

SUMMARY REPORT

15th Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP) WEBISODE II:

NATIONAL ACTION PLANS ON SCP, DRIVERS FOR GREEN RECOVERY

Collaborations and synergies for a more impactful #WeSwitch



27 April 2021 • 1600-1830 (GMT+8 / Manila Time) • WEBEX

CONTEXT

Since 1997, the Asia Pacific Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP) has convened regional roundtables to foster multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships to enhance and strengthen cooperation on sustainable consumption and production (SCP). The 15th APRSCP: “Green Recovery and Beyond in Asia Pacific through SCP,” hosted by the Philippines, has been conducted online through a series of webisode roundtable discussions is from April 20 – May 11, 2021, co-organised by partner institutions.

The EU SWITCH-Asia Programme, through the SCP Facility, co-organised the 15th APRSCP Webisode II focusing on “[National Action Plans \(NAPs\) on SCP, Drivers for Green Recovery](#)”, [Collaborations and synergies for a more impactful #WeSwitch](#) on 27 April 2021 at 16:00 (Manila Time).

Launched in 2007, the SWITCH-Asia Programme funded by the European Union has been providing the platform for partnerships and networks in between Europe and Asia to support the development and implementation of SCP policies and the promotion of SCP best practices together with multi-

stakeholders, including the APRSCP.

More than 150 attendees of the 15th APRSCP – EU SWITCH-Asia Webisode II discussed the regional and national efforts on the development and implementation of national strategies and action plans and implementation of SCP practices as contribution towards green recovery post-CoVID-19 pandemic. Results of the Webisode II are the following:

- Increased understanding of Asian countries’ diversity and shared priorities in the development and implementation of SCP policies;
- Experiences shared on the challenges and opportunities in developing and implementing NAP/Roadmaps on SCP;
- Recommendations from Asian and International experts on how SCP policy-making efforts can support green recovery.
- Discussed potential cooperation opportunities between APRSCP, SWITCH-Asia and other concerned institutions and participants.

SETTING THE SCENE

The 15th APRSCP – SWITCH-Asia Webisode II were moderated by Mrs. Loraine Gatlabayan, SCP Adviser of the EU SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility and Mr. Arab Hoballah, Team Leader of the EU SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility, as co-chairs of the event.

Mr. Arab Hoballah welcomed the participants to the event and thanked the APRSCP Board of Trustees for inviting the EU

SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility to contribute to the 15th APRSCP. He highlighted the importance of SCP, not just as an approach but as a systemic process, involving all stakeholders, which is important to achieve transformative change towards inclusive, green and circular economy and sustainable development. SCP is the operational definition of sustainable development and its practical translation into responsible behaviour decisions and

action. He highlighted how the EU SWITCH-Asia Programme promotes SCP patterns in Asia through country support on enhancing and enabling the policy framework, the industrial and particular SME context, the market capacity, and the consumer responsible behaviour and action. He reiterated that more needs to be done in the global, regional, national and local level to effectively deliver SCP. The pandemic has become a lesson to all to push for and drive the change, to finally build forward, not

WELCOME REMARKS

Mr. Noer Adi Wardoyo, Head of the Environment and Forestry Standards in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia; National Focal Point to ASEAN Cooperation on SCP; and President, APRSCP Board of Trustees gave an overview of the APRSCP, which is a regional convening network that has been providing a sound platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships to advance SCP in the region. He highlighted the importance of the 15th APRSCP's theme and the need to make fundamental changes in our socio-economic systems down to individual and collective behaviours towards sustainable development. He mentioned that sustainable development issues are in the forefront in global and regional agenda with increased awareness on sustainable lifestyle, sustainable living, change in production systems, circular economy, resource efficiency, eco civilization among others.



Decision-makers in Asia Pacific are increasingly using terms such as: Sustainable lifestyle, circular economy and resource efficiency.

This will hopefully translate into actions as it's time to revisit our SCP work in the Asia Pacific region.

