



Quarterly E-bulletin

January - March 2024



Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO

Refuse Single-Use Week 2024: A Pioneering Observation Towards Sustainable Living



During Refuse Single-use Week, the Environment and Social Development Organization – ESDO, in partnership with GAIA organized a transformative event on 9 and 10 January 2024 called “Youth Empowerment Camp for Sustainable Future” to educate and empower sixty selected students in Dhaka and sixty selected students in Rangpur.

The camp included interactive workshops where participants actively engaged in practical activities to refuse single-use plastic to enhance the learning experience. To foster environmental sustainability and a sense of responsibility, these practical activities included community clean-up efforts and involvement in refuse programs.

[Read more](#)



ESDO's Youth Empowerment Initiative: Building a Plastic-Free Campus Model

In a remarkable stride towards environmental sustainability, the Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO has embarked on a transformative journey on 16 January 2024 to create a plastic-free campus model. ESDO, in collaboration with Lalmatia Govt. Girls High School and College, actively engaged students in spreading awareness about single-use plastic reduction. Recognizing the pivotal role of the youth in shaping a sustainable future, students became ambassadors of change within their campus and beyond. They passionately encouraged their peers to embrace sustainable practices through various initiatives.

[Read more](#)



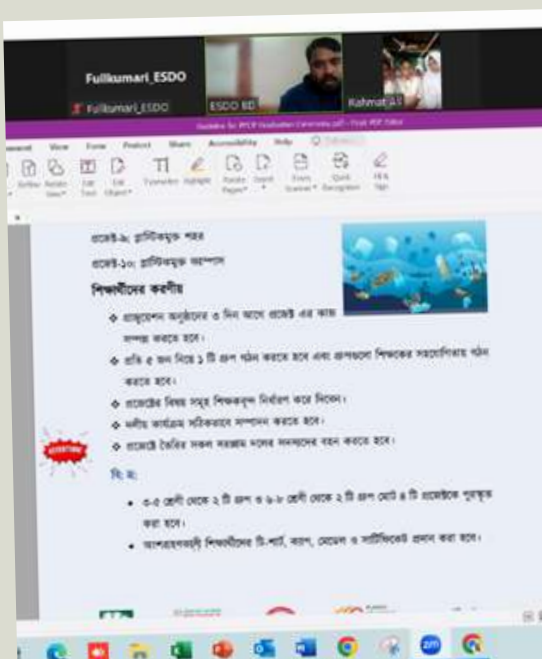
Zero Waste Village Initiative: ESDO and GAIA's Documentary Showcase and Workshop on Combatting Plastic Pollution

The collaboration between Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) and GAIA to organize the “Documentary Showcasing on ESDO’s Initiative of Zero Waste Village (ZWV)” is a commendable effort in promoting sustainable living and addressing environmental issues. The event, held on 15th January as part of the observance of International Zero Waste Month (IZWM), had a primary focus on educating and engaging the community, particularly the youth of Tushvandar, Lalmonirhat in the Rangpur Division.

[Read more](#)



PFCP Graduation follow-up meeting



The Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO conducted a crucial follow-up meeting on January 25, 2024, to evaluate the progress of the Plastic-Free Campus Project Graduation at Rajshahi Alor Pathshala. The primary objectives were to assess the outcomes achieved, delve into the challenges encountered during implementation, and strategically plan for future sustainability initiatives.

During the meeting, participants reflected on the successful completion of the Plastic-Free Campus Project Graduation at Rajshahi Alor Pathshala. The efforts made during the Plastic-Free Campus Project Graduation led to heightened awareness among students. Recognizing the importance of continuous awareness, future sustainability initiatives will focus on implementing comprehensive educational campaigns to instigate lasting behavioral change.

Youth Campaign to Create awareness on Reduce Plastic Pollution



In a remarkable initiative led by the Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO, the youth of Lalmatia Girls' High School and College are taking charge in the battle against plastic pollution. On February 10, 2024, these enthusiastic students actively engaged in a youth-led campaign, aiming to foster awareness and instigate positive change within their community. This campaign focuses on crucial objectives: raising awareness about the harmful impacts of plastic pollution, instilling a sense of responsibility and sustainable practices among the youth, and encouraging the community to reduce single-use plastic consumption.

