Marine debris is a pervasive environmental problem that harms wildlife, ecosystems, and human health. Yet, marine plastic pollution is at its core a problem that experts believe can be solved. Experts find that effective solutions will include education and creating policy that considers the local context. Our work empowers teachers and students to collect and report scientific data about marine debris and forge links with local policymakers to inform policy change.
MARINE debris is a global problem that harms wildlife, ecosystems, human health, water quality, and the economy. Approximately 280 million tons of plastic are produced each year, most to create items not in use within twelve months. Experts estimate the oceans contain at minimum 5.25 trillion particles of debris.

MARINE debris has lasting economic impacts for tourism, recreation, shipping, fisheries, aquaculture, and agriculture. And yet, the problem of marine litter is one that experts believe can be solved by improving education, outreach, protective laws and policies, and enforcement.

INDIA has policies seeking to reduce marine litter at multiple levels. That said, Indian experts call for more education and research on marine debris. Researchers describe this as the “global problem least studied in India”. While India is ahead of many nations in terms of marine litter policy, there is still a great deal of work to do to understand the problem fully. THIS workshop seeks to support education, outreach, and the collection of data on the topic of marine litter in India. We hope to empower communities to collect data using scientific methods and then share the results with local policymakers, ideally leading to lasting change.
WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

TUESDAY 11 June

9.00 AM : Registration and check in
9:30 AM : Inaugural session

Welcome : Dr. Katharine A. Owens
(Organising Secretary, NEIEM-2019; Fulbright Nehru Fellow)

Presidential address : Prof. Dr. Simon Thattil (Director, IQAC, University of Kerala)

Inaugural address : Professor Dr. V. P. Mahadevan Pillai
(Hon. Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala)

 Felicitations : Dr. S. Naseeb (Member Syndicate, University of Kerala)
: Prof. Dr. Salom Gnana Thanga (Director, School of Earth System Sciences, University of Kerala)

Vote-of-Thanks : Prof. Dr. Jaya D.S. (Organising Secretary, NEIEM-2019)

10:30-10:45 AM : Tea break & Group Photo

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM : Marine Debris in the US and India—Challenges and Solutions
Dr. Katharine A. Owens (Associate Professor, University of Hartford USA; Fulbright Nehru Fellow, University of Kerala)

11:15 AM – 11:50 PM : Coastal and Marine Biodiversity of India
Dr. F. George D'Cruz (Head of Department and Director of Research, Centre of Zoology (Rtd), Fatima Mata National College, Kollam)

11:55 AM - 12:25 PM : Understanding Waste Trajectories and Stakeholders: Perspectives from Colombo
Katie Conlon (PhD Candidate, Portland State University, Oregon, Fulbright Scholar, Sri Lanka)

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM : Microplastics in Aquatic Ecosystems
Dr Akhila S Nair (Lecturer, Department of Aquatic Biology & Fisheries University of Kerala)

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM : Lunch

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM : Marine Pollution - Sources & Impacts
Dr. Jaya D. S. (Professor, Dept. of Environmental Sciences University of Kerala)

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM : Small Group Work

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM : Review procedures for Wednesday morning cleanups

3.30 PM-4.00PM : Tea break
**PATRON**
Prof. (Dr.) V.P. Mahadevan Pillai  
Honorable Vice-Chancellor  
University of Kerala

**CONFERENCE DATES**

**THURSDAY 13 June**
- 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM: Data analysis
- 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM: Tea break
- 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Data analysis
- 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM: Lunch
- 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM: Small group work
- 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM: Tea break
- 4:30 PM: Cultural Programme

**FRIDAY 14 June**
- 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM: Sharing results with policymakers
- 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Small group work
- 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM: Tea Break
- 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Small group work
- 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM: Lunch
- 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM: Small group work
- 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM: Tea break

**SATURDAY 15 June**
- 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Small group work
- 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM: Q&A session; Complete participant surveys
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: Valedictory Function and Presentation of Results

**Chief Guest**: Adv. V.K. Prasanth (Hon. Mayor, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation)

**Valedictory address**: Dr. Lawrence Harold (Managing Director, MATSYAFED)

**Remarks**: Dr. Pramod Kiran R.B. (Senate Member, University of Kerala)

**Vote of thanks**: Dr. Katharine A. Owens

- 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM: Lunch
- 2:00 PM: Distribution of certificates

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

**CONVENER**
Dr. Sabu Joseph  
Professor & Head  
Department of Environmental Sciences  
University of Kerala

**MEMBERS**
Dr. Akhila S. Nair  
Dr. Lakshmi M.  
Mrs. Navami S.S.  
Miss. Niyathi Vijay  
Mr. Manikandan S.  
Mr. Sonu Sasidharan  
Mr. Alwyn Biju

**ORGANISING SECRETARIES**

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