

Malaysia – Australia Dialogue Series on Combating Marine Plastic Pollution 2022

Organised by:



Supported by:



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Dialogue 1: Harmonising Marine Plastic Monitoring

Virtual Platform (Zoom), 10 August 2022

Overview

The Australia-Malaysia Dialogue provides an opportunity for stakeholders across the plastics ecosystem to discuss and collaborate on finding solutions to the marine plastic pollution problem.

This forum recognises that marine plastic pollution is a transnational issue, with stakeholders across Governments, industry, non-governmental organisations, and communities. Consequently, marine plastic monitoring programmes must be considered legitimate by all stakeholders, and monitoring design and methods must also be scientifically rigorous and efficiently applied to determine change over time of a) the abundance, distribution, and composition of plastic pollution, b) the sources of plastic pollution, and c) environmental and economic impacts of plastic pollution. Coordination of data management and reporting across multiple jurisdictions must be addressed.

This forum will support further the various efforts undertaken at the national and regional levels on the area including i.e.,

- The Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) which seeks a comprehensive science-based monitoring programme to identify marine litter status, trends, and impacts, and to support the development, tracking, and evaluation of policy and management interventions
- Implementation of the proposed national marine litter monitoring programme, hotspots evaluation, and publication of assessments which is a national priority pillar (Pillar 3) of the Malaysia's National Marine Litter Policy and Action Plan 2021 – 2030
- The Australian and Malaysian Governments bilateral agreement on a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) to explore cooperation in solving marine plastic pollution, improving waste management, and creating a circular economy.

Provisional Agenda

MYT	AEST	Session	Speaker	Topic/Title
9.00 am	11.00 am	Opening	<p>Welcoming Remarks by Dr. Sabirin Ja'afar, Director General, Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA)</p> <p>Welcoming Remarks by Professor Justin Cooper-White, Head of School of Chemical Engineering, University of Queensland</p> <p>Opening Speech by HE Dr. Justin Lee, Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia</p> <p>Opening Speech by Mr. Jamalulail Abu Bakar, Under-Secretary, Environment Management Division, Ministry of Environment and Water (KASA)</p>	
9.30 – 9.50 am	11.30 – 11.50 am	Keynote	Mahesh Pradhan, COBSEA	COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)
10.00 – 10.10 am	12.00 – 12.10 pm	SESSION 1: Monitoring and Reporting Frameworks Moderator: Cheryl Rita Kaur, Research Fellow, MIMA	Dr. Denise Hardesty, CSIRO	The state of marine plastic monitoring globally, regionally, and nationally
10.10 – 10.20 am	12.10 – 12.20 pm		Dr. Mei Lin Neo, NUS	Regional Research Inventory of marine plastics research in the East Asian Seas: Gaps and Challenges
10.20 – 10.30 am	12.20 – 12.30 pm		Dr. Beryl Morris, TERN Ecosystem Research Infrastructure	Governance and management of a national open-source surveillance and monitoring programme

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10.30 – 10.40 am	12.30 – 12.40 pm		A/Prof Ben Sparrow & Dr Samantha Munroe, TERN Ecosystem Surveillance	Operationalising a national surveillance and monitoring programme that is scientifically sound, pragmatic, and practical
10.40 – 10.50 am	12.40 – 12.50 pm		Dr. Andrew O'Neill, Healthy Land and Water	Creating a scientifically robust environmental health report card
10.50 – 11.00 am	12.50 – 1.00 pm		Heidi Tait, Tangaroa Blue	Citizen science and the Australian Marine Debris Database
11.00 – 11.10 am	1.00 – 1.10 pm		A/Prof Dr. Eric Chan Wei Chiang, Faculty of Applied Sciences, UCSI University Malaysia	Highlights from the APEC 2021 White Paper on best practices and recommended policies for optimising plastic supply chain in Southeast and East Asia
11.10 am – 11.50 pm	1.10 – 1.50 pm		<p><i>Panel Discussion: (Some guiding questions)</i></p> <p>What do we need to know to set up a national & regional monitoring programme?</p> <p>What governance structure do we require for a national & regional monitoring programme?</p> <p>Who should be responsible for managing and coordinating a national & regional monitoring programme?</p>	
12.00 – 2.00 pm	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Break		

MYT	AEST	Session	Speaker	Topic/Title
2.00 – 2.10 pm	4.00 – 4.10 pm	SESSION 2: Designing a Marine Plastic Monitoring Programme & Research Priorities Moderator: Dr. Craig Miller, University of Queensland (UQ) Australia	Shantini Guna Rajan, WWF-Malaysia	Prioritisation of research focus on marine litter monitoring: Some legal and policy perspectives
2.10 – 2.20 pm	4.10 – 4.20 pm		Puteri Arlis Tsharina, Researcher, MIMA	The Clean Coast Index (CCI) Framework in Malaysia
2.20 – 2.30 pm	4.20 – 4.30 pm		Dr. Cherie Motti, Australian Institute of Marine Science	Designing and implementing the tropical waters microplastics monitoring programme
2.30 – 2.40 pm	4.30 – 4.40 pm		A/Prof Ts. Dr. Kesaven Bhubalan, Faculty of Science and Marine Environment, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu	Quantitation, characterization and method development for microplastics analysis and marine debris
2.40 – 2.50 pm	4.40 – 4.50 pm		A/Prof Steven Pratt, University of Queensland	Estimation of polymer lifetime in the marine environment
2.50 – 3.00 pm	4.50 – 5.00 pm		Prof Richard Brown, Queensland University of Technology	Predicting spatial distribution of plastic in a dynamic environment
3.00 – 3.10 pm	5.00 – 5.10 pm		Dr. Lauren Roman, CSIRO	Avoiding confirmation bias in attributing impact of plastic pollution
3.10 – 3.20 pm	5.10 – 5.20 pm		Dr. Uwe Rosebrock & Sam Cantrill, CSIRO	New technologies for monitoring and identification of marine plastics – artificial intelligence

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3.20 – 3.30 pm	5.20 – 5.30 pm		Jenna Guffogg, PhD Candidate, RMIT	New technologies for monitoring and identification of marine plastics – spectral analysis
3.30 – 3.40 pm	5.30 – 5.40 pm		Dr. Linda Davies, University of Notre Dame Australia	Harnessing citizen science to overcome resource constraints for monitoring
3.40 – 3.50 pm	5.40 – 5.50 pm		Arisman, Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS)	ASEAN – Norway Cooperation Project on Local Capacity Building on Reducing Plastic Pollution in the ASEAN Region
3.50 – 4.30 pm	5.50 – 6.30 pm		<p><i>Panel Discussion: (Some guiding questions)</i></p> <p>What will a scientifically rigorous and useful monitoring programme look like for Malaysia?</p> <p>What should Malaysia be monitoring and how?</p> <p>What research is required to support marine plastic monitoring and understanding of trends?</p>	

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4.40 – 4.50 pm	6.40 – 6.50 pm	Concluding remarks	Dr Craig Miller, University of Queensland Cheryl Rita Kaur, Maritime Institute of Malaysia	
4.50 – 5.00 pm	6.50 – 7.00 pm			