

Mapping the Plastic

Nguyen Thi Thu Trang (Vietnam)

SUMMARY

The rapid economic growth, industrialization and consumer market expansion in Vietnam have been accompanied by a significant expansion in the import, export, production and use of plastics . There is a growing use of many different plastic products across many sectors and services in the daily lives of Vietnamese citizens. Since 2000 Vietnam has implemented numerous coastal and beach cleanup events that helped to grow interest and concern about the state of litter pollution in Vietnam. At the same time, the incomplete data collection and lack of an overall marine litter program in the country to unite marine litter initiatives have compromised the value of these occasional events.

CSIRO is undertaking the world's largest marine pollution survey "Quantifying flows of plastic and other debris from land-land based sources to the ocean ", working with countries across the globe to help them assess and reduce the amount of litter entering the oceans. Some of the world's top 20 polluters will take part in the project including China, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Vietnam and the United States, plus other countries including Australia, South Korea and Taiwan. Greenhub has collaborated with CSIRO's plastic pollution programme in Vietnam on the Red River Delta plastic waste survey plastic waste survey recently undertaken in conjunction with CSIRO.

This presentation and paper will review and summarize lessons learned of the survey and specifically how these experiences may help to guide future corrective actions in Vietnam for monitorign programme in Vietnam. The waste management, marine litter and plastics environmental, gender community and networking program initiatives of the new Vietnamese NGO, GreenHub – Centre for Supporting Green Development (website: greenhub.org.vn) will be presented.

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Key words □ marine debris, source, field survey, plastic pollution, Vietnam

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