



中国-东盟环境保护合作中心
China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center

Newsletter

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Expert Views at “Taking Actions for Marine Plastic Reduction: ASEAN-China Front-Runners Workshop on Urban Plastic Reduction”

On July 22, 2021, as one of the series activities for ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Week 2021, “Taking Actions for Marine Plastic Reduction: ASEAN-China Front-Runners Workshop on Urban Plastic Reduction” was successfully held virtually and on site in Beijing. The Workshop was hosted by China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center/Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China (MEE). Representatives from MEE and its affiliated units, local ecological and environmental departments, climate and environmental departments from ASEAN Member States, Japan, and South Korea, international organizations, research institutes, and private sectors. During the Workshop, participants shared and discussed practices and cases on life-cycle management of plastic wastes, including reducing waste from the source, sorting recycling and reuse, as well as prevention and treatment of marine waste. The following is an excerpt from the presentations made by the experts at the workshop.

PEI Xiangbin

**Director of the Department of Marine Ecology and Environment,
Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China**

Through facilitating life-cycle management of plastic products, China strengthens the reduction of waste from the source and the use of alternatives, enhances waste classification, collection, and use of plastic recyclables, promotes public participation in the cleaning and treatment of plastic pollution, aiming to actively respond to actions including bilateral and multilateral initiatives of treating marine plastic wastes, and practice the concept of building a maritime community with a shared future. In the future, China hopes to work with ASEAN Member States, to follow through cooperative initiatives related to marine ecological and environmental conservation proposed by ASEAN-China Summit, and carry out cooperation under the *Framework of ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2025)* to make regional contributions to global marine ecological and environmental treatment.



ZHONG Xiaodong

**Chief Specialist of China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center/
Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, MEE**

The formulation of policies related to regional ecological and environmental marine treatment should center around the win-win needs from China and ASEAN Member States, while accelerating to implement leaders' initiative, and facilitating actions for marine plastic reduction under the framework of ASEAN-China Partnership for Ecologically Friendly Urban Development. It's suggested that we need to expand exchange and dialogue with developed countries, international organizations, financial institutions, and private sectors to discuss how to enhance capacity building of all countries with international cooperation. It is imperative to improve fundamental research in related fields to improve scientific research, and augment international cooperation on technologies in relevant industries. We hope to continue activities including roundtable dialogues, capacity building, pilot projects, and public awareness raising to improve capacities for treating regional marine plastic wastes.



LAN Wenlu

**Deputy Head of Marine Environmental Monitoring Center of
Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China**



By far China's legislative system on marine waste has been preliminarily established. Actions of enforcing plastic bans, piloting zero waste cities, and imposing regulations on waste classification etc., aim to reduce plastic wastes from its source. China has witnessed comprehensive improvement in its capacity of preventing and treating marine plastic waste pollution through strictly life-cycle managing and controlling plastic wastes, carrying out pilot programs on comprehensively preventing and controlling marine waste pollution in coastal cities, deepening international exchange and cooperation and participating international governance, institutionalizing public participation, and strengthening marine waste and microplastic monitoring among other methods .

XING Qiao

Research Academy of Environmental Sciences of Hainan Province, China

Currently, Hainan Province is exploring a low-carbon development path for building a free trade port steadily in accordance with the overall guidelines of constructing ecological civilization. Hainan is facilitating the construction of a green free trade port by establishing and implementing the most stringent ecological and environmental conservation system, strictly managing and controlling ecological space, comprehensively forbidding producing, selling and using disposable non-degradable plastic products, advancing the adoption of clean energies island wide in a high-quality way, and promoting prefabricated buildings etc. In the future, Hainan will focus on pursuing cutting-edge technological breakthrough, addressing the most prominent ecological and environmental issues, integrate synergy between reducing pollution and decarbonizing, scientifically meet the vision of carbon peaking and carbon neutrality to further improve green development of Hainan free trade port.



Roath Sith

**Deputy Director General of General Directorate of Environmental Protection,
Ministry of Environment of Cambodia**

With the rapid growth of population and constant acceleration of urbanization, Cambodia faces emerging environmental issues such as plastic waste pollution. Plastic waste occupies 20% of the total waste in Cambodia. With the absence of large-scale recycling companies, only less than 1% of plastics were recycled. Open burning of plastic waste is common in Cambodia, causing air pollution issues. By delegating authorities, Cambodia implements sub-decree on plastic governance to consolidate management of urban solid waste, and speeds up domestic treatment of plastic pollution by formulating roadmap of managing and controlling plastic products and enhancing international cooperation among other ways.



