

Flash Report

The Kick-off and First Consultation Meeting for a Roadmap on Zero-waste for Cities Focusing on Plastics in China



“无废城市”建设中塑料污染治理路线图研究项目
The Kick-off and First Consultation Meeting for a Roadmap on Zero-waste
开题会暨第一次专家咨询会
for Cities Focusing on Plastics in China

2022年2月18日



会议时间: 9:00 - 12:00
腾讯会议: 539 391 977

Date: February 18, 2022

Venue: Virtual meeting via Tencent

Disclaimer

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List of Acronyms:

UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
EU	The European Union
MEE	Ministry of Ecology and Environment
MEESCC	Solid Waste and Chemicals Management Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment
SWITCH-Asia RPAC	SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component

Background:

The EU-funded SWITCH-Asia programme aims at supporting the development of green economy and the transition towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient and more circular economy in Asia, promoting economic growth while decoupling it from environmental degradation. Circular Economy (CE) has been recognized as a key element to promote Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Asia.

The national ‘zero-waste’ pilot city program, announced by the Chinese government in January 2019 and completed in 2021, is one of the most important governmental actions to promote SCP and Circular Economy at the city level, with aims to create an urban development model that avoid waste and minimize the negative environmental impact of waste throughout its whole life cycle. Plastic pollution control is one of key areas in the ‘zero-waste’ pilot city development, focusing on restriction of single-use plastics, as well as pollution control of plastic waste generated from industry, agriculture, manufacture, commerce and household. During the pilot period from 2019 to 2021, some pilot cities practiced and accumulated much experiences on restriction of single-use plastics and recycling of plastic waste. However, challenges of the implementation of policies on limiting single-use plastics and recycling of waste plastics are still faced especially by local government and sectors. The standardization of alternative products needs to be improved, and the recycling technology and the professional operation of recycling facilities need to be promoted in general. Eco-design as an important principle to reduce waste generation and improve resource efficiency has not been well understood and practiced by the industry. The innovation of business models and technology to solve plastics pollution is urgently needed by the market.

In January 2020, NDRC and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) jointly issued the national policy called as ‘the Opinions on Further Strengthening the Control of Plastic Pollution’, which made overall arrangements for the control of plastic pollution and proposed a series of measures. However, the practical and concrete measures to control plastic pollution at the city level are still being further developed by local governments. The implementation pathway on plastics pollution control at city level is not clear enough, while there is a lack of specific governance and monitoring indicators. For examples, it is difficult to restrict the use of disposable plastic products effectively, as single-use plastic products have a large range of use and market demands. With the rapid development of e-commerce, take-out and other new forms of business, the demand for plastic packaging is still increasing, posing a great challenge to the reduction of single-use plastics.

In the 14th Five-Year Plan period in China, ‘zero-waste’ principle and models are planned to be scaled up in a large number of cities. To learn knowledge and exchange experiences on how to control waste plastics pollution effectively and practically at city level towards the targets of ‘zero-waste’ development from European and Asian countries, such as policy instruments, management mechanism and key technologies, is critical at the stage of

concluding previous outputs and planning for scale up and duplication on 'zero-waste' development in more cities in the 14th Five-Year Plan period in China.

In this context, EU SWITCH-Asia RPAC is supporting Solid Waste and Chemical Management Technology Center, an institution affiliated to Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China (MEE), abbreviated as MEESCC, to develop the roadmap on zero-waste for cities focusing on plastics, aiming to provide strategic guidance on plastics pollution control to local governments and stakeholders under the framework of 'zero-waste' city development in China in the 14th Five-Year Plan period.

The first consultation meeting, as a preparation of developing the roadmap, was held on 18 Feb. 2022 virtually to discuss the draft background paper and the draft outline of the roadmap with local officials and experts from pilot cities, academia and civil society.

Objectives of the event

- To share the current policies, status and experience on plastics pollution control in the framework of 'zero-waste' city development in China.
- To share EU plastics management policy experience.
- To communicate and discuss the draft outline of the roadmap on 'zero-waste' for cities focusing on plastics in China.

Logistical information about the event

The Kick-off and first consultation meeting for a roadmap on 'zero-waste' for cities focusing on plastics in China was held virtually via Tencent by the MEESCC, as one part of the national activity being implemented by SWITCH-Asia RPAC in collaboration with MEESCC. More than 20 participants from governments, pilot cities, academia and civil society attended the meeting.

