

NATIONAL EVENTS

HIGH LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE
ON

The Global Agreement on Marine Litter & Plastic Pollution

For the Upcoming Fifth Session of United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEA 5.2

Organized by
Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO

Date: 11th December 2021
Virtually (zoom)



“To minimize virgin plastics production and consumption and to eliminate plastic pollution in the environment, a feasible global agreement is the only real solution to address the plastic pollution crisis”

- Md. Shahab Uddin, MP
Honorable Minister

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

High-level Policy Dialogue on The Global Agreement on Marine Litter & Plastic Pollution for the Upcoming Fifth Session of United Nations Environment Assembly – UNEA 5.2

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the world’s highest-level environmental decision-making body. It has been investigating methods to prevent marine plastic pollution through a special group (known as an Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group) tasked with identifying barriers to and solutions for reducing marine plastic litter and microplastics from all sources, particularly land-based sources. The Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO hosted a virtual high-level policy dialogue to address the urgent need for the Global Plastic Treaty approach in UNEA 5.2.

Read more: <https://esdo.org/high-level-policy-dialogue-on-the-global-agreement-on-marine-litter-plastic-pollution-for-the-upcoming-fifth-session-of-united-nations-environment-assembly-unea-5-2-2/>

“Solo initiatives cannot combat the global crisis.”

- H.E. Mr. ITO Naoki,
The ambassador
Japan Embassy





HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE & NATIONAL REPORT LAUNCHING

“LEAD IN PAINTS: BANGLADESH SITUATION - 2021”

Organised by
Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO
In association with IPEN

Date: 04 November 2021
Venue: Azimur Rahman Conference Hall
The Daily Star, Dhaka



High Level Policy Dialogue and National Report Launching event on ‘Lead in Paint – Bangladesh Situation 2021’

Enforcement should be applicable to ban the use of lead in all types of paints. There is an urgent need for regulation, environmental activists and experts urged the government in a high-level policy dialogue and report launching event organized jointly by Environment and Social Development Organization – ESDO, Directorate General of Health Services – DGHS and International Pollutants Elimination Network – IPEN on 4th November 2021.

Read more: <https://esdo.org/experts-urged-to-impose-effective-regulation-to-ban-lead-from-all-paints/>



*Study findings showed
“The highest lead concentrations detected were 190,000 ppm in a yellow industrial paint and 52,000 ppm in a yellow decorative paint sold for home use.”*

Stakeholder Consultation and Project Completion Workshop Mercury Added Product: Provision to Phase Out under Minamata Convention



“According to WHO, there is no safe level of mercury in human body. We urge to the government to phase out mercury toxicity in products.”

*-Siddika Sultana
Executive Director, ESDO*



Stakeholder Consultation and Project Completion Workshop on ‘Mercury Added Products: Provision to Phase out under Minamata Convention’

A stakeholder consultation workshop was organized by Environment and Social Development Organization – ESDO at Women’s Voluntary Association (WVA) Lalmatia, Dhaka where the current country situation of mercury-added products along with the viability of phasing out the products and the importance of ratifying Minamata Convention was highlighted.

Read more: <https://esdo.org/stakeholder-consultation-and-project-completion-workshop-on-mercury-added-products-provision-to-phase-out-under-minamata-convention/>



“Minamata Convention on Mercury serves as an important initial step in phasing out the use of mercury added products in Bangladesh.”

*- Dr. Tanvir Ahmed,
Associate Professor,
Department of Civil
Engineering, BUET*



High Level Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Waste Management in Rangpur



To discuss on the sustainable management system in Rangpur City, a policy dialogue was organized by Environment and Social Development Organization - ESDO on 17th of November 2021 at Rangpur City Corporation Auditorium, Rangpur. Honorable Mayor of Rangpur City Corporation Mostafizar Rahman Mostafa graced the event as Chief Guest. In the event the Honorable City Mayor has committed to initiate the segregation of waste from Secondary dumping station.

Second virtual session of Sub-regional Campaign on Ban Single-use Plastic

ESDO organized the 2nd session of Sub-regional Campaign on Ban Single-use Plastic on 24 November, 2021 through online platform Zoom To give an overview on available and practiced local solutions to this single-use plastic pollution in the south Asian & Southeast Asian context. The first session of the event was conducted on 29th September 2021.

