

BASELINE SURVEY OF PLASTIC-FREE MEETING PILOT PROJECT

Purpose of the survey

Getting the insight of plastic crisis awareness and current pattern of single-use plastic usage among the staffs of DOE and related UNDP partners to evaluate their understanding before and after the execution of actual activities.

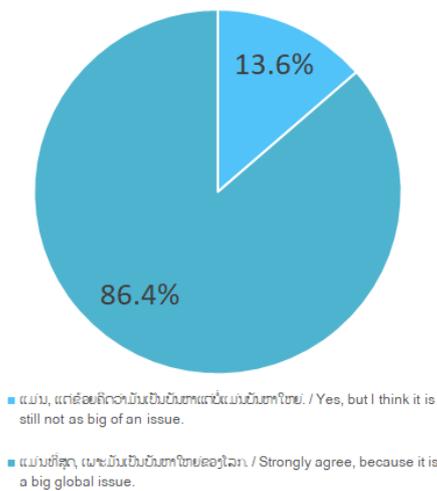
The online survey is conducted and involved 80 respondents from the Governmental sectors like MONRE, MICT, MPT, MOLSW, LNCCI (76.5%); International organizations such as UNDP, World Food Program or WFP, GGGI, and UNRCO (22%), and the State Enterprise which is Lao Telecom (1.5%).



Photo from <https://www.facebook.com/Laosdoe>

AWARENESS ABOUT SINGLE-USE PLASTIC WASTE ISSUE.

Figure 01: Do you pay attention to the plastic waste issue?

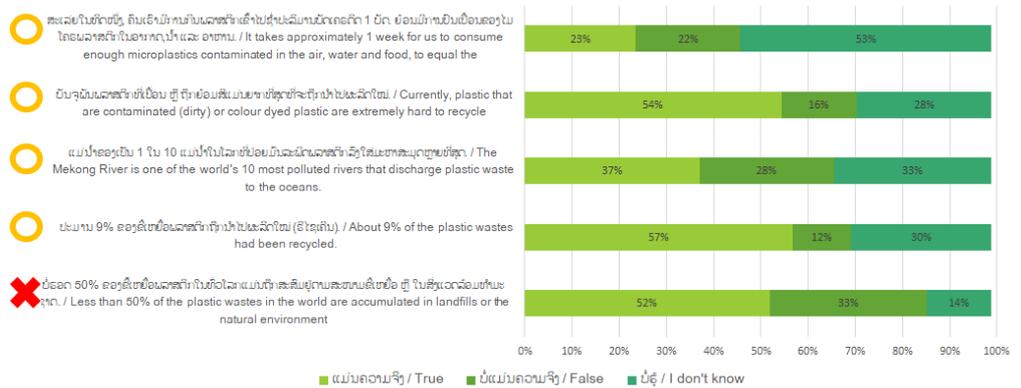


Participants have a good level of awareness about plastic waste issues.

The majority of the respondents said that they pay attention to the plastic waste issue because it is a big global issue (as in Figure 01), such as air pollution from plastic waste burning, micro-plastic contamination in air, river and food. However, some issues were less recognized, such as the threats of plastic pollution to land animals, marine animals, birds and food chain in the ecosystem; Climate Change and plastic waste in nature such as forest, lakes, rivers.

The survey also picked some facts about plastic pollution facts to observe the depth of understanding among the respondents (Figure 02).

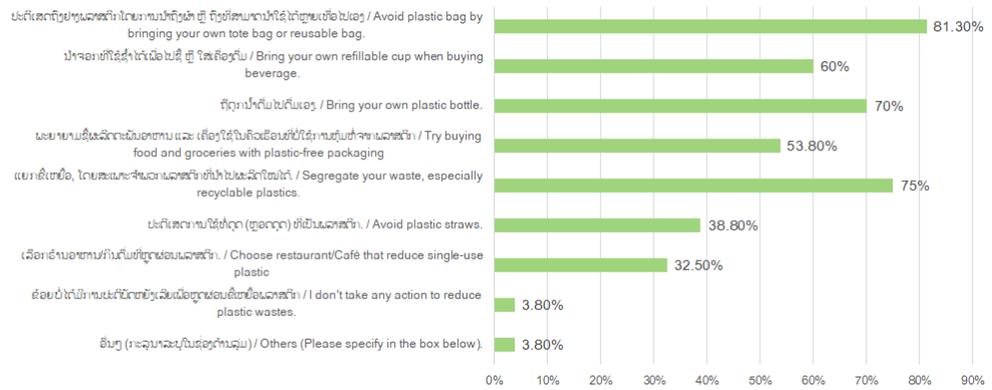
Figure 02: Which of these following statements are true?



It showed that more than half of the respondents were aware of the facts related to recycling. Nonetheless, it was less likely that some knowledge such as the contamination in Mekong river, human's microplastics consumption, and the amount of plastic waste in the landfills and natural environment were aware by them.

CURRENT ACTIONS TO REDUCE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC.

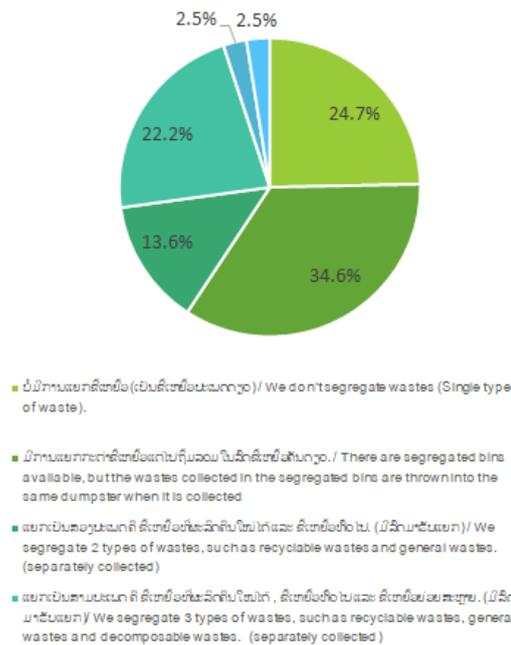
Figure 03: What actions are you currently taking to reduce plastic wastes?



The actions taken to reduce single-use plastic waste also varies according to the survey's responses. Most of the participants would choose to avoid plastic bags by bringing their own tote bag or other types of reusable bag, followed by segregating their waste especially recyclable plastics from other types of garbage and bringing their own bottle to avoid using single-use plastic consumption. Furthermore, more than half of the respondents also choose to bring their own refillable cups when buying beverages and try buying food and groceries with plastic-free packaging.

For 71.6% of the respondents' offices, there were normally awareness-raising activities to reduce single-use plastics, however, they were not applied as rules. When it comes to waste segregation, The survey's result in Figure 04 has shown that the biggest proportion (34.6%) of responses said that their offices have segregated bins available, but the wastes collected in the segregated bins are thrown into the same dumpster. Moreover, the common waste sorting patterns were segregating recyclable and general wastes, followed by sorting in 3 types such as recyclable, decomposable, and general wastes. Normally, the recyclable wastes are collected and sold by the janitors.

Figure 04: How does your office segregate its waste?



THE USAGE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AND WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE PARTICIPATING OFFICES.

Regarding the types of plastic items used in general meetings, it is displayed in figure 05 that the small plastic bottled (235ml) was the most popular item. Moreover, tea and coffee plastic sachets; plastics liners for trash bins; candies in plastic wraps and; cutleries and coffee stir sticks were found used by the majority of the respondents' office

Figure 05: In general meetings, which types of single-use plastics are used?