[Read more](#)

Rangpur Government Girls High School Leads the Way with Plastic-Free Initiatives

Rangpur Government Girls High School continues its commendable journey towards a plastic-free campus, spearheading impactful initiatives to reduce single-use plastic consumption. Embracing eco-friendly alternatives, the school has implemented a range of measures to minimize plastic waste. Students and faculty alike are encouraged to eschew single-use plastics, opting instead for sustainable alternatives. Through engaging posters, informative infographics, and interactive sessions, awareness is continually raised among the student body, instilling a sense of responsibility towards environmental conservation.



ESDO Celebrates Refuse Single Use Day at Rangpur Government Girls High School

ESDO took the lead in commemorating Refuse Single Use Day at Rangpur Government Girls High School, coinciding with the kickoff of International Zero Waste Month 2024 by GAIA.

Aligned with GAIA's global initiative, ESDO and Rangpur Government Girls High School collaboratively strongly echoed the call to action, stressing the critical importance of rejecting single-use plastics for the health of our planet and all its inhabitants.

Recognizing the power of collective efforts, ESDO encouraged active participation from everyone, highlighting the significant role each individual plays in effecting positive change.



Meeting on ESDO's Zero Draft Comments

On March 16, 2024, ESDO hosted a pivotal meeting with Dr. Abdullah Al Mamun, Deputy Director of the Department of Environment (DoE), and Mohammad Abdul Wadud Chowdhury, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Climate Change (MoEFCC). The focus was on ESDO's feedback regarding the Zero Draft of the Global Plastic Treaty. ESDO's Secretary General, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, and Executive Director Siddika Sultana, and Program Associate Shanon Iffat Alam provided insights on the zero draft and analyzed it along with the government representatives. The meeting addressed concerns about the expanded and unwieldy draft text, emphasizing the need for prioritized discussions during INC-4.



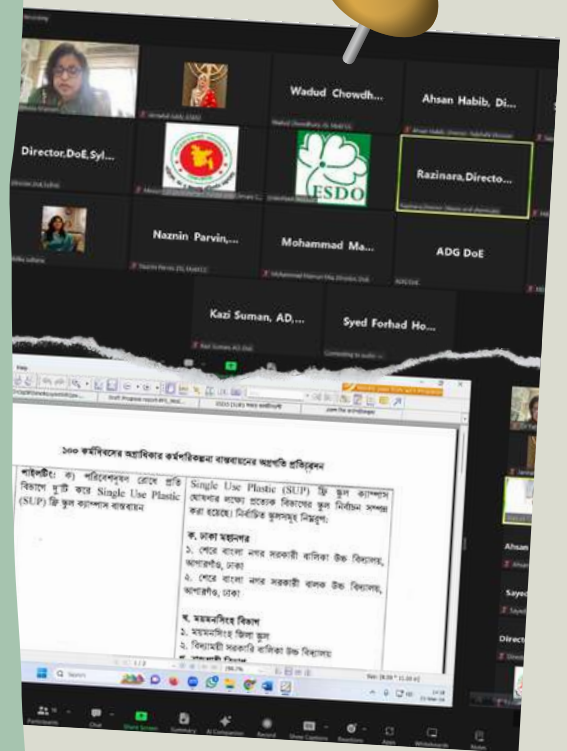
Meeting with Ministry to Combat Single-use Plastic Pollution

On March 21, 2024, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change initiated a key project under its 100-day priorities program, focusing on reducing plastic pollution and conserving the environment and biodiversity. A significant meeting was held at the Department of Environment in Agargaon, Dhaka, with active participation from stakeholders including ESDO, BELA, Plastic Association, and other environmental departments. The meeting aimed to compile a comprehensive list of single-use plastics. ESDO's presentation of a detailed inventory of 40 single-use plastic sources played a crucial role in facilitating discussions. Stakeholders deliberated extensively on the environmental and biodiversity implications of single-use plastics.