Read more: <http://bansup.esdo.org/second-virtual-session-of-sub-regional-campaign-on-ban-single-use-plastic/>

Ban Single Use Plastic

NO Single Use

Sub-regional Campaign

2021
November 24
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Bangladesh Standard Time, (GMT +6)

Moderators

- Dr. Shahrar Hossain, Secretary General, ESDO
- Siddika Sultana, Executive Director, ESDO

Speakers

- Von Hernandez, Global Coordinator, BFFP
- Mageswari Sangaralingam, Research officer CAP, Honorary Secretary, SAM
- Ram Charitra Sah, Executive Director, CEPHEd
- Rahyang Nusantara, National Coordinator, Indonesia Diet Plastic Bag Movement
- Sherma E. Benosa, Knowledge Management Officer, GAIA Asia Pacific

Organized by Environment & Social Development Organization - ESDO

facebook LIVE YouTube Live

#break free from plastic

ESDO PLASTIC SOLUTIONS FUND gaia



Wellness Workshop

Workplace wellness is not only a perk for large organizations anymore. Instead, it has become a standard practice in the workplace to support healthy behaviors in small and medium development organizations. Employee wellness is important particularly to proper job environment at any organization. In this context, Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) organized a 3 day long “Wellness Workshop” from 26-28 November, 2021 in association with Global Alliance for Incineration Alternatives (GAIA) which was held at CCDB Hope Foundation at Savar, Bangladesh. Read more: <https://esdo.org/employee-wellness-workshop-for-contemplative-practices/>



Activities

- Team building
- Interpersonal communication
- Identifying own strength and weaknesses
- Sports
- Multi-tasking capacity building
- Stress relieve session
- Boosting energy
- Cultural activities
- Yoga and exercise

Online session to initialize forming a network titled “Bangladesh Network for Banning Single-Use Plastic”

14th November 2021

Virtual Platform- Zoom

Organized by:

Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO



#break
free
from
plastic



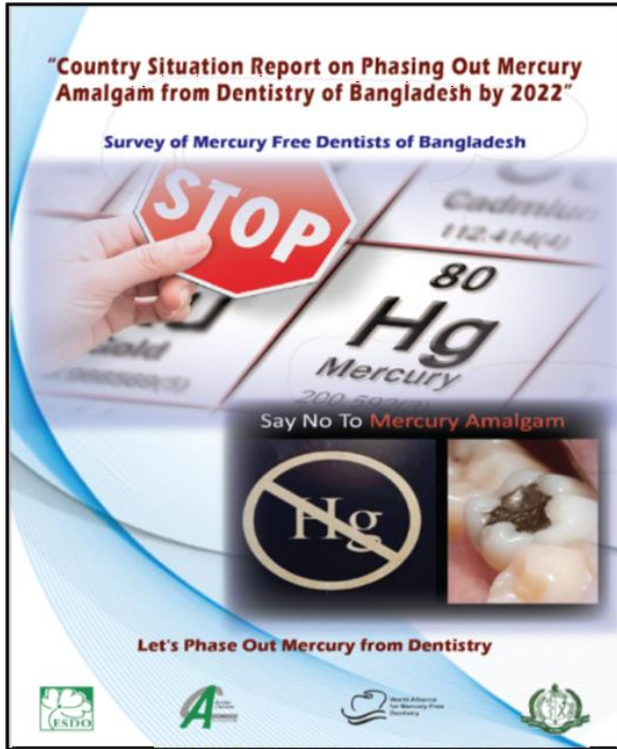
Third Virtual Session on “Bangladesh Network for Banning Single-Use Plastic”

“Single-Use Plastic is the most toxic pollutant in the plastic waste stream, to protect the ecosystem and public health it is an urgent need to Ban SUP Immediately”. Activists and experts urged the government to initiate necessary steps to ban single-use plastic in Bangladesh. To address this need Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO, in collaboration with Plastic Solution Fund – PSF organized a virtual session to launch a network on “Bangladesh Network for Banning Single-Use Plastic” and invited the different organizations to join this group to work united against plastic pollution.

Different Organizations such as Songshoptaque, Institute for Environment and Development (IED), Environment, Climate Change, and Social Development Initiative, Centre for Environment, Human Rights & Development Forum-CEHRDF, Environment, and Agricultural Development Association, Prattasha Samazik Unnayan Sangstha (PSUS) Songshoptaque attended the webinar and agreed to join the group. They exchanged their views on the SUP waste management situation in Bangladesh and they were enthusiastic to work for a sustainable environment.

