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NEWSLETTER



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ESDO celebrated International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2022 in collaboration with DGHS, Icddr, IEDCR, Pure Earth, UNICEF Bangladesh, and IPEN

Global Plastic Treaty

The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution started with a cultural program on November 28, 2022, in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

On behalf of the Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO and a participating organization of IPEN, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO, and Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO, participated in all the session in from 28 November to 2 December 2022 in Uruguay.

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Report Launching of Brand Audit of Single-use Plastic 2022

ESDO conducted this year's brand audit in three different cities, which are Dhaka, Khulna, and Chittagong. More than 250 volunteers conducted the audit on August 25th, September 20th, and September 24th, respectively. To share the result of the audit, ESDO conducted a media briefing event on Monday, October 17, 2022, at ESDO head office. Coca-Cola again retained the position as the top polluter of single-use plastic for the 5th time in a row, with 20.78% of the total waste.

The event was chaired by former Secretary Government of Bangladesh and ESDO Chairperson Syed Marghub Murshed. Senior Technical Advisor of ESDO, was also presented at the event along with ESDO's Secretary General, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Executive Director, Siddika Sultana, ESDO members, and journalists from different newspapers and print media.

Workshop on Development of Policy and Financing Strategy/Mechanisms to Implement the National Action Plan for Sustainable Plastics Management in Bangladesh and PPP Model for Investment in Plastic Recycling

Maxwell Stamp Ltd. Organized a workshop on their project entitled "Development of Policy and Financing Strategy/Mechanisms to Implement the National Action Plan for Sustainable Plastics Management in Bangladesh and PPP Model for Investment in Plastic Recycling" on 11th October 2022.

This project will assist in the implementation of the Action Plan by developing policy and financing strategies and models for sustainable plastics management and increased investment in plastic recycling. It includes harmonizing with the existing laws, rules, regulations, and strategies in developing regulatory mechanisms and financing models. Maxwell Stamp Limited (MSL) and International Synergies Limited (ISL) are implementing the project.

Assistant Program Officer of ESDO, Hridita Ferdous joined the workshop and shared ESDO's ongoing works and vision regarding Sustainable Plastic Management in Bangladesh.



Report Launching of "Assessing Transboundary Movement of Single-use Plastic Waste Through River Channels in Bangladesh" and Dialogue on the Upcoming "Global Plastic Treaty"



According to research by the Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO, 18 transboundary rivers in Bangladesh transport 2.6 million metric tons of single-use plastic into the Bay of Bengal every year, posing a major threat to river systems, waterways, and people's health.

The study was conducted by Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO in collaboration with the Plastic Solutions Fund and the Global Alliance of Incineration Alternatives (GAIA). ESDO presented the report on Sunday at a conference titled "Assessing Transboundary Movement of Single-use Plastic Waste Through River Channels in Bangladesh and Dialogue on the Upcoming Global Plastic Treaty" at a city hotel.

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International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2022 Human Chain and Rally



On the occasion of International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2022, Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO, in collaboration with DGHS, Icdrrb, IEDCR, Pure Earth, UNICEF Bangladesh, and IPEN organized a human chain alongside a rally on October 22 to call for the complete banning of all lead-based paint in Bangladesh and the proper implementation of the existing law.

Around 120 volunteers from Girls' Guide, Green Voice, and students from different universities participated in this human chain and rally. Representatives from Icdrrb, Pure Earth, and, UNICEF Bangladesh were also present on the occasion. The human chain started in front of the National Press Club, continued as a rally toward the High Court and TSC, and then ended with another human chain at the Central Shaheed Minar.

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National Seminar on “Lead Poisoning in Bangladesh: Evidence for Urgent Action”

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and UNICEF Bangladesh jointly hosted a national seminar in collaboration with IEDCR, Icddrb, ESDO, and Pure Earth as part of the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2022 observation program. The seminar title was “Lead Poisoning in Bangladesh: Research Evidence for Urgent Action.”

Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Sectary General of ESDO, moderated the panel discussion session. Besides, Executive Director of ESDO Siddika Sultana along with other ESDO colleagues were also present at the event.

