WEBINAR III

10th Regional 3R Forum in Asia & the Pacific

Plenary Session: “3R and Circular Economy as the Basis for Moving Towards Zero Plastic Waste in Coastal and Marine Environment (-> SDG 14)”

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Presented By:

Amit Jain
Managing Director,
IRG Systems South Asia Private Limited
Thought Provoking.....
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Population about (4 billion (2017) to 5.08 billion by 2050 (60% of the world’s total population), Urbanization (Urban population from 48% of the region’s population in 2017 to 63% of the total by 2050), Economic growth & Growing purchasing power and the domestic private consumption are the major drivers for Plastic Consumption in Asia & the Pacific
Plastic Value Chain

Leakages from Plastic Value Chain

Major Source

Inadequate Waste Management

Plastic Waste Leakage from Waste Management Activities into Waterways

Uncollected Plastic Waste

- Burning (No Leakage)
- Burying / Dumping (No Leakage)
- Other Treatment (No Leakage)

Wild/Dumping Close to Waterways

- Direct Dumping into Waterways
- Entry Through Drainage System
- Entry Through Waste Water System

Plastic Waste in Waterways

- Retention through Sedimentation
- Retention through Degradation
- Retention through Barriers

Marine Plastic Litter

Direct Beach Littering

Energy Recovery / EOR

Recycling

Transport to Landfill

Disposal at Landfill

Formal Collection

Informal Collection

Plastic Waste Production

Reuse / Recycling at Source

Problem

EFFECT

Cause
Resource Intensity (Asia Pacific)
1. Plastic consumption ranges from 0.13% to 0.75% of material consumption.
2. Importer of fossil fuel, the feedstock for manufacturing plastics.
3. Positive correlation exist between GDP growth rate and plastic consumption in the region.
4. Increasing trends of plastic consumption (Packaging 40 – 50%).

Note: Refer China as PRC.
1. Major drivers like population growth, increasing urbanization, strong economy & growing purchasing power is leading to higher resource intensity (2.9 tones/capita in 1970 to 11.9 tones/capita in 2015) & plastic consumption which is putting pressure (changes in land use, Emissions & Climate Change) on existing finite natural resource base (material resources, fuel consumption) with major plastic production (50% of the world) happening in China, Japan & rest of Asia.

2. Further, countries in the region with eleven major countries, the major generators of plastics waste with poor recycling rates (< 15 %), lack of waste treatment & disposal infrastructure (open dumping) are putting pressure on climate (open burning – GHG emissions) & marine ecosystem in the region.

3. 3R efforts & circular economy offers potential to address the plastic value chain and pressures in the region.

4. Examples of Singapore, China, Japan & India
1. (MSW) for Asia and the Pacific was estimated at around 870 million tonnes in 2014 to 1.4 billion tonnes a year by 2030.

2. An average generation rate of 1.4 kilograms per person per day, accounting for 43% of the world total (2014) to 1.6 kilograms per person per day (2030).

3. The proportion of plastic is around 8–12% across all the countries, to reach 140 million tonnes by 2030.

4. Strong correlation, between per capita waste generation and the income level of a country.

5. Waste collection rates are moderate (40–80%) in developing countries, 100% in more developed economies (Japan, Australia, Republic of Korea and Singapore).

6. About 55 to 74% of the municipal solid waste is disposed off at disposal sites with zero to 26% being incinerated and 1 to 5% composted. Average recycling rates have increased.

7. Globally, around 14%-18% of waste plastics generation is collected for recycling, 24% is thermally treated (e.g. by incineration, gasification or pyrolysis), remainder is disposed off in controlled / uncontrolled landfill, or the natural environment.
3Rs Approach to Achieve Circularity

Ha Noi 3R Declaration which proposed 33 goals and their indicators to monitor the progress of implementation of each goal in Asia and the Pacific region for 2013-2023.

