



NATIONAL SEMINAR ON BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION

PROCEEDINGS

JUNE 09, 2018 | DHAKA | BANGLADESH

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KEYWORDS

SR Asia: Social Responsibility Asia

SMS Environmental Alliance: Sustainable Management System

Zero Plastic Waste

ESDO: Environment and Social Development Organization

Micro plastic

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization

PET: Polyethylene terephthalate

EPZ: Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority

HDPE: High Density Polyethylene

INTRODUCTION

Social Responsibility Asia (SR Asia) is an International networking organization based in Asia, creating bench marks and new standards in the field of social responsibility. SR Asia provides and shares SR solutions for shaping the modern day business on sustainability and competitiveness. SR Asia is committed to drive the Asian countries through its scientific research, subject competence and policy level interventions with government and involvement of each and every stake holders to create a sustainable Asia. Main objective of SR Asia is to drive business and society together through engagement and dialogue process to create harmonious polices for speedy implementation and positive outcomes.

Social Responsibility Asia (SR Asia) Bangladesh and SMS Environmental Alliance made up handshake on 26th of April 2018 to celebrate World Environment Day and jointly organized a seminar on 9th June 2018 in association with **North South University** to raise awareness and urge governments, industry, communities, and individuals to come together and explore sustainable alternatives and urgently reduce the production and use of single-use plastic that pollutes oceans, damages marine life and threatens human health.

In order to understand the role of Government in national development agenda, process model from inception to implementation and evaluation methodology of government initiative, challenges to a national commitment, The objectives of the seminar are:

- Discuss, share and create awareness about the present scenario plastic pollution in Bangladesh.
- Discuss on challenges and possible solution to complement the UN commitment to substantial reduction of plastic waste by 2025 and the long-term aim for Zero Plastic Waste and pollution.
- Understand the changing paradigm of behavior of people in Bangladesh to reduce plastic pollution.
- Explore the scope for Community-Civil Society - Government - Corporate partnerships and facilitate dialogue for 'development'.

Understanding the threat of plastic waste creating harm to environment and people and with the call of UN 2018 environment day theme, SR Asia Bangladesh and SMS Environmental Alliance in association with North South University are raising the issue through the event to aware industrialists, civil society for being cautious producing and using plastic products.



Sumaya Rashid

Country Director
Social Responsibility Asia (SR Asia)
Bangladesh

PREFACE

World Environment Day is the UN's most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment. Since it began in 1974, it has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in over 100 countries. Above all, World Environment Day is the "people's day" for doing something to take care of the Earth. That "something" can be focused locally, nationally or globally; it can be a solo action or involve a crowd. Everyone is free to choose. Each World Environment Day is organized around a theme that focuses attention on a particularly pressing environmental concern. The theme for 2018 is "Beat Plastic Pollution".

After a day out in the dirt and dust, we might want to use a face wash to clean up but such cleansing products are dirtying up the environment. And these are tiny plastic beads in the products known as microbeads. Every month, around 8,000 billion microbeads flow to the water bodies in and around three major cities -- Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet, according to the study "Microbeads Pollution Scenario in

Bangladesh", published by Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) 15 October 2016. In Dhaka city alone, approximately 7,000 billion microbeads get in the surrounding water bodies and wastelands. In Chittagong city, the number is some 1,000 billion while it is around 200 billion in Sylhet city. The particles flow through the sewers and make their way into canals and rivers and finally reach the seas and oceans, where they contribute to the so called Plastic Soup. This washed-down plastics fragment into smaller particles, polluting ocean water at many places giving rise to the term plastic soup. In addition, toxins are released from the plastic. All sorts of organisms living in or off the sea take in plastic debris and microplastic for food, says the Plastic Soup Foundation, a Netherlands based organization working to raise awareness about the issue.

The seminar shared, discussed and deliberated challenges and opportunities in the context of developing countries are specifically Bangladesh. The discussion held on important areas like SDGs at industrial level, challenges of

changing behaviors of civil society, Government enforcement, responsible consumption of plastic product and way forward. The expert keynote presentations and discussion has helped to form this proceedings and highlight key recommendation to the stakeholders.

