



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 442

Date of Issue	31 July 2024
Project Code	23-CP-43-GE-DLN-A
Title	APO e-Course on the Ocean Environment and Plastic Pollution
Timing	20 December 2024
Hosting Country(ies)	APO Secretariat
Venue City(ies)	Not Applicable
Modality	Digital Learning
Implementing Organization(s)	Not Applicable
Participating Country(ies)	Open
Overseas Participants	Not Applicable
Local Participants	Not Applicable
Closing Date	Not Applicable
Remarks	Timing is the launch date of the e-course.

Objectives	Understand plastic pollution in oceans; promote measures to prevent plastic pollution; and contribute to restoring the ocean environment.
Rationale	The ocean environment faces significant challenges due to plastic pollution, which has become a global environmental crisis. Microplastics persist in the environment, accumulating in marine ecosystems, and potentially entering the food chain. They harm aquatic wildlife and may pose human health risks. This course contributes to Green Productivity and robust innovation ecosystem goals under the APO Vision 2025.
Background	The UNEP reported in 2021 that 9–14 million tons of plastic waste per year are estimated to enter the oceans. This plastic waste harms aquatic wildlife and decreases fishery productivity. Plastics do not biodegrade but break down into smaller pieces known as microplastics. These persist in the environment, accumulating in marine ecosystems, and potentially entering the food chain. Microplastics can accumulate toxins and harmful chemicals. When they are consumed by humans through seafood, these contaminants may pose health risks. Conserving ocean environments and marine resources is one of the SDGs (Goal 14). Collective efforts are needed to understand plastic pollution and decrease the amounts entering the oceans. Currently, international initiatives and policies aim to mitigate plastic pollution, including bans on single-use plastics, improved waste management systems, and promoting recycling and alternative materials.
Topics	Overview of plastic pollution in oceans; International discussions on plastic pollution of oceans; and Strategies to prevent plastic pollution such as regulation on single-use plastics, recycling, innovations like biodegradable plastics as well as waste management, energy recovery, and educational efforts to raise awareness of reducing plastic consumption and promoting sustainable practices.
Outcome	Participants acquire knowledge of plastic pollution in ocean environments and measures to prevent it such as innovations and educational efforts.
Qualifications	Open to all participants in members and nonmembers.

Please refer to the implementation procedures circulated with this document for further details.



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