

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT ON NATIONAL AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES ABOUT THE TOXIC LIFECYCLE OF PLASTICS

Background

Plastic pollution is rampant in the cities of Nepal and even more prominent in the capital city of Kathmandu, despite of the several attempt of the government to ban the thin plastic bags and open burning practices of the waste, it is still heavily practiced in many cities including Kathmandu Valley. Additionally the recent global study of recycle plastics Pallets from 23 countries including Nepal have found to be heavily contaminated with flame retardant, Bisphenol A and UV stabilizers. So recycling of all form of toxic plastics could be avoided. Studies have also shown the snow and stream water collected from over 8000 meter from Mount Everest are found to be highly contaminated with the micro plastics. So plastic pollution is increasing not only in the rural, semi urban and metropolitan city but also polluting our pristine high mountains Himalaya's needs to be addressed at national level and international forum including ongoing preparation of adoption of UN Plastic Treaty.

All most all single use plastic generated micro plastic pollution in upstream pristine environment, becoming largest source of downstream plastic pollution.

Mount Everest was once a pristine environment. However, due to increased tourism, waste is accumulating on the mountain, with a large proportion being made of plastic. This research aimed to identify and characterize micro plastic (MP) pollution near the top of highest mountain on Earth and could illustrate the implications for the environment and the people living below. Stream water and snow were collected from multiple locations leading up to, and including, the Balcony (8,440 m.a.s.l). MPs were detected at a ~ 30 MP L⁻¹ in snow and ~ 1 MP L⁻¹ in stream water, and the majority were fibrous. Therefore, with increased tourism, deposition of MP near Mt. Everest is expected to rise. At a pivotal point in the exploration of remote areas, environmental stewardship should focus on technological and other advances toward minimizing sources of MP pollution. Kathmandu alone uses around 4,700,000 to 4,800,000 plastic bags daily. In Nepal, 16 percent of urban waste is composed of plastic, which is 2.7 tons of daily plastic garbage production. Thus plastic pollution has been reached to rural Nepal to pristine Nepalese high mountain needs to be addressed. National level awareness program has been aimed to highlights the plastic related pollution in Nepal.

Objective

- (a) Prepare status report of plastic, plastic production, import, pollution and control measure.
- (b) Identify priority of the plastic issues to be raised awareness.
- (c) National awareness raising on toxic plastic recycling.

1. Description of the activities

1.1.Prepared Status Report of Plastics:

A details reports on plastic including current status of its different aspects were prepared. Report briefly included the updated facts and figures available about: huge plastic product import in Nepal, upstream and downstream plastic pollution, ineffective legislative and

institutional attempts of controlling plastic pollution, toxic plastic recycling in the name of circular economy and UN plastic treaty negotiation etc.

The following section briefly describe the recent finding of the IPEN global study of recycle plastic Pilates that were found to be contaminated with all the three types of contamination with the Flame Retardants, Bis Phenol A and UV light stabilizers. Seven chemicals of all these three groups of chemicals found in even in recycle plastic Pilates sample from Nepal. Other topics included into the report are:

- Plastic and plastic pollution with global plastic pollution by numbers.
- Import, sale and distribution of plastics
- Single Use Plastics
- Uses of Plastics at home, industries, transport etc.
- Types of plastics (Bio plastics, Biodegradable plastics, micro plastics and micro beads)
- Covid and Single use plastics
- Toxicity of plastics including phthalates and BPA,
- Global initiatives to beat plastic pollution
- Plastic Bag banned in the Region
- Plastic pollution status in Mount Everest
- Plastic pollution prevention initiatives (Government, Private Sector (Supply side), NGOs/INGOs , Bagmati Cleaning campaign, countrywide cleaning campaign,
- UN Plastic Treaty
- Tips for living with less plastics
- Conclusion and recommendations.

1.2. Identify priority of the plastic issues to be raised awareness.

Based on the report prepared and discussion with the most likely minded organizations working on the plastic pollution issues of high mountains as well as recycling facilities. The two priority issues has been identified to be raised awareness on the same.

- A. High mountain Plastic pollution issues to be raised up to the inclusion in the upcoming UN Plastic pollution treaty
- B. Toxic lifecycle of plastics.

1.3. National Awareness raising on Toxic Plastic Recycling coupled with inclusion of high mountain plastic pollution issue in UN Plastic Pollution treaty.

Successfully organized a one day National Awareness Workshop on " Inclusion of High Mountain Plastic Pollution issues in upcoming UN Plastic Treaty and Toxic Life Cycle of Plastic " organized by CEPHED jointly with Doko Recyclers and Blue Waste to Value (BW2V), supported by IPEN under the chairmanship of Mr. Mohan Katuwal, Advisor of CEPHED & Vice president of FNSCI and **Chief Guest, Honorable Minister, Mr. Ramsahay Yadav, Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE), Government of Nepal (GON).**

On this occasion, special guest Mr. Sanjiv Gurung from NMA, Dr. Rabindra Dhakal from NAST, Mr. Pradeep Amatya from LMC and Mr. Gopal Prasad Aryal, Director General (DG), Department of Environment were also present and delivered their insightful remarks.

Four technical papers on different aspects of plastic pollutions including single use plastics, toxic plastic recycling, high mountain plastic pollution, status of recycling of plastic in Nepal, government initiatives and associated challenges and opportunities to address the issues raised were presented by Mr. Ram Charitra Sah, Executive Director, CEPHED; Mr. Nabin Bikash Maharjan, CEO of Blue Waste to Value (BS2V), Mr. Keshab Raj Joshi, Environment Inspector, MOFE and Mr. Pankaj Panjiyar, COO, Doko recycles.

1.3.1 NATIONAL AWARENESS RAISING WORKSHOP ON INCLUSION OF HIGH MOUNTAIN PLASTIC POLLUTION ISSUES IN UN PLASTIC TREATY AND TOXIC LIFECYCLE OF PLASTICS

Aim of workshop

1. Sharing of present status of plastic pollution (General, Recycle and High mountain)
2. Awareness raising and capacity building and media outreaches
3. Rise voice of high mountain plastic pollution to be included and addressed in upcoming UN plastic treaty

Organizer: Jointly organized by Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED), Doko Recyclers and Blue waste to value.

Supported by: International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN).

**National Awareness Raising Workshop on
Inclusion of High Mountain Plastic Pollution
issue in UN Plastic Treaty &
Toxic Lifecycle of Plastics in Nepal**

Date: 11th January 2022, Kathmandu

Organized By



CEPHED



doko
RECYCLERS
WASTE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS



blue
Waste To Value

Supported By



IPEN
a toxics-free future

Organized by Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED) jointly with DOKO Recyclers Pvt. Ltd. Kathmandu and Blue Waste to Value, Kathmandu. Supported by International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN)

A workshop on “National awareness raising workshop on Inclusion of high mountain plastic pollution issues in UN plastic treaty and toxic lifecycle of plastics” was conducted on 11 January 2022 (Poush 27, 2078). It was started at 10am to 2pm Nepali Time in Alfa house, New Baneshwor, Nepal. About 50 participants from Government, Non-government, Academia, Recyclers, Scientists, and media personnel's etc were present. The whole workshop was broken down into two session i.e. Inaugural session and Technical session with question and answer.

Inaugural Session

Ms. Deena Prajapati, Program Coordinator of CEPHED formally started the inaugural session by calling the chair, chief guest, and other special guests to the podium. In the

chairmanship of Mr. Mohan Katuwal, Advisor of CEPHED/ vice president of FNCSI and chief guest Honorable minister, Mr. Ramsahay Prasad Yadav, Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE), Government of Nepal (GoN), the workshop was successfully completed. On this occasion, special guest Mr. Sanjiv Gurung, representative from Nepal Mountaineering Association, Dr. Rabindra Dhakal, Faculty of Technology from Nepal Academy of Science and Technology were also present.

Welcome Speech and program highlights

Mr. Ram Charitra Sah, Executive Director of CEPHED welcomed all distinguished guests on the podium along with all the participants including media personnel, and highlight the aims of today's program was to raise the national awareness on inclusion of high mountain plastic pollution in UN plastic pollution treaty and toxic recycling of plastic in Nepal. Mr. Sah raised 3 issues- Single Use Plastics, toxic recycling of Plastics and high mountain plastic pollution to be strongly address in upcoming UN plastic pollution treaty..

Inauguration by Chief Guest

The workshop was inaugurated by **Chief Guest Honorable minister, Mr. Ramsahay Prasad Yadav, Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE)** by irrigating water to the plant along with playing national anthem



The major highlights of the distinguished guests including Chief Guest and Specially Invitees from different concerned sectors are as follows.

