Do we really need to ban plastic bags?

Dear Members,

As many of you are aware, the Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism has instituted a nationwide ‘No Plastic Bag’ day on Saturdays, beginning 1 January 2011. This effort and other similar efforts, has inadvertently led to some parties calling for a ban on plastic bags. Whilst MPMA is respectful of the Ministry’s efforts for the environment and others who support banning plastic bags, it is however difficult for MPMA to accept the basis or grounds on which the ‘No Plastic Bag’ day and calls for a ban are based on. In other words, while MPMA respects that the Ministry and other groups are entitled to their own opinions, MPMA is of the considered view that such opinions have been clouded by several misconceptions that needs to be clarified.

“Addressing the Myths on Plastics Bags”

In response to the Penang state government’s No Plastic Bag ruling, the MPMA Northern Branch held a Press Conference on 18 December 2010, to launch the “Addressing the Myths on Plastics Bags” Awareness Campaign to distribute 100% recycled plastic bags, carrying messages on the myths and facts on plastic bags, to the public for free which were distributed with a few selected newspaper every Sunday for five weeks. The public can choose to either reuse or recycle the plastic bags.
MPLAS ADVERT
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The MALAYSIAN PLASTICS DIGEST is a quarterly newsletter published by MPMA. Any materials extracted from the Malaysian Plastics Digest to be quoted or reprinted should contain acknowledgement to MPMA or its acknowledged sources.
Do we really need to ban plastic bags?

Let's carefully consider what the economic and scientific facts are:

1. Is DEGRADATION good for the Environment?

Perhaps the most common perception against plastic bags is that "it is not degradable", and it is therefore bad, thus implying that "degradation is good". Is degradation good? In addition there is a perception that plastic bags are the largest component of landfills and that it releases toxic fumes or leachate.

We quote hereunder from the Australian Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

(i) "Our consultancy report, The Impact of Degradable Plastic Bags in Australia, found that there is probably little benefit obtained by using biodegradable plastics if you dispose them to landfill. This is because micro-organisms cannot survive the dry, oxygen-deprived conditions normally found in landfills.

"All sorts of biodegradable materials, including food and paper, have been found 'mummified' and preserved in such conditions. Even if the degradable materials degrade, the low oxygen level means that they release methane as they break down -- a potent greenhouse gas".

(ii) "Plastic bags that are commonly replaced by degradable plastics actually make up a small number (by volume) of the waste going into landfill, and most plastics are inert and do not contribute to toxic emissions or leaching."

The truth, therefore, is that degradation, often in anaerobic conditions, causes the release of methane which is a potent greenhouse gas. Degradation, in this sense, is therefore not good.

The non-degradation of plastics is, therefore, in fact good for the environment as it represents a form of carbon capture (carbon sequestration) without any carbon dioxide or methane being released into the atmosphere.

It is, therefore, an irony that many environmentalists are harping on the issue of degradation which releases either CO₂ or methane gas, only to see millions of dollars being proposed to be spent on carbon capture and storage programmes.

Plastic bags are mainly made of raw materials such as polyethylene, which consists of carbon and hydrogen. Even if plastics end up in landfills, due to its inert non-toxic properties, plastics still do not contribute to toxic emissions or leaching to the groundwater and soil contamination.

2. Plastic Bag vs Paper Bag

Studies demonstrate that plastic bags leave a smaller carbon footprint than paper bags. Consequently, a ban on plastic bags may promote more paper bags and harm our ability to recycle.

The Ministry’s ‘No Plastic Bag Day’ may increase the use of paper bags, thus cutting down more trees and increasing emissions of greenhouse gases, the leading cause of global warming. The Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) calculation in the table below shows that paper uses more energy, fossil fuel and water as compared to plastics. Paper also results in more greenhouse emissions as plastics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact Summary</th>
<th>(Carrying Capacity equivalent to 1,000 paper bags)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>Compostable Plastics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Energy Usage (MJ)</td>
<td>2,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fossil Fuel Use (Kg)</td>
<td>23.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Waste (Kg)</td>
<td>33.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse gas (CO₂, equivalent Tons)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh Water Usage (gal)</td>
<td>1,004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following are lessons learned from countries/cities that have imposed a ban or levy on plastic bags, or instituted bring-your-own-bag policies:

a) Ireland

Even if plastic bags are not made available to consumers at the point of purchase, it would still be needed to contain waste at the point of disposal as other materials will not be suitable for this purpose. A ban or levy will, therefore, only create a situation where there would invariably be an increase in the use of plastic garbage bin liners, which the consumers would now have to pay for.

