

Beirut: the first Plastic Odyssey stopover is launched



Friday, the 21st of October in Zaitunay Bay Marina in Beirut, the vessel Plastic Odyssey celebrates the launch of the first of its 30 round-the-world stopovers to reduce plastic pollution.

This stopover is organized around two main themes: meeting and exchanging with local recycling entrepreneurs to develop sustainable solutions to pollution, as well as exploring alternatives to build a plastic-free world and sharing them.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE STOPOVER

— 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. Eight recycling entrepreneurs will be welcomed on board for 10 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.

— Ship visits



Passing on a taste for adventure and the desire to innovate in order to open doors for new generations is a central mission of our association. The AEFÉ (Agence pour l'Enseignement Français à l'Étranger/Agency for French Education Abroad) eco-delegates students will have the opportunity to visit the ship to open up to the world of navigation and understand how this great floating laboratory that is the Plastic Odyssey works. The role of the crew, recycling technologies, life on board... all the doors of the expedition will be open to them.

— Sharing experiences in the classroom



As awareness of plastic pollution is central to building a more sustainable world, the team will also meet classes from Rawdat El Fayhaa and AZM schools in Tripoli and the National Orthodox College in El Mina 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.

— 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. At the same time, a writing workshop is proposed to the women of the association «Life Project 4 Youth» to imagine what a future world without plastic could look like, and the ways to get there.

THE REST OF THE EXPEDITION



The Lebanese stopover opens the way to a long expedition: the Plastic Odyssey ship will go to Alexandria in Egypt, then to Tunisia, 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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