event where different institutional students (University, College and School) of different country registered and submitted their works.

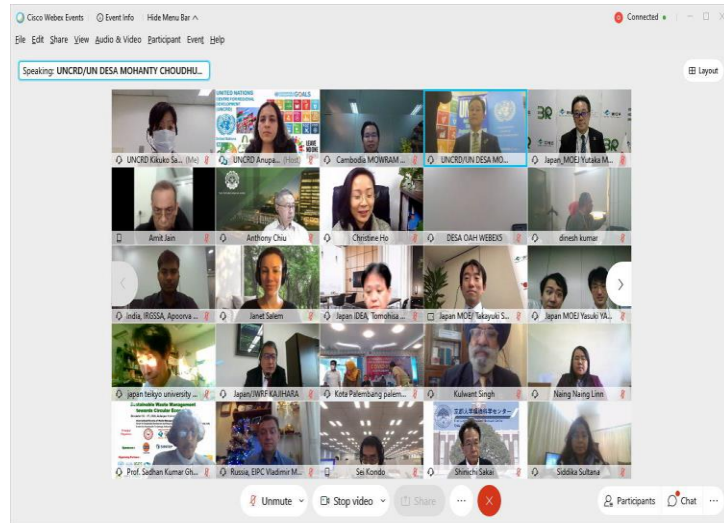
Besides, ESDO also organized a high-level policy dialogue and human chain to observe the day globally. The high-level policy dialogue aimed to Update and Implement Regulation for All Leaded Paints' and the Human chain was led by ESDO Team, Green Club, Girls Guide and other Volunteers from different universities.



Regional 3R & Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific

Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO participated as a panelist as well as a delegate

The 10th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific (Series of Webinars) with the theme of “Advancing Circular Economy in Asia-Pacific towards the SDGs under COVID-19 Pandemic” was co-organized by the Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan (MOEJ), and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) of Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) / UN DESA. The Forum was supported by a number of organizations such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), etc.

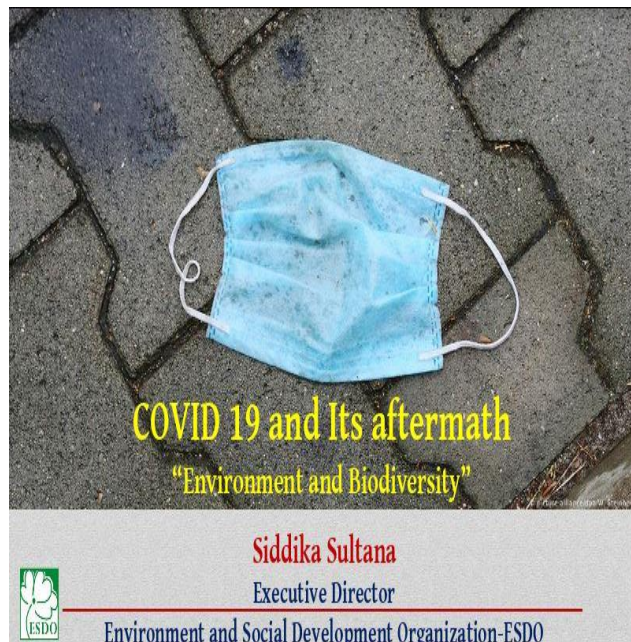


Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO participating as a panelist in 10th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific (Right Bottom)

Multi-disciplinary International Conference

'Pandemic and its Aftermath'

The Lockdown to control COVID-19 posed its own set of challenges. The coronavirus pandemic is the most serious global health crisis of our time and the greatest challenge humanity has faced since World War II. Despite the difficult times that our world is going through today, there are some lessons for the future. This conference will be addressing the multidimensional effects of the pandemic and discuss how to deal with the various challenges it has posed. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO participated in the conference as a resource person and presented a presentation on 'Environment and Biodiversity'.