The often quoted case of Ireland where a bag tax of 15p (95 sen) in 2002 resulted in an initial 90 per cent reduction in plastic bag use should be viewed against the fact that there was a 490 per cent increase in the local production of plastic garbage bags. By 2006, consumers had switched back to using plastic shopping bags, with an increase of 20 per cent in bags used despite the tax. The bag-tax proponents responded by raising the tax from 15p to 20p. This again failed, and the tax is currently being reviewed, with a tax of 30p-40p being considered.

3. Are REUSABLE BAGS safe?

A report in 2009 by the director of research services at Sporometrics, Toronto, Canada, stated that “test findings clearly support concerns that REUSABLE BAGS can become an active microbial habitat and a breeding ground for bacteria, yeast, mould and coliforms. This study provides strong evidence that reusable bags could pose a significant risk to the safety of the food supply if used to transport food from store to home”.

4. Lessons learnt from Ireland and San Francisco case studies

The following are lessons learned from countries/cities that have imposed a ban or levy on plastic bags, or instituted bring-your-own-bag policies:

a) Ireland

Even if plastic bags are not made available to consumers at the point of purchase, it would still be needed to contain waste at the point of disposal as other materials will not be suitable for this purpose. A ban or levy will, therefore, only create a situation where there would invariably be an increase in the use of plastic garbage bin liners, which the consumers would now have to pay for.

The often quoted case of Ireland where a bag tax of 15p (95 sen) in 2002 resulted in an initial 90 per cent reduction in plastic bag use should be viewed against the fact that there was a 490 per cent increase in the local production of plastic garbage bags. By 2006, consumers had switched back to using plastic shopping bags, with an increase of 20 per cent in bags used despite the tax. The bag-tax proponents responded by raising the tax from 15p to 20p. This again failed, and the tax is currently being reviewed, with a tax of 30p-40p being considered.
One obvious observation is that if consumers are prepared to pay 20p for a plastic shopping bag, it clearly indicates they need the bag. Such taxes are, therefore, punitive and will only cause hardship to consumers.

b) San Francisco
San Francisco banned plastic retail bags in November 2007 to, inter alia, encourage the use of reusable bags. In a survey in September 2008, it was found that few switched to reusable bags. Instead, large numbers of paper bags were issued, causing an even greater environmental impact.

Also, the San Francisco Streets Litter Re-Audit 2008 showed that plastic retail bags as a composition of total large litter increased from 0.60 per cent before the ban to 0.64 per cent afterwards. This showed that plastic bags make for a very small component of total large litter and the ban did not reduce this composition.

5. Plastics as an Energy-Efficient material
In terms of manufacturing, four per cent of the world’s crude oil is used to manufacture all forms of plastic products, including plastic bags. While a huge amount of crude oil is used as fuel for transportation (45 per cent) and energy, heating and electricity (42 per cent), there is still the misconception that the production of lightweight polymer-based products causes the depletion of oil reserves. (see chart below)

6. Plastic Bags are 100% recyclable
Plastic bags are 100 per cent recyclable and the recycled resins have a wide spectrum of applications. To say then that plastic waste recycling in Malaysia is not possible, or is not significant, is inaccurate as current recycling operations are active and profitable even without subsidies.

7. Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)
Finally, in determining which packaging material is the best choice, it is necessary to measure all the parameters, from the initial stage of the raw material (cradle) up to its end of life (grave) at the disposal stage. This “cradle to the grave” technique, also known as Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), is essential to judge how a product affects the environment.

Plastic bags -- whether in terms of the total energy used, fossil fuel used, waste disposal volume/weight or greenhouse gas emissions -- have the lowest environmental impact compared with any other packaging material. (refer to Boustead report table)

8. Plastic Bags are reusable
Given that 80 per cent of plastic shopping bags are reused, mainly as garbage bin liners, the unintended result of banning plastic-bag use even for a day, or imposing a levy on plastic bags, would be that most consumers, who normally reuse plastic bags, will be financially burdened.

