

Press Release

SCP as a tool to leave no one behind and to attain the SDGs for Southeast Asian Countries

Bangkok/Jakarta, March 17: To mainstream circular economy and promote sustainable consumption and production and explore how SCP can enhance collaborative actions and policies to support socio-economic growth and resilience to ASEAN nations, the EU-funded SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component, in partnership with UNEP, the ASEAN Secretariat and APRSCP (the Asia Pacific Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production) with support from Asian Institute of Technology, organised a virtual consultation to discuss the progress of the SCP policies and practices among ASEAN countries based on the report on “Mapping SCP in ASEAN” which was present in this consultation.

Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) is an integral part of the global agenda and is one of the seventeen SDGs adopted by member states of the United Nations, including India. SDG 12 focuses on ensuring responsible and sustainable consumption and production by encouraging policy measures and implementation for reducing wasteful use of resources by both producers and consumers.

The Mapping exercise outlined several **key findings**. One is on common sectors that most of countries share existing SCP efforts and the other is challenges including common SCP goals, key priorities, governance and lessons. The consultation also discussed the next step of this collaboration which is to develop the SCP Framework for ASEAN which can create more opportunities for strengthening collaboration, increasing more capacities, and expanding networks of practitioners. Education and communications should be one of key vehicles to promote SCP and advocate common benefits among key sectors. The framework should offer different timeframe and highlight potential of priority sectors that SCP can be advanced in the ASEAN countries.

The online Consultation brought together over 30 participants representing the EU Delegations, the delegations from ASEAN member states, representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, UNEP, APRSCP and experts to share comments and provide suggestions.

The event was officially opened by **HE Igor Driesmans, EU Ambassador to ASEAN** who said “*Circular Economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production not only support socio-economic growth and resilience. They contribute to a pollution-free and sustainable ASEAN community*”.

Dr Muhstaq Memon, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and SWITCH-Asia RPAC manager explained, “*Thanks to initiatives like SWITCH-Asia RPAC, the progress of SDG12 shows that it's now progressing, while last year it was regressing.*”

Dr Vong Sok, Head of Environment Division, ASEAN Secretariat stated that, “*ASEAN looks forward to working together with the EU and relevant partners to develop and implement a comprehensive ASEAN SCP Framework, starting with the high-yield opportunities.*”

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