



Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris

March 2020

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Upcoming Events

14-15 May, 2020

Promoting Innovative Models in Reducing & Managing Land Based Debris (Viet Nam)

3rd Senior Officials Mtg

August, 2020

- APEC Ocean & Fisheries Working Group
- APEC Policy Partnership on Science, Technology, and Innovation
- APEC Chemical Dialogue

18-20, December 2020

Global Marine Debris Monitoring Workshop (Indonesia)

Contact Us

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The First APEC Senior Officials' and related meetings were held in Putrajaya, Malaysia February 3 – 22. As mentioned in previous updates, there will be a number of marine debris and waste management related projects and meetings in 2020. A brief recap of the APEC relevant meetings is listed below.

[New APEC Website](#)

We are happy to announce that the newly created APEC Marine Debris website may now be accessed at: www.apec.org/marinedebris. It is hoped that the website will promote information sharing among the various working groups working on marine debris and waste management issues in APEC as well as provide a centralized location for relevant reports and meeting outcome documents. **You can also find this newsletter on the website for review.**

[APEC SOM 1 Recap](#)

APEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) February 20 – 22

Malaysia tabled a paper on “Driving Innovative Sustainability.” The paper is largely consistent with the paper tabled at the Informal Senior Officials Meeting in December and notes that “*through science, technology and innovation, waste produced can be collected and recycled to create new economic opportunities in the form of waste to wealth generation.*” Malaysia intends to advance APEC’s agenda on innovative waste management and circular economy through:

- A Multi-Year Policy Dialogue on Innovative Waste Management, with a specific focus on food waste (August 2020)
- A policy dialogue on the use of science, technology and innovation in circular economy through the Policy Partnership on Science Technology and Innovation (August 2020)
- A stocktake study on waste management methodologies facilitated by technology and circular economy
- A set of recommendations on Innovative Waste Management and Circular Economy in consultation with the food and energy sectors.

The paper also notes the intention to develop an implementation plan for [the APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris](#) which was endorsed during Chile’s host year in 2019.

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- Committee on Trade and Investment
- Policy Partnership on Science, Technology, and Innovation

Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) February 17 – 18

The United States presented on its self-funded proposal for a Sustainable Materials Policy Program, which seeks to address inadequate waste management and marine debris by promoting waste management and recycling. The project intends to focus on:

- (1) supporting environmental regulation,
- (2) survey of existing best practice in legal definitions of recyclable materials,
- (3) international materials quality and processing health and safety standards, and
- (4) enabling policies for recycling infrastructure investments (including Public Private Partnerships).

The proposal is currently in draft form, additional information will be shared when it becomes public.

Policy Partnership on Science Technology and Innovation (PPSTI) February 13 - 14

Malaysia presented on its circular economy roadmap which is based on the key principles of reduce, reuse, recycle, (3Rs) and seeks to create synergies between economic and environmental goals. The roadmap includes inter-ministry collaboration; spreading visionary and practical practices to improve waste management and recycling; applying circular economy on a city scale to create “smart cities”; and strengthening the green finance system to support the circular economy. More information regarding Malaysia’s Circular Economy Roadmap may be found: [here](#)

Malaysia presented on a proposed “extended producer responsibility in circular economy plastic conference.” The proposed 2-day event will include: papers and speakers from APEC economies (Malaysia, Singapore, Korea, Japan, United States and China proposed); plastic producing companies and associations, government, NGOs, and academia and will examine different schemes and success stories in the APEC region. More information on the proposed event may be found: [here](#)

Malaysia presented on its proposed “APEC Sustainable Coastal Cities Symposium” project. This project seeks to address issues related to waste separation, quality of imported plastic waste, and mainstreaming of biofuels and biomaterials. More information on the proposed project may be found: [here](#)

Malaysia shared its approach to financing for green technology and noted some of the policy instruments being used including a variety of de-risking instruments, feed-in tariffs, and tax incentives. More information on Malaysia’s green technology financing scheme 2.0 may be found: [here](#)

Malaysia presented on a multi-year dialogue on innovative waste management which will focus on effective solutions for the conversion of food waste into useful resources. More information on this project may be found: [here](#)

The APEC Center for Technology Foresight also presented on their potential contributions to the circular economy discussion, more information may be found: [here](#)

Chinese Taipei presented on its project to share information among circular economy practitioners and promote the ability of entrepreneurs to turn plastic waste into

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- Subcommittee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC)
- Ocean & Fisheries Working Group

consumer goods. More information on the project may be found: [here](#)

Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) February 9 - 10

Malaysia proposed that the 13th SCSC Conference to be held in August, 2020 in Penang will focus on “Standardization in Circular Economy for a More Sustainable Trade.” The conference is intended to provide a platform for information sharing between economies on standardization-related activities. More information may be found: [here](#)

Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) February 7 – 8

Chinese Taipei presented on their strategies to combatting marine debris including their Marine Debris Governance Platform as well as activities on marine debris monitoring, marine debris removal, data integration, and fishing net recycling programs. More information may be found: [here](#)

The United States presented on a proposed meeting for 2021 to focus on sharing best practices and scientific and technological methods for identification, characterization, risk assessment, and remediation of micro- and nanoplastics in APEC economies, including reducing/recycling/upcycling of plastics to minimize plastic waste and its impacts on the environment. The proposal is currently in draft form, additional information will be shared when it becomes public.

