



“Marine Plastic Debris Management: Partnership for Plastic Free Ocean”



Sixth GEF Assembly Side Event

Da Nang, Vietnam

June 26th 2018 | 16:30 - 18:00 | Ballroom 3

Ariyana Conference Centre, Furama Resort Hotel

How can we help our healthy marine life from eating and swimming in garbage?

Tragedy under the ocean: whales are eating hundreds, thousands pieces of plastic waste daily.

While soaking up the relaxing cadence of crashing waves on the beach, no one wants to think about how the ocean has basically become garbage soup. But here’s the buzz-killing reality: There are millions of tons of debris floating around in that water—and most of it is plastic.

A scientific paper in 2015 suggested that the volume of plastic leaking into the sea - estimated at about 8 million metric tons a year - greatly exceeds any previous estimates. The evidence of environmental and economic damages by plastic waste is getting increased everyday. Imagining the scenario of uncontrolled solution for this problem, we might deal with 250 million metric tons of plastic in the ocean by 2025.

As one of the five largest sources of marine plastics and as a fast developing economy in which consumers demand for safe and disposable products is growing more rapidly than local waste-management infrastructure, Viet Nam has both the responsibility and the opportunity to implement synchronized measures to dramatically reduce the unregulated discharge of plastic waste. Solutions exist: public-private sector projects to reduce leakage, especially of soft, single use plastic, are currently being tested with a view to scaling up.

“Our world is swamped by harmful plastic waste. Micro plastic in the sea now outnumber star in our galaxy, from remote islands to the Arctic, nowhere is untouched. If present trends continue, by 2050, our ocean will have more plastic than fish” (UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres).

The effect of plastic pollution felt across the world are causing serious harm both nature and human health. To tackle the problem, there has to be an international agreement to reduce the dumping of plastic waste and to help clear up the mess at sea, (John Tanzer, leader of the WWF International oceans programme).

World Ocean Day 2018

Preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean.



💧 *Waste Free Oceans was founded in 2011 with the mission of partnering with businesses and other organizations to remove plastic from the world’s oceans and rivers – and transform it into new items. “Oceans and rivers are among the most expansive and diverse resources on Earth, but we don’t protect them as well as we should,” (Bernard Merkx, Co-Founder of Waste Free Oceans).*

💧 *The Plastic Free Waters Partnership is a collaboration across the public, higher education, nonprofit and private sectors with the goal of reducing plastic and microplastic debris in all waterbodies primarily in the New York/New Jersey region. The partnership drives the latest research, policies, and education to implement strategies that protect our waters, health, and wildlife.*

💧 *The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has submitted to the Prime Minister approving the revision of the National Strategy on Integrated Management of Solid Waste to 2025 with a vision to 2050 setting a target of 2025: 100% of eco-friendly plastic bags in shopping centers, supermarkets for domestic purposes, replacing biodegradable plastic bags.*

“MARINE PLASTIC DEBRIS MANAGEMENT: Partnership for Plastic Free Ocean ”

GEF Sixth Assembly Side Event

Ariyana Conference Centre, Furama Resort,

Da Nang, Viet Nam June 26th 2018 | 16:30 - 18:00 |

Overview

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment will host a side event to discuss on current status of oceanic garbage on the scale of global, East Asian regional and countries, proposal of a management mechanism plastic debris from land to ocean and scheming a cooperation between countries to address the problem of marine plastic garbage.

Co-Chairs

Hon. **Tran Hong Ha**, Minister, MONRE

Hon. **Naoko Ishii**, CEO, President, GEF

Facilitator

Mr. Stephan Sicars, Director of the Department of Environment, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Program

- 16:30 - 16:40 Introductory/setting the stage
Opening Remarks: Hon. Naoko Ishii,
CEO&President, GEF
Welcome Remarks: Hon. Tran Hong Ha,
Minister, MONRE
Welcome Video
- 16:40 - 16:45 Keynote speech: Jenna Jambeck, University
of Georgia
- 16:45 - 17:15 Messages from panelists
Erik Solheim, UNEP
Aimee Gonzales, PEMSEA
Sendashonga Cyriaque, IUCN
Nguyen Quang Vinh, VCCI
Kanokwan Homcha-Aim, Marriott
Jose Padilla, UNDP
- 17:15 - 17:40 Moderated panel discussion
- 17:40 - 17:50 Viet Nam Initiative
Dr. Ta Dinh Thi, MONRE
- 17:50 – 18:00 Closing Remarks: Hon. Tran Hong Ha,
Minister, MONRE

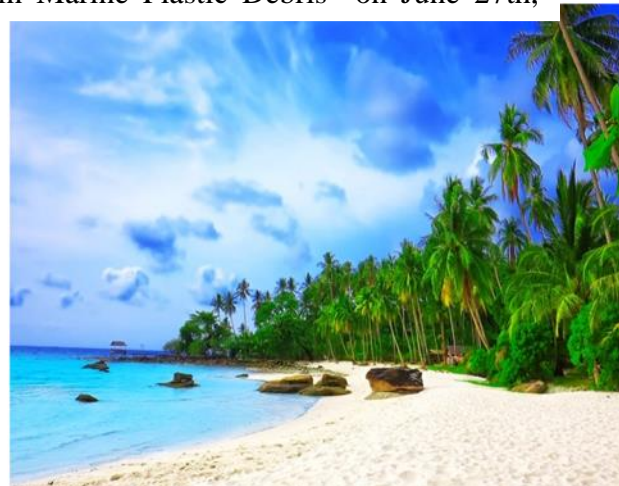
Outcomes

Call for the promotion of global and regional cooperation to tackle the problem of plastic waste;

Delivery a Commitment between countries in East Asia to implement a regional cooperation mechanism to minimize the amount of marine plastic debris in the circular economy;

Call for resources and technologies support to propose and develop a regional initiative to establish an East Asian regional partnership for solving the problem of marine plastic debris.

Contribute to the content of the discussion at the High Level Roundtable in Marine Plastic Debris on June 27th,



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