



HAMBURGER LLOYD

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# THE BRIDGE

HAMBURGER LLOYD SHORE TO SHIP

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# One Earth – One Ocean on a mission against plastic waste in the seas

## Catamaran “Seekuh” (Manatee) in the waters off Hong Kong

**We already published an article about the “Seekuh” in March 2017 (issue 34). Currently the first certified waste collection ship is stationed near Hong Kong, where it has been since February, cleaning up the heavily polluted waters off the Chinese coast.**

The environmental organisation from Munich has already put six years of work into the implementation of its concept of a “Maritime Litter Cleanup service”. The special catamaran “Seekuh”, financed entirely by donations, measures about 12 x 10 metres (L x W) and weighs just under eight tonnes.

The media-supported “Seekuh” campaign, culminating in an official reception at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM), was intended to “raise environmental awareness and publicise the concept of “Maritime Litter Cleanup” in Asia”, according to an official statement.

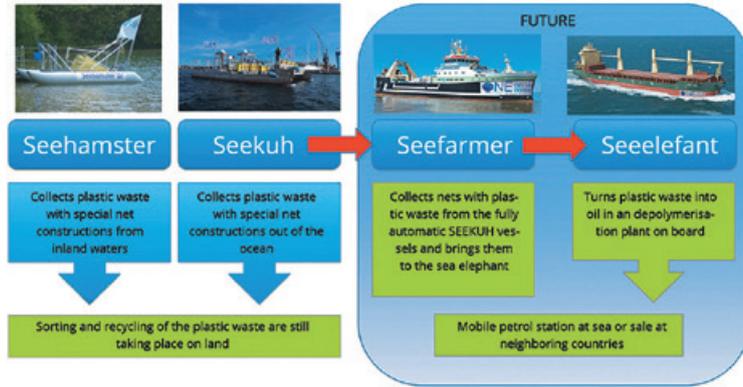
“Plastic waste is a major problem worldwide, but especially in Asia. Studies such as the one by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (“Rethinking the Future of Plastics”) show that more than 80% of the plastic waste that enters the oceans worldwide comes from Asia. Just five countries in the region are responsible for around 60% of the plastic waste in the ocean”, the state-

ment continues. In addition to China and Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam dispose of around eight million tonnes of plastic waste into the sea every year.

“This is not about pointing a finger at others. Poor environmental awareness is an issue in every single country around the world. Instead, solutions for one of the biggest global environmental problems need to be identified, and the problem tackled on site, hand in hand with a sensitisation for the subjects of waste production and waste avoidance”, the project managers demand.

What the responsible people wanted to

## The “Marine Litter Cleanup” concept of the Earth • One Ocean e.V.



do is to present the concept of “Maritime Litter Cleanup” to local decision-makers in politics and business. The aim of this project is to remove plastic from seas and inland waters with specially developed waste collection vessels of various sizes. In a first step, visible plastic waste will be fished out, sorted, and crushed, using special catamarans.

In addition to the sea-bound work of the “Seekuh” in the heavily polluted waters and beaches of the megacity of Hong Kong, civic organisations and school class-

es can visit the waste collection ship, and there are lectures on the reduction of plastic waste in everyday life.

While the garbage is still separated and recycled ashore, OEOO is planning to build a self-sufficient energy ship – the so-called “Seeelefant” (elephant seal) – in the coming years. This converted container ship with an own depolymerisation plant (that turns plastics into oil) will produce fuel oil from the plastic waste (one ton yields approx. 800 litres of sulphur-free fuel oil), which can either be sold to neighbouring states

or serve as a mobile off-shore filling station. A large number of initiatives and projects shows that sensitivity of this topic has increased enormously. And everyone can contribute to cleaning the seas and beaches of plastic waste. On International Coastal Cleanup Day, initiated by the US environmental organisation Ocean Conservancy, more than half a million people in 112 countries collect almost 10,000 tonnes of waste from beaches, the sea, rivers, and lakes every single year.

In Germany, the Nabu (Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V., Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union) initiates a yearly clean-up day with volunteer garbage collectors. The next event is to take place on 15 September 2018. And on the website [gewaesserretter.de](http://gewaesserretter.de), anyone can plot rubbish they have discovered on a map of Europe, organise garbage collection campaigns, and later spread their success stories. This way, more than 40,000 kilograms of waste have already been collected. 

### Source:

- One Earth One Ocean
- [www.welt.de](http://www.welt.de)

### Infographic:

- Grüne Welle Kommunikation