We express our profound gratitude to North South University in partnering the conference. This event would not have been possible without their constant co-operation and support. We convey our sincere thanks to Dr. Md. Jakariya, Professor and Chairman, Department of Environmental Science Management, North South University for inspiring us to organize the conference in Bangladesh.

We are thankful to United Group to support the seminar. Their commitment to reduce plastic environment pollution throughout their business is really appreciated.

Honorable speakers as well as distinguished individuals from different walks of life, has made their immense contribution to this

seminar which forms the knowledge bank to all of us.. Special thanks to the organizing committee and team behind in making the seminar happen.

Our editing team has put extra efforts in preparing the seminar proceedings. The proceeding covers complete agenda as discussed and deliberated during the seminar. We are sure that the seminar proceedings will be valued inputs to the policy makers, academia, students and others..

We received many positive feedbacks from our stakeholders and participants of the seminar. Their positive feedback inspired us and we commit to repeat such event frequently as far as possible to enhance the awareness among all stakeholders so that eventually actions start rolling out and we see the positive results on the ground. We look forward for your continued support.

মহাপরিচালক
পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর
ঢাকা।



২২ জ্যৈষ্ঠ ১৪২৫
০৫ জুন ২০১৮

শুভেচ্ছা

পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ ও পরিবেশ দূষণরোধকল্পে বিশ্বব্যাপী জনসচেতনতা গড়ে তোলার লক্ষ্যে প্রতিবছর জাতিসংঘ পরিবেশ (UN Environment) এবং বিভিন্ন দেশ ৫ জুন বিশ্ব পরিবেশ দিবস পালন করে থাকে। পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর তথা পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয় প্রতিবছর যথাযোগ্য মর্যাদার সাথে সারাদেশে এ দিবসের তাৎপর্য তুলে ধরে বিভিন্ন কর্মসূচি পালন করে আসছে।

জাতিসংঘ পরিবেশ (UN Environment) কর্তৃক এবারের বিশ্ব পরিবেশ দিবসের প্রতিপাদ্য নির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে Beat Plastic Pollution যার ভাবানুবাদ করা হয়েছে ‘আসুন প্লাস্টিক দূষণ বন্ধ করি’। UN Environment-এর এক হিসেবে জানা যায়, গত শতকে সারা বিশ্বে যে পরিমাণ প্লাস্টিক সামগ্রী উৎপাদিত হয়েছে তার চেয়ে গত এক দশকে উৎপাদিত প্লাস্টিক সামগ্রীর পরিমাণ অনেক বেশি। বর্তমানে প্রতিবছর প্রায় ৮০ লক্ষ টন প্লাস্টিক বর্জ্য সমুদ্রে গিয়ে পড়ে। যার অর্থ হচ্ছে প্রতি মিনিটে এক ট্রাক প্লাস্টিক বর্জ্য সমুদ্রে পতিত হচ্ছে। প্লাস্টিকজাত বর্জ্য জীবাণুবিয়োজ্য না হওয়ায় এবং দীর্ঘকাল পরিবেশে অবস্থান করার কারণে প্রতিবেশ ব্যবস্থায় বিরূপ প্রতিক্রিয়া সৃষ্টি করে। অপরদিকে অতি ক্ষুদ্র প্লাস্টিক কণা সামুদ্রিক প্লাঙ্কটন, মাছ ও অন্যান্য জলজপ্রাণির মাধ্যমে খাদ্যচক্র প্রবেশ করছে এবং সামুদ্রিক লবণেও এই ক্ষুদ্র প্লাস্টিক কণার উপস্থিতি ব্যাপকভাবে পাওয়া গেছে। খাদ্যচক্রের মাধ্যমে এই দূষক মানুষ ও অন্যান্য প্রাণিকূলের বিপাকীয় প্রক্রিয়ায় নানা ধরনের সমস্যার সৃষ্টি করছে। সার্বিক দিক বিবেচনায় UN Environment-এর এবারের বিশ্ব পরিবেশ দিবসের প্রতিপাদ্য Beat Plastic Pollution যথাযথ হয়েছে।