Source: IGES/MoEJ, Japan
1. Further, countries in the region with eleven major countries, the major generators of plastics waste with poor recycling rates (< 15 %), lack of waste treatment & disposal infrastructure (open dumping) are putting pressure on climate (open burning – GHG emissions) & marine ecosystem in the region.

2. Progress achieved in implementing 3R efforts (Policy, Regulation, Treatment & Disposal Options) in Asia & the Pacific region is addressing the pollution due to plastic waste in the region.

( Need updates on baseline data on MSW & plastic waste specifically in reference to point number 2)
Impacts

Terrestrial Ecosystem
(Air, soil, land, Ground/Surface Water, Aquatic, Flora, Fauna)

Marine Ecosystem

Journey of Plastics
242,000 km of coastline

Climate Change & GHG Emissions

Ecosystem Services, Natural Resources, Health, & Socio-Economic Impacts
Figure 4.7: Estimated GHG Emissions and Energy Consumption during Plastic Production, Relative Energy Intensity of Virgin and Recycled Plastics Production and Climate Change Impacts of Different End-of-Life Options vs Recycling for Plastics

1. Though impact of plastic pollution on air, water, soil, freshwater, health, aquatic & marine ecosystem & climate change is well recognized in the region, its quantification with respect to baseline is required at city, national and regional level to identify interventions related to technologies & mitigation and management strategies.

2. Further, in view of the significant income differences (coastal Vs. mainland) population, socio-economic impacts need to be assessed and addressed in the region. e.g. Coastal tourism a subset of cultural services in the natural capital is also affected as tourists seek to avoid beaches known to have high concentrations of plastics litter. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum estimates that the cost of ocean plastics to the tourism, fishing and shipping industries is US$ 1.3 billion in the region alone.
Summary
1. Regulations on SWM in the region
2. Ban & restrictions on plastic bags & single use plastic
3. Market Based Instruments for Regulating Plastic Bags & single use plastic
4. Market based instruments on return, collection, recycling and disposal of plastic bags & single use plastic
5. Ban & restrictions on Microbeads
6. Voluntary initiatives on Microbeads

Key Take Away
1. Formulation of regulations to address plastic waste across all the countries in the region is the priority
2. Implementation of regulation with close coordination of institutions and major stakeholders including private sector will address the major issue of plastic waste
Way Forward

Drivers:
1. Increasing population
2. Urbanization
3. Economic growth

Impacts:
- Impacts on terrestrial ecosystem
- Impacts on aquatic & marine ecosystem
- Health & socio-economic impacts
- Natural capital & ecosystem services
- Climate change

Pressures:
- Use of material resources
- Land use & land quality changes
- Climate change

State:
- State of air, soil, aquatic and marine ecosystem due to plastic consumption & waste generation

Responses:
- Policies, Regulations, Institutional
- Aspects related to plastic waste
Major Challenges/ Enablers / Way Forward

1. Policy & Regulatory (Linear Vs. Circularity, 3Rs, Coverage, Type of intervention e.g. ban on items such as single use, ban from landfill, statutory targets for recycling rate, EPR etc.)
2. Economic instrument e.g. resource tax,
3. Technology (Recycling Vs. WtE, Waste plastic sorting, technology for recycling mixed plastics, Thermosets, Alternate materials)
4. Knowledgebase, Data & Information (Baseline data across region; Impacts assessments across terrestrial, aquatic, marine ecosystem, health & socio economics; Human resources/experts; Indicator monitoring; Capacity building; Sharing of best practices)
5. Voluntary measures (Industry led market transforming interventions/ projects, better labeling and declarations on packaging, sustainability reporting SDG 12, 14)
Plastic Economy to Circular Economy & SDG (14)

SDG Target 14.1 is one of the most important and aims “By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution”.

From Current Plastic Economy  Circular Economy

From Current Plastic Economy  Circular Economy

From Current Plastic Economy  Circular Economy
THANK YOU!

amit@irgsssa.com / amit@irgindia.com