



PRESS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (MESTECC)

MESTECC ORGANISES A 3-DAY WORKSHOP WITH INTERNATIONAL BODIES TO STRENGTHEN MALAYSIA'S INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TRADE OF PLASTIC WASTES FROM ENTERING THE COUNTRY

PUTRAJAYA, 21 AUGUST 2019 - The Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC) is continuously taking stern action **to combat illegal plastic wastes entering into this country**. To ensure that the plastic waste issue is dealt with swiftly, MESTECC has collaborated with few international bodies such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) to build capacity of enforcement officers to address the issue effectively.

In this regard, MESTECC organises a 3-day workshop which was held from 14 to 16 August 2019 in Kuala Lumpur on **'Strengthening Institutional Capacities to Address the Illegal Trade in Plastic Wastes'**, Dr. K. Nagulendran, Deputy Secretary General, MESTECC in his opening remarks stressed the need for a holistic approach to address plastic pollution issue which has ramifications to the environment, economy and human health. He highlighted in Malaysia's Roadmap Towards Zero Single Use Plastics (2018-2030), an integral component is for regional and international cooperation. The 3-day workshop he said, is one of the many initiatives taken by MESTECC to enhance enforcement capacity among the officers from the various agencies to address the illegal movement of plastic waste into

Malaysia and the Ministry hopes that more actions are taken by countries sending this waste to countries like Malaysia by stopping the movement at source.

The objective of the workshop is to exchange best practices in order to combat illegal trade in plastic waste and enhance the understanding of the existing national and international frameworks including policies and legal provisions related to the trade of plastic waste. The workshop also aims to enhance skills and capacity of relevant regulatory bodies and authorities with theoretical knowledge and practical skills especially on inspection techniques, risk management and profiling, identification of plastic waste, intelligence, risks related to abandoned containers and procedures for the repatriation of containers with plastic waste or those with no proper approval permits.

The workshop also draws participants from various enforcement agencies in Malaysia such as the Department of Environment (DOE), the Royal Malaysian Customs Department, National Solid Waste Management Department, SW Corp and Port Authorities. Dr Isabelle Louis and Ms. Emeline Pluchon from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mr Svetlan Savov from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Mr Huib Van Westen from the World Customs Organization (WCO) has also attended the workshop respectively.

Plastic pollution is a global transboundary problem that requires stern enforcement actions at all levels and this capacity building effort will further augment Malaysia's pledge in addressing the entry of illegal plastic wastes into the country.

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