পলিথিন ব্যাগ ও প্লাস্টিকজাত দ্রব্য সারা পৃথিবীতে সহজলভ্য ও সস্তা হওয়ায় মূলতঃ এর ব্যবহার দ্রুত ও ব্যাপকভাবে বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। কিন্তু এর বিরূপ প্রভাব যে কত ভয়াবহ তা আধুনিক বিশ্ব আজ বুঝতে সক্ষম হয়েছে। ফলে পৃথিবীর অনেক দেশ ইতোমধ্যে এর ব্যবহারের উপর নিয়ন্ত্রণ শুরু করেছে। বাংলাদেশ পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ আইন ১৯৯৫-এর মাধ্যমে পলিথিন শপিং ব্যাগের ব্যবহার নিষিদ্ধ করা হয়েছে। অবৈধভাবে ও গোপনে দেশের বিভিন্ন এলাকায় এখনও পলিথিন ব্যাগের উৎপাদন হচ্ছে। পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর নিয়মিতভাবে নিষিদ্ধঘোষিত পলিথিন শপিং ব্যাগ উৎপাদনকারী, মজুদ ও বাজারজাতকারী এবং ব্যবহারকারীদের বিরুদ্ধে ভ্রাম্যমাণ আদালত পরিচালনার মাধ্যমে কঠোরভাবে আইন প্রয়োগ করছে। কিন্তু সাধারণ জনগণের মধ্যে সচেতনতাবোধের অভাব এবং ব্যাপক চাহিদার কারণে পলিথিন শপিং ব্যাগের উৎপাদন ও ব্যবহার পূর্ণাঙ্গভাবে বন্ধ করা সম্ভব হচ্ছে না। অপরদিকে বিভিন্ন পণ্য বাজারজাতে বহুলভাবে প্লাস্টিক কনটেইনার ব্যবহার হচ্ছে। এ সব পণ্য ব্যবহার শেষে আমরা কনটেইনারটি বর্জ্য হিসেবে ফেলে দিচ্ছি। এর সহজলভ্য বিকল্প ব্যবস্থা না থাকায় ফলে ক্রমশঃ এ ধরনের বর্জ্যের মাত্রা প্রতিনিয়তই বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে।

প্লাস্টিক ও প্লাস্টিকজাত সামগ্রীর ব্যবহার থেকে আমরা বিরত থাকতে পারবো না। তবে এ সব সামগ্রীর ব্যবহার আমরা সীমিত করতে পারি। সবচেয়ে বড় বেশি প্রয়োজন সকল ধরনের প্লাস্টিকের পুনঃব্যবহার অথবা পুনঃচক্রায়ন। এ লক্ষ্যে উৎসমূলে এ বর্জ্যের সংগ্রহ নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে আমাদের প্রতিটি সচেতন নাগরিকের দায়িত্ববোধ জাগ্রত করা প্রয়োজন। সম্ভাব্য সকলক্ষেত্রে প্লাস্টিক ও পলিথিন ব্যাগের ব্যবহার হ্রাস করতে হবে। পলিথিন শপিং ব্যাগের বিকল্প হিসেবে জীবাণুবিয়োজ্য পলিব্যাগ এবং পাটের ব্যাগ ব্যবহার করতে হবে। এ বিষয়টি আরো ব্যাপকভাবে প্রচার ও প্রচারণার লক্ষ্যে ইলেক্ট্রনিক ও প্রিন্ট মিডিয়াসহ সুশীল সমাজকে এগিয়ে আসতে হবে।

বর্তমান সরকারের অভীষ্ট লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ২০২১ এবং টেকসই উন্নয়ন লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ২০৩০ বাস্তবায়নের লক্ষ্যে আসুন আমরা পরিবেশ ও প্রতিবেশ ব্যবস্থা উন্নয়নের স্বার্থে প্লাস্টিক দূষণ রোধ করি এবং সুজলা, সুফলা শস্য শ্যামলা বাংলাদেশ গড়ি।