Read more: <http://bansup.esdo.org/third-virtual-session-to-launch-a-network-on-bangladesh-network-for-banning-single-use-plastic/>

Country situation report on Mercury Free Dentistry

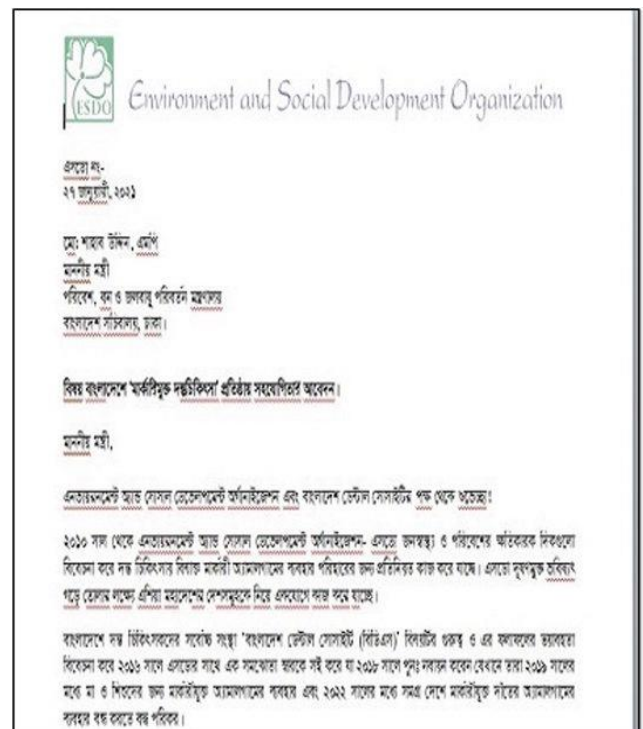


ESDO has prepared a report on current country situation of mercury free dentistry of Bangladesh. The report has been developed on the basis of survey data which was conducted through questionnaires' in both physical visits of dental chambers (before covid situation) and virtual platforms (within covid situation) through google form, emails and social media circulations. This survey found that about 96.70% dentists have opted out from using mercury amalgam on their patients because of the health impacts of mercury.

Read more: <http://www.asiancenter.asia/reports/>

Petition Submission to the Ministries to phase out Mercury from Dentistry in Bangladesh

A formal petition has been developed jointly by ESDO and BDS that contains the importance of banning mercury from the dentistry. The purpose of submitting this petition to the relevant ministries to get their consent and suggestions. The petition has been submitted successfully to the respective relevant authorities. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Department of Environment issued a consent letter to ESDO and BDS as a response of the request to phase out mercury free amalgam. This petition will be further submitted to the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh.



Formal meeting with Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association - BPGMEA



For a long time, ESDO has been advocating against plastic and attempting to reach out to the manufacturers that are responsible for plastic pollution. At the launch of ESDO's Brand Audit report, the President of Bangladesh Plastic Association attended and conveyed appreciation for ESDO's efforts to combat plastic pollution, as well as a willingness to work together to find a solution. As a result, on December 4, 2021, the President, Vice President, and General Secretary of the Bangladesh Plastic Association and ESDO held a formal meeting at the ESDO Head Office. During the meeting, the head of the Plastic Association expressed their desire to solve the plastic challenge by finding a proper solution.



Say no to single-use plastic

2022 Year Action Plan Sharing on Mercury Free Dentistry with Bangladesh Dental Society



To share and discuss the 2022-year action plan on Mercury Free Dentistry, ESDO organized a Consultation with Bangladesh Dental Society - BDS on 30th December, 2021. Secretary General of BDS, Dr. Humayun Kabir Bulbul was present at the meeting with other recognized dentists. Different issues and activities that are planned to be executed in year 2022 was discussed thoroughly.

Formal Meeting with Pure Earth Bangladesh

ESDO and Pure Earth Bangladesh is going to initiate a project on Used Lead Acid Battery - ULAB. To discuss about the project briefly, ESDO conducted a formal meeting with Pure Earth Bangladesh on December 2021.



Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals Cash Receipt & Eraser Sampling



Cash receipts and eraser may contain Endocrine Disruptor Chemicals - EDCs which may be dangerously harmful for human health. To find out the presence of EDCs on cash receipts and erasers in Bangladesh, ESDO collected and send 65 cash receipts and 47 erasers of different brand for sampling at Wonjin Institute of Occupational Environment and Health - WOIEH, South Korea.

Radio Talk Show on Zero Waste Lifestyle Approach

The concept of Zero Waste lifestyle is an effective eco-friendly lifestyle that aims to reduce the amount of waste an individual creates on a daily basis and it can be done easily. To promote this lifestyle ESDO recently participated in a radio talk show at ABC Radio.

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09qN4P12t3w>

A promotional graphic for a radio talk show. At the top right is the ABC Radio logo. The main text reads 'Environment and Social Development Organization - ESDO' and 'ZERO WASTE LIFESTYLE APPROACH'. Below this are three circular portraits of the participants: Md. Mahfuzur Rahman (General Secretary of ABC, Bangladesh House and Technical Advisor, ESDO), Siddika Sultana (Executive Director, ESDO), and Dr. Shabbir Hossain (Secretary General, ESDO). At the bottom left is a Facebook 'LIVE STREAM' icon with the text 'on 6th November 2021 at 3:00 PM'.

“Use less, produce less waste”



Global Compact Network Bangladesh - GCNB Annual General Meeting

On 21st December, Global Compact Network Bangladesh (GCNB) hosted an Annual General Meeting virtually. The Annual General Meeting was an opportunity to share with you our current and upcoming work, priorities, and challenges. In this session besides GCNB’s officials, representatives from different organizations were present who are members of this organization. Fahmida Alam, Project Associate of ESDO joined the meeting as ESDO’s representative and shared ESDO’s work.

Plastic Free Thinking for a Zero Waste Future



ESDO has always tried to promote sustainability. Promote plastic free Birthday or other days celebration has become a tradition at ESDO. To promote sustainability ESDO has started to promote plastic free gift wrapping, plastic free Halloween celebration, provide sustainability ideas, etc. Recently ESDO has circulated a newsletter that contains ideas on how to celebrate Christmas and New Year in a sustainable way.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Global week of Solidarity and Celebration

Have You Ever Wonder How is Life in Trash??

Holud Mia
The Waste Warrior

premiering

Wednesday, 8th December, 2021

at 10:30 AM (GMT +6)
Bangladesh Standard Time

ESDO

gaia

GAIA has initiated this Global Week of Solidarity and Celebration for International and Regional Coordinators where they will share a “State of the Network” report, highlighting key campaigns and initiatives as well as updates on our grants, finances, and staff on the GAIA and ZWE teams. The week of action held from 3rd December to 8th December. ESDO, as a core member of GAIA has joined this week of action and launched a short documentary on waste workers titled ‘Holud Mia: The Waste Warriors’. The premiere was attended by different national and international networks.

“Don’t Say Waste Picker, Say Waste Warrior”

Brand Audit 2021 Global Report Launching



Coca-Cola, Pran, PepsiCo & Unilever are Top polluters in Bangladesh!

Break free from plastic has published Global Brand Audit Report 2021 on 25th October. The report contains individual countries brand audit result including Bangladesh. At the event, Siddika Sultana of ESDO shared ESDO's findings as a keynote speaker. Read more: <https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/brandaudit2021/>

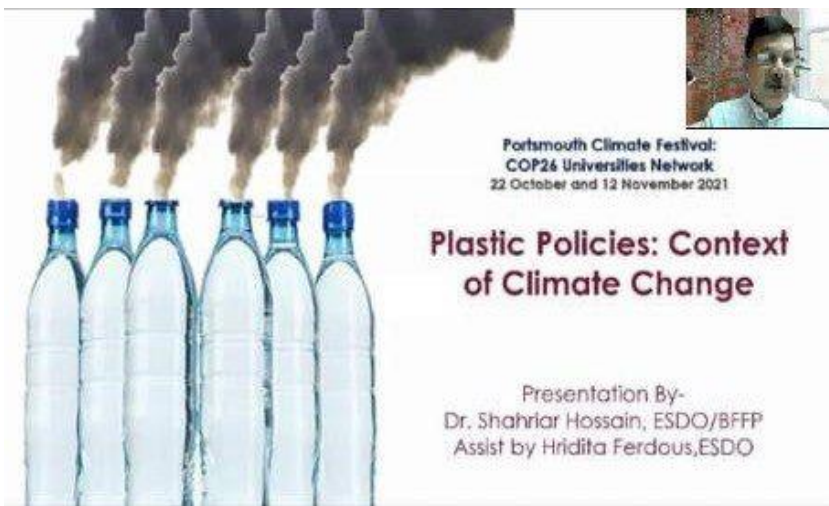
Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-4)