NOER ADI WARDOJO

Head of Center for Standards, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia

15th APRSCP



better, but build right. He finally stressed that this event aims to increase the understanding of Asian countries' diversities and shared priorities in the development and implementation of SCP policies. There is a need to share those experiences and draw lessons on the challenges and achievements in developing and implementing NAPs/roadmaps on SCP.

Mr. Mario Ronconi, Head of Unit, for South and South-East Asia, Directorate General for International Partnerships, European Commission highlighted the importance of Webisode II to exchange views on how to best integrate more sustainable practices in the economy and society. He highlighted how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected societies and economies. He emphasized that green recovery has become more of a necessity, with the need for a coordinated approach to move to more sustainable economic models.

Mr. Ronconi stated the opportunity not only to reconsider criteria for the protection of the environment and natural resources but also to ensure a fair and inclusive restructuring of our economies and our societies. He highlighted how governments in Asia are adopting several measures to prevent negative impact on the economy such as countries in Central Asia that adopted measures, reorienting the budget to take urgent measure in response to the pandemic. The Royal Government of Bhutan promoted fiscal and monetary measures. The Government of Bangladesh has rolled out 23 stimulus packages of 14.6 billion US dollars. In Southeast Asia, Malaysia implemented five stimulus packages and recovery plans amounting to about 20% of its GDP and provided assistance micro and small-scale businesses.



We need a systemic change in the way we produce, consume and work.

Governments can play a very important role in supporting this change.

MARIO RONCONI

Head of Unit for South and South-East Asia, Directorate General for International Partnerships, European Commission

15th APRSCP



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Mr. Wardoyo recalled the outcomes of the 14th APRSCP hosted by Indonesia in 2018, the Asia-Pacific Citizenship pledge for accelerating the implementation of SCP, which was brought forward to the UN Environment Assembly 4. It highlighted the need for innovative pathways to achieve SCP and called for formation of community of practice, development of SCP resource pool, enhancing collaboration at national regional level and also with the One Planet Network, and also mainstreaming SCP in national and regional policy. This resulted to the ongoing development of the ASEAN Framework on SCP supported by ASEAN Secretariat, UNEP through the EU SWITCH-Asia, and APRSCP. He highlighted that the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2021 discussed how the implementation of SCP is lagging behind and It's time to revisit the work on SCP in the Asia Pacific region.

He raised key points to be addressed: scaling up work on SCP to achieve a systemic transformative change involving all stakeholders; clear vision on SCP through information and communication needed to engage and win support from all stakeholders; framework of SCP actions and awareness for stakeholders to contribute and do their part; and use of innovative tools to advance SCP. He also stressed the need to promote engagement with scientific community. Lastly, he stated that the 15th APRSCP will be featured in a special issue of the Elsevier Journal on Cleaner and Responsible Consumption.

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On the EU's response to the pandemic, the EU approved the "Next Generation EU" package, which is a recovery plan of 750 billion euro to invest in the green and digital transition. Under the umbrella of the European Green Deal, a Just Transition Mechanism was also created aiming at mobilizing at least 100 billion euro until 2027 to bring productive investments in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The European Commission adopted an ambitious and comprehensive package of measures, which includes the introduction of an EU Taxonomy to help investors financing activities in companies providing clear and reliable sustainability information. However, there is a need for a visionary and long-term approach for all these actions to move towards systemic change, in the way we produce, consume and work. Governments can play a very important role in supporting it, building back better, building forward better.

Mr. Ronconi highlighted that countries in Asia are undergoing a similar path such as developing action plans, supporting the integration of SCP models into policies. He mentioned how the EU, through the SWITCH-Asia programme, has been supporting many of Asian countries in developing SCP strategies, providing viable options for the recovery, and ensuring the creation of sustainable and virtuous approaches to the economy. Specific SCP activities were carried-out in Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and recently in Vietnam supporting the development of its NAP on SCP in 2020. SWITCH-Asia is currently working closely also with Pakistan, the Maldives, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Cambodia and Lao PDR to design their sustainable roadmaps addressing key aspects of circularity, food-waste management and plastics. SWITCH-Asia also engages with the private sector to ensure that transformation will happen at all levels of the economy and throughout the whole value chain.