আমি পরিবেশ দিবসের সকল কর্মসূচি বাস্তবায়নে সকলের ঐকান্তিক সহযোগিতা কামনা করছি।



(ড. সুলতান আহমেদ)

PROGRAM AGENDA

BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION

9th June 2018 | 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Duration	Activity	Resource Person
3.00 pm – 3.15 pm	Registration	
3.15 pm – 3.25 pm	Welcome Address and Moderation	Sumaya Rashid, Country Director, Social Responsibility Asia (SR Asia) Bangladesh
3.25 pm – 3.45 pm	Presentation on “Tiny plastic – A silent killer”	Mr. Md. Abdul Alim, Bangladesh Representative, SMS Environmental Alliance
3.45 pm – 3.55 pm	Session Speech	Mr. Fahad Khan, Associate Director, United Group
3.55 pm – 5.10 pm	Panel Discussion	Mr. Zaki-Uz-Zaman, Country Representative, UNIDO
		Dr. Md. Jakariya, Professor & Chairman, Department of Environmental Science Management, North South University
		Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Director General, Department of Environment
5.10 pm – 5.40 pm	Question and Answer	
NETWORKING & IFTAR		

GLIMPS OF SEMINAR ON “BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION”

June 09, 2018





PROCEEDING – SEMINAR ON “BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION”

Ms. Sumaya Rashid, Country Director, SR Asia Bangladesh expressed her gratitude and welcomed to all the stakeholders and participants to seminar in Dhaka Bangladesh. In her speech, she highlighted the adoption of new sustainable development agenda and global agreement on GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. She rightly mentioned, even though plastic product is part of life now a day but there is need of responsible consumption of plastic products specially one time plastic products – we use and throw. We need to do lot of awareness therefore the government can help by coming up with some norms and regulations. NGOs have a big role to play by community mobilization. But the challenge is how we can bring a self-regulation by changing our behavior in using plastic to combat plastic pollution. Mitigating plastic pollution is not the sole responsibility of Government but local government, private sector and also individual citizens need to support in attaining this target too.

She invited Mr. Md. Abdul Alim, Bangladesh Representative of SMS Environmental Alliance to present the seminar keynote speech. Mr. Fahad Khan, Associate Director, United Group delivered his valuable speech to the audience after the keynote presentation.

The seminar was chaired by Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Director General, DoE and panel was discussed by Dr. Md. Jakariya, Professor & Chairman of Department of Environment Science Management, North South University and Mr. Zaki Uz Zaman, Country Representative of UNIDO.



Mr. Md. Abdul Alim
Bangladesh Representative
SMS Environmental Alliance

Presented keynote speech on “Tiny plastic – A silent killer”. In his keynote speech, Mr. Alim said, in this modern life style, Plastic is playing a very important role in human life. It is used to pack daily products such as beverages including drinking water, grocery, food products and many more. To make our life easy, we have invented this short cut and hassle free way for daily life. After using plastic products they are thrown away. But did we really think about the life cycle of this plastic? Did we really think about the amount of negative impact of this plastic towards the environment which is

political boundary. No matter that a country is having with best practice but the world should be thinking about it together. Plastic is basically made from oil and natural gas. It does not biodegrade in a landfill that easily, because of which plastic waste is found everywhere at the beach, on the ground, in the forests and floating in the ocean. There are some facts with plastic pollution may help us to think about the adverse effect of the plastic pollution. He projected the

Global Facts about Plastic as below:

ending up on the life? political boundary. No matter that a country is having with best practice but the world should be thinking about it together.

- World plastics production totaled around 335 million metric tons (2016)
- Global average consumption of plastic material is more than 45 KG/person
- Bangladesh consumption of plastic materials is 8 KG/person
- Each and every US resident uses 1,200 plastic bags a year
- The amount of plastic that is thrown away annually can circle the earth four times.

