

Plastic Odyssey Chennai Stopover – Launch Press Conference



Plastic Odyssey, the global maritime expedition dedicated to combating plastic pollution, is making a stopover in Chennai from March 1st to March 22nd, 2025. With a diverse program of events, this stopover presents a unique opportunity for media representatives and local partners to discover the innovative initiatives of this exceptional mission.

AGENDA

- ≡ **Introduction word by Mr Praveen Kanannur**, President of Alliance Française of Madras;
- ≡ **Welcome address by Mr Etienne Rolland-Piegue**, Consul General of France in Pondicherry and Chennai;
- ≡ **Special address by Ms. Supriya Sahu IAS**, Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department;
- ≡ **Note from Mr. Franck Passiller**, Senior Country Manager of Credit Agricole in India;
- ≡ **Presentation of the Plastic Odyssey expedition by Simon Bernard**, CEO & Co-founder;
- ≡ **Introduction of OK Jeong Lee**, Korean artist from Auroville, and official opening of the exhibition;
- ≡ **Cocktail reception and Q&A session with Plastic Odyssey expedition members.**



ABOUT PLASTIC ODYSSEY

Plastic Odyssey is a three-year global expedition aimed at identifying, documenting, and disseminating low-cost and easily replicable plastic recycling solutions. The goal is to create a global network of recycling entrepreneurs, promote sustainable practices, and reduce plastic pollution at its source.

Designed as a floating laboratory, Plastic Odyssey is equipped with an onboard micro-recycling plant, enabling training sessions, awareness campaigns, and project incubation in collaboration with numerous local partners. With a crew of around twenty members, the ship also serves as an experimental ground for a zero-waste lifestyle and promotes innovative and alternative solutions to plastic.

A RICH PROGRAM OF EVENTS

The Chennai stopover will feature a series of events over the three-week stopover:

≡ **March 1st: Ship Arrival**

≡ **Press Conference:** Presentation of the expedition, planned activities in Chennai, and the mission in India. A unique moment to understand the impact of Plastic Odyssey and interact directly with key players in this adventure. The conference will be followed by a cocktail reception, a sneak preview of the exhibition, and individual meetings with the expedition team.

≡ **Onboard Laboratory (2 sessions: March 3th - March 8th & March 10th - 11th):** An incubation and training program onboard the ship for a dozen project leaders working on plastic waste recovery solutions. *Registration closed (Already Full).*

≡ **School Visits (March 10th - March 20th):** Numerous students, school groups, and teachers will have the opportunity to explore the expedition through guided educational ship tours conducted by the expedition members.

≡ **Nomadic Exhibition:** Opening on March 5th, this traveling exhibition highlights innovative alternatives to plastic discovered around the world. The exhibition will be accessible to the public at the Alliance Française of Madras gallery.

≡ **A multistakeholder workshop** on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy (RE & CE) in Plastics will be held on March 19, 2025, in Chennai. Organized by the EU-I Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Initiative (EU-I RECEI) in partnership with the Material Recycling Association of India and Plastic Odyssey, the event aims to bring together key stakeholders to explore innovative solutions for tackling plastic pollution, promoting innovative recycling technologies, and creating awareness on circular economy opportunities for MSMEs in India. The EU-India Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Initiative (EU-I RECEI) is co-financed by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection, and is implemented jointly with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). GIZ is the implementing agency for the EU-I RECEI.

≡ **Private Events:** In collaboration with its partners, Plastic Odyssey will host a series of events to engage various industries in the fight against plastic pollution.

≡ **Beach Clean-up:** Kabadiwala Connect and Plastic Odyssey, with the support of DELFINGEN and Phosphea, invite you to participate in an afternoon of plastic cleanup in beautiful Kovalam. In addition to collecting plastic waste, participants will learn about the plastic recycling value chain and where do their collected waste end up. Volunteers can sign up here and enjoy a follow-up Acoustic show at the Kovalam Surf Association after the cleanup.

PLASTIC ODYSSEY IN INDIA: A KEY REGIONAL STOP FOR A GLOBAL IMPACT

Since its departure, Plastic Odyssey has visited over 30 countries and supported more than 200 local entrepreneurs in the recycling sector. This stopover in India is part of a global approach to developing and sharing knowledge gained from previous stops while also learning from and highlighting new grassroots innovations and low-tech recycling techniques from Indian project leaders.

OUR PARTNERS

The French Embassy in India, the French Office in Madras, and the Alliance Française of Madras provide essential logistical support to facilitate Plastic Odyssey's stopover in Chennai. As 2025 marks the Year of the Ocean, this partnership is also part of a broader initiative to raise public awareness about environmental conservation and protection worldwide. Plastic Odyssey exhibition, as well as some of the training programs are hosted at Alliance Française of Madras for the duration of the stopover, affirming strongly the commitment of this organisation in environment protection.

MSSRF: As local stopover partner, the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation provided a precious support in connecting Plastic Odyssey team to local ecosystem of recyclers, schools, environmental initiatives, as well as co-organized training activities, especially addressing Chennai fisherman communities.

GIZ: With strong expertise in circular economy and community empowerment through local development, GIZ has partnered with Plastic Odyssey to connect the expedition members with local circular economy initiatives in Chennai and Tamil Nadu. GIZ is also planning expert sessions during Plastic Odyssey's on-board incubation programme on various topics such as Indian EPR/Rules and Regulations, business model development and other inputs from recycling experts.

Crédit Agricole: Headquartered in France, Crédit Agricole Group is the world's 9th largest bank by assets (The Banker, July 2024). With a presence in India dating back to 1877, today, the Group operates in the country through Crédit Agricole CIB, its corporate and investment banking arm, and SBI Mutual Funds, the asset management joint venture between its subsidiary Amundi and the State Bank of India.

A pioneer and leader in sustainable and climate finance, Crédit Agricole Group is committed to supporting its clients in their energy transition. The bank has set decarbonisation trajectories to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, with targets for its own footprint as well as its commercial activities. This includes ending financing for any new extraction projects of fossil fuel, the raw material to make plastic. It also participates in marine conservation initiatives by issuing sustainable, green, biodiversity-linked, and blue bonds to raise funds for projects that positively impact the marine life. In addition, Crédit Agricole Group is one of the founding signatories of the Poseidon Principles, which encourages the decarbonisation of the shipping sector.

Plastic Odyssey's mission and innovative approach in environmental protection is fully in line with Crédit Agricole Group's societal project and CSR commitments. In addition to financial donation, the bank has developed innovative financing mechanisms - through solidarity-based green bonds and fund structured products - to support Plastic Odyssey.

DELFINGEN Foundation: The DELFINGEN Foundation is a strong partner of the Plastic Odyssey expedition. The first two recycling micro-factories developed in Asia (Philippines, Manila and Cebu) were built and operated with the support of the Delfingen Foundation. The Delfingen Foundation team, which has been active in India for many years, particularly in the Chennai area, offered strong support to Plastic Odyssey on its arrival in India.

THE NEXT LEG OF THE EXPEDITION

After this stop in India, the Plastic Odyssey expedition team will head to La Réunion before reaching Mauritius, Madagascar, the Seychelles, and the Comoros. As an ambassador in the fight against plastic pollution in this highly impacted region, the vessel will engage with stakeholders shaping both today's and tomorrow's world. Our goal is to build a global network of solutions to combat plastic pollution. Join our adventure—follow and support our journey across the Indian Ocean.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE STOPOVER AND EVENTS



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For more information, visit our website www.plasticodyssey.org and follow us on social media:

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