He emphasised the importance of the Asia-Pacific Roundtable to discuss about current and future development plans, to share best practices in Europe as well as in Asia, to discuss challenges and opportunities into the recovery and to promote largely SCP practices in the region.

H.E. Mercedita Sombilla, Undersecretary of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippines mentioned that for the past 23 years, the Philippines recognize the vital role of the APRSCP in fostering multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnership to strengthen synergy on SCP, hosting the APRSCP the 3rd time this year since its inception in 1997.

She highlighted the importance of the webisode's theme, relevant to the current situation, where recovering and bouncing back from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic do not only requires changing traditional approach to economic recovery but also necessitates the integration of green strategies to ensure a more sustainable future. This can be facilitated by SCP. She mentioned the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic across countries in the Asia-Pacific Region and the how human behaviour and ways of life should be improved to live more harmoniously with the environment. Besides the pandemic, the Asia Pacific region is vulnerable to natural risks and disasters, with the Philippines experiencing severe impacts from a volcanic eruption and back-to-back typhoons. The current crisis and disasters present an opportunity for a profound systemic shift to a more sustainable economy.

Usec. Sombilla highlighted that SCP will help fast-track green recovery, veer away from the unsustainable paradigm, and steer behavioural change of current and future generations to ensure sustainable development of the region. She mentioned that there are numerous initiatives to implement SCP across various platforms at the global, regional, and sub-regional

IMPORTANCE OF IMPLEMENTING SCP POLICIES TOWARDS GREEN RECOVERY



Dr. Janez Potočnik, Co-Chair of the UN Environment International Resource Panel (IRP) and Former European Commissioner for Science & Research and Environment mentioned that the 15th APRSCP Chair, Dr. Anthony Chiu is also one of the IRP members. The IRP is a science-policy interface in the area of natural resource management, hosted by UNEP since 2007. It brings together about 40 scientists from all parts of the world and is steered by around 30 countries and the European Commission.

IRP argumentation is conceptually built around the inevitable need to decouple the growth of wellbeing and prosperity from natural resource use and environmental impacts.

levels, such as those supported by UN Agencies, the European Union, through the SWITCH-Asia Programme, the ASEAN, and respective bilateral and multilateral development partners. These initiatives need to be scaled up, shared, and replicated among the countries. She mentioned that the Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP4SCP) ensures a more coherent SCP implementation in the country that will give a better foundation in building back greener and facilitating green recovery. The Action Plan serves as a guiding framework to influence and steer sustainable and climate-smart practices, lifestyles, and behaviour across sectors and levels of government.

15th APRSCP



SDG 12 cannot be achieved without effective collaborations and shared responsibilities of sectors such as energy, water, industry, and urban development.

The Philippines is committed to implement its Action Plan on SCP as part of the country's green recovery.



H.E. MERCEDITA SOMBILLA
Undersecretary of the Regional Development Group
of the National Economic and Development Authority



Given the crosscutting nature of SCP, she highlighted the need for an inclusive, participatory, and multi-stakeholder approach to implement SCP policies. The APRSCP, as a regional platform, plays a vital role in making this happen. Consistent with the regional thrusts embodied in the ASEAN, UNESCAP, and other frameworks, this Roundtable can provide opportunities for partnerships and collaboration to help accelerate the progress in the region's SCP implementation, especially in the following areas:

- Support for carrying capacity assessments and natural capital accounting and valuation of ecosystem services;
- Use of innovative technologies and digital and smart infrastructure for managing the environment and natural resources; and
- Interventions to steer behavioural change of both the public and private sectors, including those related to circular economy, green technologies, and innovative business models.