This is because they would now have to buy thicker-gauge plastic garbage bin liners. Consequently, we will not see any reduction in the overall tonnage of plastic bags ending up in landfills.

9. Littering
Any material, whether plastics or paper, does not litter on its own. Littering is a behavioral problem that is not caused by a bag being made out of plastics. If the authorities would like to do something for the environment, stronger mechanisms to punish litterbugs should be in place to prohibit littering altogether, and provisions for the collection and recycling of all materials, including plastics, should be advocated.

10. 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) – The SOLUTION
Plastics, just like other materials, will have an adverse impact on the environment if it is not properly managed. MPMA stands by the good principles of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) model and will continue to run activities on the model.

The phrase “Ban the bag” is a sound bite, not a solution. It’s a proposal that will make some people and groups, feel good – rather than do good. In fact, it will do much harm.

The FACT is we ALL oppose the excessive use of packaging, INCLUDING PLASTIC BAGS. And we should all do our part by reusing or recycling bags and by not taking more bags than we need at the store. That’s the right way to curb plastic bag use. The wrong way is with a ban that ignores the FACTS, stirs fears and causes hardship to the consumers. Any solution to this issue must be grounded in reality and deal with the fact that a ban on plastic bags will negatively affect the environment. And isn’t the reason for a ban because of the environment?

Let’s not ban the bag; let’s get our facts right and bag the ban

LIM KOK BOON
President
MPMA
Chronology of Events – ‘No Plastic Bags’

