

Minutes of Second meeting held of Project Steering Committee to discuss the various matters under India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative

The **second Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting** of the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative was held on 19th February 2020 at the Viceregal Conference Hall, The Claridges, New Delhi. The initiative has been designed to address major challenges for reducing marine plastic litter in India. The meeting was co-chaired by the Ambassador of Norway to India, Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund, and Ms. Geeta Menon, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. The list of all participants in the meeting is enclosed in Annexure 1.

The meeting was convened with a welcome note by the Director, HSMD, MoEFCC (Member Convener of SC). The Convener upheld that the problem of marine plastic pollution cannot be tackled by one country alone and that a concerted cooperation between countries is needed to deal with the problem. It was further highlighted that the cooperation between India and Norway is a positive step towards abating the problem. The remarks of the co-chairs were as under:

1. The Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC initiated her statement by recognizing the stakeholder participation in the second SC meeting and the spectrum of activities and expertise in marine pollution represented at the meeting. She encouraged that the meeting's focus should be on building a comprehensive mandate for what the partners and SC should do and requested each partner to look at specific issues to address the problem through the entire chain, including capacity building, eventually culminating in solutions to the pollution problem. She placed emphasis on taking stock and remaining focused on identifiable goals and objectives and regular follow-up meetings of the SC which would ensure success of projects under the cooperation. It was also highlighted that UNEP shall provide technical expertise and handholding that would be required for the success of the project.

2. The Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy also acknowledged the comprehensive participation in the meeting and apprised the participants of the fruitful political dialogue and site visits with the MoEF&CC and MoS&T during the visit of the Norwegian Minister of Climate and Environment. He said that the site visits and the political dialogue had given direction for the goals and objectives to be framed under the cooperation. Mr. Frydenlund expressed the importance of the initiative, alluding to the Bouvet Island, a remotely located island of Norway in the South Atlantic Ocean and how shocking it was for scientists to find its

beaches littered with plastic waste. He placed emphasis on how the initiative was not only about Norway and India but the global community, and the need for concerted international effort to abate the problem of marine plastic pollution.

3. Following the remarks of the co-chairs, UNEP along with project partners were requested to provide an overview of the project and share their experiences with plastic pollution projects. The excerpts are as follows:

- a. The overview of the Norway-India Marine Pollution Initiative was presented by the Programme Management Officer on behalf of UNEP, who expressed that work on marine plastic is a priority area for UNEP. The participants were further apprised that UNEP in India had been working with Japan to develop countermeasures for riverine and marine pollution by profiling plastic wastes in cities and identifying the sources from land-based activities. On the matter of the India-Norway initiative, it was communicated that UNEP's role would be an overarching one, in order to support India to act globally, by supporting policy and technical work of the Marine Litter Cell of the MoEF&CC and facilitating stakeholder consultations and dialogue. The outputs of the UNEP project would take the shape of position briefs and knowledge products.

It was explained that an open platform has been chosen for the SC meeting such the partners could deliberate and provide detailed analysis on the following issues over the next 6 months:

- i) Methods to bring together the landscape of expertise, data and studies in India and the considerable amount of work done in profiling it.
- ii) Recognizing GIZ and Japan supported work on plastic pollution, the need for dove-tailing and synergizing multiple initiatives while also cross-learning from the same.
- iii) Discussion of policy learnings from states which have banned single-use plastics
- iv) Discuss business models, instruments and framework to promote circular economy
- v) Governance framework: understanding waste management issues for larger urban local bodies (ULBs)

- vi) Discussion on the pertinent conventions including the Basel Convention for managing trafficking of plastic waste and building the capacity of customs
- vii) Supporting technology development and dissemination for developing alternatives in plastic waste management.

UNEP was also requested by MoEFCC to prepare and share a detailed note with the Ministry of areas where analysis and consultation are needed.