He highlighted that high-income countries need to reduce the consumption of resources; wherein low-income countries still need to increase resource use to build up essential infrastructures. Decoupling means a higher growth in prosperity comparing to the growth in natural resource use. Decoupling is essential for all and an urgent agenda for high-income countries. Looking at natural resource use is a useful lens to understand the causes of challenges that we are facing. Natural resources are the bridge between economy and competitiveness, on the one hand, climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and health implications on the other. The link between managing natural resources and meeting climate target is crucial. Resource management approach or SCP is an approach that can bring together the agendas currently being dealt with mostly in silos. The fact that natural resources extraction causes multiple environmental impacts also means the solutions to reducing

the needs for material extraction will have exponential benefits to the environment and economics. He emphasized the importance of implementing SCP, an objective that the SWITCH-Asia cooperation between Asia and the EU so commendably pursues.

Material consumption in some Asian countries is high. In terms of production for exports, the EU needs to import less material-intensive goods while Asia needs to find new business models on expert high resource-efficient goods or dematerialised services.

The urban mobility system was given as an example of resource management, especially on fossil fuel and metals. He stressed that urban design, in so called circular hubs, would additionally reduce the need for mobility by creating more balanced neighbourhoods and reducing commuting in the first place. Redesigning cities, investing in electric shared mobility, and delivering mobility while reducing the need for cars are important.

Dr. Potočník highlighted that economic transformation that prioritises SCP is essential. Innovation, new business models, and specific SCP policies are important, but they will never

persist without changing some of the fundamentals of economic practice. There is a need to increase finance devoted to activities contributing to the sustainable use of natural resources. Delivering SDGs and related targets will simply not be possible without addressing the essence of the quantity driven economic model. How much is actually needed to meet human needs and how to reorganise our economy to meet them using fewer natural resources? Improving wellbeing should be a priority that includes major development opportunities, which requires critical rethinking of consumption and production behaviour.

He enumerated examples on progress in natural resource agendas during the last decade. In 2019, G7 environment ministers stated the need for resource decoupling to achieve climate change and biodiversity goals. G20 worked with IRP on potential impacts of resource consumption and solutions for its member countries. There is the adoption of European Green Deal in Europe. The initiative of SWITCH-Asia on SCP is also a clear sign of progress. He hoped that these initiatives will not just enable innovation in business models and technologies for SCP, but also encourage the international dialogue about moving beyond economic incentives for mass production and consumption and respecting planetary boundaries.

SESSION ON SHARING OF EXPERIENCES ON SCP POLICY IN REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL



Dr. Vong Sok, Head of the Environment Division, Assistant Director of the Sustainable Development Directorate, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department in the ASEAN Secretariat mentioned that SCP is one of the key characteristics and elements of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025. SCP is also one of the strategic priorities in the ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment under the ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education (AWGEE). He

mentioned the various initiatives on SCP including the ASEAN Plus Three Leadership Programme on SCP, which will next be held in Lao PDR.

He mentioned the ongoing development of the ASEAN SCP Framework supported by EU SWITCH Asia, which aims to contribute to overall ASEAN community goals and the attainment of the SDGs by up-scaling SCP practices in a regionalised and integrated approach. A SCP Scoping Paper was prepared and identified 18 common SCP themes in ASEAN Member States, including: (i) policy integration and implementation, data collection and reporting (ii) technical skills and capacity building, (iii) sustainable use of water, forest, land and minerals, (iv) green economy, (v) sustainable lifestyle and education, and (vi) sustainable tourism. The challenges and opportunities identified for SCP works in ASEAN, included the need to (i) identify a common goal, key priorities and sector prioritisation, (ii) internalise lessons, and (iii) support institutions and connect the existing structures and bodies in ASEAN for efficiency. He mentioned other ASEAN initiatives on SCP such as the ASEAN Guidelines on Green Meetings, ASEAN+3 Youth Environment Forum, Publications on Gap Analysis on Circular Economy and Plastics, and ASEAN Cooperation on Marine Debris. He highlighted the need for engagement and coordination among stakeholders and for ASEAN to enhance its cooperation on SCP with relevant stakeholders and partners to harmonise and synergise efforts / commitments.