**Penang**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 Apr 2009</td>
<td>The Penang State Government had organised a Public Dialogue entitled ‘Plastic Bags: To Ban or Not to Ban’ at the Dewan Bosch, Kompleks Masyarakat Penyayang, Penang.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Jul 2009</td>
<td>Campaign to stop giving free carrier bags in Penang on every Monday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Jul 2009</td>
<td>Memorandum to State Government by MPF/MPMA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Jan 2010</td>
<td>Campaign to stop giving free carrier bags increased to 3 days a week (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Oct 2010</td>
<td>MPMA Northern Branch organised a dialog session with YB Phee Boon Poh, State Environment Committee Chairman, to discuss ‘not’ to extend the ‘No Plastic Bag Day’ ruling more than 3 days a week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Nov 2010</td>
<td>Penang Chief Minister (CM) Lim Guan Eng announced that from January 2011, no free plastic bags will be given out to shoppers, 20 sen for each bag will charged for those shoppers who did not bring their own reusable bags. The ruling will cover all hypermarkets, supermarkets, departmental stores, pharmacies, fast food restaurants, nasi kandar outlets, convenience stores including petrol kiosks and chain stores. However, mini markets and sole proprietorship businesses will have to adhere to the ruling on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in order to ensure the renewal of their licenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Nov 2010</td>
<td>MPMA Northern Branch called for a Press Conference to express their dissatisfaction against the state government’s decision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Nov 2010</td>
<td>MPMA was called for a dialogue with CM Lim Guan Eng. MPMA’s President, Mr Lim Kok Boon and MPMA Northern Branch Members stressed the effect of the ban/campaign but there was no outcome from the dialogue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Dec 2010</td>
<td>The MPMA Northern Branch held a Press Conference to launch the “Addressing the Myths on Plastics Bags” Awareness Campaign to distribute 100% recycled plastic bags, carrying messages on the myths and facts on plastic bags, to the public for free with each newspaper every Sunday for five weeks. The public can choose to either reuse or recycle the plastic bags.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Nov 2010</td>
<td>The MPMA Northern Branch clarified that the awareness campaign is to educate the public on the concept of 3Rs and also the benefits of plastic bags and not to “counter attack” any of the Penang government’s policies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Dec 2010</td>
<td>The MPMA Northern Branch launched a Press Conference to distribute 100% recycled plastic bags, carrying messages on the myths and facts on plastic bags, to the public for free with each newspaper every Sunday for five weeks. The public can choose to either reuse or recycle the plastic bags.</td>
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**Negri Sembilan**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Nov 2010</td>
<td>Selangor State, Consumerism and Environment Committee Chairman, Datuk Siow Chen Pin launched “Day Without Plastic Bags” campaign at Carrefour, Seremban on every Saturday. It includes Tesco, Jusco, Giant and Econsave, the state government considering to extend this to all business/traders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Jan 2010</td>
<td>MPF met with the Selangor State Tourism, Consumerism and Environment Committee Chairman and Executive Councilor, YB Elizabeth Wong to discuss about the campaign. She assured that the campaign being promoted was only aimed at reducing the use of plastic carrier bags.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Jan 2010</td>
<td>Selangor State Government launched ‘Say No To Plastic Bag’ campaign on every Saturday for all retailers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Sept 2010</td>
<td>Maya Loves Nature ‘Recycling of plastic bag fair’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Nov 2010</td>
<td>Selangor State Tourism, Consumerism and Environment Committee Chairman and Executive Councilor, YB Elizabeth Wong said that the state is looking to increase the campaign to two days a week from January 2011.</td>
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**Johor**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Oct 2010</td>
<td>Johor Baru MP, Datuk Abdul Shahril Samad launched ‘No Plastic Bag Every Saturday’ campaign at Aeon City Tebrau Mall. Spokesperson for Aeon said the campaign at its Tebrau mall marked the fourth phase of its nationwide drive at Jusco stores, covering Johor, Negri Sembilan, Malacca and Perak.</td>
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**Kuala Lumpur**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Sept 2010</td>
<td>Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister, Dato’ Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob launched the ‘Use Oxo-Biodegradable Plastics Bag’ campaign at Mydin Hypermarket USJ Subang Jaya. The campaign was organised by SMI Association together with Additech Sdn Bhd. Ismail said campaigns would be held to instill public awareness starting with schools and institutions of higher learning next month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Sept 2010</td>
<td>The Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-Operatives and Consumerism had a meeting with MPMA/MPF. MPMA/MPF presented on Plastics and the Environment with a focus on the effects on the environment of oxo-biodegradable bags. Subsequently, MPMA/MPF was invited to a meeting with Additech, the supplier of oxo-biodegradable resins, SMI Association (which is working with Additech on this project), as well as a few plastic bag manufacturers. At the Meeting, MPMA/MPF made it clear that 3Rs is the way forward in managing the country’s solid waste. The said Ministry invited MPMA to participate in a Sustainable Consumption Exhibition on 16 October 2010 at UPM which would be launched by its Minister, Dato’ Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Oct 2010</td>
<td>Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister, Dato’ Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob had announced officially that the Federal Government is looking into coordinating a nationwide ‘No Plastic Bag Day’ in hypermarkets beginning 2011 as a solution since plastic bags are dangerous to the environment and it contributes to global warming and accumulating in landfills in Malaysia, in his opening speech at the Programme – Culture of Sustainable Living Lifestyle for Higher Learning Institutions organised by the Ministry in collaboration with University Putra Malaysia (UPM).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Honours List

MPMA is proud to announce that the following Central Committee Members had recently received awards in recognition of services rendered. They are:

1 Mr Wee Hong Imm
   Honorary President, MPMA

Mr Wee Hong Imm was conferred with the title of Darjah Kebesaran Ahli Mahkota Selangor (AMS) by the Sultan of Selangor, Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah on the occasion of His Royal Highness’ 65th birthday celebration on 11 December 2010.

2 Datuk Alan Ang
   Chairman, MPMA Sabah Branch

Datuk Alan Ang was conferred with the title Panglima Gemilang Darjah Kinabalu (PGDK) which carries the title ‘Datuk’ at the Sabah state awards in conjunction with the Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Ahmadshah Abdullah’s 64th birthday celebration.

MPMA Sarawak Branch

The MPMA Sarawak Branch participated in a Dialogue Session on “Education of Non-Resident Workers in Sarawak” at the Sarawak Labour Department office on 9 December 2010.

Exhibition on 23rd Jawatankuasa Tindakan Jurutera Air Daerah (JTJAD)

From 20 to 22 December 2010, MPMA PE Pipes & Fittings Group participated in the exhibition organised by Jawatankuasa Tindakan Jurutera Air Daerah (JTJAD) Se Malaysia and Lembaga Air Perak, at Bukit Merah Laketown Resort, Taiping, Perak. The exhibition was held in conjunction with the 23rd JTJAD Annual Meeting and Conference. During the JTJAD Conference, a technical paper entitled “Standard Guideline for PE Jointing Procedure” was presented by the representative of the Group, Mr Lionel Charles Pereira.

