

EARTHLY NEWS!

Sustainable Development Initiatives of the Taylor Smith Group



International News

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The governments of 187 countries have agreed to control the movement of plastic waste between national borders, in an effort to curb the world's plastic crisis. Nations agreed to add plastic to the **Basel Convention**, a treaty that regulates movement of hazardous materials from one country to another, in order to combat the dangerous effects of plastic pollution around the world. Nearly 1 million people signed a global petition this week urging the governments of the Basel Convention to take action, by preventing western countries from "dumping millions of tonnes of plastic waste on developing countries instead of recycling it." Malaysia will return 3,000 tonnes of plastic waste to countries including the US, Canada and Saudi Arabia, amid a broadening clamp-down on imports of improperly labelled rubbish across south-east Asia. Ever since China banned the import of plastic in 2017, Malaysia has seen an influx of garbage. Many illegal factories have taken to burning the scraps, releasing noxious fumes that could threaten human health. Last summer, a small town in Malaysia grew accustomed to the smell of burning plastic. At night, the putrid scent would waft into homes in Jenjarom, a community of around 30,000 residents. Today, the fumes have mostly dissipated, but their source, nearly 19,000 tons of waste piled in high heaps is still around.



Yeo Bee Yin, environment minister, said the country would return the shipments of contaminated plastic rubbish

A small town in Malaysia is struggling with nearly 19,000 tons of plastic waste.

Used cartridges from desalination plants @ Aqua Science



It was decided, at the first sitting of the Aqua Science sustainable development committee, that the used cartridges from desalination plants in Rodrigues would be shipped back to Mauritius. The increased number of desalination plants in Rodrigues will lead to a significant number of cartridges and membranes requiring disposal every year. Disposal to landfill is currently the only option for discarding end-of-life desalination cartridges and membranes. Alternatives to landfill are necessary to minimise the impact on the environment. This will be the task of the sustainable development committee once the membranes are back home.





Visit of Professor Goburdhun from Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Food Science & Technology at Bourbon Vanilla.

Partnership with University of Mauritius was considered to find alternatives to plastic packaging.



Visit at Sofap of Professor Ramjeawon, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering. In the context of it's action plan to advance on SDG 12, Sofap set an objective of becoming a zero waste company and various initiatives have already been initiated to reach it's objective. Partnership with academia to foster innovation is an essential part of the strategy. Two students will work on finding innovative ways to upcycle the paint sludge.

Other interesting news ...



All the companies of the Group are participating in focus groups to clarify the purpose of the Group in terms of sustainable development.



Visit to the Good Shop. The owner informs us of the negative environmental effects of the fashion industry and explains the business model and concept of the shop. An awareness session was scheduled.



Sofap purchases recyclable stationery—when used, the casing can be thrown in the compost bin and the cartridge will be given to an artist to create works of art.