Special guest **Mr. Sanjiv Gurung, Representative, Nepal Mountaineering Association** wishes very successful program. Happy to be the part of this inaugural session and really thank you the organizer for addressing these important issues. He explained how his organization is making efforts to minimize high mountain plastic pollution in coordination with Sagarmatha pollution control committee and Nepal army. He also committed to continue with good work in upcoming days.

Remark on the Inaugural session was given by Special guest **Dr. Rabindra Dhakal, Faculty of Technology, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology** thanking organizer for the opportunity to put his point of view regarding the issue. The plastic itself is not toxic but the chemical additive added to it for its better functioning and the way we are managing it, make it toxic. The issue of micro plastic would be hazardous in the mountain region in the coming days because plastic pollution is a global issue not only of Nepal. The plastics which fly from other nations enter Nepal which get converted into microplastic, so only blaming mountain climbers and local area people for the growing plastic pollution is not appropriate. He added, the use of plastic has created problems for government bodies for its



sustainable management. In the name of plastic management, common people along with municipalities have been burning it in open space. Current practice of management of plastic is going wrong path, but plastic can be recycled using safe technology. Dr. Dhakal highlighted, NAST has already introduced the technology to derive diesel from plastic which is one of the sustainable solutions to reduce plastic pollution. He ended his remark promising to stay in the workshop until last and be actively engaged in every session.

Remark on the Inaugural session was given by chief guest **Honorable minister, Mr. Ramsahay Prasad Yadav, MoFE** with commitment for making efforts to include high mount plastic pollution in upcoming UN plastic treaty and address the National plastic pollution including toxic recycling. He illustrated that for effective implementation of prevention, reduction and control of plastic pollution in Nepal, an action plan has been prepared and send to the council of ministers for approval.



Finally, the inaugural session was formally closed by delivering the chair remarks by **Mr. Mohan Katuwal, Vice President of Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Small and Cottage Industry (FNSCI), President of Federation of Grill and Steel Fabricators, Nepal (NGSFN) and Advisor of CEPHED** thanked all the guests and participants on behalf of the CEPHED and organization he represents for the active participation as well as expressing the commitment for sector improvement and providing best wishes for the successful completion of the events. He added, to minimize the impact of plastic pollution in environment as well as health, there should be coordination between people working for import of plastic, production, trade, consumer and waste workers along with recyclers, organization and government bodies.

All guest and special invites express their thanks and wishes for the successful accomplishing of the events.

At the end of the inaugural session, group pictures with all guests and participants were taken.



Different grades of plastic products (majorily 7 i.e HDPE, PP, PET, LDPE, PS, PVC and also non recyclable) were demonstrated by Doko recyclers. Every participants involved in observation where Mr. Pankaj Panjiyar COO (Chief Operation Officer), Doko recyclers pvt. Ltd explained about it.



Technical session

Four technical papers on different aspects of plastic pollution were presented. Firstly, **Issue of plastic pollution (General, single use, recycle and high mountain) and its impacts in Nepal** was presented by Mr. Ram Charitra Sah. He presented his presentation based on research article. He started his presentation enlisting different types of plastic. In present context, plastic pollution is the problem of whole world. There is no actual data of imports of Plastic and its related product in Nepal. Data from different source only shows import of direct plastic granules, resins as raw material. One data shows Nepal import plastic raw material worth \$273 Million in 2020. Kathmandu alone uses around 4,700,000 to 4,800,000 plastic bags daily. In Nepal, 16 percent of urban waste is comprised of plastic. Microplastics were found in snow and stream water samples on Mt. Everest. The highest microplastic were discovered in a sample from 8440 m elevation. Microplastics were detected at an $\sim 30 \text{ MP L}^{-1}$ in snow and $\sim 1 \text{ MP L}^{-1}$ in stream water, and the majority were fibrous. Most microplastic were polyester fibers, likely from clothing and equipment. 5 microplastic fibers were found at the balcony: 1 clear acrylic fiber, 1 red polyester fiber and 3 blue polyester fiber. As mountain are identity and pride of our country, this issue of high mountain pollution is serious. We have to raise voice against the high mountain plastic pollution and concerned authorities should address the high mountain plastic pollution in upcoming UN plastic pollution treaty.



Second paper on **Status of Mountain plastic pollution and cleaning initiatives** was presented by Mr. Nabin Bikash Maharjan, CEO, Blue waste to value. He highlighted these points: Waste management situation, challenges of waste pit, microplastic issues, waste generation and material recovery facility in Namche and potential technology to minimize waste (Composting, waste to energy, landfill site development, plasma arc technology). He explained that over last 6 years they

have 26 commercial and institutional clients, 2 community based model in municipalities, 4 material recovery facilities, 29 awareness campaigns and trainings, 92 jobs provided, 4400 tonnes of waste managed. He said authorities should create investment friendly environment, enter into public private people's partnership (4Ps), extended producers responsibility instead of scrap tax, Subsidy/ viability gap funding if required, monitoring emissions and other technical and managerial actions.

Role, responsibility and initiatives of government about plastic pollution management in Nepal was presented by Mr. Keshab raj Joshi, Environmental Inspector, DoE. Mr. Joshi said, We from government sector have included in Nepal Constitution, every citizen have right to live in clean environment. Nepal Government have banned import, storage, trade and use of plastic bags thinner than 40 micron at Kathmandu valley from 1st of Baisakh, 2072. Department of Environment has implemented it but the ban wasnot effective due to massive earthquake in Nepal. From our department we are working and will be working to make sustainable environment.



At the end, Mr. Pankaj Panjiyar COO (Chief Operation Officer), Doko recyclers pvt. Ltd. Presented about the **Status and problems of plastic recycling in Nepal**. He illustrated that there is no actual data about quantity and types of plastic recycled in Nepal. Only few grades of plastic are recycled and repurposed. Due lack of infrastructure and subsidies, even easily recyclable plastic grades are exported to India. Very few organized aggregators and recyclers are available in Nepal. He also highlighted several problems in plastic recycling: lack of technology, inconsistency in product, no information about product constituents, different grades need different solution which make recycling costly, lack of incentive from government, lack of policy about use of recycled granules, no safeguarding of investment for recyclers, burden of collection tax from municipalities and local authorities, Bureaucratic hassle for informal sectors which can contribute significantly to increase the collection rates of low grades plastics and open border with neighbouring country.



2. Result of activities and response from stakeholders

Results of the activities were listed as follows.

- Plastic status reports is available
- Priorities of awareness raising and further campaign on Toxic recycle of plastics and High Mountain plastic pollution has been identified.
- Successful organization of the national awareness on plastics has been completed with wider sector participation with huge media outreaches.
- Honorable Minister of Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE) has committed to take the high mountain plastic pollution issues to the UN Plastic Treaty and expanding the single use plastic ban in Khumu region to nationwide. Also committed to increase the effective implementation of the plastics pollution control measures.

The technical session was followed by live interaction and discussion and a **Question Answer and Contribution session** where several participants have raised very important issues raised very good questions as well as contributed immensely. The section below summarizes and enlisted the contribution as well as raised questions.

- Why only one sample of plastic is included in the study from Nepal by IPEN?
- Even though plastic bags of 40micron is banned in Nepal. Why is it still seen in local market?

Mr. Ram Charitra Sah, responded most of the questions and praise the successful inclusion of Nepal plastic Pilate sample in the IPEN global study and appreciated all for their active participation in the live discussion. He promised to continue for the sectorial improvements and try to accommodate all the positive suggestions made by the distinguished participants and repetitive from the various concerned sectors.

Closing Ceremony with a lot of stakeholder commitments.

Finally, the closing ceremony was held with the gracious presence and remarks by Pradeep Amatya, Environmental engineer, Lalitpur metropolitan city, Dr. Rabindra Dhakal, Faculty of technology, NAST and Gopal Prasad Aryal, Director General, Department of Environment

Mr. Pradeep Amatya, Environmental engineer, Lalitpur metropolitan city

- Mr. Amatya was happy to share his words and increase his knowledge from all the intellectual people majorly working in plastic related field.
- He went back to 2004 where there was a practice of (collection and dumping) disposing solid waste into the holy river Bagmati. Since 2005 started raising voice against such activities as it was a wrong practice and made a action plan from 2005-2015.
- He added behavioral change, capacity building and advocacy was very difficult as felt by local government. The word organic and inorganic was not used to among people which result 4 years to make an act.
- Priority given to solid waste management in Lalitpur metropolitan city and addressing the action plan given by GoN.
- He talked about things that can be done in municipality level such as: following and implementing the solid waste management act given by GoN focusing majorly on management.
- At last he ended his remark thanking organizer for conducting such a important workshop.

Dr. Rabindra Dhakal, Faculty of technology, NAST

- Research on evaluation of tourist per capita plastic waste generation is important to claim money for solid waste management from royalty submitted by tourist.
- National capacity building is very important academically or technically. He suggested that building capacity results in sustainability. Thus skilled manpower has to be developed within country.