The JTJAD Committee was set up in 1989 to standardise and promote the activities of water source at district level. JTJAD is also the centre of innovation ideas and feedback from all districts towards promoting and having one common water source management that is more systematic and effective.

The Sub-Committee members who represented MPMA PE Pipes & Fittings Sub-Committee in the exhibition were Spears Plastic Industries (M) Sdn Bhd, Polyethylene (M) Sdn Bhd, AWT Fusion Sdn Bhd and Dura Mine Sdn Bhd.
The Plastics Eagle-MPMA held its Annual Golf Game for 2010 on 15 December 2010 at the Kota Permai Golf & Country Club, Shah Alam. About 100 Eagle members and guests participated in the event. The main contributors for the event included a Hole-in-One car from Motors Confidence (M) Sdn Bhd and Johnnie Walker.

And the Winners are

**Guest Category**
- **Champion, Mr Desmond Wong**
- **Runner-Up, Mr Pua Yii Shiuan**
- **Third Position, Mr Chai Chee Soon**

**Stableford Points**
- **Champion, Mr Kelvleen Teoh**
- **Runner-Up, Mr CP Lam**
- **Third Position, Mr FK Lum**

**Gross Score**
- **Champion, Mr Chan Heng Voan**
- **Runner-Up, Mr BF Yew**
- **Third Position, Mr PJ Yang**
On 23 October 2010, in conjunction with the MPMA Northern Branch 13th Annual Golf Tournament, MPMA Northern Branch launched an initiative for collection of PET bottles during golf games organised by MPMA Northern Branch Eagle members. Throughout this initiative, collection bins for PET bottles would be strategically placed at golf venues whenever the Branch members are playing golf. This initiative at the moment only involves Branch members but it is the Branch intention to extend the initiative to the golf clubs to include all their activities.

At the Launch, the Branch also had a discussion with YB Tuan Phee Boon Poh, Penang State Exco Health, Welfare, Caring Society and Environment Committee Chairman, to discuss about the plastic bag issue.

The MPMA Northern Branch celebrated its 19th Anniversary Dinner on 24 October 2010. In conjunction with the Anniversary Dinner, the Branch held its 13th Annual Golf Tournament on 23 October 2010.
MPMA’s participation at K 2010

2010 took place from 27 October to 3 November 2010 in Dusseldorf, Germany. MPMA had organised a Visiting Mission and some members also participated in the MATRADE booth arranged for Malaysian companies. Members who were selected to take part in the MATRADE Malaysia booth included Polyparts Sdn Bhd, Thong Guan Plastic & Paper Industries Sdn Bhd, BP Plastics Sdn Bhd, Micromagna Engineering Sdn Bhd, and Asia Poly Industrial Sdn Bhd. Another member company which participated on its own, with a large and attractive booth was Limax Industries Sdn Bhd. MPMA’s Visiting Mission comprised 80 members.
Can you afford to miss the Malaysian market opportunity?

Returning to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the fifth time, M-PLAS is a proven forum for all involved in the plastics and rubber industries. Here are just some of the reasons why a presence at M-PLAS 2011 is indispensable for global and regional suppliers of relevant products, services, and solutions.

- Malaysia boasts one of the most diversified and advanced plastics and rubber processing sectors among ASEAN nations.
- The plastics and rubber processing sector is re-establishing itself as a strongly competitive manufacturing base on account of the high level of technology employed and superior production cost efficiencies, even when compared to China.
- Malaysia is home to more than 1,550 plastic product manufacturers;
- Continuous efforts by local manufacturers to adopt automation solutions and employ higher speed, higher productivity machinery in their businesses is reflected in employment data that shows the industry becoming more productive;
- With a well developed and stable local raw material supply capability spanning commodity resins such as LDPE and PVC, through to engineering plastics such as polyacetal and PBT, plastics processing activities continue to be strongly supported;
- The wide availability of engineering plastics from local compounders has led to the production of a wider range of precision parts and components for the automotive, electrical and electronic, and medical device sectors;
- Between 2005 and 2009, output of plastic injection moulded products and components rose by 50%, while extruded products rose by 27% and blow moulded products increased by 37%. Despite various external economic factors, the industry has remained resilient;
- Malaysia’s rubber products manufacturing sector is a US$3.5 billion business comprising 345 companies that processed an estimated 580,000 tonnes of material in 2009. 90% of output is exported, highlighting the need for world-class production standards;
- Malaysia is home to a substantial food-processing sector specialising in fish, meat, fruit and vegetables. The country’s food-processing industry also specialises in halal products, which must conform to strict Islamic dietary and slaughter rules. This is set to drive demand for advanced packaging solutions as Malaysia taps wealthy markets in the Middle East.

