



Project

PLASTIC FREE WATERS



By 2050 there will be more
plastic in the ocean than fish

promoted by

International Yachting Fellowship
of Rotarians

We ask the help of all Rotarians in the world, together we can

www.iyfr.net

INTRODUCTION

Every day human negligence and unawareness directly or by way of canals and rivers, thrust into the seas some 22,000 tons of plastic waste. With this trend in the Oceans, Seas and Lakes of the Planet by 2050 there will be more plastic garbage than fish. Micro and nano-plastics, particles in which the plastic garbage turns while floating can already be found in the whole sea food chain and eventually up and into the human food chain. Traces have been found even the sea salt. The garbage islands plague all the Planet's waters and the various attempts to contain and remove them have proved to be unsuccessful in spite of the extraordinary and costly efforts. In 2017 the International Coastal Cleanup Program 789.138 volunteers have recovered 9.285,6 tons of plastic debris from the beaches of the entire world. This is a gigantic and most praiseworthy awareness opera. Unfortunately the same quantity reaches the Seas every 140 seconds. Every day.

CONSIDERATIONS AND PROPOSALS

Fortunately, world awareness is increasing and there are numerous Government, Regional and local enterprises aimed at tackling the problem. The floating barriers in the open seas solutions so far proposed mainly in the Pacific, not even considering the exiguity of the treated areas, have sorted almost no effect except for a further and praiseworthy awareness. There are hundreds of initiatives at any level going on but, at the moment, the only real (also if partial) solution seems to be the reduction of the amount of plastics that reaches the seas through the canal and rivers. Eleven of them (Yangtze, Indo, Yellow River, Hai, Meghna, Brahmaputra, Ganges, Nile, Pearl River, Niger, Mekong) pour into the Seas the 88% of the total amount of the plastic waste. Since it is and it will be difficult to eliminate/recycle the waste forming the garbage islands, the actions should necessarily tend to reduce the amount of plastics poured into the seas by means of appropriate barriers. The use and the consumption of throwaway plastics should be strongly discouraged, while it should be strongly encouraged the researches of alternative solutions, more recyclable materials use and the reuse and recycle of those plastics objects of which it seems we cannot do without.

Rotary International is very sensitive to all the problems connected with the environment and Rotarians have been working on it since decades, fully aware of the treat. The images of Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors sensitizing the students in the schools and actually cleaning the coasts and the beaches all over the world, are of inspiration and motivate to go ahead under the Rotary Flag. But Rotary can do more: Rotary can take the lead, coordinate those activities and hopefully aim to higher and effective projects/programs. Rotarians are eager and proud to participate and to take action wherever and whenever it is needed.

This Project was submitted to the RI President Mark Maloney in Hamburg and has received his assurance that RI will initially support it on all the Rotary International media also allowing for a parallel session in Honolulu.

Rotary International, (this is the dream), could in the future declare this Project strategic and include it among the major Rotarian planetary initiatives.

CONCLUSION

Thus far, triggered by IYFR, many Fleets and their Club/Districts from around the world have joined this initiative: Canada, the United States, Mexico, Ecuador, Columbia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Japan, China, the Philippine, Australia and New Zealand are expected to follow.

On the Italian national site of the Rotary International, it is written:

" we believe in a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves ".

What a better way to prove it?

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