Ms. Nareerat Panmanee, Director of Strategy and Planning Division, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand mentioned the support provided by the EU SWITCH-

Asia SCP Policy Support Component to Thailand from 2011 to 2015 in further developing SCP policies. Support included the preparation of the Thailand SCP roadmap 2017-2036, with strategic goals, clear milestones and implementation timetable. The policy was revised to Thailand SCP Roadmap 2017-2037. The Roadmap identified SDG linkages between the SCP Goals in the six priority sectors: Industry, Agriculture and Food, Services and Tourism, Cities and local governments, Sustainable Procurement, and Awareness raising and education. It also provided provisions on monitoring and evaluation of progress towards implementation of the SDG 12. Ms. Panmanee mentioned the current support from EU SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility focused on mainstreaming Green Integration of Thailand: Transformation from Policy to Implementation. Expected outputs are the draft policy and action plan and the national green director. Awareness raising will also be conducted among multi-stakeholders to strengthen SCP network in Thailand and ASEAN countries. The COVID-19 Pandemic has increased the use of plastic packaging and she highlighted the efforts of governments on waste management based on the roadmap on plastic waste management 2018-2030 and the campaign on sending plastic home.



Mr. Muhammad Irfan Tariq, Director-General, Environment and Climate Change of the Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan mentioned that the unsustainable resource consumption in Pakistan is inefficient and there is a need for SCP to combat global warming, environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity among others. To achieve SCP, the country formulated the National Action Plan on SCP in 2017 supported by UN Environment through the EU SWITCH-Asia Programme. The NAP on SCP identified 10 priority sectors: Climate Change, Energy, Food Systems, Buildings and Cities, Transport, Water, Land Ecosystem, Marine Ecosystem, Industry and Education. Various initiatives on SCP were undertaken as part of the Plan. However, there was no existing mechanism to track the progress of such



projects. A document regarding the monitoring and evaluation of SDG 12 related activities was formed. The document provides information on: (1) Situation analysis in different sectors; (2) Challenges faced by government bodies and other agencies related to data collection and interpretation; (3) Set of indicators for tracking the progress regarding the achievement of SDG 12 targets; and (4) Departments responsible for data collection and compilation against each indicator.

In concluding, he mentioned that SCP policies are in place. However, the major challenges are data collection and analysis and progress on implementation. He recommended a systemic approach to resolve data collection issues through database formed first at department level, then at inter-department level and lastly at inter-provincial level and for it to be available for sharing through an online information portal. In addition to evaluating the provincial performance, he recommended the need to extend technical and financial support to implement the plan on the ground. Better collaboration among relevant ministries and departments is needed and this can be done through cross-government coordination by promoting partnerships among departmental constituencies and with other stakeholders.

Mr. Le Ba Viet Bach from the Department of Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT), Vietnam presented the National Action Plan on SCP for period 2021 – 2030 (NAP – Vietnam) developed by MOIT with support from SWITCH-Asia and approved by H.E. Prime Minister in 2020. MOIT, the national focal point of Vietnam on SCP, established a standing office on the NAP – Vietnam which facilitates implementation of the Action Plan. He mentioned the NAP’s objectives, priority tasks with supporting SCP policies; the linkages between Circular Economy and the NAP on SCP focusing on supply chain and consumption. He then provided an overview of initiatives to implement the NAP on SCP such as the project supported by SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility in developing a sustainable seafood guideline and a consumer awareness campaign.