- He talked about Safeguarding of waste workers and recycling industry is must to minimize plastic pollution issues.
- Solid waste, its management modality should be included in Curriculum to raise awareness.
- He highlighted that evidence based academic research is only way to develop our nation.
- Technology, infrastructure should be developed within country.

Mr. Gopal Prasad Aryal, Director General, Department of Environment



- Mr. Aryal thanked organizing team for addressing most important and burning issue of high mountain plastic pollution, as Mt. Everest is related to our identity and pride of nation.
- He agreed the issue raised in the workshop was serious as he has been to Everest base camp and stayed there for about a month and have seen the real situation.
- Study related to source of mountain plastic, its amount and management practices till date is urgent.
- There is a rule that each tourist going to Himalayas have to bring 10kgs of waste down to the Himalaya. But the practice is not being fully implemented.
- Committed for making effort to address ideas from the insightful presentation.
- Committed for making efforts to address issues raised by the workshop seriously from MoFE, DoE, GoN
- He committed to work on revision of existing laws, policies and guidelines as per necessary.



3. Main lessons learned

The workshop organized were very successful with presence of high level concerned personnel including honorable Ministers from Ministry of Forest and Environment, Department of Environment, Mountaineering association, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Recyclers team and all working directly and indirectly in the field of plastics.

Good things was that all have agreed to follow up the toxic recycling of plastic issues as well as to raise the high mountain plastic pollution issues in to the upcoming UN Plastic Treaty.

4. Follow-up activities

Our organization will continuously work in reminding concerned authorities to address high mountain plastic pollution issues in upcoming UN treaty. Raising of awareness time and again about the toxic lifecycle of plastics in Nepal.

Output from workshop

- Commitment by Honorable minister Ram Sahaya Yadav, Ministry of Forst and Environment (MOFE), Government of Nepal to address high mountain plastic pollution issues in upcoming UN treaty.
- National awareness raised on toxic plastic recycling through workshop and mass media.
- Direct communication of recyclers with policy level.
- Massive media outreaches.
- Stakeholder and major concerned government agencies and scientific communities has made fully aware about the issues of toxic recycling.

Program Schedule

Program Title	National Awareness Raising Workshop on Inclusion of High Mountain Plastic Pollution issue in UN Plastic Treaty & Toxic Lifecycle of Plastics in Nepal
Aim of Workshop	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharing of present status of Plastic Pollution (General, Recycle and High Mountain) 2. Awareness raising & Capacity Building and Media Outreaches 3. Rise voice of high mountain plastic pollution to be included and addressed in upcoming UN Plastic Treaty
Collaboration and Support	Jointly Organized by CEPHED, Doko Recyclers and Blue Waste to Value in Collaboration with Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE) and Supported by International Pollutant Elimination Network (IPEN).
Expected Participants	About 50
10 to 10:30	Participants Arrival and Registration
10:30 to 11:10	INAUGURAL SESSION
10 Min	<p style="color: red;">Invitation of Guest in Podium by MC of the Program: Deena Prajapati , Program Officer , CEPHED</p> <p>Chair: Mohan Katuwal, Vice President, FNCSI and Advisor of CEPHED Chief Guests: Honorable Minister, Mr. Ramsahay Prasad Yadav, Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE), Government of Nepal. Special Guest : Dr. Rabindra Dhakal, Faculty of technology, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology Special Guest: Mr. Sanjib Gurung, Representative, Nepali Mountaineering Association Organizer: Mr. Ram Charitra Sah, Executive Director/Environment Scientist, CEPHED</p>
5 Min	Welcome Speech and Program Highlights- Mr. Ram Charitra Sah, Executive Director/Environment Scientist, CEPHED, Kathmandu
5 Min	Inauguration of Program by Chief Guest by Irrigating Plant along with playing National anthem
20 Min	Remarks Chief/ Guests and Sectorial Commitments for making efforts to include high mount plastic pollution in upcoming UN Plastic Treaty and Address the National Plastic Pollution including Toxic Recycling.
GROUP PICTURES	
11:10 to 12:30	Technical Session and Q & A
20 Min	Issue of Plastic Pollution (General, Single use, recycle and high mountain) and its Impacts in Nepal by Mr. Ram Charitra Sah Executive Director/Environment Scientist CEPHED.
20 Min	Status of Mountain Plastic Pollution and Cleaning Initiatives ,Mr. Nabin Bikash Maharjan CEO, Blue Waste to Value, Kathmandu
20 Min	Role, Responsibility and Initiatives of Government about PLASTIC POLLUTION MANAGEMENT in Nepal. Mr. Keshab Raj Joshi, Environmental Inspector, Department of Environment, MOFE, GON.
20 Min	Status and Problems of Plastic Recycling in Nepal by Mr. Pankaj Panjiyar, COO (Chief Operation Officer) of Doko Recyclers Pvt. Ltd. Kathmandu, Nepal.
12:30 to 1:00	Q and A,
1:00 to 1:30	CLOSING REMARKS from Guest (through 5 Min Oral Presentation) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Pradeep Amatya, Environmental Engineer, Lalitpur Metropolitan City 2. Dr. Rabindra Dhakal, Faculty of technology, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology 3. Mr. Gopal Prasad Aryal, Director General, Department of Environment
LUNCH	
PRESS RELEASE: English and Nepali	

Registration

NATIONAL AWARENESS RAISING WORKSHOP ON INCLUSION OF HIGH MOUNTAIN PLASTIC POLLUTION ISSUES IN UN PLASTIC TREATY AND TOXIC LIFECYCLE OF PLASTICS

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PRESS RELEASE

Minister of Forest and Environment, Nepal Mr. Ramsahay Prasad Yadav committed to raise the voice for the inclusion of High Mountain Plastic Pollution issue of Nepal in upcoming UN Plastic Treaty and address the Toxic Lifecycle of Plastics issues.

January 11, 2022, Kathmandu, Nepal: Environmental, Health advocates, Governments, federation of small and cottage industries, federation of grill and steel fabricators, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Nepal Mountaineering Association, Solid Waste Management Association, Plastic Recyclers organisation and media personnel are united today for the “**National Awareness Raising Workshop on Inclusion of High Mountain Plastic Pollution Issue in UN Plastic Treaty and Toxic Lifecycle of Plastics in Nepal**”. Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED), DOKO recyclers Pvt. Ltd, and Blue Waste to Value (BS2V) with the support of International Pollution Elimination Network (IPEN) successfully organized a day long workshop to: aware about present status of plastic pollution including single use plastics, build capacity and media outreaches; toxic recycling of plastics and raise voice of high mountain plastic pollution to be included and addressed in upcoming UN Plastic Treaty which is going to be discussed in February 2022 at United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) at Nairobi, Kenya.

Today, **National Awareness Raising Workshop on Inclusion of High Mountain Plastic Pollution Issue in UN Plastic Treaty and Toxic Lifecycle of Plastics**, organized by CEPHED jointly with Doko Recyclers and Blue Waste to Value with the active participations of about 50 personnel’s from different sectors of Nepal including government, local government, health, environment, industry, tourism, customs, university, academicians, science and technology, INGO/Development agencies, NGO, youth groups, Solid Waste Management Association, Nepal Mountaineering Association, and media etc. under the Chairmanship of Mr. Mohan Katuwal, Vice President of Federation of Nepalese Small and Cottage Industries (FNCSI) & President of Federation of Grill and Steel Fabricators Nepal (FGSFN) and inaugurated by Chief Guest Honorable Minister, Mr. Ramsahay Yadav, Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE), Government of Nepal by irrigating plant symbolizing environment protection and stressed the need of including high mountain plastic pollution in upcoming UN plastic treaty and address the national plastic pollution issues including toxic lifecycle of plastics. On that occasion Dr. Rabindra Prasad Dhakal, Chief of Technology division at Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and Mr. Sanjeev Gurung of Nepal Mountaineering Association were also

shed light on the importance of high mountain plastic pollution to be addressed with prime importance and need of regulating toxic plastic recycling as well as controlling the use of single use plastics based on the research based fact findings.

Three important issues has been raised by Mr. Ram Charitra Sah, Executive Director and Environment Scientist, CEPHED in his welcome speech about the Plastic Pollution including Single Use Plastics, toxic recycling of Plastics and high mountain plastic pollution and strongly demand for the required control measures at national level while asking concerned government agencies specially the focal ministries of Forest and Environment (MOFE), Government of Nepal to raise the voice through formal channel to the UN Secretariat to include the high mountain level plastic pollution issues in the upcoming UN Plastic Treaty.