- b. CSE presented their work on developing a circular economy and a zero-waste model with two main objectives:
 - i. A broader objective to create a network of 100 cities that would utilize the best practices in source segregation and waste management, close to source of the waste. It was stated that tackling waste at the source ensures minimizing waste in entire waste chain. Work on capacity building of the ULBs, including training and exposure visits for encouraging cross-learning between ULBs, work along with a network of 30 schools in best waste management practices were shared with participants.
 - ii. Deep-dive into specific cities, like the project of CSE in Muzzafarpur, Bihar wherein a hand-holding approach has been taken to structure the waste management in the city.
 - iii. CSE expressed the need to collaborate with other partners in research and science-based studies to find unique and progressive solutions to tackle problems of waste.
- c. SINTEF shared of the Ocean Plastic Turned into an Opportunity in Circular Economy (OPTOCE) project, funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), ending in December 2021.
 - i. The OPTOCE project aims to investigate and document how the involvement of energy intensive industries can increase the treatment capacity for non-recyclable plastic wastes and thereby contribute to reduce the release of plastics to the ocean.
 - ii. The project approach is through pilots in plastic waste treatment & co-processing and showcasing it at regional forums in India, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam etc. SINTEF also expressed that since waste-to-heat processes have limited application in India currently, they could plan a pilot with a thermal power plant in India.

- iii. SINTEF informed that planned pilots in India include work on treatment options for mined combustible waste from Ghazipur landfill, Delhi and evaluating the cost of environmental impacts of Waste to Energy (WtE) as compared to cement-kiln option with the Goa Waste Management Corporation.
 - iv. Under OPTOCE, SINTEF also plans on showcasing the potential of segregated combustible fraction of waste in the cement industry in Agra and Haridwar (with anticipation of the Kumbh Mela to be held in 2021).
 - v. SINTEF apprised participants that they had mapped stakeholders in the countries chosen for the implementation of OPTOCE and would be holding the first regional forum in Bangkok in November 2020.
- d. NIVA presented on the cooperation project on capacity building for reducing plastic and chemical pollution in different countries including India.
- i. The focus of the project is to develop coherent systems for data collection and analysis and enhance ongoing efforts by key stakeholders including ministries, scientific institutions and NGO's. Gujarat is the focus area of the project taking Surat (Tapi River) and Vapi (Daman Ganga River) as project implementation locations.
 - ii. The project takes a catchment-based approach to assess the flux of plastic and chemical waste for addressing the problem, with baseline studies, monitoring, management and socio-economic assessment being carried out in order to produce a Gujarat Plastic Waste Management strategy report. The project seeks to deliver sector specific strategies and state level action plans.
 - iii. NIVA's partners in India are The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Mu Gamma Consultants (MGC), Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), SRM Institute of Science and Technology and Toxics Link
- e. The presentations were followed by discussions among the stakeholders. The major points of deliberations were as follows:
- i. Concern was raised by the representative from Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on the feasibility of utilization of non-recyclable plastics in thermal power plants and how fluorine and heavy metal content in the plastics may negatively impact boiler processes and damage boiler tubes. Regarding the subject, SINTEF expressed that studies are currently ongoing to determine the feasibility.

- ii. The status of the new framework for EPR reporting was discussed where MoEF&CC informed that internal modalities were being worked out and the framework was close to finalization. CPCB expressed their difficulties with the EPR reporting framework and the need for uniformity on EPR guidelines and informed the meeting that they had communicated the same to MoEF&CC. It was expressed that upon finalization, stakeholders would be invited for comments.
- iii. Regarding availability of plastic generation data, CPCB apprised the meeting that as per NGT direction, the actual amount and type of plastic waste being generated and the intended use of the waste at the district and ULB level shall become available by March/April 2020.
- iv. The need for gap assessment on capacities as a part of the larger strategic framework including an assessment of instruments and solutions that are likely to work was expressed by UNEP
- v. Representatives from MoEFCC and MoHUA requested that when taking up cities for intervention, concerned ministries, particularly MoHUA being a key facilitator, should be consulted, and would help in aligning efforts of the Government and organizations. The need to move towards interventions in cities and townships that are not tried and tested was expressed by Joint Secretary, MoEFCC.
- vi. It was suggested by MoHUA whether a tripartite arrangement between a cement plant, ULB and RDF facility could be explored in the future which would help in strengthening the circular economy model.
- vii. The representative from GIZ expressed the need for a two-pronged approach which includes EPR implementation and working with the ULBs as they are the centres of implementation. GIZ extended their support in building synergies and the need to reduce redundancies through collaboration with the Marine Litter Cell.
- viii. The representative from Japan embassy informed the meeting of three projects that Japan was involved with in India namely i) a landfill project in West Bengal assisting with segregation, weighing and recycling and composting of biodegradable waste, ii) a private undertaking for development of a WtE plant and iii) an awareness and capacity building project through story-telling for young children introducing the “mottainai” concept of no-waste. It was also informed that Japan having experience in waste management systems and technology, collaborations in these areas can be taken up in the future. In this regard, MoEF&CC expressed willingness to work on waste management solutions with Japan.