The United States presented on a proposal to engage APEC participants and key global experts to develop a marine debris monitoring decision framework to guide APEC economies to practically undertake marine debris monitoring, based on local conditions, capacity, needs and other issues. A workshop is tentatively planned for March, 2021 in a South East Asia economy. The proposal is currently in draft form, additional information will be shared when it becomes public.

The United States presented on a proposal to build capacity in solid waste management and specifically in collection and separation. A regional workshop is proposed (tentatively planned for February 2021) which will seek to present a framework for developing effective on-the-ground waste collection in small to medium sized cities in Southeast Asia. Specifically, the project will identify appropriate options and technologies, seek to implement a demonstration project in an APEC economy focused on improving collection, and develop a template that municipalities can use to develop their own systems for collection and segregation and disseminate it throughout the APEC economies. The proposal is currently in draft form, additional information will be shared when it becomes public.

China presented on its APEC Workshop on Marine Debris and Microplastics held in Xiamen, China December 3 – 5 2019 which included information sharing sessions on policy, research and technological progress on marine litter and microplastics. More information on project may be found: [here](#)

Vietnam presented on their APEC workshop on “promoting innovative models in reducing and managing land-based debris into the oceans for sustainable development.” A two day workshop will be held 14 – 15 May, 2020 in Da Nang City Viet Nam. The workshop seeks to build the capacity of economies through harnessing new technologies, develop a set of recommendations to improve waste management measures, prevent the entrance of land-based debris into the ocean, and identify areas

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for cooperation and collective action.

More information on the project may be found: [here](#)

Ocean Conservancy provided an update on the Clean Cities and other initiatives including the [Plastics Policy Playbook](#). The Clean Cities initiative seeks to assess waste management needs and plastic waste leakage pathways; examine policy needs and applicable APEC Policy and Practice Recommendations; connect leaders with public and private technical/financial resources; and develop a report and plan with recommendations, including lessons learned that are transferable at the APEC economy and city level. More information may be found: [here](#)

The University of Wollongong presented on the update of the 2009 report to understand the economic benefits and costs of controlling marine debris in the APEC region. The report provides an assessment of the value of the marine economy; the economic impacts of marine debris in APEC; and identifies major urban marine debris “hot spots” that may benefit from targeted control interventions. The report also evaluates the effectiveness of marine litter devices such as river traps and harbor booms, provides a cost-benefit analysis of potential solutions, and provides policy recommendations that may lead to reduction in the amount of litter leaking into the ocean. More information on the report may be found: [here](#)

APEC Marine Debris Implementation Plan

The United States presented on plans to work through the OFWG to develop an implementation plan to carry out the APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris agreed to in 2019. The implementation plan is being developed to provide more specific action, direction, and prioritization for the OFWG, and APEC more broadly, to effectively implement the actions agreed in the Roadmap. The plan will be drafted and finalized intersessionally and submitted at the SOM3 meetings.

Chemical Dialogue (CD) February 5

The Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris presented at both the Chemical Dialogue and the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group. The results from the workshop held in Hong Kong focused on building the infrastructure for a more circular economy were presented. The report from that workshop may be accessed [here](#). Information regarding additional projects and the newly created APEC website were also shared. More information may be found: [here](#)

Chinese Taipei presented on their proposal on information sharing on marine waste clearance which was also presented at the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group Meeting. The proposal seeks to share information on marine waste detection including through the use of new technologies and artificial intelligence. A potential meeting is planned for Q3 of 2021. More information may be found: [here](#)

Malaysia also shared information regarding its aforementioned planned activities in the PPSTI.

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[Marine Debris Sub-fund](#)

The United States presented on plans to create an APEC Support Fund Sub-fund for Marine Debris Management and Innovation (MDMI). The MDMI sub-fund will support capacity building activities to:

- promote the development of solid waste management infrastructure;
- inform the development of policies, regulations and practices to improve waste management and marine debris management;
- promote the development of technical innovations to create value from plastic waste;
- increase access to financing and promote the development of innovative financing mechanisms;
- promote new technologies for reducing the prevalence and environmental impact of marine debris.

Projects seeking funding through the new sub-fund will first be evaluated by the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group. The funds will be available as of the second project funding cycle. More information regarding the sub-fund may be found: [here](#). The eligibility criteria and guidelines for accessing the MDMI sub-fund may be found: [here](#). More information regarding the APEC project proposal process may be found: [here](#)

[Additional Information](#)

If you are interested in additional information, have questions, or would like to be added or removed from the distribution please reach out to Ryan MacFarlane at (rmacfarlane@crowell.com).