The above reasons warrant all connected to the industry to have a prominent presence at M-PLAS 2011. Over 200 exhibiting companies from 20 countries are expected to showcase the latest cutting edge innovations and technologies and processing solutions for the plastics and rubber sectors. More than 8,000 trade visitors, buyers and specifiers are also expected to visit the 4-day exhibition.

About M-PLAS

M-PLAS 2011 is organised by Messe Düsseldorf Asia. This world-class exhibition is endorsed by the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) and supported by the Malaysian Plastics Manufacturers Association (MPMA), Malaysian Rubber Products Manufacturers’ Association (MRPMA), Malaysian Rubber Export Promotion Council (MREPC), and Messe Düsseldorf / Organizer of K, International Trade Fair for Plastics + Rubber Worldwide.

More information on M-PLAS 2011 can be found at www.mplas.com or contact Messe Düsseldorf Asia at Tel: +65 6332 9620 or email enquiry to mplas@mda.com.sg

Great exhibitor interest in Interpack 2011

Leading trade fair with new special shows: "Metal Packaging Plaza“ and “Save Food!”

Interpack 2011, which will take place from 12 to 18 May 2011, picks up where its highly successful predecessor left off in 2008. After the official closing date at the end of February 2010 the booking level for the overall exhibition space had already reached similar proportions as in 2008. The last Interpack occupied 19 entire halls, showing processes and packaging solutions for a wide range of industries: food and beverages, confectionery and baked goods, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, non-food consumer goods and industrial goods and related services, so that the entire exhibition centre was used to capacity.

As before, the outstanding position of Interpack as a leading international trade fair is reflected not only in its response from exhibitors but also — in 2011— in a highly topical range of thematic areas that are at the very centre of the industry. Visitors can look forward to the INNOVATIONPARC PACKAGING with the focus on Quality of Life and to two special shows entitled “Metal Packaging Plaza“ and “Save Food!” – areas that have been expressly welcomed by the members of the Trade Fair Advisory Board.

With its “Metal Packaging Plaza”, interpack creates a new meeting point for the international metal packaging industry and its suppliers. The show will centre around an information platform that provides background details about current issues from a professional perspective. The area will be surrounded by companies with innovative metal packaging solutions.

“Save Food!” is about the way in which each stage in the packaging value chain and also in food transport and logistics can make a positive contribution to the combat against the pressing global issue of large-scale waste. The special show is being set up by the Düsseldorf Exhibition Centre in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and the supporting associations of interpack. As well as highlighting the current situation, a raft of solutions and approaches will be presented, showing how the protective function of packaging can effectively prevent food from going off between production and consumption.

Press Office Interpack 2011

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Email: PflueggeS@messe-duesseldorf.de, KuhnC@messe-duesseldorf.de
Updates on the Bisphenol A (BPA) Issue

August 2010

13th - The Ministry of Health (MOH) called for a meeting with MPMA, consumer associations, universities, other government testing agencies, FMM, MITI, etc. to discuss on the possible banning of BPA.

At the meeting, Mr Lim Kok Boon presented documentary evidence on the safety of BPA followed by a lengthy discussion on the safety of food packaging. MPMA supported the idea of having eco-labeling for food-contact packaging which the MOH had started.

Subsequent to the meeting, MOH requested MPMA for the following:

i. List of baby bottle manufacturer in Malaysia (address / contact person if possible)

ii. Exporting countries of baby bottles

iii. How to identify which can is using the BPA epoxy-lining (is there any indicator?)

iv. What is the best approach to sample these canned food? (either by manufacturer / brand / product)

MPMA provided replies to items i and ii and requested MOH to follow up with FMM on items iii and iv (can or can food manufacturers).

