Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris Update

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris
APEC Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris

25th APEC Chemical Dialogue
November 5, 2020
VWG on Marine Debris Background

• Formed in 2014 by the APEC Chemical Dialogue and Ocean and Fisheries Working Group

• Co-chaired by the United States (Government) and the Philippines (Industry)

• Group involves public and private sectors and focuses on innovative solutions to land-based waste management

• Estimated that 80 percent of marine debris originates on land with over half the material coming from five rapidly developing Asia-Pacific economies
Policy and Practice Recommendations

• Setting waste management targets
• Developing waste management performance indicators
• Addressing definitional barriers to trade and investment in sustainable materials management solutions
• Concentrating the majority of solid waste responsibilities within a single government department or agency
• Development of incentive policies
• Working with the informal labor force
• Establishing strong environmental standards
APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris

The Roadmap encourages economies to:

• Build upon the APEC Policy and Practice Recommendation for Overcoming Barriers to Financing Waste Management Systems and Reducing Marine Debris;

• Promote sustainable waste management, and reduction and prevention of leakage of waste from land- and sea-based sources, at all levels of government;

• Consider cross-fora collaboration on harmonization of macro and micro plastics monitoring methodologies;

• Encourage research on environmentally sustainable waste disposal and management.
The Roadmap encourage economies to:

- Encourage and facilitate Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to increase investments, productive partnership arrangements and outputs;

- Consider applying circular economy or sustainable materials management approaches to strengthen end-markets for plastic wastes and drive sustainable waste management;

- Explore opportunities for de-risking innovations and technologies to enhance access to international financing.
APEC Marine Debris Sub-Fund

The APEC Sub-Fund for Marine Debris Management and Innovation (MDMI) supports capacity building efforts to:

• Promote the development of solid waste management infrastructure;

• Inform the development of policies, regulations and practices to improve waste management and marine debris management;

• Promote the development of technical innovations to create value from plastic waste;

• Increase access to financing and promote the development of innovative financing mechanisms;

• Promote new technologies for reducing the prevalence and environmental impact of marine debris.
APEC Webinar on Innovative Funding Models

Key Takeaways:
• Solutions sets exist; there are serious financing challenges that need policy and financing to solve;
• No single solution will work everywhere; influenced by factors of geography, scale, culture;
• Innovative financial instruments emerging that provide access to public and private finance;
• Investment must scale-up now to solve the challenge and avoid future costs of inaction.
APEC Webinar on Innovative Technologies

Key Takeaways:
• Also need technical assistance in addition to financing;
• Need to support municipalities and local infrastructure;
• Incubation networks can be used to support a range of companies and innovators;
• Innovations in behavior change can also yield significant results.

Webinar Series Overall:
• 19 APEC economies
• 566 total registered
• 370 total attendees
Marine Debris Website
Marine Debris Website

The VWGMD website includes the following information:

- **About Us** – Overview of the VWGMD and major milestones
- **Events** – Past and future events related to VWGMD
- **News** – APEC news related to marine debris actions/projects/events
- **Projects** – Information regarding ongoing marine debris projects
- **Resources** – APEC documents/tools, outside studies, government initiatives
Recyclable Materials Policy Program

Project within the Committee on Trade and Investment

- **Supporting environmental regulation** and the identification of sound environmental practices and technology;
- **Survey of existing practices** in identifying and processing waste and recyclable materials;
- **Materials quality and health and safety standards** to enable safe and functional secondary materials markets;
- **Enabling policies for recycling infrastructure investments**, e.g. well articulated investment rules including those for public private partnerships.
Additional Relevant Projects

• Sharing Best Practices and Scientific and Technological Methods for Identification, Characterization, Risk Assessment and Remediation of Micro and Nanoplastics (United States)

• Marine Debris Monitoring Decision Framework (United States)

• Capacity Building for Solid Waste Management (United States)

• Promoting Innovative Models in Reducing and Managing Land-Based Debris into the Oceans for Sustainable Development (Viet Nam)
Terima Kasih!

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www.apec.org/marinedebris