



OXO-BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS ASSOCIATION

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Registered in England no. 8107377
EU reg. no. 186937011291-26



OPA IN MEXICO

The Oxo-biodegradable Plastics Association was represented in Mexico on 25th September by its Chairman, Michael Stephen, who spoke at an important public forum at the Mexico City campus of the Technical University of Monterrey, which is one of the leading universities of Latin America for science and technology. Other speakers were:

Dr. Isabel Studer, Director of the Global Institute for Sustainability;
Dr. Alethia Vazquez, Professor at the Metropolitan Autonomous University of Mexico, and author of an in-depth scientific study of oxo-biodegradable plastics.
Chemical Engineer Luis Manuel Guerra, President of the Institute for Ecological Research and a well-known television commentator on environmental issues in Latin America.

Ing. Mauricio Yanez, Executive Director of Plasticos Degradables SA – an OPA member with state-of-the-art laboratory facilities in Mexico for testing, certifying, and developing oxo-biodegradable plastics.

Mr. Stephen addressed the forum on the need for oxo-biodegradable plastic in Mexico. This is needed to address the serious problem caused in Mexico and throughout the Americas by waste plastic products which escape collection and end up in the natural environment. He explained that oxo-biodegradable plastic is designed to convert into biodegradable materials at the end of its useful life. Of particular importance to Mexico, lying between the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean, is its ability to degrade and biodegrade on land and in the marine environment without harmful effects.

Mr. Stephen also drew attention to scientific reports, and experience of OPA members, showing that oxo-biodegradable plastics can be recycled with other oil-based plastics and that bio-based “compostable” plastics cannot.

The consensus of the forum was that oxo-biodegradable plastics have a useful role to play in Mexico, and that there is no longer any doubt that they do degrade and biodegrade in the outdoor environment on land or sea, that they are not eco-toxic and that they do not merely fragment into particles of plastic.

Mr. Stephen had earlier visited the British Pavilion at the “Green Expo” exhibition in Mexico City, and is pictured here (L) at the Pavilion with Ing. Yanez, and a banner promoting the oxo-biodegradable and anti-microbial plastic products of British OPA-member Symphony Environmental Technologies Plc. On a shopping expedition nearby he found oxo-biodegradable bags in use at the Sears department store.