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Collective Response to the Challenge of Marine Plastic Pollution



Source: [NOAA Marine Debris Program via Wikimedia commons](#)

Reducing plastic pollution in the oceans will be on the agenda of the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan on 28 and 29 June. Attention to the challenge from the leaders of the world's major economies is timely and imperative because non-traditional security threats induced by plastic pollution like degradation of the marine ecosystem and contamination of the food chain are increasingly imminent. A crisis of plastic waste is unfolding in many parts of the world now. The Philippines recently shipped scores of containers of waste back to Canada. Malaysia is to send back thousands of tons of waste from around the world like Australia. Against this background, the Basel Convention was amended in May 2019, which requires more transparency and regulation in the global trade in plastic waste.

Several East/Southeast Asian countries, like the Philippines, Indonesia,

Malaysia, China and Japan, are important stakeholders for dealing with this challenge, as they are both major contributors to and victims of marine plastic pollution. They have strengthened efforts at the national level, like developing national action plans, specifying targets for reduction, and implementing new policies and regulations. Japan, for instance, adopted a new policy in May 2019 that aims to cut its flow of plastic waste into the ocean and to contribute to the global efforts as well.

The aforementioned waste disputes have highlighted the loopholes in the existing cycle of reuse, reduce and recycle in many countries and the importance of a collaborative approach. Given that marine environmental pollution is borderless and developing countries in particular face mounting pressure for coping with plastic waste from

domestic as well as foreign sources, international cooperation is crucial for an effective global solution to the problem.

Japan's new policy package includes provision of technical and financial assistance for developing countries to tackle the challenge. This may indicate further support for Japan's existing cooperation with developing countries, like funding the proposed Knowledge Centre on ASEAN Marine Debris in Indonesia. The Asian Development Bank signed an agreement with Indonesia on collaboration in reducing marine plastic debris in early May, which includes tech-

nical assistance and knowledge sharing. International cooperation as such can enable better management of plastic waste in developing countries through supporting policy formulation and implementation, encouraging engagement of private sector and other social actors, and bridging partnerships between stakeholders.

Given that marine plastic pollution will be discussed at the forthcoming G20 Summit, it is important that the needs and challenges of developing countries are given sufficient consideration in the discussion. Since Japan is the host and Indonesia, Singapore and China will

attend the summit, East/Southeast Asian countries may take the opportunity to feature their perspectives in the global debate. Collaboration in financing and technological innovations should be emphasised as these two aspects are essential for better waste management and reduction in pollution in developing countries.

Suggested Readings

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CLIMATE SECURITY

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Datin Seri Sunita Rajakumar,
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Preventing climate change in the face of urbanisation

Dumrongkiat Mala,
The Bangkok Post

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How under threat Singapore is taking action to battle climate change

Revathi Valluvar,
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UK and Trump miles apart on climate change

Mark Lynas,
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Companies see climate change hitting their bottom lines in the next 5 years

Brad Plumer,
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4 June 2019

Thirsty Singapore taps into innovation to secure its water future

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Today

7 June 2019

7 startling facts about the crisis facing our oceans

Harmeet Kaur,
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8 June 2019

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UN climate change annual report 2018

United Nations Framework
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2019

Advancing non-traditional security governance through multi-stakeholder collaboration

Julius Cesar I. Trajano,
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2019

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Conference on "Youth, Ocean and SDG 14"

1–5 July 2019
Melaka, Malaysia

High-level Political Forum 2019

9–18 July 2019
New York, USA



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ENERGY SECURITY

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Commentary: The oil and gas market in Asia is heating up

Xunpeng Shi,
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NTU, NEA launch S\$40m waste-to-energy research facility

Matthew Mohan,
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American LNG exports threatened as China turns to Russian sources

Rurika Imahashi,
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Mari Yamaguchi,
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8 June 2019

China speeds up clean energy development

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Australian government "willing to consider" nuclear power: energy minister

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International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA Factsheet 2019