Members at the exco meeting agreed that eco-labelling for food-contact packaging would need to be expedited.

November 2010

24th - Further to the MOH meeting on 13 August 2010, MPMA had requested for a subsequent meeting involving all the representatives who were present at the said meeting on 24 November 2010. MPMA had managed to “secure” the attendance of Dr Steve Hentges, a well renowned expert on Polycarbonate and the Executive Director of the Polycarbonate/BPA Global Group of the American Chemistry Council (ACC) on issues related to BPA and Polycarbonate for the Meeting so that he could present the actual status on the BPA issue worldwide as well as to answer queries from those in attendance.

The Meeting at MOH was chaired by the Deputy Director, Department of Food Quality and Safety, En Jamal Khair bin Hashim.

- Seminar on ‘Polycarbonate Plastic, Epoxy Resins and Bisphenol A – Health and Environmental Issues Overview’

Subsequent to the meetings at MOH, a Seminar entitled ‘Polycarbonate Plastic, Epoxy Resins and Bisphenol A – Health and Environmental Issues Overview’ by Dr Steve Hentges had been organised by MPMA and MPA-PRPG at Wisma FMM.

Invitations had been extended to FMM members including MPA, PRPG, Tins and Cans Manufacturers and CICM members, whilst MPMA members included CC Members, MPF and polycarbonate bottle manufacturers.

25th - European Commission announces the ban on the use of BPA in plastic baby bottles.

December 2010

2nd - Subsequent to the announcement on banning the use of BPA in plastic baby bottles by the European Commission released on 25 November 2010, MPMA and all the relevant parties had been invited to attend a meeting with MOH on 2 December 2010 to discuss on the proposal by MOH to ban the usage of plastics feeding bottles that were made from BPA, and the follow-up actions that should be taken by each relevant party. The meeting was chaired by Pn Noraini bt Dato’ Mohd Othman, Senior Director of Food Safety and Quality Division, MOH.

The Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

i. MOH would propose to have an immediate ban on PC feeding bottles where the bottles would be phased out in 6 months period. However, MOH would consider the request made by members to allow the phased out period to be extended to 1 year to allow the producers to look into the operational aspects.

ii. For those feeding bottles that carrying BPA-free symbol, they are not affected by the ban. MS 735: 2010, Specification for Plastics Feeding Bottles would be reviewed to include an additional note on the clarification. For those non-detectable samples, they may claim their products as BPA-free.

iii. As an interim, consumers may still use PC feeding bottles but they must be educated to use it with precaution. It is advisable for manufacturers to produce their PC feeding bottles with a note to be included to the consumers, so that the bottles are used with precaution.

January 2011

7th - The Secretariat had called MOH on 7 January 2011 and was advised that the proposal to ban the use of BPA plastic baby bottles in Malaysia had been submitted to the Cabinet for discussion.
27 September 2010
Discussion on Oxo-Biodegradable Plastic Bags organized the Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-Operatives and Consumerism on 27 September 2010
The Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-Operatives and Consumerism had a Meeting with MPMA/MPF whereby Encik Ahmad Khairuddin presented on Plastics and the Environment with a focus on the effects on the environment of oxo-biodegradable bags. Subsequently, MPMA/MPF was also invited to another Meeting with Additech, the supplier of the oxo-biodegradable resins. SMI Association is working with Additech on this project as well as with a few plastic bag manufacturers. At that Meeting, MPMA/MPF made it clear that 3Rs is the way forward in managing the country’s solid wastes.

The said Ministry invited MPMA to participate in a Sustainable Consumption Exhibition on 16 October 2010 at UPM.

16 October 2010
Programme – Culture of Sustainable Living Lifestyle for Higher Learning Institutions organised by the Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-Operatives and Consumerism on 16 October 2010
The programme was held in collaboration with University Putra Malaysia (UPM). It was launched to promote sustainable living among the university students. The Minister, Dato’ Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob had announced that the ministry will coordinate a ‘No Plastic Bags Day’ campaign with all the major hypermarkets on year 2011 as a solution since plastic bags are dangerous to the environment and it contributes to global warming and accumulating the landfills in Malaysia during his opening speech.