The series of studies in Nepal including one conducted by ICIMOD (2018), Kathmandu alone uses around 4,700,000 to 4,800,000 plastic bags daily. In Nepal, 16 percent of urban waste is comprised of plastic, which is 2.7 tons of daily plastic garbage production. And its improper management creates lots of problems including environmental pollution. In Nepal, plastic waste is well known for clogging the rivers and streams in the mountains and hills, resulting in flash floods. The impact of what we do in the mountains is also felt downstream. In fact, like Kathmandu, most of the urban centers in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region are flooded with solid waste, including plastics.

Microplastics were found in snow and stream water samples on Mt. Everest. The highest microplastic were discovered in a sample from 8440 m elevation. Microplastics were detected at a ~ 30 MP L⁻¹ in snow and ~ 1 MP L⁻¹ in stream water, and the majority were fibrous. Most microplastic were polyester fibers, likely from clothing and equipment as well as transported from airborne pollution from neighbouring countries. 5 microplastic fibers were found at the balcony: 1 clear acrylic fiber, 1 red polyester fiber and 3 blue polyester fiber (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590332220305509>).

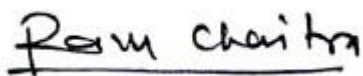
According to another study done globally including Nepal by International Pollutant Elimination Network (IPEN) in December 2021, examined the presence of 18 chemical additives that are found in recycled pellets available on the market around the world. The Pellets were analyzed to determine the presence of 18 substances, representing three types of toxic chemicals: 11 brominated flame retardants, 6 benzotriazole UV stabilizers and bisphenol A. Of these, 12 have confirmed health impacts; information on the remaining six is insufficient to determine their safety. The study assessed toxic chemical additives in recycled high-density polyethylene (HDPE), which is one of the most used and recycled plastics today. Nepalese samples were found to contain 7 out of 18 from all these three groups of toxic chemicals in them. BFR in Nepalese samples ranges from 15.6 to 19.1 microgram/kg, UV Stabilizer ranges from 1.7 to 312.7 microgram/kg and BPA at 173 microgram/kg ([ipen-recycled-plastic-pellets-v1_2.pdf](#)).

At the end of February 2022, countries will meet at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) to discuss a global instrument on plastics, largely focused on waste and marine litter. It will focus on plastic production, its uses, import and export, single use plastic, its disposal and majorly on marine litter and hasn't included mountain pollution yet. Thus this workshop helps in awareness raising & capacity building and media outreaches aiming to raise voice of high mountain plastic pollution to be included and addressed in upcoming UN Plastic Treaty

On this Occasion four presentation on different issues related to plastic pollution including mountain pollution, government responsibility and recycling problems has been presented: **Issue of Plastic Pollution (General plastic pollution, Single use plastic, toxic recycling and high mountain plastic pollution) and its Impacts in Nepal** by Mr. Ram Charitra Sah Executive Director/Environment Scientist, CEPHED; **Status of Mountain Plastic Pollution and Cleaning Initiatives** by Mr. Nabin Bikash Maharjan, CEO, Blue Waste to Value; **Role, Responsibility and Initiatives of Government about PLASTIC POLLUTION MANAGEMENT ELIMINATION in Nepal** by Mr. by Mr. Keshav Raj Joshi, Environment Inspector MOFE, GON and **Status and Problems of Plastic Recycling in Nepal** by Mr. Pankaj Panjiyar, COO (Chief Operation Officer) of Doko Recyclers Pvt. Ltd. Who have shared the status of plastic pollution in mountain regions, urban plastic pollution , management initiatives from collection to recycling as well as challenges they are facing required to be addressed by the concerned government agencies by enabling the safer recycling through having enabling environment for them.

Closing of the program were accomplished with the presence of Mr. Gopal Prasad Aryal, Director General of the Department of Environment who have emphasized the need of taking effective and wider role, responsibilities by enhancing the scope of the department of environment as well as building up the its legal and institutional capacities. Other Guest of the closing session Mr. Pradeep Amatya, Environment Engineer at Lalitpur Metropolitan City found the program very eye opening about the new aspect of plastic pollution where by committing the effective implementation of the upcoming plastic pollution strategies from the council of the ministries. Dr. Rabindra Prasad Dhakal , Chief of Technology Innovation division of NAST have requested the government to raise the high mountain plastic issues at national and international level for sure based on the facts and comprehensive discussion. There is a need of national capacity building as well as technology invention as well as promotion for better address the toxic recycling of the plastic. He also emphasize the need of inclusion of the environment and pollution issues in the school curricula so as to prepare the new generation deal better the plastic and other environmental pollution.

Thank you



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Press release

प्रेस विज्ञप्ती

आउदै गरेको संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघीय प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषण महासन्धिमा विश्व सर्वोच्च शिखर सगरामाथाको प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणको मुदा उठाउने नेपाल सरकारको प्रतिबद्धता

मिति २०७८ पौष २७ गते, काठमाण्डौ । जनस्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण प्रवर्द्धन केन्द्र (CEPHED) ले **Doko Recyclers** एवं **Blue Waste to Value (BW2V)** सस्थाहरु संगको सहकार्यमा “आउदै गरेको **UN Plastic Pollution Treaty** मा उच्च हिमाली प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणबारे समावेशीता एवं घातक रसायनयुक्त प्लाष्टिकको जिवनचक्र सम्बन्धि एक दिने जनचेतना कार्यशाला गोष्ठी” जनस्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण प्रवर्द्धन केन्द्रका सल्लाहकार एवं साना तथा मझौला उद्योग महासंघका उपाध्यक्ष श्री मोहन कटुवालज्यूको अध्यक्षता र माननीय वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्री श्री रामसहाय यादवज्यूको प्रमुख आतिथ्यतामा प्लाष्टिकको आयात, उत्पादन, विक्रीवितरण, प्रदूषण, रिसाईक्लिङ्ग र अध्ययन अनुसन्धान आदि संग सम्बन्धित विभिन्न सरोकारवालाहरु गरी करीव ५० जनाको सहभागितामा सम्पन्न भएको थियो । कार्यक्रममा विशेष अतिथी नेपाल विज्ञान तथा प्रविधी प्रज्ञा प्रतिष्ठानका प्रविधी अनवेसन शाखा प्रमुख वैज्ञानिक डा. रविन्द्र ढकालज्यू, नेपाल पर्वतारोही संघका पैतिनिधी संजीव गुरुङ्गज्यू लगायतको समउपस्थितीमा कार्यक्रम निकै सफलताका साथ सम्पन्न भएको थियो ।

गोष्ठीको उदघाटन सत्रमा कार्यक्रमका प्रमुख आयोजक संस्था जनस्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण प्रवर्द्धन केन्द्रका तर्फबाट स्वागत मन्तव्य दिदै केन्द्रका कार्यकारी निर्देशक एवं वातावरण वैज्ञानिक राम चरित्र साहले मुख्य रूपमा तिनवटा विषयवस्तुहरुबारे जोडदार आवाज उठाउदै सम्बन्धित सरकारी निकायहरुबाट आवश्यक सम्बोधन गर्न गराउन जोडदार माग गर्नुभयो ।

आयोजक संस्थाहरुको तर्फबाट उठाएका प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषण सम्बन्धि विषयवस्तुहरुमा खासगरी एकल प्रयोग प्लाष्टिक, घातक रसायनयुक्त प्लाष्टिकको जिवनचक्र र खासगरी आउदै गरेको **UN Plastic Pollution Treaty** मा उच्च हिमाली प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणबारे उचित समावेशीताको लागी पहलगर्नु पर्ने आवश्यकता औलाउनु भएको थियो ।

कार्यक्रममा आयोजक संस्थाहरु जनस्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण प्रवर्द्धन केन्द्र (CEPHED) ले **Doko Recyclers** एवं **Blue Waste to Value (BW2V)** सस्थाहरु संगको सहकार्यमा “आउदै गरेको **UN Plastic Pollution Treaty** मा उच्च हिमाली प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणबारे समावेशीता एवं घातक रसायनयुक्त प्लाष्टिकको जिवनचक्र सम्बन्धमा उठाएका मागहरुबारे कार्यशाला गोष्ठीका प्रमुख आतिथी वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्री राम सहाय यादवज्यूले विस्तृत रूपमा सम्बोधन गर्नुभएको थियो ।

वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालय र वातावरण विभागबाट र विभिन्न स्थानिय निकायहरुबाट विभिन्न समयमा गरीएको प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषण रोकथाम, न्यूनिकरण एवं नियन्त्रणकारी निर्णयहरु विभिन्न कारणले सोचे जस्तो प्रभाकारी कार्यान्वयन हुन नसकेको तथ्य हामी माझ रहेको विद्वमान अवस्थामा वातावरण विभागबाट हालै यसको प्रभावकारीता बढाउन एक कार्ययोजना तयार पारी मन्त्रि परीषदमा सदरको लागि पठाएको कुरा सहर्ष जानकारी गराउनु भएको थियो ।