Mr. Bach highlighted the challenges of implementing the NAP which is lack of supporting policies, finance and linkages with sectors. Other focus areas in terms of policy support needed are on waste management with priority given to recycling, processing and use, sustainable public procurement, and mainstreaming recycling regulations into green production policies. He also highlighted the importance of promoting Public - Private Partnership in SCP to help implement the NAP on SCP. Moderated Panel Roundtable Discussion.

partners in Asia region to support the transition to green recovery. He mentioned that SCP has been an issue at the centre of the EU attention. EU has included SCP as a tool in all areas of international discussions and focused on the definition in the context of EU policies. SCP has been reflected in many EU policy and action plans under the EU Green Deal, such as Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP), Farm-to-Folk strategy. He stated that there are many underway initiatives of the EU to ensure that the transition arrives on the ground. EU is part of the global chain and global community. EU is pursuing partnerships with countries that would like to make the transition with the EU on the establishment of Green Alliances.

He mentioned the two elements discussed with EU’s partners: (1) An offer made with UNEP and UNIDO on the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency inviting all Asian partners and (2) Global support for launching an international agreement on plastics at the occasion of the upcoming UN Environment Assembly in March 2022 which will be a joint push to integrate SCP in the life cycle of industrial ecosystems, products, and services. The external action of the EU on SCP mainly channels to the EU Delegations and SWITCH-Asia will play an important point in supporting this transition.

Mr. Charles Arden-Clarke, Head, One Planet Network (10YFP) Secretariat, UN Environment Programme provided an overview on the One Planet Network and the importance of the value-chain approach to catalyse science-based policy action on SCP. The Network aims to strengthen the science-policy interface to provide insights on the management of natural resources in relation to Agenda 2030. To meet this need, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested that the One Planet network and the IRP form a Task Group to catalyse science-based policy action on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) ([UNEP/EA.4/Res.1](#)). The IRP and One Planet network formed the [Task Group](#) comprising experts on natural-resource use from the IRP, and practitioners on SCP from across the One Planet network, in response to this resolution.



Mr. Arden-Clarke highlighted the importance of the value-chain approach as a methodology for catalysing science-based policy action on SCP. Its purpose is to identify key points of intervention within economic systems to reduce natural-resource use and environmental impacts caused by production and consumption, and to define a common agenda for action. Through consultation and collaboration, the Value-Chain Approach defines a common agenda for concerted actions that can transform the system. He then summarized the three steps of the value-chain approach: (1) in-depth analysis of the value chain is undertaken to identify key points of intervention; (2) Mapping of existing activities of SCP practitioners (where governments, UN agencies, civil society, academics, or business) along the stages of the value chain and identifying priorities and the gaps and opportunities to redirect action; (3) multi-stakeholder consultations are undertaken with a diverse set of actors representing all stages of the value chain to define a common agenda for concerted actions that can transform the system. The common agenda aligns all actors to a shared vision for change, that includes a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to solving it.

He gave an example in the food value chain assessment to assess influence across both primary production and final consumption. He stressed that moving towards the desired sustainability, including through structural shifts and circular models, requires a holistic approach involving players of all sizes and from all market segments to ensure crucial buy in for the implementation of the common agenda.

15th APR SCP



EU SWITCH-Asia is the expression of the support to a global just transition to a resource efficient and circular economy for a more equitable use of resources.

We are working towards the achievement of SCP and inclusive and sustainable industrialisation!



HUGO MARIA SCHALLY
Head of Unit for Multilateral environmental cooperation in the Directorate for Global Sustainable Development in DG Environment of the European Commission

Mr. Hugo Maria Schally, Head of Unit, Directorate General for Environment of the European Commission explained how the EU is incorporate SCP in Green Recovery plan and is engaging

The UNEP – IRP Publication, Catalysing Science-Based Policy Action on SCP can be accessed at <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/task-group-catalysing-science-based-policy-action-scp>



Dr. Wijarn Simachaya, Chairman of the Thai SCP Network; President, of the Thailand Environment Institute; and Former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand presented the Thai SCP Network and how they engage with the government on pushing SCP policies and implementation in the forefront, thereby contributing towards green recovery and SCP implementation on the ground. He mentioned the development of SCP since

1990 starting on policies focused on cleaner production, life cycle assessment, and the holistic approach through SCP. The Thai SCP Network supports the implementation of the Thai SCP Roadmap 2017-2037 and Bio-Circular Green Model (BCG) Model. It is a strong network involving national government departments and Ministries, the Thai Environment Institute, and other stakeholders. Its objective is to collect, share, and disseminate knowledge, opinion, and suggestion on SCP and be the network of SCP information and collaborate with national and international organizations.

