



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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Website: <https://www.denr.gov.ph> E-mail: osec@denr.gov.ph

**VERY URGENT
MEMORANDUM**

TO : **The Assistant Secretary**
Field Operations - Luzon and Visayas and Director,
Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in concurrent
capacity

The Assistant Secretary
Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects and
Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) in concurrent
capacity

The Directors
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Climate Change Service

FROM : **The Undersecretary**
Policy, Planning and International Affairs

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO THE PRE-INC2 ASIA ONLINE
REGIONAL FORUM ON THE BENEFITS OF THE
PLASTIC POLLUTION TREATY, SPECIFICALLY ON
THE POTENTIAL PROVISIONS ON HIGH-RISK PLASTIC
PRODUCT CATEGORIES, CIRCULARITY, AND
FINANCING MECHANISMS**

DATE : **MAY 08 2023**

May we refer the herein electronic mail dated 04 May 2023 from Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) relative to the above-mentioned subject to be held on **10 May 2023, 2:00PM via Zoom**.

In this regard, may we request your Office, particularly the nominated participants to the INC-2, to attend the online forum. Please confirm your attendance via email at acruzada@pemsea.org **before 09 May 2023**. Attached for your reference is the concept note and agenda on the event. Kindly inform this Office of your actions taken thereon and submit an after-activity report with respect to your participation.

For your information and appropriate action, please.


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES



Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs <ouppia@denr.gov.ph>

Fwd: [INVITATION] Pre-INC 2 Asia online Regional Forum on Benefits of the plastic pollution Treaty

Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs <ouppia@denr.gov.ph>

Mon, May 8, 2023 at 4:12 PM

To: Office of the Director <od@emb.gov.ph>, recordsco <recordsco@emb.gov.ph>, Gilbert Gonzales <asecfosl.denr@yahoo.com>, "Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects" <asec.planfasp@denr.gov.ph>, BMB Director <director@bmb.gov.ph>, <bmb@bmb.gov.ph>, Biodiversity Management Bureau <bmb@denr.gov.ph>, ODIR ERDB <odir.erdb@gmail.com>, ERDB RECORDS <erdbrecords@gmail.com>, Climate Change Service <ccs@denr.gov.ph>, Climate Change Service <ccs.denr@gmail.com>, Climate Change Service <climatechangeoffice@denr.gov.ph>

Dear Maam/Sir,

Please see the attached memorandum signed by Usec. Jonas R. Leones.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

Thank you

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Abigail Cruzada** <acruzada@pemsea.org>

Date: Thu, May 4, 2023 at 10:02 AM

Subject: Fwd: [INVITATION] Pre-INC 2 Asia online Regional Forum on Benefits of the plastic pollution Treaty

To: Dr. VANN Monyneath (Mr.) CAMBODIA <monyneath0777@gmail.com>, H.E. Thay Chantha <thaychantha@yahoo.com>, Mr. Roath Sith <roathsith@gmail.com>, Prak Amida <amidaau@gmail.com>, Ms. KY Channimol <kychannimol@gmail.com>, Mr. SOK Seyla <seylasok@gmail.com>, Atty. Jonas LEONES (Mr.) PHILIPPINES <ouppia@denr.gov.ph>, Ms. Loreta "Lorie" BASILIO <loretabasilio@yahoo.com>, Ms. Abegail Rivera <abegailrvra@gmail.com>, Ms. Xu Heyun <heyunxu@sina.com>, Ms. Yu Xinwei <yuxinwei08@126.com>, Mr. Li Yangyang <guojis2020@163.com>, Dr. Zhang Zhaohui <zhang@fio.org.cn>, Dr. Wang Shouqiang <wangshouqiang@fio.org.cn>, Ms. Zhu Xiaotong <zhuxtshirley@163.com>, China PEMSEA Center (CPC) <pemsea@126.com>, Mr. Le Dai THANG VIETNAM <ldthang@monre.gov.vn>, Mr. Le Dai THANG VIETNAM <ldthang@gmail.com>, Dr. Nguyen My Hang <nguyenmyhang255@gmail.com>, Ms. Nguyen Dieu Linh <vnnguyendieulinh@gmail.com>, Dr. Keita FURUKAWA (Mr.) JAPAN <keita@meic.jp>, Dr. Suk-Jae KWON <sjkwon@kiost.ac.kr>

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2 attachments

Asia pre-INC2 May 10, 2023 zoom forum.31.topics.sig.02.pdf
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OUPPIA-2023-001351 Abi Cruzada Online Regional Forum on the benefits of the plastic pollution treaty, specifically on the potential provisions on high-risk on 10 May 2023.pdf
559K



Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs <ouppia@denr.gov.ph>

Fwd: [INVITATION] Pre-INC 2 Asia online Regional Forum on Benefits of the plastic pollution Treaty

