ON THE ROAD TO BUSAN: PAVING THE WAY FOR CIRCULARITY AND ENDING PLASTIC WASTE

- A PRE-INC5 DISCUSSION

WEBINAR

GULF PETROCHEMICALS & CHEMICALS ASSOCIATION
الاتحاد الخليجي للبتروكيماويات والكيماويات

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WEBINAR

Webinar Objective

As we approach INC5—the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee tasked with developing an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution—in Busan this November, this webinar aims to highlight the critical scientific issues that should guide effective policymaking. While protecting the environment remains a top priority, it is essential to balance this with societal needs and economic realities to ensure solutions are both achievable and actionable. We will explore the core challenges of plastic waste management, understand how misinformation can create obstacles to focusing on key solutions, and outline actionable strategies that have the greatest effectiveness in ending plastic waste.

Webinar Structure:

The webinar will be divided into two sections:

Section 1: Balancing Environmental Protection and Societal Needs

Key Themes:

1. **Integrating Environmental Goals with Societal Development:**
2. **Understanding the Impact of Misinformation:**

Section 2: Innovation and Circularity Beyond Recycling

Key Themes:

1. **Advancing Plastic Recovery Methods:**
2. **Embracing a Holistic Approach to Circularity:**
3. **Addressing Microplastics:**

Section 1: Balancing Environmental Protection and Societal Needs

1. **Integrating Environmental Goals with Societal Development:**
   - Discuss how the treaty can prioritize environmental objectives while recognizing that plastics are integral to societal development, especially in sectors like healthcare, food safety, and technology.
   - Highlight the need for solutions that do not compromise human well-being by replacing plastics with higher-cost or environmentally harmful alternatives.

2. **Understanding the Impact of Misinformation:**
   - Explore how misinformation has shaped public perception of plastics, leading to misconceptions that hinder effective solutions.
   - Provide evidence-based discussions on the impact of plastic waste versus its alternatives, clarifying misconceptions and focusing on scientifically sound solutions.

Proposed expert speakers:

Jonas Oxgaard:
Associate Partner at the New York office of McKinsey & Company and co-author of the "Climate Impact of Plastics" report.

Section 2: Innovation and Circularity Beyond Recycling

1. **Advancing Plastic Recovery Methods:**
   - Review proven methods like chemical recycling, which offer advanced ways to recover and reuse plastics.
   - Address the gaps in current plastic recovery strategies and the need for enhanced infrastructure and innovation to tackle plastic waste effectively.

2. **Embracing a Holistic Approach to Circularity:**
   - Emphasize that circularity involves more than recycling—it encompasses design, material selection, and system-wide thinking.
   - Discuss the importance of investment in education, capacity building, and policy frameworks to support circular plastic economies globally.

3. **Addressing Microplastics:**
   - Cover the issue of microplastics, distinguishing between scientifically supported concerns and misinformation.
   - Highlight how focusing on key solutions can have a major impact and advance circularity.

Proposed expert speaker:

Aaron Doughtry

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