A plastic like a jug which takes 1 million years to decompose

- Currently we can only recover round 5% of the plastic bags that we produce
- An American throws away around 185 pounds of plastic each year
- Plastic accounts for approximately 10% of the total waste human generates
- Only Americans throw away around 35 billion plastic water bottles annually
- About 97% of plastics ever made still exist
- Around one million sea birds and 100,000 marine mammals are killed each year due to plastic ingestion
- Plastic accounts for around 90% of all ocean trash with 46,000 pieces of plastic for each square mile.
- Plastic takes around 500-1,000 years for plastic to degrade
- In a year, around 500 billion plastic bags are used globally.
- Americans generate 10.5 million tons of plastic waste annually. However, they recycle only 1 to 2% of this amount
- Around 80% of the plastic pollution enters the ocean from the land.
- South African coast, there are 3,500 plastic particles for every square kilometer
- The annual consumption of plastic globally has increased from 5 million

tons in the 50s to around 100 million tons currently

- According to a research done by Ellen MacArthur Foundation in January, the total amount of plastic waste will be greater than the total number of fish found in our oceans by 2050
- A plastic cup takes around 50-80 years to decompose
- A plastic like a jug which takes 1 million years to decompose

Nearly every piece of plastic manufactured from initial day still exists in the environment as it is very hard to decompose. These plastics just become smaller parts. Micro beads are using in cosmetics, soaps, scrubs are going back to water again. The sea lives are consuming these tiny pieces as their food and finally humans are taking those sea species as their delicious food. The scientists, from Heriot-Watt University concluded that the average person swallows up to 68,415 potentially dangerous plastic fibres a year simply through their meal. They found fewer than two micro plastics in each mussel and that is how the average person can expect to consume 100 plastic particles a year through eating the shellfish.

Currently the industry size is about \$3 billion. Domestic consumption is \$2.2 billion and exports are 0.8billion. A huge employment also

made through this industry. But we need to save our globe by protecting plastic pollution. How? Stop the use of Plastic or by ensuring recycle? It will be very difficult to stop plastic as a lot more things are linked but reduce, reuse and recycle approach can be useful.

- Bangladesh in one of the first country ban plastic shopping bag
- 70% of plastic waste is recycled in the country resulting in saving of US 1

billion in the year 2014 by avoiding import of virgin resin

- Plastic wastes such as used **PET** bottles are exported from Bangladesh to China, Korea, Vietnam and Thailand worth US208 million in 2014.
- Government provide 10% cash incentive PET export is encouraging recycle industry
- Import of waste/ recycle plastic is restricted in Bangladesh, allowed only in Export Processing Zone (**EPZ**).



BEGINNING OF THE PLASTIC ERA WITH SEMI-SYNTHETICS

The first man-made plastic was created by Alexander Parkes who publicly demonstrated it at the **1862 Great International Exhibition in London**











ANY IDEA?

- **When PET bottle has been invented?**
It is 1941 - Polyethylene Terephthalate or Pet - Invented by Whinfield and Dickson
- **When the first ever PET bottle made in the world will be bio degraded?**
May be in the year 2441 or 2941 as researchers said









CONSUMPTION FACTS

World plastics production totaled around 335 million metric tons

Global average consumption of plastic material is more than 45 KG/person

Bangladesh consumption of plastic materials is 8 KG/person

Each and every US resident uses 1,200 plastic bags a year

The amount of plastic that is thrown away annually can circle the earth Four times









WHAT WE ARE DOING?

An American throws away around 185 pounds of plastic each year

Only Americans throw away around 35 billion plastic water bottles annually









BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION
If you can't reuse it, refuse it!

CAN WE IMAGINE?

Plastic accounts for around 90% of all ocean trash with 46,000 pieces of plastic for each square mile.

46,000
Pieces of plastic are floating on every square mile of ocean

BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION
If you can't reuse it, replace it.

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT PLASTIC

USE
Americans generate **10.5 million** tons of plastic waste annually

RE-Cycle
Recycle only **1 to 2%** of this amount

BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION
If you can't reuse it, replace it.

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT PLASTIC

Plastic takes around **500-1,000** years for plastic to degrade

In a year, around **500 billion** plastic bags are used globally.

BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION
If you can't reuse it, replace it.