The first segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-4) occurred from 3rd November to 5th November 2021. The meeting was participated by different countries. It was concluded after an intense week of work with important agreements on the program of work and budget for the coming year and announces dates for in-person segment in Bali, Indonesia. Secretary General Dr. Shahriar Hossain and Executive Director Ms. Siddika Sultana attended the meeting.

Read more: <https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/news/parties-minamata-convention-reinforce-their-commitment-stopping-mercury-pollution-fully-online>

Portsmouth Climate Festival Plastic Policies: Context of Climate Change

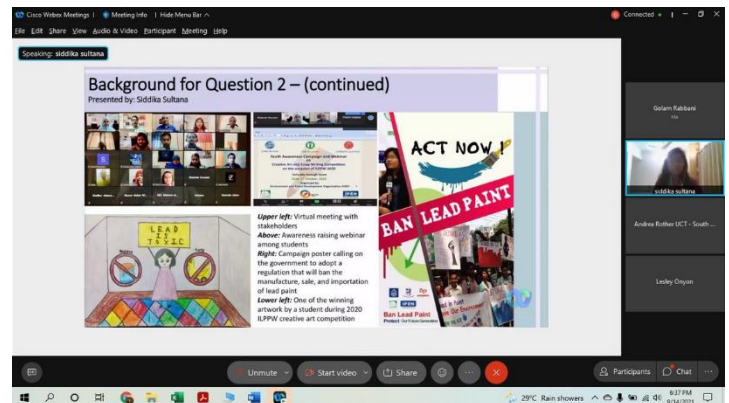


Portsmouth climate festival is an event to raise awareness of the climate challenges in the city, highlighting both the implications of climate change for Portsmouth, and the opportunities for everyone to make a positive difference. ESDO's Secretary General Dr. Shahriar Hossain participated the event as a keynote speaker and share about plastic policies in context of climate change.

SAICM/UCT: LiP - CoP

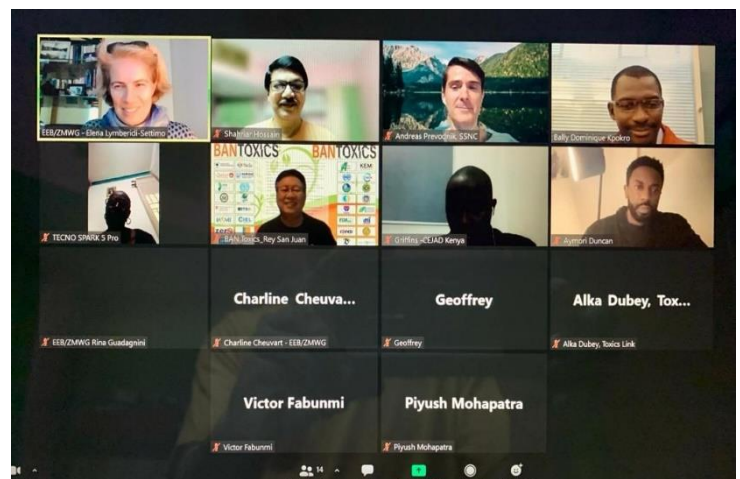
Making the case: raising awareness about importance of lead paint laws

Awareness raising is one of the steps that many countries may take in the process of developing lead paint laws or to accelerate progress towards the establishment of lead paint laws. The ninth International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (24-30 October) was an opportunity to draw attention to the need for action on lead paint and other sources of lead exposure. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director ESDO attended the event as a resource person and shared ESDO's activities on Lead in Paints.