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Interface with Key Stakeholders from the Business Ecosystem in Bangladesh to Understand the Impact and Role of the Private Sector in Addressing Lead Poisoning in Bangladesh



In order to understand the impact and involvement of the private sector in tackling lead poisoning in Bangladesh, UNICEF, Bangladesh, in technical collaboration with Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO), conducted an interaction with key stakeholders from companies in Bangladesh. In honor of International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, which is being observed from October 23 to October 29, 2022, UNICEF, the Government of Bangladesh, and important technical resource organizations in Bangladesh conducted a number of national-level events. The targeted audience for this interface was the Paint and battery manufacturers association, the organization that works on the similar issue, civil society and media.

Art Competition in order to observe International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2022

On the occasion of International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2022, ESDO organized an art competition today at Public Library Auditorium, Rangpur. The objective of this art competition was to create public awareness of the harmful effects of lead poisoning, to highlight the efforts of countries and partners to prevent lead exposure, particularly in children, to involve youth in a better understanding of the harmful effects of lead poisoning and to urge further action to eliminate lead paint through regulatory action at the country level.



Benchmark Assessment Tools (BAT) Training Webinar Workshop

Nowadays impacts of burning issues in environmental pollution, and toxic chemicals are gradually portrayal attention to global and national policies. One such arising concern issue is the consequence of the impacts of recycling lead and Used Lead Acid Batteries (ULAB). The ESDO's initiative to prevent lead pollution was introduced in this session. 4 days long "BAT Training Webinar Workshop" is conducted from 7th to 10th November 2022, with the collaboration of ESDO, Pure Earth, UNICEF, and the International Lead Association (ILA). The purpose of this training is to welcome the new members formally and to make them understand the concept of the Environmental Sound Management (ESM) of ULAB, strategies and policy options for the ESM of ULAB recycling, and the elimination of informal ULAB recycling, the use, and the application of the BAT for the ESM of LAB Manufacturing. It offered the participants to bond with each other by participating in any activities individually or in a group to reduce lead poisoning in Bangladesh.



Refuse Derived Fuel Usage in Cement Kilns: Bangladesh Scenario

Refused Derived Fuel is an alternative fuel that is obtained from municipal solid waste. It is a renewable form of energy and the cement industries or other boilers can use it to replace coal, gas, or electricity RDF. An exclusive assessment was done by the Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO in collaborative partnership with IPEN to identify the usage of RDF in cement kilns in Bangladesh and to review the government policy related to plastic waste, RDF, and cement kilns, From the study, it was found that the use of RDF is not known to the cement producers and it is not so renowned to all. All of the cement factories are using traditional fuels such as coal, gas, oil, or fossil fuel. But if the use of RDF is economically viable or environment friendly, they will think about it.



PFAS Sampling in Bangladesh

PFAS are a group of synthetic chemicals that are frequently used to increase the stain, grease, and water resistance of common household products. Many industrial, commercial, and consumer items have employed these compounds, and some of these products can be found or used during regular sampling activities. Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO team has recently identified the PFAS source location. Five potential pollution sites: Dhaka EPZ, Adamjee EPZ at Shitalakshya river, Small Textile industries at Buriganga river, small textiles industries at Shitalakshya river, small textile industries at Banani and Gulshan lakes were selected for this sampling process. The study site was used to gather 29 water samples from various points along the way collected by the team. The transect was oriented in the direction of the water flow. After collecting the samples, it was listed in numeric codes and also took photographs during the sampling at the sites.



Community Consultation in Rangpur

Environment and Social Development Organization - ESDO has organized a community consultation at Mistripara City Corporation High School, Rangpur with the community people of Shalbon, 25 no ward. ESDO initiated the project 'Building Zero Waste Community for a Pollution Free Environment in Bangladesh' in this locality with 150 households on July 2020. With a view to developing a sustainable zero-waste community in this locality, the involvement of community people is mandatory.

On September 22, 2022, a follow-up session was organized with the community people. The principal aim of the counseling was to disseminate knowledge of zero waste lifestyle with proper and sustainable waste management among the community members. Around 60 community people were present in this consultation.