वास्तवमा आज आयोजक संस्थाहरुबाट उठान गरीएको निकै महत्वपूर्ण प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषण सम्बन्धी मुदा र विषयवस्तुहरु निकै गम्भिर, विशेष र विस्तृत छन् । यसकोलागि कुनै एक पक्ष वा एक राष्ट्रको प्रयास प्रयाप्त हुदैन । सबैको सहकार्य एवं सहयोगको अपेक्षा माननीय मन्त्रीज्यूबाट राख्नुभयो ।

उदाहरणका लागि विभिन्न वैज्ञानिक अध्ययनहरुबाट विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर र हामी सबै नेपाली र नेपाललाई विश्व सामु चिनाउने सगरमाथा हिमालको ८४४० मिटर सम्मका अरला ठाउँहरुबाट संकलन गरीएको हिउँ र पानीको नमूनाहरुमा माईक्रो प्लाष्टिकका कणहरु पाईको तथ्यहरुले मन्त्रालय र मलाई स्वम अति सम्बेदनशिल भएको छु । हामीलाई थाहा छ हिमालयबाट फोहर संकलन, ओसार पसार र सबैभन्दा महत्वपूर्ण यसको वातावरणमैत्री तरीकाबाट व्यवस्थापन एवं विसर्जन गर्ने सानो वा चानचुने चुनौती होईन तर हामी हाम्रो समस्या प्रति चनाखो नभई बस्न पनि सकिन्न र हुन्न पनि । तसर्थ यसै गोष्ठी माफात वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालयले र म मन्त्री स्वमले आउदै गरेको **UN Plastic Pollution Treaty** मा उच्च हिमाली प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणबारे आवश्यक अध्ययन र क्षलफल गरी उचित समावेशीता र उपयुक्त समाधानका उपायहरु पहिल्याउन र आवश्यक श्रोत साधनहरुको व्यवस्थापन गर्ने गराउने तर्फ राष्ट्रिय र अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय स्तरमा आवाज उठाउने प्रतिबद्धता समेत माननीय मन्त्रीज्यूले जाहेर गर्नुभयो ।

सगरामाथाको १९ वटा हिउँ र पानीको नमूनाहरुमा माईक्रो प्लाष्टिकका प्रदूषणहरु पाउनु र यसको मुख्य श्रोत भनेको पर्वतारोहीहरुले प्रयोग गर्ने प्लाष्टिकका सामग्रीहरुनै विशेषरूपमा रहेको संगै छिमेकी मुलुकहरुबाट हावाले यडाएर ल्याएका प्लाष्टिक कणहरुले श्रृजीत यो समस्या भनेको नेपालले पहिलादेखी भोगी आएको जलवायू परिवर्तन जस्तै हाम्रो आफ्नै कारणले भन्दा पनि बाहिरी कारणबाट श्रृजीत समस्याको समाधानको लागि यो हिमाली प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणको विषय वस्तुहरुलाई अन्तर्राष्ट्रियकरण गर्नुपर्ने देखीएकोले मन्त्रालयले यसको बारे प्राथमिकताका साथ अध्ययन गरी आउदै गरेको **UN Plastic Pollution Treaty** मा उच्च हिमाली प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणबारे उचित समावेशीताका लागी पक्कै पहल गर्नेछु भनी विस्वास व्यक्त गर्नुभयो ।

आज उठान भएको दोश्रो घातक प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणको कुराले हामीहरु सबैलाई यसको बारेमा अझ थप सुसुचित हुने मौकाको रुपमा मन्त्रीज्यूले पाएको अनुभव सुनाउनु भयो । हालै नेपाल लगायत विश्वका २३ देशहरुबाट संकलन गरीएको रिसाईकल प्लाष्टिक पिलेटसका नमूनाहरुमा विभिन्न अति विषाक्त रसायनहरु जस्तै **Flame Retardants , Bisphenol A and UV Light Stabilizers** अत्यधिकमात्रामा पाईएका प्रतिवेदनमा नेपालका नमूनाहरु पनि समावेश गराउन सफल भएका आजको आयोजक संस्था सिफेड लाई पुनः धन्यवाद दिनुभयो । यस्ता घातक रसायनहरुयुक्त प्लाष्टिकहरुको रिसाईकल एवं प्रयोगबाट यसको जिवनचक्रभरी हुन सक्ने वातावरणीय प्रदूषण र स्वास्थ्यजन्य नकारात्मक प्रभावबाट पनि जोगीनु नितान्त आवश्यक रहेको कुरा बताउदै यसको लागि पनि सम्बन्धित सरकारी निकाय र खासगरी हाम्रो वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालयले प्लाष्टिक संग सम्बन्धित सबै आयात, उत्पादन, विक्रिवितरण, प्रयोगकर्ता एवं फोहर संलन, ओसार पसार र रिसाईकल आदिमा संलग्न व्यक्ति, संघसंस्थाहरु, निजी निकायहरु सबै मिली प्लाष्टिकको सम्पूर्ण जिवनचक्रलाई सफा पार्नुपर्ने आवश्यकता औल्याउनुभयो । यसमा प्लाष्टिक आयातकर्ता, उत्पादनकर्ता र रिसाईकल कर्ता व्यक्ति, व्यवसायी एवं उद्योगीहरुको भुमिका अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण हुने भएकाले सबैलाई यस प्रति गम्भिर हुनु जरुरी रहेकोले प्लाष्टिकका वस्तुहरु वा कच्चा पदार्थहरु आयात देखी उत्पादन र प्रयोगसम्मको जिवनचक्र सफा पार्न चालिएका कदमहरुमा सरकारले आवश्यक सहयोग गर्न पनि तयार रहेको प्रतिबद्धता जाहेर गर्नुभयो ।

आज उठान गरीएका अर्का र तेश्रो महत्वपूर्ण प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणहरु सम्बन्धी आम सरोकारका विषयवस्तुदेखी लिएर प्लाष्टिकको एकल प्रयोग (**Single Use Plastic-SUP**) विश्वका धेरै मुलुकहरुमा विभिन्न प्रकृया अपनाएर नियन्त्रण गर्ने प्रयासहरुमा हाम्रा छिमेकी राष्ट्रहरुमा पनि यसबारे कानूनी बन्देजहरु र राम्रा व्यवस्थापनका उपायहरु अवलम्बन गरेको पाईकोमा नेपालमै पनि हाम्रा वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालय र वातावरण विभागबाट पनि ४० माईक्रोन भन्दा पाट्लो प्लाष्टिक भोलाको उत्पादन, विक्रिवितरण र प्रयोगमा प्रतिबन्ध लगाएको देखी सगरमाथाका खुम्बुक्षेत्रमा प्लाष्टिकको एकल प्रयोग (**Single Use Plastic-SUP**) लाई समेत बन्देज लगाएका राम्रा र वातावरण एवं स्वास्थ्यमैत्री उपाहरुलाई मन्त्रालयले अझ व्यापक गरी देशैभरी लागु गर्ने देखी लिएर भए गरेको सरकारी निर्णयहरुको प्रभाकारी कार्यान्वयनमा म र मेरा मन्त्रालय र विभागहरु अझै सकृय रुपामा लग्ने छु भने विस्वास विस्वास पनि माननी मन्त्री राम सहाय यादवले व्यक्त गर्नुभयो ।

अन्तमा आजको यो गोठिबाट प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणका नयाँ र थप आयामहरुको बारे जनचेतना जगाउने तर्फ यो गोठि निकै नै सफल हुने मा विस्वास व्यक्त गर्दै फेरी पनि आउदो **February 2022** संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघीय प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषण महासन्धि (**United Nations Plastic Pollution Treaty**) को अवधारणा अगाडी बढाईरहेको परीपेक्षमा विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर सगरमाथाको प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणहरु सम्बन्धी विषयवस्तुहरु महासन्धिमा जोडदार एवं उचितरुपमा समावेश र सम्बोधन गराउने प्रयास गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता पुनः दोहरयाउनु भयो । साथै हालै नेपालमा रिसाईकल प्लाष्टिकबाट हुन सक्ने वातावरणीय प्रदूषण र स्वास्थ्यजन्य नकारात्मक प्रभावबाट हरसम्भव आम उपभोक्ताहरुलाई जोगाउने सबैको साभ्ना प्रयासको अपेक्षा राख्दै आजको यो एक दिने जनचेतना गोठिका आयोजक जनस्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण प्रवर्द्धन केन्द्र (**CEPHED**), **Doko Recyclers** एवं **Blue Waste to Value (BW2V)** संस्थाहरुलाई एवं सहभागी विभिन्न संघ संस्था, सरकारी, निजी, विकास निकाय आयोग, पत्रकारहरु सबैमा धन्यवाद ज्ञापन गर्दै गोठिमा बाट आएका सुझावसहितको कार्यक्रम सम्पन्ताको प्रतिवेदन मन्त्रालय र विभागमा प्राप्तभए पछि त्यसको कार्यान्वयनमा समेत पहल गर्ने विस्वास दिलाउदै माननीय मन्त्रीज्यूबाट निकै सान्दर्भिक बोधगाम्य सम्बोधन भएकोमा आयोजक संस्थाहरु सहित सबै सहभागीहरु निकै उत्साहित भएको महशुस गरीएको थियो ।