Meeting on the update of Skin Lightening Creams campaign

A zoom meeting call was arranged by European Environmental Bureau - EEB on the update on overall works on mercury added skin lightening cream campaign. Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO attended the meeting and shared update on ESDO's work on mercury added skin lightening creams



Consumers' Association of Penang: Towards Eliminating Lead in Paint

Towards Eliminating Lead In Paints

Learn about the health and environmental issues of lead paint exposure

28 October 2021 (Thursday)
2.30 - 4.00 PM (MY/PH)
12.30 - 2.00 PM (DHAKA)
ZOOM / FACEBOOK LIVE



Siddika Sultana

Environmental & Social Development Organization (ESDO), Bangladesh



Hatijah Hashim

Consumers' Association of Penang



Jeiel Guarino

International Pollutants Elimination Network

Consumers' Association of Penang - CAP, Malaysia recently organized a webinar titled Towards eliminating Lead in Paint where Executive Director of ESDO's attended as a panelist and spoke about Campaigning experience in Bangladesh, how different stakeholders were involved and Awareness raising and next steps (how to ensure compliance).



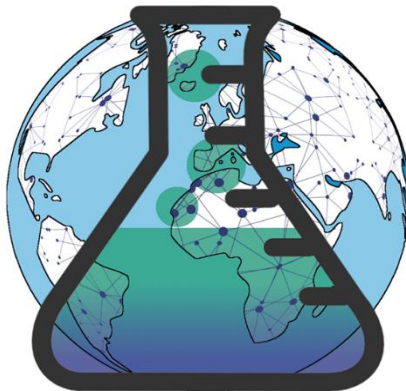
REGISTER NOW



ConsumerAssociationPenang



Tomorrow without Toxics: Chemicals in Products and the right to know



22nd-26th November 2021

**International Civil Society Conference
on Chemicals Management**

Tomorrow without Toxics

The four-day virtual conference “Tomorrow without Toxics” is to take place from November 22 to 26, 2021. This conference will bring together civic organizations, movements and stakeholders to discuss the political challenges and prospects in the international regulation of chemical management. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO attended the event as a panelist. She shared about Chemicals in Products and Bangladesh situation.

ESDO and Asian Centre for Environmental Health supports African Amendment towards an end date for manufacturing, and the use of dental amalgam



COP-4 INDONESIA

ONLINE 1-5 NOVEMBER 2021
BALI 21-25 MARCH 2022

MAKE MERCURY HISTORY



**MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY**

On 30th April, African region submitted their amendment regarding mercury free dentistry and mercury sale to be executed by 2029. They are willing to amend the Article 4, Part II of Annex A of the Minamata Convention which will be presented on COP4 of Minamata Convention. World Alliance for Mercury Free dentistry requested to Ban toxic from Philippines who have already sent a letter to their government requesting to support African Amendment in COP4 on 19th May. Consequently, ESDO and Asian Center for environmental Health has supported this amendment and will try to reach to respective governmental authorities to support it in COP4.

GAIA AP Zero Waste Tea Party

Bangladesh: Environment & Social Development Organization - ESDO

Siddika Sultana
Executive Director, ESDO
E: siddika@esdo.org

ESDO is a non-profit and non-government organization based in Bangladesh. It is working to spread the message about the need for environmental conservation – to ensure the protection of biological diversity and ecological balance.

Zero Waste, Single Use Plastic, Toxic Chemicals (Lead, Mercury, PFAS etc)

<http://esdo.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/esdodb90>
<https://twitter.com/esdodb>
info@esdo.org
NGO

Ongoing projects

On Zero Waste

- Zero waste community building project (GAIA)

On plastic

- Ban SUP (PSF)
- Plastic Free Campus (BFFP)

Hridita, ESDO, Bangladesh

The Global Week of Solidarity and Celebration Zero Waste Tea Party was an important undertaking for GAIA AP members to interact with one another, share stories and successes, celebrate milestones, and get to know more about the other organizations in the region. 🌍 This strengthened the network's bond and camaraderie. Perhaps it also served as a venue for a light moment with everyone, a rest from the limitations and challenges brought about by the pandemic situation. ESDO joined the tea Party and Hridita Ferdous, Assistant Program Officer shared ESDO's success stories.

GAIA-BFFP AP Comms. Officers Fellowship: Graduation Party!



19-week long GAIA-BFFP Comms. Officers Fellowship was concluded by a Graduation party. Samina Khondaker and Khalilur Rahman from ESDO participated this 5-month long fellowship and actively participated in all the activities and breakout sessions. ESDO also got a grant by submitting a proposal on illegal transboundary movement of plastic waste.





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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.