

Workshop Brief: Implementing Basel Conventions on amendments for enhanced control of plastic waste movements in Pakistan

August 02, 2023: Karachi, Pakistan



COMSATS University Islamabad along with its collaborative partners Engro Foundation and KSBL Circular Plastics Institute (CPI) has recently organized a workshop on August 2, 2023 at KSBL, Karachi entitled “Implementing Basel Conventions on Amendments for Enhanced Control of Plastic Waste Movements in Pakistan”. This collaborative effort was supported from the Asia Pacific Network on Global Change Research (APN) and Engro Foundation, Pakistan under the banner of ongoing initiative, “*Value Chain Mapping and Capacity Building of Pakistani Government Stakeholders to Implement Basel Convention’s Amendments for Enhanced Control of Transboundary Plastic Waste Movements*” as an inaugural technical training.

The workshop was graced by distinguished speakers who elucidated crucial aspects of the Basel Convention’s amendments and their implications on plastic waste trade. Dr. Jabir Syed, Project Lead has welcomed the participants and briefed them about the progress and main objectives of the project. Jim Puckett, executive Director Basel Action Network, a prominent figure in this domain, delivered an insightful discourse on the key amendment points, shedding light on the significance of researching and recommending policies. His presentation underscored the criticality of mapping hazardous additives, both locally manufactured and traded products. Another noteworthy contributor, Nancy Isarin, Waste Crime and Corruption Expert presented an illuminating overview of the trade process and legislative ramifications associated with Basel Amendments, particularly in the contexts of mixed, municipal, and post-industrial waste trading.

Imran Sabir, Director of Natural Resources at the EPA Sindh Province, delivered a compelling address, accentuating the imperative for input/output inventories and enhanced coordination among various governmental bodies. He highlighted that a unilateral approach, lacking stakeholder

confidence, could inadvertently lead to increased pollution, fuel illegal operations, and hinder progress. Shiza Aslam, serving as the project's Research Fellow, delved into a comprehensive analysis. She presented the national metabolism of PVC for the years 2007-2021, aligned with PVC product profiles and sector-specific utility. Her insightful presentation not only highlighted methodological intricacies in quantification but also underscored their far-reaching implications across the plastic value chain. Moreover, Shiza emphasized the strategic importance of secondary resource availability in the market and delineated methodologies for setting recycled or product circularity thresholds, while also acknowledging inherent limitations.

An integral aspect of the workshop was the insightful contributions made by experts and participants. Their critical research findings and policy recommendations, stemming from dynamic discussions, promise to augment our collective knowledge base. Also present at the occasion were Prof. Dr. Shams ul Qamar (Head ORIC, COMSATS University Islamabad), Favad Soomro (Head, Engro Foundation) and Aijaz Haq (Head of Growth and Industry Linkages) who expressed their gratitude to the stakeholders for playing their role for this collective cause. Dr. Ahmad Junaid (Rector & Dean, KSBL) shared how KSBL is committed to playing our role is establishing an ecosystem for circular economy in Pakistan. Talking about this collaborative effort, worthy speakers shared how it aims to reduce the environmental impact of manufacturing, reprocessing, and plastic use and ensuring adequate end-of-life management of plastic through collaboration, research, and implementation.

In the coming weeks, the project team anticipates sharing the comprehensive proceedings and recommendations emanating from this session. These insights not only advance our project's objectives but also stand as a testament to our commitment to fostering a sustainable circular economy in Pakistan. Our collaborative efforts, supported by esteemed partners, continue to pave the way for effective plastic waste management and transboundary control.

Gallery



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*Value chain mapping and capacity building of Pakistani government stakeholders
to implement Basel Convention's amendments to enhance control of the
transboundary movements of plastic waste.*