The Thai SCP Network is a platform for multi-stakeholders having 200 members and 7 organisation members. It also builds collaboration with other Thai Networks such as the SDSN Thailand, GAP-net Thailand, UN Global Compact Network, PPP Plastics Thailand, and the Thai General Education Network among others. It is also supported by regional/ International Organizations such as the APRSCP, PECoP-Asia & IGES (S-16 Research Group on SCP, Japan), EU Switch-Asia SCP Facility and UNEP among others. The Network focused its activities on capacity building and knowledge sharing, having two major conferences. The Thai SCP Network helps to support national targets & global commitments by bringing SCP policies and practice to the forefront, including SCP policy implementation, contribution in green recovery plans, and achieving the SDGs.



Mr. Zafar Makhmudov, Executive Director of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC) gave an overview on how CAREC is supporting the promotion of SCP in Central Asia. CAREC is a platform of cooperation in Central Asia. It conducts pilot projects, multi-level and multi-sectoral networking, and capacity building. One of its projects is the Resource Efficiency in Agri-food Production and Processing (REAP) supported by the SWITCH-Asia

Programme, which promotes SCP practices in the agri-food production and processing industries along the entire supply chain, while creating an enabling environment through clusters and by building on current national development strategies, integrating SCP incentives.

He mentioned that the project will focus on resource-efficiency in agri-food production and processing and apply approaches for dealing with resource shortfalls. This will cover increasing the efficiency of water usage, reduction of food-losses and decreasing other energy and resource inefficiency. The process of clusterisation will seek to enhance the competitiveness of local businesses. Expected Results include the introduction and improvement of SCP measures and technologies in 400 MSMEs in agri-food production and processing and improved clusterisation and ecosystem development for SCP involving all stakeholders. Within the project “Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Program in the Aral Sea Basin” (CAMP4ASB), CAREC promoted SCP practices at the level of local communities: farmers and households, mass media and youth.

CAREC is also implementing with National Partners until May 2023 the Phase II: Nexus Dialogue in Central Asia, which will support the practical application of Nexus tools, methods and techniques through implementation of Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus pilot projects and leverage increased benefits and decreased trade-offs of cooperation at the regional level.

Mr. Eric Zusman, Senior Policy Researcher/ Area Leader of the Institute for Global Environmental Studies (IGES) mentioned that interventions are needed to ensure that SCP policy and implementations are pushed in the forefront as a sustainable response to COVID-19. Three interventions, the “triple-R framework”, have lined up in responding to COVID. Those are “Response”, “Recovery”, and “Redesign”.



COVID is a crisis that comes with opportunities to change, for example, the transportation sector where the mode of transportation has been changed. On recovery effort, we have seen governments that have put efforts and budget into e-vehicles, modernising in turn transportation systems. Regarding the redesign of the transportation system, it has been focusing on the infrastructure of the city and institutions. An example of a redesign for institutions is the cross-sectoral recognition of the Thai SCP Action Plan and the need to start working among government agencies and facilitation the cooperation between local and national governments working together on SCP.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

The Panel speakers were requested to answer the following questions:

1. Need suitable financing during a transition period. How difficult for SMEs to access funding? What measures of the EU is an opportunity to provide funding to them?

Answer: (Hugo) In the EU, one of the key things is the integration of SCP narrative into finance and business sectors. By establishing criteria on what is green and sustainable finance, the EU tries to steer the investment sector in the direction of SCP-based business models. The implementation of the EU taxonomy and sustainable finance action plan is part of the story in steering part of the public and private fund in the direction of sustainable

activities. This will also be expressed in external cooperation activities of the EU.

