

Press release

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## UN & BIMSTEC to Collaborate with GoB to Tackle Plastic Pollution

**Bangladesh Leads the Charge Against Plastic Pollution. High-level dialogue brings together policy-makers, innovators, and youth to accelerate solutions for sustainable plastic management**

In a decisive move to confront the escalating plastic pollution crisis, the Department of Environment (DoE) of Bangladesh, in partnership with UNOPS and BIMSTEC, convenes a high-level seminar titled **“Accelerating Solutions for Plastic Pollution in Bangladesh”**. The event, held today at the Department of Environment's Conference Room in Dhaka, is aligned with the 2025 World Environment Day theme and brings together government leaders, private sector champions, youth activists, and international stakeholders.

The session was formally inaugurated by **Sudhir Muralidharan**, Country Manager of UNOPS for Bangladesh and Bhutan. It was addressed by **Md. Obaidur Rahman**, Secretary of the Ministry of Industries; **H.E. Indra Mani Pandey**, BIMSTEC Secretary General; and was chaired by **Dr. Md. Kamruzzaman**, NDC, Director General of the Department of Environment.

With over **87,000 tons of plastic waste** entering Bangladesh's marine ecosystems annually, the country faces an urgent imperative to reimagine its waste management trajectory. The roundtable reinforces Bangladesh's commitment to its **National Action Plan for Sustainable Plastic Management (2020–2030)**, which aims to reduce plastic waste by 30%, recycle 50%, and eliminate 90% of targeted single-use plastics by 2026.

Panel discussions explored innovative financing mechanisms and behavioral change strategies. Further insights were shared on national policy implementation and petrochemical industry innovation and Media as a Catalyst for Public Awareness on Plastic Pollution.

Among the anticipated outcomes are a **Joint Communiqué**, and the identification of **pilot initiatives** to accelerate cross-border collaboration on marine plastic pollution. The event also aims to foster **public-private partnerships**, catalyze **green financing**, and promote **technological innovation** to enable a circular economy.

**“Plastic pollution is a shared global and regional threat, demanding shared solutions. BIMSTEC stands ready to deepen regional cooperation to achieve a plastic-smart Bay of Bengal region.”**

—H.E. Mr. Indra Mani Pandey, *Secretary-General, BIMSTEC*

**“We must embed sustainability into every level of industrial development. This seminar is an important step toward aligning environmental responsibility with industrial transformation.”**

—Mr. Md. Obaidur Rahman, Secretary of the Ministry of Industries;

**“The Department of Environment is committed to operationalizing our plastic action plan through innovation, accountability, and inclusive collaboration across sectors and borders.”**

— Dr. Md. Kamruzzaman ndc, Director General, Department of Environment

**“Plastic pollution is not just an environmental issue—it is an infrastructure and behavioral challenge that demands bold, collective action. UNOPS is committed to supporting Bangladesh through scalable solutions and regional partnerships to turn ambitious targets into measurable impact.”**

— Sudhir Muralidharan, Country Manager, UNOPS Bangladesh and Bhutan

As plastic pollution continues to threaten ecosystems, economies, and public health, Bangladesh’s leadership—coupled with regional synergy through UN & BIMSTEC—signals a new era of coordinated, future-focused environmental governance.

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For more details about the mission and other inquiries, contacts can be made through:

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