World Cities Day Single Use Plastic Ban, Better Cities



Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO participated as a speaker in GAIA Asia Pacific's webinar on 'World Cities Day- Single-Use Plastic Ban, Better Cities' where she shared ESDO's as the pioneer for Plastic Bag Ban.

Knowledge Sharing Seminar

What is Circular Economy and how can it drive sustainability?

On 7th December, 2020, University of Portsmouth conducted a knowledge sharing seminar on 'What is Circular Economy and how can it drive sustainability'. The aim of the seminar was to identify and catalyst opportunities to reduce the impact of plastic pollution in cities globally. This seminar focuses two study sites that were Nairobi, Kenya and Sylhet, Bangladesh. From Bangladesh, ESDO's Technical Advisor Dr. Shahriar Hossain presented a presentation on ESDO's Zero-waste Community project.

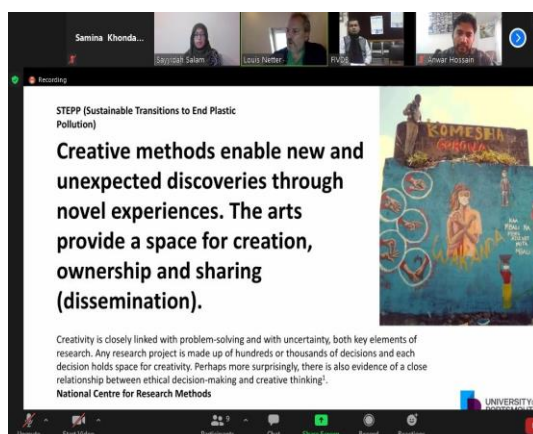


Regional Meeting of World Alliance for Mercury Free Dentistry A leap towards Mercury Free Dentistry

On 18th of November, 2020 a regional meeting organized and conducted by Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Vice President, World Alliance and Secretary General, Environment and Social Development Organization - ESDO. The meeting was participated by Charlie G. Brown, President of World Alliance, Siddika Sultana, Director of Asian Center for Environment Health along with delegates from Philippines, Indonesia, Italy, China, India, Malaysia, etc. The aim of the meeting was to share views and brain storm and generate idea for Mercury Free Dentistry Global Campaign and COP4.



Creative Workshop Visual Art and Digital Storytelling



Creative workshop was a series of online creative interactive workshops facilitated by experts from the University of Portsmouth for their Bangladesh and Kenya partners. These workshops was an opportunity to develop skills but also to share one's creative experiences already tried and tested in Bangladesh and Kenya. This was to create a knowledge exchange opportunity.

Combating Single Use Plastic Pollution Project Team Orientation & Training Workshop

ESDO organized a four daylong project team orientation and training workshop under the project 'Legislation for Single Use Plastic Pollution' from 5th November to 9th November, 2020 on WVA Auditorium, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The aim of this training workshop was to build up team capacity and to establish a good relation among the team members. Time management, Professionalism are some of the subjects that were discussed through presentations in this workshop. There were some exercises for the team such as, scavenger hunt, ice breaking, storytelling, etc. The workshop ended with an evaluation session where each team evaluated themselves.



A Three Days Orientation Program with Training Session and Yearly Planning

ESDO bids farewell to 2020

Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO had organized yearly planning in head office from 29th – 31st January, 2020. It was a three days orientation program with training session and yearly planning. The meeting started by introductory session along with presentations on previous year project works and action plan for each project was presented. After that, yearly planning started on each project. Training sessions were happening in between. ESDO is currently working on six programs. They are plastic project, mercury phase out program, lead paint program, toxic chemical and heavy metals program, zero waste programs, air pollution in Bangladesh. All action plans stated above were planned and documented.



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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 conducted mercury free dentistry survey and zero waste online survey as well as organized webinar on roadmap of pursuing mercury free dentistry. ESDO also conducted team orientation under implementation of zero waste projects and plastic free July for expanding awareness in order to protect the world from environmental degradation.