कार्यक्रममा प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणका विभिन्न चारवटा कार्यपत्रहरु **Issue of Plastic Pollution (General, Single use, recycle and high mountain) and its Impacts in Nepal** बारे राम चरित्र साह, **Status of Mountain Plastic Pollution and Cleaning Initiatives** बारे नविन विकास महर्जन, **Role, Responsibility and Initiatives of Government about PLASTIC POLLUTION MANAGEMENT in Nepal** बारे केशवराज जोशी र **Status and Problems of Plastic Recycling in Nepal** बारे पंकज पञ्जियारबाट प्रस्तुत गरीएको थियो ।

कार्याशाला गोठिको समापनमा नेपाल विज्ञान तथा प्रविधी प्रज्ञा प्रतिष्ठनका प्रविधी अनवेसन शाखा प्रमुख वैज्ञानिक डा. रविन्द्र ढकाल, ललितपुर महानगरपालिकाका वातावरण ईन्जिनियर प्रदिप अमात्य र वातावरण विभागका महानिर्देशक गोपाल प्रसाद अर्यालज्यूबाट प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणहरुबारे उठान गरीएका विषयवस्तुहरुमाथी आवश्यक एवं न्यायोचित र वैज्ञानिक तरीकाहरुबाट सम्बोधन गर्दैजाने प्रतिबद्धता राख्दै कार्यक्रम समापन गरीएको थियो ।

धन्यवाद ।

राम चरित्र साह

कार्यकारी निनर्देशक एवं वातावरण वैज्ञानिक

मो.न. ९८०३०४७६२९ , फोन/फ्याक्स ०९ ५२०९७८६

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Massive print media coverage

Massive print media coverage response has been achieved responding to press release made in both English and Nepali language.

The workshop accomplished attracts many press online, print, and electronic news media. There were number of news in social media, newspaper, Ujyalo Network and National news agency.

Experts concerned over increase in plastic waste in Himalayan region

Published On: January 12, 2022 01:54 PM NPT By: Republica | @RepublicaNepal, 11Shares



KATHMANDU, Jan 12: Experts have shown concerns over the increase of microplastics in the snow and water sources in the Himalayan regions of the country due to an influx in climbers and trekkers heading toward the mountains and other factors, which help to increase the impact of climate change.

Speakers at an event, jointly organized by the Center for Public Health and Environment Development (CEPHED), Doko Recyclers Pvt Ltd, and Blue Waste to Value with the support of International Pollution Elimination Network (IPEN) on Tuesday, stressed the need for coming up with appropriate policy solutions by the state in order to study the negative impacts on the environment due to excessive production of plastic.

According to a study conducted by ICIMOD (2018), Kathmandu alone uses around 4,700,000 to 4,800,000 plastic bags daily. In Nepal, 16 percent of urban waste is plastic, which is 2.7 tons of daily plastic garbage production. And its improper management creates lots of problems including environmental pollution.

In Nepal, plastic waste is well known for clogging the rivers and streams in the mountains and hills, resulting in flash floods. The impact of what we do in the mountains is also felt downstream. In fact, like Kathmandu, most of the urban centers in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region are flooded with solid waste, including plastics.

Similarly, microplastics have been found in snow and stream water samples on Mt Everest. The highest microplastic were discovered in a sample from 8440 m elevation. Microplastics were detected at ~30 MP L⁻¹ in snow and ~1 MP L⁻¹ in stream water, and the majority

were fibrous. Most microplastic were polyester fibers, likely from clothing and equipment as well as transported by airborne pollution from neighboring countries

Another study carried out globally including in Nepal by IPEN in December 2021 examined the presence of 18 chemical additives that are found in recycled pellets available in the market around the world. The pellets were analyzed to determine the presence of 18 substances, representing three types of toxic chemicals: 11 brominated flame retardants, 6 benzotriazole UV stabilizers and bisphenol A. Of these, 12 have confirmed health impacts; information on the remaining six is insufficient to determine their safety. The study assessed toxic chemical additives in recycled high-density polyethylene (HDPE), which is one of the most used and recycled plastics today. Nepali samples were found to contain 7 out of 18 from all these three groups of toxic chemicals in them.

On the occasion, Ramsahay Yadav, Minister for Forest and Environment (MoFE) along with experts also stressed the need for including high mountain plastic pollution in the upcoming UN plastic treaty and address the national plastic pollution issues including toxic lifecycle of plastics. He further said that an action plan has been prepared for the effective implementation of its prevention, reduction and control and has been sent to the Council of Ministers for approval.

During the program, CEPHED Executive Director Ramcharitra Shah spoke on the issue and impact of plastic pollution in Nepal, Blue Waste to Value's Navin Vikas Maharjan spoke on plastic pollution and sanitation campaign in the Himalayan region, while Keshav Raj Joshi of MoFE presented a working paper on the role, responsibilities and initiatives that need to be taken by the government.

Water, Snow Of High Mountains Contaminated With Plastic Particles

The Rising Nepal, <https://risingnepaldaily.com/nation/water-snow-of-high-mountains-contaminated-with-plastic-particles> 22 shares



By Binu Shrestha Kathmandu, Jan. 12: Mount Everest and other mountains of the nation are at

high risk of plastic pollution due to excessive use of plastic-packed food and materials by climbers. This could turn the mountains into micro plastic hazard regions.

Micro plastics were found in snow and stream water samples on Mount Everest. The highest micro plastics were discovered in a sample collected from 8,440 meters' elevation, according to a study report by Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED).

The study shows that micro plastics detected were approximately 30 micro particles per liter in snow and 1 micro particles in steam water, and majority of the were fibrous. Most micro plastics were polyester fibers, likely from clothing and equipment.

National delegation and concerned government agencies should raise voice in the UN Secretariat to include the high mountain plastic pollution in the upcoming UN plastic pollution treaty and address the issues, said Ram Charitra Sah, CEPHED executive director and environment scientist.

Speaking at a national awareness raising workshop on inclusion of high mountain plastic pollution issue in UN plastic pollution treaty and toxic lifecycle of plastics in Nepal on Tuesday, Sah urged the concerned government agency to raise the issue for its inclusion and to address the issue properly in the upcoming UN treaty, which is going to be discussed from February 28 to March 3 at United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi, Kenya.

The issue of micro plastic would be hazardous in the mountain regions in the coming days because plastic pollution is a global issue, not only of Nepal. The plastics which fly from other nations enter Nepal and they get converted into micro plastic, so only blaming mountain climbers and local areas people for the growing plastic pollution in mountain regions is not appropriate, said Dr. Rabindra Dhakal, Faculty of Technology of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Chief.

The high use of plastic has created problems for government bodies for its sustainable management. In the name of plastic management, common people along with municipalities have been burning it in open space, he said.

Current plastic recycling method applied by common people to manage plastic garbage is wrong, but plastic can be easily recycled using the safe technology, he said. The NAST has already introduced the technology to produce 1 liters petrol from 1 kg plastic which is one of the sustainable solutions to reduce plastic pollution, he said. Ramsahay Prasad Yadav, Minister for Forest and Environment (MoFE), said that the issue of high mountain plastic pollution would be raised strongly in the upcoming UN plastic pollution treaty to address the issue.

In February 2022, countries will meet to discuss a global instrument on plastics largely focused of waste and marine litter. New global controls are needed especially for low-and-middle-income countries that are not primarily responsible for plastic production and consumption and do not have the capacity to manage the risks associated with toxic chemicals.

Social Medial outreaches: The workshop accomplished has been also widely disseminated, liked, commented and shared by many.

