



SACEP side event at the 8th Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific Indore, India

Topic: Recycling of land based Marine Litter: Challenges and Opportunities in South Asia Region.

Background

The marine environment provides a vital blue economy resource base for the industrial and socio-economic development of the country. It includes important interests such as fisheries, harbors and allied infrastructure, tourism and various types of industries. Almost all the activities with marine sector are concentrated along the coastal belt. Consequently, as a result of increased urbanization and growing population pressure on marine environment has greatly increased. The Indian Ocean hosts an array of globally and nationally significant delicate ecosystems with rich biological diversity round the island, viz; coastal lagoons, mangrove forests, sea grass and coral reefs etc.

A number of important commercial activities related to marine and coastal sector are however generating a considerable amount of marine debris, which can lead to costly restoration or non-recoverable damage to the marine environment.

The coastal and marine related industries are growing rapidly specially tourism and fishery industries. Due to these industries, huge amount of waste is generated and without proper recycling systems to collect and dispose these waste, there are massive impacts on marine biota as well as industries depend on marine and coastal environment such as fisheries and tourism and human health, safety of navigation. In this context the appropriate policies and marine debris collection and treatments as well as disposal systems is established.

- i. Improve the quality of life of the communities that depend on coastal resources and to provide for needed development,
- ii. Maintain the biological diversity and productivity of coastal ecosystems so as to achieve and maintain desired functional and or/ quality levels of coastal systems and
- iii. Reduce the costs associated with coastal hazards to acceptable levels.

The Proposed side event will broadly discuss the Challenges and Opportunities the SACEP/SASP member countries of South Asia are facing with regard to recycling of land based Marine Litter in a panel discussion. In particular, panelists will showcase successful stories and case studies where the Governments of South Asia have worked together in achieving the international objectives of 3R practices by embedding the circular economy thinking to recycling waste to overhaul of the linear, take-make-waste patterns of production and consumption in their countries.

About SACEP

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme - **SACEP** - is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region. SACEP also serves as the secretariat of South Asian Seas Programme (SASP). The primary function of **SACEP** is to work with its eight member countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) to promote cooperative activities in priority areas of environment of mutual concern, one of these priority areas being waste management integrated in **SACEP's** work programme.

About South Asia Seas Programme (SASP)

The South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) is one of eighteen such programmes in the world and its primary objective is the protection of a common body of water in the Indian Ocean. The Action Plan for the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) was formally adopted by five South Asian countries; Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan & Sri Lanka at a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the concerned countries held in New Delhi, on March 24th 1995. The action plan is based on the region's environmental challenges as well as its socioeconomic and political situation and it assist the member countries in protecting the marine environment of the region. It may cover issues ranging from chemical wastes and coastal development to the conservation of marine species and ecosystems. The South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) serves as the secretariat of SASP.

Side-event format

Moderated Panel Discussion

Panelists:

Representatives from SASP countries

BANGLADESH

- Md. Kawser Ahmed, Department of Oceanography, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

INDIA

- Dr. P. Vethamony, Adjunct Professor, Dept. of Civil Engg, IIT Bombay, Mumbai, India

MALDIVES

- Mr. Rifath Naeem, Senior Environment Analyst, Environmental Protection Agency, Maldives

PAKISTAN

- Fayyaz Rasool, Manager, Marine Pollution Control Department, Karachi Port Trust (KPT), Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Karachi.

SRI LANKA

- Mr. A J M Gunasekara, Marine Environment Protection Authority, Sri Lanka

Key note Speaker

Hon'ble Union Minister for Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Govt. of India

Vote of Thanks

Dr. Muhammad Khurshid, Director, General, SACEP, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

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