MPF/MPMA participated in the exhibition to promote the 3Rs on Plastics.

15 - 19 November
RTM’s interview with MPF/MPMA
The series of interviews and shooting at the factories were telecast throughout 15 to 19 November 2010 on RTM 2 at 12.20 pm to 12.30 pm. The Mandarin language programme centred on plastic bag and polystyrene issues analysing views of the consumers, hypermarket operators, NGOs and plastics manufacturers.

The documentary programme on Plastic Bags broadcasted interviews and video recordings made at Merit Industries Sdn Bhd (Perak), interview with Mr CC Cheah on Plastics and the Environment and Greatpac Sdn Bhd (Selangor).

See also:
• Updates on the BPA Issue, and
• Chronology of Events – ‘No Plastic Bags’
• The Plastic Bags issue in Penang (see editorial on page 1 and Addressing the myths on plastic bags on page 1)

Scientex Foundation continues collaboration with MPMA
The Scientex Foundation has presented a cheque of RM200,000 to MPMA as part of its funding for awareness and educational programmes pertaining to the conservation and protection of the environment. This is the second time that the Scientex Foundation is funding MPMA for environment projects.

Scientex Foundation was incorporated on 26 June 2008 and driven by the interest and passion of its principal Scientex Berhad in the area of healthcare and environmental concerns. The establishment of Scientex Foundation is also to commemorate Scientex Berhad’s 40 years of growth and achievements. With the formation of Scientex Foundation, it will plan, implement and reflect the aspirations and commitment of Scientex Berhad to its long-term corporate responsibility initiatives.

AOTS Collaboration-Based Management Training Course
The programme on “Practical Factory Management for Malaysia – For the Plastics Manufacturing Industry” was carried out from 15 to 24 November 2010 in AOTS Chubu Kanshu Centre (CKC). A total of 20 participants attended the training.
We are pleased to announce the 9th edition of the MPMA Malaysian Plastics Industry Directory 2011/2012, which is a comprehensive register for Malaysian plastics manufacturers and associated companies.

The Malaysian plastics industry recorded a total turnover of RM15.5 billion in 2007 with exports amounting to RM8.4 billion, (representing 54% of total turnover), compared to RM7.8 billion in the previous year. The increase in exports reflects the industry’s ability and drive to compete globally, and in this regard, the MPMA Directory acts as the best medium of promotion for companies in the Malaysian plastics sector.

The Directory is widely circulated to Government Agencies for their distribution to their foreign offices; foreign embassies and to MPMA’s overseas partners.

Members are therefore encouraged to take advantage of this excellent promotional tool to advance your business by advertising in the Directory.

Terms and Conditions:
  - Trimmed size: 29.7 cm (H) x 21 cm (W)
  - Full page bleed: 30.7 cm (H) x 22 cm (W) [5 mm added all round]
  For bleed pages, the Publisher reserves the right to trim 6mm off each edge of the pages. Text and illustration material not intended to bleed must be kept within this limit
- File Type: PDF or AI
  - High resolution in PDF file with crop marks
  - Adobe Illustrator file – Must create outline for text and images must be embedded
- All advertisements are in full colour and compiled in a section after the indices.
- Rates quoted EXCLUDE artwork.
- Rates include free listing and advertisements in Directory CDROM.
- This Booking Form will be considered as confirmation of advertisement booking and full payment is required.
- Cheques to be made payable to “MPMA” and sent with the Booking Form.

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TOTAL

Deadline: Advertisement Bookings & Artwork – 28 February 2011

Advertiser’s Details  (Contact Persons: Mr BY Ong and Ms Mandy Kok  •  Tel no: 603 7876 2333/3027  •  Fax no: 603 7876 8352)

- Advertisement artwork enclosed
- Advertisement artwork will be sent by ________
- I don’t have the advertisement artwork

Company
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Address
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Telephone no __________________ Fax no __________________ Email __________________
Contact person __________________ Designation __________________ Department __________________
Date __________________ Signature/ Company Stamp ________________
Payment Enclosed
(Cheque no) __________________
JEC SHOW ADVERT