



Media Release

OPaL takes lead to create 'Plastics Aware Society' as part of Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR)

To spread 'seed awareness' amongst students at city based schools

Friday, 29th June 2018, Vadodara

ONGC Petro additions Ltd (OPaL), one of the largest polymer producers in India, as part of EPR (Extended Producers Responsibility) takes the lead to create 'seed-awareness' amongst the students of Vadodara highlighting the 'miraculous advantages' of plastics in our lives and imperative need to modify our own behavior in misuse (disposal) of plastics causing menace of littering, affecting ecosystem (land, air and water bodies) in a manner like never before.

OPaL intent is to enable young inquisitive minds to understand the science of plastics and with a motive of exercising their undeniable influence in peers, family and society they live in, propagating the same. Further, it is our endeavor to disseminate scientifically backed information to incubate and nurture awareness amongst 'budding' minds so as to promote critical thinking in students with objective of seeking long lasting solutions to make a better habitable world for healthy 'future-ready' citizens of India.

The interactive sessions were organized at Billabong High International School and Delhi Public School in Vadodara centered around "*Plastics – Demystified; Use, Abuse and Sustainability*". The sessions revolved around aspects of wonder material 'plastics', its advantages in our lives, issues and sustainability, solutions and remediation by one and all stakeholders including government, civic bodies and most importantly 'us' having accustomed to 'use and throw' culture. Government and civic bodies also need to rise to occasion to create right organized mechanism for waste collection and promote recycling industry. The key takeaways shall be reinforced by way of writing down by students what they would implement immediately with definitive Action Plan. The session was followed up by taking a 'pledge' administered by Ms. Vimla Nigania, Head-HR, OPaL.

OPaL plans similar programmes with other schools to promote chain-awareness with students as catalyzer of the awareness programme so that the society benefits at large.

World produces approx. 335 Million MT of plastics a year growing at healthy rates, over double digits in emerging economies like India. India stands at per capita consumption of meager 11 kgs against few emerged economies with over 100 kgs per capita, providing more inherent space for growth of plastics consumption in India subject to its sustainability.

Plastic is a *wonderful material* and is engrained in our daily lives with unparalleled advantages over natural resources like wood, glass, paper, aluminium etc. Plastics promote far better functionalities than conventional materials like light weighting, functional ease, transportation ease, packaging and aesthetics.

Unfortunately, 50-60% of the plastics that we use are *Single-Use Plastics* which gets littered around causing potential irreversible damage to our ecosystem. Apart from land, the water bodies including canals, rivers and oceans have been transformed into junk-yards. Over 8 Million MT of plastics waste ends up in oceans and hence, 60-85% of marine waste is estimated to be consisting of the plastics we dump. Disposal of this single-use segment is one of the major challenge that society faces, at large. Over 15,000 MT of plastic waste in India produced daily is yet to find an organized mechanism to deal with it.

About OPaL:

ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL), a multi-billion joint venture company was incorporated in 2006, as a Public Limited Company under the companies Act, 1956, promoted by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and co-promoted by GAIL (India) Limited and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC).

OPaL has set up a grass root mega petrochemical project in port city of Dahej, Gujarat; part of the Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR), first of its kind in India. The complex mothers a Dual Feed Cracker with a capacity to produce 1100 KTPA Ethylene, 400 KTPA Propylene along with Polymerization Units and various Associated Units consisting of Pyrolysis Gasoline Hydrogenation Unit, Butadiene and Benzene Extraction Units. The Polymer plants of OPaL has 2X360 KTPA of LLDPE/HDPE Swing unit, 1X340 KTPA of Dedicated HDPE and 1x340 KTPA of PP. The Project commenced its production after the inauguration by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in March 2017.

PLEDGE

We, the ambassadors of Billabong High/DPS, Vadodara understand the inherent benefits of wonder-material plastics on one hand, while taking cognizance of growing concerns of pollution caused by us through misuse of a segment of plastics. We understand that 'tomorrow' is collective definition of what we do, what we preserve and what choices we make TODAY.

We recognize that Single Use Plastics is impacting our land, ocean and air in an irreversible manner like never before, destroying the ecosystem to which we are integral part of. We, the future-ready students of Billabong High/DPS, hereby vow of becoming more responsible citizens, voluntarily discarding Single-Use-Plastics and sustaining the responsible behavior. We shall also do our best to spread the good words about plastics while trying to shape behaviors of people around us so that small steps taken collectively makes our planet, a better place to live in, today and tomorrow.

Glimpses of the Sessions



Students of Billabong High School taking keen awareness in understanding Plastic Awareness



Students of Delhi Public School, Kalali, Vadodara taking a pledge to create a Plastic Aware Society