

International Workshop on 'Combating Plastic Pollution in Terrestrial Environment' during March 14-15, 2023

With mounting evidences that plastic waste is rising and the accumulation of plastics in our natural environment is getting worse, the plastic pollution dilemma has recently taken centre stage in the discussions of global policy. As a result, presently more attempts are being made to identify the international frameworks and initiatives that could aid not just in containing this crisis but also in repairing some of the damages caused.

The United Nations (UN) has committed to reduce the amount of plastic that is released into the environment through a number of projects that focus on micro plastics, marine litter and singleuse plastic pollution. A number of Sustainable Development Goals address the issue of plastics because it aims to conserve and sustainably use marine resources for sustainable development. UN stated that to beat plastic pollution, we need to entirely rethink our approach in designing, producing and using plastic products. Therefore, a deeper knowledge of the processes causing the environmental release of plastic in the terrestrial environment is necessary to address the problems of global plastic contamination.

In this context, the Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre), New Delhi, India, in partnership with the JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research (JSS AHER), Mysuru, Karnataka, India and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), Amstelveen, the Netherlands organized an **International Workshop on 'Combating Plastic Pollution in Terrestrial Environment' during March 14-15, 2023**. The Workshop was hosted by JSS AHER at Mysuru, India.

The primary objective of this workshop was to identify the important plastic waste release mechanisms that significantly contaminate the soil, atmosphere and freshwater ecosystems and to share experiences and best practices on effective terrestrial plastic waste management. This workshop also covered a number of issues including origins, dynamics, dangers and viable remedies for reducing the release of plastic wastes into the terrestrial ecosystem.

The two-day program was organized in different technical sessions to share knowledge and best practices adopted by various NAM and other developing countries to develop synergy, exchange knowledge and ideas on plastic pollution and provide solutions to combat the same with a broader perspective with special focus to the developing countries. The Workshop aimed to bring together experts, policy makers, and city level authorities from municipalities, State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committee, Department of Environment, Department of Urban Development, research and academic organizations from the NAM and other developing countries to combat plastic pollution in terrestrial environment. The Workshop was attended by 150 scientists, researchers, academicians, policy makers and other professionals from 10 countries namely; Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Norway, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the host country India.