

Alexandria : Plastic Odyssey launch his stopover in Egypt



Thursday, the 10th of november in Alexandria, the Plastic Odyssey vessel celebrates the launch of the second of its 30 stopovers around the world to reduce plastic pollution.

This stopover is organised around two main themes: meeting and exchanging with local recycling entrepreneurs to develop sustainable solutions to pollution, and exploring and sharing alternatives for building a plastic-free world.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE STOPOVER ACCORDING TO OUR 2 MAIN AXES

CLEAN UP THE PAST

— Hosting recycling entrepreneurs on board



At the heart of the stopover, the sharing of knowledge and the development of recycling projects will take on its full meaning. Seven recycling entrepreneurs will be welcomed on board for 5 days to follow a support and exchange programme. Discussions based on personal experiences, training courses combining technical skills, business model studies and meetings with local recyclers are the main features of the On Board Laboratory.

Between the conference room and the onboard recycling workshop, everything is organized on board the ship so that these entrepreneurs and the Plastic Odyssey team can build the recycling structures of tomorrow.

— R&D on the production of products from plastic waste



While we currently have a legacy of 5 million tonnes of plastic waste, the challenge now is to use this waste as a resource. The Plastic Odyssey team will meet Egyptian entrepreneurs on the ground who are making innovative objects out of recycled plastic and use them as inspiration for studies and prototypes in their onboard laboratory. All of their findings will be documented and made available in open source for anyone interested in learning about low-tech plastic recycling technologies.

BUILD THE FUTURE

— Sharing experiences in the classroom



As awareness of plastic pollution is central to building a more sustainable world, the team will also meet classes to share their adventures and discoveries.

«Our aim is to give tomorrow's world citizens the opportunity to ask themselves questions, to help them construct their own reflections,» explains Maïté, president of the association, which works on educational projects related to plastic pollution with schools in France and abroad.

— Nomadic Expo or the Treasure Trunks



How can we imagine a future without plastic? As plastic has become an omnipresent part of our daily lives, what better way to find alternatives and limit plastic pollution than to learn from the testimonies of people and objects from around the world? From November the 10th to the 21st at the French Institute, an exhibition presents treasure trunks full of solutions to reduce the use of single-use plastic.

— Social science research



As young and old citizens are involved in the issue of plastic pollution, the team will conduct interviews with researchers to understand the issues of plastic in Lebanon, the uses, consumption and alternatives that are flourishing in the area.



THE REST OF THE EXPEDITION

The Egyptian stopover is part of a long expedition: the Plastic Odyssey ship will travel to Tunis, Morocco and Senegal in the coming months. In total, 30 stopovers will be explored over the next three years. Africa, South America, Asia, at an average rate of one week's sailing for three weeks of stopovers, the boat will be an ambassador for the fight against plastic pollution on these continents. The team will meet the actors who build the world of today and tomorrow, with the ambition of creating a global network of solutions to fight against plastic pollution.

WHAT IS PLASTIC ODYSSEY?

Born in 2016 at the initiative of Simon BERNARD, Alexandre DECHELOTTE and Bob VRIGNAUD, two young sailors and an engineer, all three passionate about low-tech and environmental protection, Plastic Odyssey is built on a simple observation: 20 tons of plastic are dumped into the Ocean every minute. Once in the sea, most of the plastic is no longer recoverable. The project's action is therefore concentrated on land with two main pillars:

- **Clean up the past:** For more than four years, Plastic Odyssey has been developing low-tech and open source technologies to transform plastic waste into resources and thus treat the waste already produced on land, before it ends up in the sea. The aim of these machines is to develop the plastic waste processing sector economically: to create jobs while fighting pollution at source.
- **Build the future:** Turning plastic waste into resources will not be enough! In order to eliminate plastic pollution in the long term, Plastic Odyssey is working on several awareness-raising programmes aimed at the populations most affected by plastic pollution. The aim of these programmes is to give everyone access to the concrete solutions that exist to avoid the use of plastic.



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