2. Value-chain approach - How OPN reach out to SMEs as they are the core of the value-chain?

Answer: (Charles) One Planet Network has about 650 members. Most of them are not SMEs. So, engagement of SMEs is indirectly through the partners of OPN such as chambers of commerce and projects that involving SMEs like SWITCH-Asia. SMEs have limitation in terms of time to participate the network activities. However, OPN still in contact with SMEs association, for example, in Brussels. In order to better engage with SMEs, we should tailor the outputs that relevant to SMEs and create a

national and regional network that represent SMEs to bring their needs to the attention of projects and governments.

3. How Thai SCP Network induce/influence government and business partners in promoting green recovery and move forward with SCP in the country?

Answer: (Dr. Wijarn) The Thai SCP Network has been working closely with the government agencies. Some projects have been financially supported by the government. The network has become a legal entity that can work with the government. The Thai SCP network influences the governmental policies by being part of many national committees. At the same time, members of the Thai SCP network also include representatives of key governmental agencies.

4. What is the understanding of the value-chain in Central Asia and how it can be implemented in the region?

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Arab Hoballah, Team Leader, EU SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility provided a summary of discussion based on expected outcomes. He highlighted the message from the EU and its commitment to work closely with partners in Asia through future regional and bilateral programmes, which will be focusing on the Green Deal and its priority sections. He emphasised that It's time to revisit the work on SCP even if initiatives have been done for decades. There is a need to stop, assess, revisit, and improve with a clear vision to engage, ensuring support from concerned stakeholders. Linking of science and policy is fundamental if we want to steer the behaviour change. Management of resources is the key for addressing sustainability and climate targets which is a critical issue for Asia in development and trade.

He emphasised that SCP transition takes time. There is a need to readdress and revise it. This needs systemic decarbonisation and approach, decoupling and looking better at key decisions from responsible leaders from private and public in order to move further. Take out what is bad and improve what is good.

KEY POINTS MENTIONED BASED ON COMMENTS FROM THE CHAT DURING THE EVENT:

- Walk the talk to address local needs; building on the existing institutions and networks;
- Young green groups for balanced development to decide the future being inclusive resilient and green;
- Need suitable funds to reinforce green and sustainable practices at the local, subnational, national and regional levels;
- Need to improve and increase collaboration between ASEAN and APRSCP, involving Youth, aiming for a common regional goal so as not to leave people behind;
- To implement SCP not only by achieving SDG12 but also other SCP-related goals;
- Promote awareness on sustainable consumption to push for cleaner production;
- Policy for monitoring and evaluation needed to implement NAP/Roadmaps on SCP effectively.

Answer: (Zafar) CAREC is currently holding training in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan that involve as many representatives from stakeholder groups (government, service providers, consumers, banks, SMEs) as possible, and there will also be a roundtable discussion among them regarding the value-chain as well.

5. What to add to the cooperation and partnership that can link to the triple R?

Answer: (Eric) By using a strong connection between SDG 12 and SDG 8, we can get more support from the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Economy and Trade, which benefit SMEs. There is also growing interested from central banks in greening financial inclusion strategies, but they lack knowledge about SCP. So, ensuring better communication from the SCP communities with the financial sector can ensure that the integration of green financial strategies will benefit the SMEs.

He highlighted the need to scale-up, push forward and engage fully with concerned stakeholder. There is a need to mainstream SCP in concerned policies with a better monitoring system and to improve cross-government coordination.

The green approach has been shared by SWITCH-Asia from the beginning since the bottom line of SWITCH-Asia is to provide access and enable SMEs to make the change that is needed to deliver SCP, ultimately towards the right pathway to sustainable development. Since the challenge is huge, it is better to identify the low hanging fruits, work on that, and look at parameters to scaling up. It needs financial resource through stakeholder platform and engaging concerned stakeholders. Finally, he highlighted the need to integrate SCP narrative properly, correctly, and adequately into policies and business models to be effective in our transformative change.

See link to access [15th APRSCP – SWITCH-Asia Webisode II documents and PPT Presentations](#).