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT PLASTIC

Around **80%** of the plastic pollution enters the ocean from the land

South African coast, there are **3,500** plastic particles for every square kilometer

The annual consumption of plastic globally has increased from **5 million** tons in the 50s to around **100 million** tons currently

BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION
If you can't reuse it, replace it.

DO U LIKE SEA FOOD?

They found fewer than **two micro plastics in each mussel** and that is how the average person can expect to consume **100 plastic particles** a year through eating the shellfish.

BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION
If you can't reuse it, replace it.

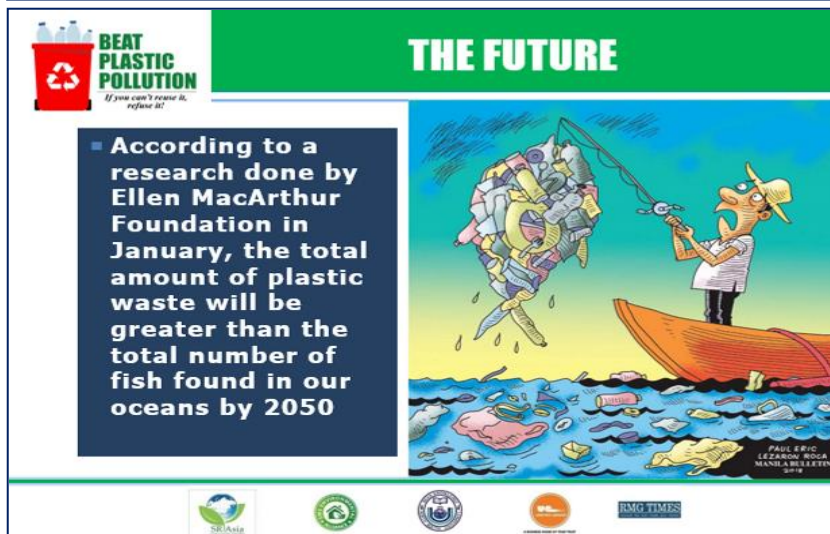
PLASTIC IS IN MEAL

The scientists, from **Heriot-Watt University** concluded that the average person swallows up to **68,415** potentially **dangerous plastic fibres** a year simply through their meal.

BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION
If you can't reuse it, replace it.

"TINY PLASTIC – A SILENT KILLER"

Fish eat plastic from the ocean and human consume fish
Save environment,
Save yourself



- <http://cpd.org.bd/plastic-waste-management-in-search-of-an-effective-operational-framework/>
- <file:///C:/Users/Hp/Downloads/PPC-OneSheet-English.pdf>
- <https://www.theoceancleanup.com/updates/quantifying-global-plastic-inputs-from-rivers-into-oceans/>
- <http://m.theindependentbd.com/post/147312>
- <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/5-year-voyage-tackle-plastic-pollution>
- <https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/intriguing-facts-about-plastic-pollution.php>
- <http://greenpagebd.net/bangladesh-world-leader-in-banning-the-plastic-bag/#.Wwzie-6FN0w>
- <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/environment/2018/04/22/poba-bangladesh-witnesses-80-fold-increase-plastic-use-since-1990/>
- <http://www.planetaid.org/blog/recycling-rates-around-the-world>
- <https://www.statista.com/statistics/282732/global-production-of-plastics-since-1950/>
- <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/tiny-plastic-big-problem>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jun/02/microplastics-killing-fish-before-they-reach-reproductive-age-study-finds>
- <https://phys.org/news/2018-04-reveals-tiny-plastics-meal.html>
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/history-of-plastics-1992322>



**Dr. Md. Jakariya, Professor & Chairman,
Department of Environmental Science
North South University**

Dr. Jakariya pointed out that plastic fibers were found in bottled water produced by 11 of the world's largest brands purchased from 19 locations in 9 countries. 93% of bottled water showed some sign of microplastic contamination, including polypropylene, nylon, and polyethylene terephthalate (PET). Each year, about 1 million tons of tiny plastic fibers are released into wastewater. Dr. Jakariya was concerned and said that the billions upon billions of items of plastic waste choking our oceans, lakes, and rivers and piling up on land is more than unsightly and harmful to plants and wildlife. Plastic Pollution is a very real and growing threat to human health.