Abigail Cruzada <acruzada@pemsea.org>

Thu, May 4, 2023 at 10:02 AM

To: "Dr. VANN Monyneath (Mr.) CAMBODIA" <monyneath0777@gmail.com>, "H.E. Thay Chantha" <thaychantha@yahoo.com>, "Mr. Roath Sith" <roathsith@gmail.com>, Prak Amida <amidaau@gmail.com>, "Ms. KY Channimol" <kychannimol@gmail.com>, "Mr. SOK Seyla" <seylasok@gmail.com>, "Atty. Jonas LEONES (Mr.) PHILIPPINES" <ouppia@denr.gov.ph>, "Ms. Loreta "Lorie" BASILIO" <loretabasilio@yahoo.com>, "Ms. Abegail Rivera" <abegailrvra@gmail.com>, "Ms. Xu Heyun" <heyunxu@sina.com>, "Ms. Yu Xinwei" <yuxinwei08@126.com>, "Mr. Li Yangyang" <guojisi2020@163.com>, "Dr. Zhang Zhaohui" <zhang@fio.org.cn>, "Dr. Wang Shouqiang" <wangshouqiang@fio.org.cn>, "Ms. Zhu Xiaotong" <zhuxtshirley@163.com>, "China PEMSEA Center (CPC)" <pemsea@126.com>, "Mr. Le Dai THANG VIETNAM" <ldthang@monre.gov.vn>, "Mr. Le Dai THANG VIETNAM" <ldtthang@gmail.com>, "Dr. Nguyen My Hang" <nguyenmyhang255@gmail.com>, "Ms. Nguyen Dieu Linh" <vnnguyendieulinh@gmail.com>, "Dr. Keita FURUKAWA (Mr.) JAPAN" <keita@meic.jp>, "Dr. Suk-Jae KWON" <sjkwon@kiost.ac.kr>

Dear Members of the East Asia Seas Partnership Council.

Greetings from the PEMSEA Resource Facility!

On behalf of our co-organizers, WWF and COBSEA, we are pleased to invite you to our upcoming online regional forum on the **benefits of the plastic pollution treaty, specifically on the potential provisions on high-risk plastic product categories, circularity, and financing mechanisms**. The forum will be held on **10 May 2023 (Wednesday) from 2pm to 4pm GMT+08 via Zoom**.

The objective of this pre-INC2 Asia online regional forum is to provide the latest developments on key topics to support member States, especially in Asia, in their preparations for constructive and meaningful outcomes at the second session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC2).

The event is designed to be an interactive platform that will feature experts and speakers who will share their experiences and perspectives on the key topics. By participating in the forum, you will have the opportunity to learn more about the plastic pollution treaty and the importance of its provisions in addressing the plastic pollution crisis in our oceans and beyond.

We kindly request your positive acceptance of our invitation to this forum. We also kindly request that you extend this invitation to your other colleagues who may be interested in participating. You may refer to the concept note and agenda attached for more information on the event.

Please confirm your attendance via email, and we will send you the zoom ID with password, as well as a calendar invite for your reference.

Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to your participation in this important event.

Sincerely,

Abi Cruzada

Secretariat Coordinator

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

Mobile/Whatsapp/Telegram: +639189400106

Email:acruzada@pemsea.org



 **Asia pre-INC2 May 10, 2023 zoom forum.31.topics.sig.02.pdf**
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COBSEA



Benefits of the plastic pollution treaty: potential provisions on high-risk plastic product categories, circularity, and financing mechanism

a pre-INC2 Asia online regional forum
May 10, 2023 (Wednesday) from 2pm to 4pm GMT+08 via Zoom

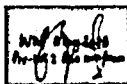
WWF,¹ together with COBSEA² and PEMSEA,³ is pleased to share the attached agenda/ updated details regarding the May 10, 2023 (Wednesday 2pm-4pm GMT+08) Asia pre-INC2 zoom forum.

This zoom forum aims to provide latest developments on key topics to support member States especially in Asia their preparations for constructive and meaningful outcomes at the second session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC2) to be held in-person at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris from May 29, 2023 to June 02, 2023 towards potentially a zero draft before INC3 in November 2023.

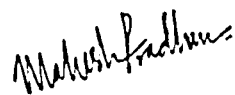
We would appreciate your positive acceptance of our invitation. We request that you kindly honor us with your confirmation via email so that we could send to you the zoom ID with password as well as a calendar invite for your convenient reference.

Please feel free to reach us via mmercado@wwf.org.ph or WhatsApp +639163324527. Thank you.

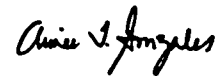
Respectfully yours,



Marilyn Quizon-Mercado
WWF Regional Plastic Policy
Coordinator for Asia



Mahesh Pradhan
COBSEA Coordinator



Aimee Gonzales
PEMSEA Executive Director

¹ World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) is an independent conservation organization founded in 1961, active in nearly 100 countries, with 5+ million supporters, and with the mission to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

² The Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) is a regional intergovernmental mechanism bringing together nine countries (Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Viet Nam) in development and protection of the marine environment and coastal areas of East Asian Seas. COBSEA is one of 18 Regional Seas programmes. The Secretariat is hosted by Thailand and administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). <https://www.unep.org/cobsea/#:~:text=The%20Coordinating%20Body%20on%20the%20of%20the%20marine%20environment%20and>

³ Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) is an intergovernmental organization operating in East Asia to foster and sustain healthy and resilient oceans, coasts, communities and economies across the region. For over two decades, its Country Partners work together, planning and implementing strategies for the sustainable development of coasts and oceans across the region, i.e. Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam. <https://www.pemsea.org/>

Benefits of the plastic pollution treaty: potential provisions on high-risk plastic product categories, circularity, and financing mechanisms

a pre-INC2 Asia online regional forum

May 10, 2023 (Wednesday) from 2pm to 4pm GMT+08 via Zoom

EVENT NOTE/ AGENDA*

Background

On March 2, 2022, during the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), member States including from the Asian region adopted UNEA resolution (5/14) entitled End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument to develop an international legally binding instrument.⁵ The resolution provided, among others, that the plastic pollution treaty “promote sustainable production and consumption of plastics through, among other things, product design and environmentally sound waste management, including through resource efficiency and circular economy approaches”. It is therefore beneficial to explore that “[a]s a consumption and production powerhouse, Asia has the potential to showcase the circular economy at scale. Asia accounts for around 60% of the world’s population, and Asian countries have become global manufacturing hubs.”⁶

This Asia online regional forum via zoom is organized by WWF, together with COBSEA and PEMSEA, to provide an opportunity for productive discussions among Asian member States in preparation for substantial outcomes at the second session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC2) to be held in-person at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris from May 29, 2023 to June 02, 2023 towards potentially a zero draft before INC3 in November 2023. This will continue the momentum from the historic gains achieved at UNEA 5.2, the ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG), and INC1. The forum is an unofficial online event that is not directly associated with INC proceedings. It aims to provide information and a space for dialogue to countries in the region for informed discussions at global level without anticipating outcomes of negotiations, noting that the INC is a country-driven process.

Together, governments can deliver impacts at speed and scale to eliminate the threat of plastic pollution with the new treaty as plastic pollution is already affecting 90% of marine species, limiting the ocean’s carbon absorption capacity, and infiltrating the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat and even our bodies. If no action is taken, the annual flow of plastic into the ocean is projected to triple by 2040. In the ongoing years of negotiation from 2022 to 2024, the total amount of plastic pollution in the ocean is estimated to increase by 15% (~35 million metric tons).⁷

Pre-INC2 Regional Forum, Objectives & Methodology

The objective of this forum is to provide latest developments on key topics that could help advance discussions towards common treaty elements that can be put forward during the INC2 meeting and thereby achieve constructive and meaningful outcomes. The forum will have short online presentations on topics that are very relevant for the Asia region. Topics include potential options for objectives, substantive provisions, including core obligations, control measures, implementation measures and means of implementation of the instrument. There will be open forum sessions in between the short presentations to allow government representatives to explore, expound, and clarify on the benefits, challenges, and opportunities of potential treaty provisions for the Asia region and for their respective countries that will thereby facilitate preparation for INC2.

The forum will allow exchange among the participants over the online zoom platform with possible use of online tools to facilitate discussions. The forum will be conducted in English.

* This event note/ agenda may evolve based on updates from speakers and subsequent events, among others.

⁵ <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/historic-day-campaign-beat-plastic-pollution-nations-commit-develop>

⁶ <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/regions/asia>

⁷ https://wwfint.awsassets.nanda.org/downloads/wwf_brief_approach_priorities_and_measures_for_an_effective_treaty_inc1_v2_1.pdf; citing I PEW and SYSTEMIQ, ‘Breaking the Plastic Wave’ (2020) and II Forecast extrapolated from Geyer et al., ‘Production, use and fate of all plastics ever made’ (2017)

Benefits of the plastic pollution treaty: potential provisions on high-risk plastic product categories, circularity, and financing mechanisms

a pre-INC2 Asia online regional forum

May 10, 2023 (Wednesday) from 2pm to 4pm GMT+08 via Zoom

Agenda ^a	Time (approx.)
Welcome/ Introductions/ Brief Messages from the Organizers	2pm-2:10pm GMT+08
Presentation 1. Asia: a potential circular economy powerhouse and why the plastic pollution treaty is beneficial Ellen MacArthur Foundation	2:10pm-2:25pm GMT+08
Presentation 2. Breaking down and regulating high-risk plastic products Eunomia Research & Consulting	2:25pm-2:40pm GMT+08
Open Forum/ Discussion Discussion Moderators: COBSEA/ WWF	2:40pm-3pm GMT+08
Presentation 3. How polymer producers can be trailblazers in ending the plastic pollution crisis: transitioning towards circularity across operations Minderoo Foundation	3pm-3:15pm GMT+08
Presentation 4. Finance Leadership Group on Plastics: inputs to the INC on the desired outcomes for banks, insurers and investors and building readiness in the finance sector to act on plastic pollution through awareness raising, capacity building, and target-setting support United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Finance Initiative	3:15pm-3:30pm GMT+08
Open Forum/ Discussion Discussion Moderators: PEMSEA/ WWF	3:30pm-3:50pm GMT+08
Closing	3:50pm-3:55pm GMT+08

^a This event note/ agenda may evolve based on updates from speakers and subsequent events, among others.