ix. The Norwegian Embassy Counsellor suggested that an invitation should be sent on behalf of the co-chairs to GIZ and the Embassy of Japan, to join the Marine Pollution Initiative as observers, with an aim to make new memberships possible in the near future.

4. Concluding remarks were made by the co-chairs where, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC encouraged all partners to revisit individual proposals and identify areas where they could make significant contributions. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks.

ANNEXURE I

India-Norway Marine Pollution Conclave

19 February 2020

List of Participants

S. No	Agency	Name	Position Held
1.	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Ms. Geeta Menon	Joint Secretary, HSMD
2.	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Manoj Kumar Gangeya	Director, HSMD
3.	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Amardeep Raju	Scientist
4.	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Shantanu Swaroop	Section officer
5.	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Dilip Menon	Consultant
6.	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	Binay Kr. Jha	Director/SBM
7.	Embassy of Norway	Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund	Ambassador
8.	Embassy of Norway	Ms Camilla Dannevig	Counsellor
9.	Embassy of Norway	Mr. Suresh Mathevan	Advisor
10.	Norway's Ministry for Climate and Environment	Ms Guri Storaas	Senior Adviser
11.	Norway's Ministry for Climate and Environment	Mr Erlend Draget	Senior Adviser
12.	Norwegian Consulate General Mumbai	Mr. Henrik Width	Counsul

13.	Ministry of Earth Sciences	Cdr P. K. Srivastava	Joint Secretary
14.	National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management	Dr. C Saravana Kumar	Scientist
15.	National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management	Neethu C.S	Scientist
16.	UNEP	Atul Bagai	Head
17.	UNEP	Divya Datt	Programme manager
18.	UNEP	Jitendra K Sharma	Consultant
19.	CII	Nandini Kumar	Consultant
20.	TERI	Suneel Pandey	Director, Environment and Waste Management
21.	Mu Gamma Consultants Pvt. Ltd	Girija Bharat	Director
22.	SINTEF, Norway	Palash K Saha	Research Scientist
23.	SINTEF, Norway	Gaurav Bhatiani	Consultant
24.	NIVA, (Norwegian Institute for Water Research)	Eirik Hovland Steindal	Research Scientist
25.	NIVA, (Norwegian Institute for Water Research)	Harianne Olsen	Research Manager
26.	Norwegian Environment Agency	Kristin Eine	Senior Advisor

27.	Norwegian Environment Agency	Eva Degre	Senior Advisor
28.	Norwegian Consulate/ Innovation Norway	Ms. Gargi Pareek	Advisor
29.	Norwegian Consulate/ Innovation Norway	Mr Helge Tryti	Innovation Norway
30.	Norwegian Consulate/ Innovation Norway	Mr Maan Singh Sindhu	Innovation Norway
31.	Japanese Embassy	Yuki Yoshida	Second Secretary, Environment
32.	GIZ India	Ashish Chaturvedi	Director – Climate Change
33.	CSE	Aditya Batra	Senior Director
34.	CSE	Dinesh Bandela	Dep. Program Manager