Mr. Zaki uz Zaman
Country Head
United Nation Industry Development Organization (UNIDO)

During his speech, he said that we all knew there was a rapid increase in plastic production from 1950 until now, but actually quantifying the snowballing number for all plastic ever made was quite deplorable. This kind of increase would break any system that was not prepared for it, and this is why we have seen leakage from global waste systems into the oceans. He mentioned that plastic takes more than 400 years to degrade, so most of it still exists in some form. Only 12 percent has been incinerated. If present trends continue, by 2050, there will be 12 billion metric tons of plastic in landfills. That amount is 35,000 times as heavy as the Empire State Building.



Mr. Fahad Khan

Associate Director, United Group

Managing Director, United Pharma and Healthcare Ltd.

Mr. Fahad Khan stated that each one of us have a role to play. As individuals we can reduce our plastic pollution and be more environmentally conscious by avoiding single use plastics and packaging materials. Being a representative from the private sector, he strongly believe that the private sector needs to actively participate in seeking alternatives to plastics and in phasing out the production of plastic altogether. However, no such venture can be accomplished without the government playing a leading role by enacting strong policies and regulations that will encourage this drive.

United Group has adopted being a socially responsible corporate entity, committed to reduce environmental impact and continually improving environmental performance as an integral part of their business strategy and operating methods. United Hospital has a comprehensive medical waste management and disposal system. The hospital follows the international code for disposing off wastes. It has color coded collection points and sealed, air-conditioned, color coded waste storage units where all the wastes are stored depending on their color coding.

The general waste is collected by City Corporation, the medical liquid waste is treated at the hospital's own ETP, the radioactive waste is treated as per the guidelines of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and the medical solid wastes, including plastic items, are collected by air-conditioned, sealed vessels of PRISM Bangladesh. Unimart, the largest retail store in Bangladesh uses materials used in packaging are all biodegradable. Thus, Unimart may not be a frontline contributor, but it is still contributing to take this initiative further along the road, reducing the harmful plastic pollution which is now choking Mother Nature.

United Pharma & Healthcare uses paper and jute based, bio-degradable environment friendly packaging in their well-being stores. Mr. Fahad urged that all of us strive to take this initiative forward and make the world a better place for our future generation to live in.



Dr. Sultan Ahmed

Additional Secretary and Director General

Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment & Forest

During an informative deliberation, Dr. Ahmed said that every year, 8 million metric tons of plastic end up in our oceans. It's equivalent to five grocery bags filled with plastic for every foot of coastline in the world. In 2025, the annual input is estimated to be about twice greater, or 10 bags full of plastic per foot of coastline. So the cumulative input for 2025 would be nearly 20 times the 8 million metric tons estimate – 100 bags of plastic per foot of coastline in the world! The main reason of rapid increase of plastic use is the cheap price of polybag and plastic product. But the world realized the negative impact of improper use of plastic. Bangladesh environment protection act 1995 prohibits the use of polythene shopping bag. But still now, it is produced illegally in different areas in Bangladesh. DoE enforce the law strongly through mobile court to stop illegal polythene shopping bag production, storing, and selling. But there is scarcity of civil society knowledge, awareness and their reluctance to use. Therefore the government couldn't stop production and using of polythene shopping bag completely. Again to carry different plastic products, we use plastic container which we dumped irresponsibly. Due to lack of easy and cheap alternatives, the use of plastic increases day by day.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Many other functions make the plastic a versatile, practical invention of the twentieth century. But we can minimize use of one time plastic products.
2. Another advantage of the plastic product is that it is reusable. Although some plastic products are too thin for reuse, the solution is to manufacture stronger and more durable plastic product, not discard them altogether.
3. One reason that plastic products are widely seen as an environmental nuisance is that most are non-biodegradable. But if they were manufactured from a biodegradable material, the main reason for banning them would disappear.
4. Reduce the use of HDPE (high-density polyethylene) thin plastic products but not ban them because of the negative impact it would have on employment.
5. Managing plastic products means knowing how to use and store them properly so that they can be reused many times, and knowing how they can be recycled when their useful life has come to an end.
6. Guidelines on how to use, maintain, reuse, recover and recycle plastic products are necessary, and recycling technologies for thin plastic products are now widely available.
7. The guidelines should extend to the application of appropriate technologies for disposal when the materials have reached their ultimate limit for reuse and recycling.
8. Regulations are not enough; their enforcement is more important.
9. It is the misuse and improper disposal of plastic products that is causing harm to the environment, not the product itself. A total ban on plastic products will only gloss over the lack of an effective environmental management policy in a given country. It will not save the environment from the ill-effects of a 'throw-away' mentality.
10. Rapid awareness building programmes and community mobilization
11. Comprehensive planning and sustainable management system
12. Online promotion through media, webinar, conference, seminar and multi-stakeholder engagement to aware the proper use of plastic.