A vision for nuclear security

Matthew Bunn, Nickolas Roth, and William H. Tobey, Cambridge, Mass: Project on Managing the Atom, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs 2019

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2019 Annual Meeting of the International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN)

8-12 July 2019
Vienna, Austria

24th World Energy Congress

9-12 September 2019
Abu Dhabi, UAE

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Adaptation options for rice-based cropping systems in climate risk-prone provinces in the Mekong River Delta: An assessment report

Bong B. B. et al., CCAFS Working Paper No. 245, Wageningen, the Netherlands: CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security 2019

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Renata Jagustovic et al., Agricultural Systems, Vol. 171 2019

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Paul Teng, Rob Hulme and Andrew Powell, Channel News Asia 26 May 2019

From sky farms to lab-grown shrimp, Singapore eyes food future

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Investors eye 'game changing innovations' as climate change and antibiotics threaten aquaculture sector

Oliver Morrison, Food Navigator 5 June 2019

Perth study finds 80 per cent of disadvantaged families suffer 'food insecurity'

Madeline Palmer, ABC News 6 June 2019

MOH to ban key source of artificial trans fats in food like cookies and pizzas from June 2021

Rei Kurohi, The Straits Times 6 June 2019

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Feeding the Future: How Much Is Enough?

26 July 2019
Singapore

Forty Sixth Session of the Committee on World Food Security

14-18 October 2019
Rome, Italy



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HEALTH SECURITY



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Typhoid Fever, Typhus & Tuberculosis: Are LA's medieval diseases coming to your city?

Chuck DeVore,
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Commentary: Empathy in healthcare is finally making a comeback

Jeremy Howick,
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6 June 2019

India fears new outbreak of lethal Nipah virus

Faiz Akthar,
CNN
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Artificial Intelligence will change healthcare as we know it

Adam C. Uzialko,
Business News Daily
9 June 2019

New tick-borne disease discovered in China infecting dozens, researchers claim

Madeline Farber,
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David Clarke et al.,
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Fiona M. Russell et al.,
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Comparison of essential medicines list in 137 countries

Nav Persaud et al.,
Bulletin of the World Health Organisation, Vol. 97, No. 6
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17th Singapore Health and Biomedical Congress 2019

10-12 October 2019
Singapore

5th International Conference on Global Public Health 2019

17-18 October 2019
Kathmandu, Nepal



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HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

Global Assessment Report (GAR) 2019: "Our very survival is in doubt"

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

15 May 2019

Disaster displacement: A global review, 2008-2018

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

16 May 2019



Courtesy of Flickr account of US Army and used under a creative commons license.

Despite strengthening of normative protection framework, compliance

has deteriorated, Secretary-General tells Security Council

*Secretary-General,
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*Evan Watt,
TheirWorld*
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Peoples under threat 2019: The role of social media in exacerbating violence

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Rubble, unexploded bombs, and more than 100,000 displaced:

Marawi two years on

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Striking a balance: Short- and longer-term interests of people receiving aid

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44th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop

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Broomfield, CO

2019 International Humanitarian Conference

05 August 2019
Selangor, Malaysia

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Plunge in migration deepens New Zealand labour shortage, chokes businesses

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Illegal migration to Europe via Turkey lingers

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The migrant workers behind China's economic miracle are miserable

*Amy Hawkins and James Thorpe,
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Migrants mean more than birth rates in meeting Hong Kong's labour shortage, which is why we must act now

*David Dodwell,
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Fishing boat saga reveals Asia's lingering refugee challenge

*Luke Hunt,
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How seasonal distress migration compromises children's education

*Dheeraj Dubey and Sakshi Shivpuri,
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G20 international migration and displacement trends report 2018

OECD, ILO, IOM and UNHCR
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Climate change: Activities of selected agencies to address potential impact on global migration

*United States Government
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Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Dialogue on the GCM Implementation

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Geneva, Switzerland

16th Annual Immigration Law and Policy Conference

7 October 2019
Washington, D.C.