नेपाल सरकारले प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषण महासन्धिमा सर्वोच्च शिखर सगरमाथाको प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषण मुद्दा उठाउने

• सेतो घर, शनिबार, माघ १, २०७८, 44, SHARES

National Awareness Raising Workshop on Inclusion of High Mountain Plastic Pollution issue in UN Plastic Treaty & Toxic Lifecycle of Plastics in Nepal

Date: 11th January 2022, Kathmandu

Organized By



Supported By



Organized by Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED) jointly with DOKO Recyclers Pvt. Ltd. Kathmandu and Blue Waste to Value, Kathmandu. Supported by International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN)

काठमाण्डौ । जनस्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण प्रवर्द्धन केन्द्र -CEPHED ले Doko Recyclers एवं Blue Waste to Value (BW2V) संस्थाहरूसँगको सहकार्यमा आउँदै “ गरेको UN Plastic Pollution Treaty मा उच्च हिमाली प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणबारे समावेशीता एवं घातक रसायनयुक्त प्लाष्टिकको जिवनचक्र सम्बन्धि एक दिने जनचेतना कार्यशाला गोष्ठीसम्पन्न गरेको छ । ”

जनस्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण प्रवर्द्धन केन्द्रका सल्लाहकार एवं साना तथा मझौला उद्योग महासंघका उपाध्यक्ष मोहन कटुवालज्यूको अध्यक्षता र माननीय वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्री श्री रामसहाय यादवज्यूको प्रमुख आतिथ्यतामा प्लाष्टिकको आयात, उत्पादन, बिक्रीवितरण, प्रदूषण, रिसाईक्लिङ र अध्ययन अनुसन्धान आदिसँग सम्बन्धित विभिन्न सरोकारवालाहरु गरी करीब ५० जनाको सहभागितामा उक्त कार्यक्रम सम्पन्न भएको थियो ।

कार्यक्रममा विशेष अतिथि नेपाल विज्ञान तथा प्रविधि प्रज्ञा प्रतिष्ठानका प्रविधि अन्वेषण शाखा प्रमुख बैज्ञानिक डारविन्द्र ढकालज्यू, नेपाल पर्वतारोही संघका प्रतिनिधी संजीव गुरुङज्यू लगायतको उपस्थिति रहेको थियो ।

गोष्ठीको उद्घाटन सत्रमा कार्यक्रमका प्रमुख आयोजक संस्था जनस्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण प्रवर्द्धन केन्द्रका तर्फबाट स्वागत मन्तव्य दिँदै केन्द्रका कार्यकारी निर्देशक एवं वातावरण वैज्ञानिक रामचरित्र साहले मुख्य रूपमा तिनवटा विषयबस्तुहरूबारे जोडदार आवाज उठाउँदै सम्बन्धित सरकारी निकायहरूबाट आवश्यक सम्बोधन गर्न गराउन जोडदार माग गर्नुभयो ।

आयोजक संस्थाहरूको तर्फबाट उठाएका प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषण सम्बन्धि विषयबस्तुहरूमा खासगरी एकल प्रयोग प्लाष्टिक, घातक रसायनयुक्त प्लाष्टिकको जिवनचक्र र खासगरी आउँदै गरेको UN Plastic Pollution Treaty मा उच्च हिमाली प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणबारे उचित समावेशीताको लागी पहल गर्नुपर्ने आवश्यकता औंलाउनुभएको थियो ।

कार्यक्रममा आयोजक संस्थाहरू जनस्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण प्रवर्द्धन केन्द्र ले(सेफेड)Doko Recyclers एवं Blue Waste to Value (BW2V)संस्थाहरूसंगको सहकार्यमा आउँदै गरेको “UN Plastic Pollution Treaty मा उच्च हिमाली प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणबारे समावेशीता एवं घातक रसायनयुक्त प्लाष्टिकको जिवनचक्र सम्बन्धमा उठाएका मागहरूबारे कार्यशाला गोष्ठीका प्रमुख आतिथी वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्री राम सहाय यादवज्यूले विस्तृत रूपमा सम्बोधन गर्नुभएको थियो ।

वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालय र वातावरण विभागबाट र विभिन्न स्थानिय निकायहरूबाट विभिन्न समयमा गरीएको प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषण रोकथाम, न्यूनिकरण एवं नियन्त्रणकारी निर्णयहरू विभिन्न कारणले सोचेजस्तो प्रभावकारी रूपमा कार्यान्वयन हुन नसकेको तथ्य हामी माझ रहेको विद्यमान अवस्थामा वातावरण विभागबाट हालै यसको प्रभावकारीता बढाउन एक कार्ययोजना तयार पारी मन्त्री परिषद्मा सदरको लागि पठाएको कुरा सहर्ष जानकारी गराउनु भएको थियो ।

कार्यक्रममा आयोजक संस्थाहरूबाट उठान गरीएको निकै महत्वपूर्ण प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषण सम्बन्धी मुद्दा र विषयबस्तुहरू निकै गम्भिर, विशेष र विस्तृत रहेको र

यसको लागि कुनै एक पक्ष वा एक राष्ट्रको प्रयास प्रयाप्त नहुने भएकोले सबैको सहकार्य एवं सहयोगको आवश्यकता पर्ने कुरा माननीय मन्त्रीज्यूले राख्नुभयो । उदाहरणका लागि विभिन्न वैज्ञानिक अध्ययनहरूबाट विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर र हामी सबै नेपाली र नेपाललाई विश्व सामु चिनाउने सगरमाथा हिमालको ८४४० मिटर सम्मका अग्ला ठाउँहरूबाट संकलन गरीएको हिउँ र पानीको नमूनाहरूमा माईक्रो प्लाष्टिकका कणहरू पाईको तथ्यहरूले मन्त्रालय र मलाई स्वम अति सम्बेदनशिल भएको छु । हामीलाई थाहा छ हिमालयबाट फोहर संकलन, ओसार पसार र सबैभन्दा महत्वपूर्ण यसको वातावरणमैत्री तरीकाबाट व्यवस्थापन एवं विसर्जन गर्ने सानो वा चानचुने चुनौती होईन तर हामी हाम्रो समस्या प्रति चनाखो नभई बस्न पनि सकिन्न र हुन्न पनि । तसर्थ यसै गोष्ठी मार्फत वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालयले र म मन्त्री स्वमले आउदै गरेको **UN Plastic Pollution Treaty** मा उच्च हिमाली प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणबारे आवश्यक अध्ययन र क्षलफल गरी उचित समावेशीता र उपयुक्त समाधानका उपायहरू पहिल्याउन र आवश्यक श्रोत साधनहरूको व्यवस्थापन गर्ने गराउने तर्फ राष्ट्रिय र अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय स्तरमा आवाज उठाउने प्रतिबद्धता समेत माननीय मन्त्रीज्यूले जाहेर गर्नुभयो ।

सगरमाथाको १९ वटा हिउँ र पानीको नमूनाहरूमा माईक्रो प्लाष्टिकका प्रदूषणहरू पाउनु र यसको मुख्य श्रोत भनेको पर्वतारोहीहरूले प्रयोग गर्ने प्लाष्टिकका सामग्रीहरूनै विशेषरूपमा रहेको संगै छिमेकी मुलुकहरूबाट हावाले यडाएर ल्याएका प्लाष्टिक कणहरूले श्रृजित यो समस्या भनेको नेपालले पहिलादेखी भोगी आएको जलवायू परीवर्तन जस्तै हाम्रो आफ्नै कारणले भन्दा पनि बाहिरी कारणबाट श्रृजित समस्याको समाधानको लागि यो हिमाली प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणको विषय बस्तुहरूलाई अन्तर्राष्ट्रियकरण गर्नुपर्ने देखीएकोले मन्त्रालयले यसको बारे प्राथमिकताका साथ अध्ययन गरी आउदै गरेको **UN Plastic Pollution Treaty** मा उच्च हिमाली प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणबारे उचित समावेशीताका लागी पक्कै पहल गर्नेछ भनी विस्वास व्यक्त गर्नुभयो ।

आज उठान भएको दोश्रो घातक प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणको कुराले हामीहरू सबैलाई यसको बारेमा अझ थप सुसुचित हुने मौकाको रूपमा मन्त्रीज्यूले पाएको अनुभव

सुनाउनु भयो । हालै नेपाल लगायत विश्वका २३ देशहरूबाट संकलन गरीएको रिसाईकल प्लाष्टिक पिलेट्सका नमूनाहरूमा विभिन्न अति विषाक्त रसायनहरू जस्तै Flame Retardants , Bisphenol A and UV Light Stabilizers अत्यधिक मात्रामा पाईएका प्रतिवेदनमा नेपालका नमूनाहरू पनि समावेश गराउन सफल भएका आजको आयोजक संस्था सिफेड लाई पुनः धन्यवाद दिनुभयो । यस्ता घातक रसायनहरूयुक्त प्लाष्टिकहरूको रिसाईक्लिङ्ग एवं प्रयोगबाट यसको जिवनचक्रभरी हुन सक्ने वातावरणीय प्रदूषण र स्वास्थ्यजन्य नकारात्मक प्रभावबाट पनि जोगीनु नितान्त आवश्यक रहेको कुरा बताउदै यसको लागि पनि सम्बन्धित सरकारी निकाय र खासगरी हाम्रो वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालयले प्लाष्टिक संग सम्बन्धित सबै आयात, उत्पादन, विक्रिवितरण, प्रयोगकर्ता एवं फोहर संलन, ओसार पसार र रिसाईक्लिङ्ग आदिमा संलग्न व्यक्ति, संघसंस्थाहरू, निजी निकायहरू सबै मिली प्लाष्टिकको सम्पूर्ण जिवनचक्रलाई सफा पार्नुपर्ने आवश्यकता औल्याउनुभयो । यसमा प्लाष्टिक आयातकर्ता , उत्पादनकर्ता र रिसाईक्लिङ्ग कर्ता व्यक्ति, व्यवसायी एवं उद्योगीहरूको भुमिका अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण हुने भएकाले सबैलाई यस प्रति गम्भिर हुनु जरुरी रहेकोले प्लाष्टिकका बस्तुहरू वा कच्चा पदार्थहरू आयात देखी उत्पादन र प्रयोगसम्मको जिवनचक्र सफा पार्न चालिएका कदमहरूमा सरकारले आवश्यक सहयोग गर्न पनी तयार रहेको प्रतिवद्धता जाहेर गर्नुभयो ।