Graduation Ceremony of Green Club at Betgari High School

The Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) established a green club at Betgari High School in Rangpur in March 2022. This green club was founded primarily to stimulate students' interest in environmental issues.

Under this environmental education program, the kids took part in a variety of activities, such as a poster presentation, brand audits, campus cleaning, and more. After their six-month journey was over, ESDO presented them with a graduation certificate. Therefore, the Green Club, Betgari High School graduation ceremony was held on October 13, 2022, from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm.



Setting up Biogas Plants at Betgari

At Betgari, Gangachara, Rangpur, two biogas plants have been installed. Out of 150 eligible recipients, two have been selected for this Biogas plant. Based on the availability of cows and land to build the plant, the households were chosen. 85 percent of the total cost of establishing the biogas facility was covered by ESDO. The construction of the plant took five to six days. The plant was later abandoned for 21 days. Cow manure was added to the plant after 21 days, and it took 15 to 20 days for the facility to start producing gas.

A partner organization of IDCOL named Maowa Renewable Energy Ltd. offered technical assistance and general management for the installation and upkeep of the plant. Up to three years of technical supervision will be provided by them. The recipients were overjoyed to get the service. They can effectively manage their waste with the help of the biogas plant, turning it into resources. Along with the gas service, the recipients will also receive fish feed and compost from the plant as byproducts.



Large Bin and Composter Distribution

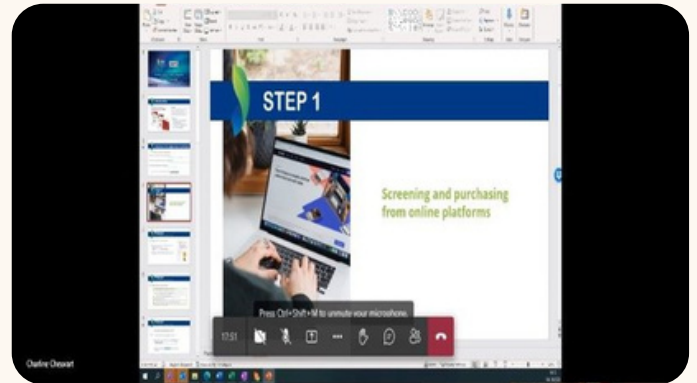
For the purpose of easing waste segregation, ESDO started distributing six sets of 120-liter waste bin to the community and institutions. In addition, the community has received 15 sets of home composters for use in generating compost. These actions made by ESDO will aid in educating people about the process of turning trash into resources.

The CBO members assisted in the selection of the Rangpur household. For this service, those who are willing to compost their household organic waste were chosen.



Meeting on New Sampling for Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG)

A zoom meeting was arranged by EEB to discuss a project activity guideline on new sampling for the Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG). The expected action plan and sampling activities were also discussed. The event was successful through the active participation from the networking countries and participants were able to have a clear conception of the upcoming project and already start.



Meeting on Planning about Way-Forward on Prevention of Lead (Pb) Poisoning in Bangladesh with UNICEF



A meeting was held in UNICEF, Dhaka in the date on 20 December 2022. Secretary-General- Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Executive Director- Siddika Sultana, and Project Associate Tanjima Hoque Trisha of ESDO were present at the meeting. UNICEF 3 representatives were also present. There was a spontaneous discussion about Lead (Pb) poisoning in Bangladesh. The main sources of the lead and alternatives were discussed. Also, they discussed the gap and what we need to know more about.



Scientific Conference on Safe Agriculture Safe Asia Organized in Korea

Wonjin Institute of Occupational and environmental health (WiOEH), Korean Financial Industry Foundation (KFF) & IPEN have organized a Scientific conference "Safe Agriculture Safe Asia" for collaboration amongst NGOs in Asian countries and the Institute. Representatives of NGOs from different countries to join to share their expertise and for future collaboration. In this session, all the partners and WiOEH shared the research findings of Pesticide Monitoring in South East Asia in a brief. EDC free Asia Project Partners including a Representative from Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO delivered the two-minute speech.





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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 bags in 2002. ESDO's activities continue with different issues like mercury-free dentistry, single-use plastic pollution, and microbeads including lead-containing products. In this quarter, ESDO's 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.