MoEFCC 100-Day Initiative with ESDO to Implement Plastic-Free Campus

On March 25, 2024, a pivotal online meeting was convened as part of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change's (MoEFCC) 100 Working days initiative. Led by Additional Secretary Dr. Fahmida Khanom, the meeting aimed to strategize the implementation of the "Plastic-Free Campus" initiative to combat environmental pollution. Participants included representatives from ESDO, the Department of Environment, and stakeholders in education and environmental conservation. ESDO provided an update on their ongoing efforts to implement the initiative across 10 schools in 5 divisions, highlighting strategies and impact. The MoEFCC stressed the need to expand activities to 3 additional divisions and 6 schools by June 15th to enhance effectiveness. Suggestions for selecting new schools in Chattogram, Mymensingh, and Barisal divisions were discussed, with the MoEFCC finalizing the list for collaboration.



Discussion on the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC4) Zero Draft Submission with DoE

The meeting convened on March 31, 2024, at the Department of Environment (DoE) to deliberate on the Zero Draft Submission for the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC4) and to outline Bangladesh's perspectives and contributions to the upcoming treaty. Representatives from ESDO, DoE, Progga, and Waste Peaker Organization participated in the discussion. Participants exchanged views on the proposed preamble, definitions, objectives, and scope outlined in the Zero Draft, emphasizing the need for strong language that underscores the urgency of addressing environmental challenges. Suggestions were made to highlight the interconnectedness of environmental issues and their impacts on human well-being. The meeting dedicated significant time to discuss Bangladesh's priorities and contributions to the upcoming INC-4 treaty.



Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP) Forum on Extended Producer Responsibility: Plastic Wastes in Packaging Webinar

On February 26, 2024, the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP) Forum conducted a webinar focused on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) with a specific emphasis on plastic waste in packaging. This event, a part of the PWP series, aimed to delve into the various facets of establishing and implementing EPR schemes, particularly those impacting plastic waste management in crucial sectors. The session provided insights into the environmentally sound collection, logistics, and processing of plastic waste. Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of the Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO, served as the moderator for the session.

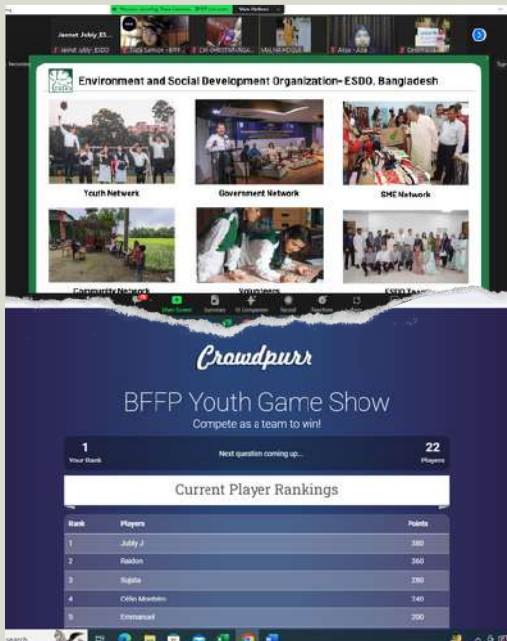


Plastic, Polythene and Dangerous Chemical Waste Affairs Committee Meeting

On March 9, 2024, Khalilur Rahman, Assistant Program Officer of ESDO participated in a crucial session of the Dangerous Chemical Waste Affairs Committee Meeting, joined by various stakeholders. The meeting commenced with an overview of the current state of hazardous chemical waste management, highlighting alarming statistics regarding its adverse effects on ecosystems and human well-being. Stakeholders from various sectors, including government bodies, industries, environmental organizations, and community representatives, actively participated in the discussions.



BFFP-Youth Ambassador : Showcase ESDO's Activity



The BFFP-Youth Ambassador Session, held on January 23, 2024, focused on showcasing the activities of the Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO and other organizations involved in addressing plastic production and pollution. During the session, ESDO representatives Maliha Hoque and Jannatul Ferdous Jubly presented their ongoing work in anti-polythene campaigns, highlighting the adverse effects of chemicals and heavy metal pollution. Jannatul Ferdous Jubly's outstanding participation in various activities was acknowledged during the session, as she emerged as the top performer among youth representatives from different countries.