SPEAKERS OF THE SESSION

In Alphabetical order

	<p>Mr. Abdul Alim is one of the most experienced management system and social compliance auditor and international trainer from Bangladesh. Currently he is acting as Bangladesh Representative and Lead Trainer of USA based nonprofit organization Social Accountability International (SAI). He is the President and CEO of USA based Management System Company “Sustainable Management System Inc” and also the Editor of The RMG TIMES (the most popular news source related to Ready Made Garments sector which is playing a very strong role towards RMG sector).</p>
	<p>Mr. Fahad Khan is a graduate in Economics and Business from University of Sheffield, UK. Since then, he has been serving as an Associate Director in the Board of United Group. As an avid young entrepreneur, Mr. Fahad has fervently delivered the tasks assigned to him. United Group has also assigned Mr. Fahad Khan as the Managing Director of United Pharma and Healthcare Ltd., which aspires to be the largest pharmacy chain in Bangladesh. Mr. Fahad has helped the Group further broaden its business portfolio through the initiation of LPG bottling plant business, United LPG Ltd. He has also initiated the sourcing and supplying of medical items through Dhaka Indenting Ltd. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of United International University. He is also an active member of Trustees of United Trust, a CSR organization of the Group.</p>
	<p>Dr. Md. Jakariya is the professor and chairman of Department of Environmental Science Management, North South University. He passed his Masters degree from Jahangirnagar University and MPhil from Cambridge University. He is a PhD holder in water resource management from KTH Sweden.</p>

	<p>Dr. Sultan is PhD in Water Resources Development from BUET, Bangladesh (South Asia Water—SAWA Fellow) (May 2011). He has been awarded from Technical Cooperation Scheme (TCS) Colombo Plan Scholarship under which MSc in WRE was completed at IIT-Roorkee, India and South Asia Water (SAWA) Fellowship of the Government of The Netherlands under which PhD on WRD was pursued at BUET, Bangladesh. He has a number of publications on Economic Development and Pending Issues, Integrated Water Resources Management. He contributed as a consultant national and international level. Dr. Sultan is the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of Bangladesh.</p>
	<p>Ms. Sumaya Rashid is playing a key role in promoting CSR & sustainable development, disseminating CSR best practices, advising organizations on workers' rights as per key international regulatory requirements and supporting MSME through networking, capacity development for national economic growth in Bangladesh. She conceptualized a model to bring companies in same platform and under her leadership; a CSR Forum is developed in October 2017 where 10 companies became the initiator of the CSR forum in Bangladesh. In Bangladesh. She works as an international expert in India and Indonesia. Recently Ms. Rashid contributed as consultant to UN guiding principle on "Business & Human Rights" in India with the call of UNWOMEN Working group.</p>
	<p>Mr. Zaki Uz Zaman is a national of Bangladesh, appointed as Country Representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Bangladesh from May 2017. Prior to his appointment as Country Representative, he worked as Head of UNIDO Operations in Bangladesh from July 7, 2010 to April 2017. Throughout his career Mr. Zaman has been involved in inter-agency collaboration in the programmes and projects with organizations such as the World Bank, International and National NGOs.</p>

NATIONAL SEMINAR
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