Thaw Thaw Han

**Deputy Director of Environmental Conservation Department,
Natural Resources Division of Myanmar**

Myanmar was confronted with incomplete policies and regulations on preventing and treating marine microplastics, insufficient affiliated infrastructure, inadequate involvement of private sectors, shortage of fund, technologies and capacities etc. It is necessary to improve the capacity of preventing and treating marine plastic pollution through improving monitoring and supervision capacities, seeking financial support, guiding the participation of the public and private sectors, and enhancing international cooperation.



YU Yunjun

**South China Institute of Environmental Sciences,
Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China**

As for encouraging public participation in marine ecological and environmental governance, there are difficulties like insufficient government guidance and publicity, imbalance of social organizations on marine environment protection, and inactive participation. It is important to value the role of NGOs in participating marine environment management and improving public awareness, strengthen sociological study on preventing and treating marine waste, and innovate public participation methods.



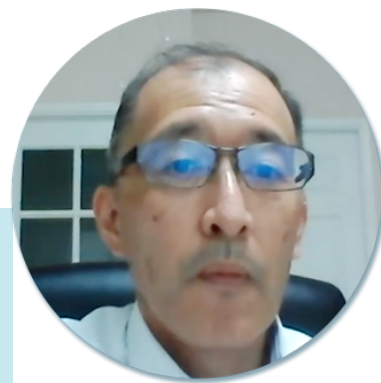
YANG Songying

Expert of Ocean Conservation team, World Wild Life

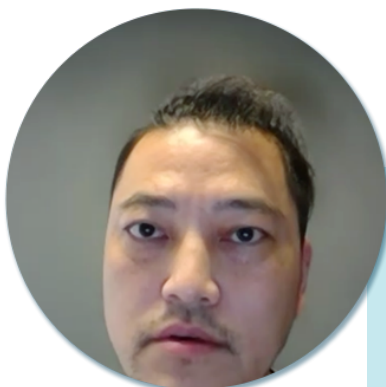
Marine plastic waste mainly came from inland, flown down to marine via river, surface runoff, and urban drainage systems. There are no international agreements specially targeted at global marine plastic waste prevention and treatment, while there're obvious gaps in policy safeguard and capacities among countries and regions in facilitating the prevention and treatment of global marine plastic waste. There's an urgent need to facilitate the formulation of new international agreements and ensure its validity, and introduce scientific advisory groups to provide scientific support for implementing the agreements.



Otake Shigeru
Assistant Resident Representative of
Japan International Cooperation Agency China Office



In terms of practices of reducing marine plastics, JICA implemented programs for monitoring marine plastics on the beach and in coastal waters, monitoring marine plastics and marine environmental impact, and monitoring land-based waste. It carries scientific analyses based on monitored statistics and proposes suggestions on reducing marine plastics to the government. Meanwhile, JICA emphasizes the exchange and communication among scientists and research personnel to improve awareness of public and policy makers on marine plastic pollution.



HU Kehua
Director of the Responsible Supply Chain Association,
China National Textile and Apparel Council

Microplastics in the textile industry mainly came from the process of spinning, winding and weaving. Though not occupying a high percentile in the washing process, microplastics produced in this stage has the easiest access to marine. Tracing water source components, calculating the figure of shedding, studying the technologies of interception/ blocking/ processing, and establishing a system of evaluation metrics and index are the key research directions of marine micro-plastics in the textile industry.

JIANG Nanqing
Secretary General of Committee of Green Circular and
Inclusive Development, All China Environment Federation

Recycling plastics is closely related to reducing greenhouse gas, biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction among other fields. Policy incentives of enhancing waste classification and recycling, South-south cooperation on technological innovation and exchange, guiding the participation of private sectors, and steady income safeguard are the important conditions of the innovative development of recycling plastics.



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China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center is committed to implementing China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Strategy and promoting China-ASEAN exchange and cooperation in the field of environment. It is an important platform of foreign environmental cooperation.