आज उठान गरीएका अर्का र तेश्रो महत्वपूर्ण प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणहरू सम्बन्धी आम सरोकारका विषयबस्तुदेखी लिएर प्लाष्टिकको एकल प्रयोग (Single Use Plastic-SUP) विश्वका धेरै मूलकहरूमा विभिन्न प्रकृया अपनाएर नियन्त्रण गर्ने प्रयासहरूमा हाम्रा छिमेकी राष्ट्रहरूमा पनि यसबारे कानूनी बन्देजहरू र राम्रा व्यवस्थापनका उपायहरू अवलम्बन गरेको पाईकोमा नेपालमै पनि हाम्रा वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालय र वातावरण विभागबाट पनि ४० माईक्रोन भन्दा पातलो प्लाष्टिक झोलाको उत्पादन, विक्रिवितरण र प्रयोगमा प्रतिबन्ध लगाएको देखी सगरमाथाका खुम्बुक्षेत्रमा प्लाष्टिकको एकल प्रयोग (Single Use Plastic-SUP) लाई समेत बन्देज लगाएका राम्रा र वातावरण एवं स्वास्थ्यमैत्री उपाहरूलाई मन्त्रालयले अझ ब्यापक गरी देशभरी लागुगर्ने देखी लिएर भए गरेको सरकारी

निर्णयहरूको प्रभाकारी कार्यान्वयनमा म र मेरा मन्त्रालय र विभागहरू अझै सकृय रूपामा लग्ने छु भने विस्वास विस्वास पनि माननी मन्त्री राम सहाय यादवले व्यक्त गर्नुभयो ।

अन्तमा साे गोष्ठीबाट प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणका नयाँ र थप आयामहरूको बारे जनचेतना जगाउने तर्फ यो गोष्ठी निकै नै सफल हुने मा विस्वास ब्यक्त गर्दै फेरी पनि आउदो फेब्रुअरी 22 काे संयूक्त राष्ट्र संघीय प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषण महासन्धि)United Nations Plastic Pollution Treaty) को अवधारणा अगाडी बढाईरहेको परीपेक्षमा विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर सगरमाथाकोे प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणहरू सम्बन्धी विषयबस्तुहरू महासन्धिमा जोडदार एवं उचितरूपमा समावेश र सम्बोधन गराउने प्रयास गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता पुनः दोहरयाउनुभयो ।

साथै हालै नेपालमा रिसाईकल प्लाष्टिकबाट हुन सक्ने वातावरणीय प्रदूषण र स्वास्थ्यजन्य नकारात्मक प्रभावबाट हरसम्भव आम उपभोक्ताहरूलाई जोगाउने सबैको साझा प्रयासको अपेक्षा राख्दै आजको यो एक दिने जनचेतना गोष्ठीका आयोजक जनस्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण प्रवर्द्धन केन्द्र)CEPHED_, Doko Recyclers Pj+ Blue Waste to Value (BW2V सस्थाहरूलाई एवं सहभागी विभिन्न संघ संस्था, सरकारी, निजी, विकास निकाय आयोग, पत्रकारहरू सबैमा धन्यवाद ज्ञापन गर्दै गोष्ठीमा बाट आएका सुझावसहितको कार्यक्रम सम्पन्ताको प्रतिवेदन मन्त्रालय र विभागमा प्राप्तभए पछि त्यसको कार्यान्वयनमा समेत पहल गर्ने विस्वास दिलाउदै माननीय मन्त्रीज्यूबाट निकै सान्दर्भिक बोधगाम्य सम्बोधन भएकोमा आयोजक संंस्थाहरू सहित सबै सहभागीहरू निकै उत्साहित भएको महशुस गरीएको थियो ।

कार्यक्रममा प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणका विभिन्न चारवटा कार्यपत्रहरू **Issue of Plastic Pollution (General, Single use, recycle and high mountain) and its Impacts in Nepal** बारे राम चरीत्र साह, **Status of Mountain Plastic Pollution and Cleaning Initiatives** बारे नविन विकास महर्जन, **Role, Responsibility and Initiatives of Government about PLASTIC POLLUTION MANAGEMENT in Nepal** बारे केशबराज जोशी र **Status and Problems of Plastic Recycling in Nepal** बारे पंकज पञ्जियारबाट प्रस्तुत गरीएको थियो ।

कार्याशाला गोष्ठीको समापनमा नेपाल विज्ञान तथा प्रविधि प्रज्ञा प्रतिष्ठानका प्रविधि अन्वेषण शाखा प्रमुख बैज्ञानिक डारविन्द्र ढकाल ., ललितपुर महानगरपालिकाका बातावरण ईन्जिनियर प्रदिप अमात्य र वातावरण विभागका महानिर्देशक गोपाल प्रसाद अर्यालज्यूबाट प्लाष्टिक प्रदूषणहरुबारे उठान गरिएका विषयबस्तुहरुमाथी आवश्यक एवं न्यायोचित र बैज्ञानिक तरीकाहरुबाट सम्बोधन गर्दैजाने प्रतिबद्धता राख्दै कार्यक्रम समापन गरिएको थियो ।



हिमाली क्षेत्रमा प्लास्टिकजन्य प्रदूषण बढ्दै गएको भन्दै चिन्ता व्यक्त

पुनः २८, २०७८ बुधवार १३:५०:५२ | उज्वलो तहल्लो



काठमाण्डौ - हिमाली क्षेत्रमा प्लास्टिकजन्य प्रदूषण बढ्दै गएको भन्दै विज्ञहरुले चिन्ता व्यक्त गरेका छन् । पर्वतारोहणमा जाने आरोहीहरुले प्रयोग गर्ने प्लास्टिकजन्य वस्तुहरु र छिमेकी देशबाट ठुवाले उडाएर ल्याएका प्लास्टिकका कणहरुले गर्दा हिमाली क्षेत्रका हिउँ तथा पानीका स्रोतहरुमा माइको प्लास्टिकका कणहरु पाइने गरेकाले यसले जलवायु परिवर्तनको असर बढाउन मद्दत गरेको भन्दै विज्ञहरुले चिन्ता व्यक्त गरेका हुन् ।

जनस्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण प्रवर्द्धन केन्द्रले काठमाण्डौमा आयोजना गरेको कार्यक्रममा सहभागी विज्ञ तथा कर्ताहरुले प्लास्टिकजन्य प्रदूषणको समस्या विश्वव्यापी रूपमै बढ्दै गएको बताए । उनीहरुले आउने फाल्गुन १६ देखि १८ गतेसम्म केन्याको नैरोबीमा हुने संयुक्त राष्ट्र सङ्घीय वातावरण सम्मेलनमा नेपालले हिमाली क्षेत्रमा प्लास्टिकको बढ्दो प्रदूषणको विषयलाई उठाउन सुझाव दिएका छन् ।

कार्यक्रममा वन तथा वातावरणमन्त्री रामसहाय यादवले नेपालमा प्लास्टिकजन्य प्रदूषण बढ्दै गएकोले यसको रोकथाम, न्यूनीकरण एवम् नियन्त्रणका कार्यहरुको कार्यान्वयनका लागि कार्ययोजना तयार पारी स्वीकृतिका लागि मन्त्रिपरिषदमा पठाएको जानकारी गराउनुभयो ।

यस्तै नेपाल विज्ञान तथा प्रविधि प्रज्ञा-प्रतिष्ठानका प्रविधि अन्वेषण शाखा प्रमुख वैज्ञानिक डाक्टर रवीन्द्र ढकालले हिमाली क्षेत्रको प्रदूषणको अध्ययन अनुसन्धान गरी त्यसको कारण पहिल्याउन आवश्यक रहेको बताउनुभयो ।

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