Summary of key messages

Welcome and Opening remarks

Ms. Feng Mei

Project officer, EU delegation to China

Ms. Feng briefly introduced the 'SWITCH-Asia' program. Plastic waste is one of the priorities in EU's green deal strategy. Through the SWITCH-Asia RPAC's national activity on zero-waste in China, it is hoped to identify and summarize the pilot work experience of 'zero-waste' city, learn advanced experience from European and other Asian countries, promote

exchanges between governments, industries and other stakeholders, and provide assistance for the next step of 'zero-waste' city development in China especially in the fields of plastics pollution control.

Ms. Wang Qian

Programme management officer, UNEP China Office

Ms. Wang welcomed everyone to support and participate in the implementation of the SWITCH-Asia RPAC's activity in China, and thanked EU's support for SCP through SWITCH-Asia program. She highlighted that both the control of single-use plastics and recycling of plastic waste are important to address the crisis of climate, nature and pollution. She finally thanked MEESCC's efforts and hope to provide technical support to the 'zero-waste' development focusing on plastics at city level during the 14th-Five-Year Plan period in China through the implementation of RPAC's national activities.

Mr. Wen Xuefeng

Director, Department of Solid Waste and Chemicals, MEE of China

Mr. Wen thanked the EU for providing fund support for this project through the SWITCH-Asia RPAC, and thanked UNEP for the technical support. The Chinese government attached great importance to plastics pollution control by issuing a series of regulations and policies in past years, including 'Solid Waste Law'(amendment), the 'Opinions on Further Strengthening the Control of Plastic Pollution', and the '14th Five-Year Plan' Action for Plastic Pollution Control Program. Plastics pollution control needs a systematic approach and there are still a lot of challenges faced by the government and industry. The source management (reduction of use), availability of alternative products, recycling capacity, and pollutants emission control to environment would be the four strategies and key aspects for plastics pollution control in China.

It is hoped to **evaluate the effectiveness of the current national policies in the local implementation dimension and to get feedback on implementation from city level through this project's implementation**, he said. Mr. Wen also highlighted that it would be very helpful to **propose effective pathway on plastics at city level by analyzing the practices and experiences from current zero-waste pilot cities**.

Background of the project

Ms. Zheng Lixia

SWITCH-Asia RPAC

Ms. Zheng briefly introduced the overall goal the 'SWITCH-Asia RPAC' and the main activities completed by RPAC in China in recent years. She outlined the background, objective, key activities and expected outputs of the national activity of 'Roadmap on Zero-waste for Cities Focusing on Plastics in China', implemented by RPAC in collaboration with MEESCC.

Mr. Liu Gang

MEESCC

Mr. Liu shared the key information of the three latest national top-level legislation/policy documents on plastics pollution control in China: 1) the newly amended 'Solid Waste Law'; 2) the requirements on plastics pollution control in the newly amended 'Solid Waste Law'; and 3) the key points of plastics pollution control during the "14th Five-Year Plan" period. The experience of plastics pollution control in China was also shared from the perspectives of plastic recycling system, market supervision, resource utilization and disposal.

Mr. Lan Xiaofeng

MEESCC

Mr. Lan shared the experience of plastics pollution control achieved during the Implementation of 'zero-waste' pilot city development in 2020-2021, from the five aspects: 1) strengthening policy guidance, 2) promoting source reduction, 3) establishing and improving recycling system, 4) 'zero-waste' education, and 5) sharing of typical model cases practiced in 'zero-waste' pilot cities. The experience of plastics pollution control in pilot cities including Sanya city, Shenzhen city, Shaoxing city and Weihai city was introduced respectively.

Experience sharing and exchange

Ms. Feng Mei

Project officer, EU delegation to China

Ms. Feng shared the EU's plastics strategy, covering the directive on reducing marine litter and disposable plastics, the management methods of different disposable products, and the labeling of disposable plastic products. She shared the details of plastics management strategies in EU, from the value chain of key products, micro-plastics and biodegradable plastics. The relevant regulations and policies on packaging and alternative products were also outlined with the participants.

Discussion Session

The current status and experience on plastics management were shared separately by 3 zero-waste pilot cities/provinces, from the aspects of plastic pollution control with digital technology in Zhejiang province, overall experience on plastics management in Shenzhen city, and the transformation of the plastics industry in Ningbo city.

The draft outline of the roadmap of 'zero-waste' city focusing on plastic pollution control was shared by Ms. Ma Jiale, MEESCC, which consists of four key parts: 1) institutional system and supervision system, 2) technical system, 3) market system, and 4) capacity building and education, based on the national top-level design and policies on plastics. The whole chain of plastic pollution control and the governance principle of 'limitation, replacing, and standardization' were explained. The current requirement in the sections of production, transport, use, recycling and disposal throughout the whole chain of plastic pollution control were introduced, which would be considered to be included in the roadmap.

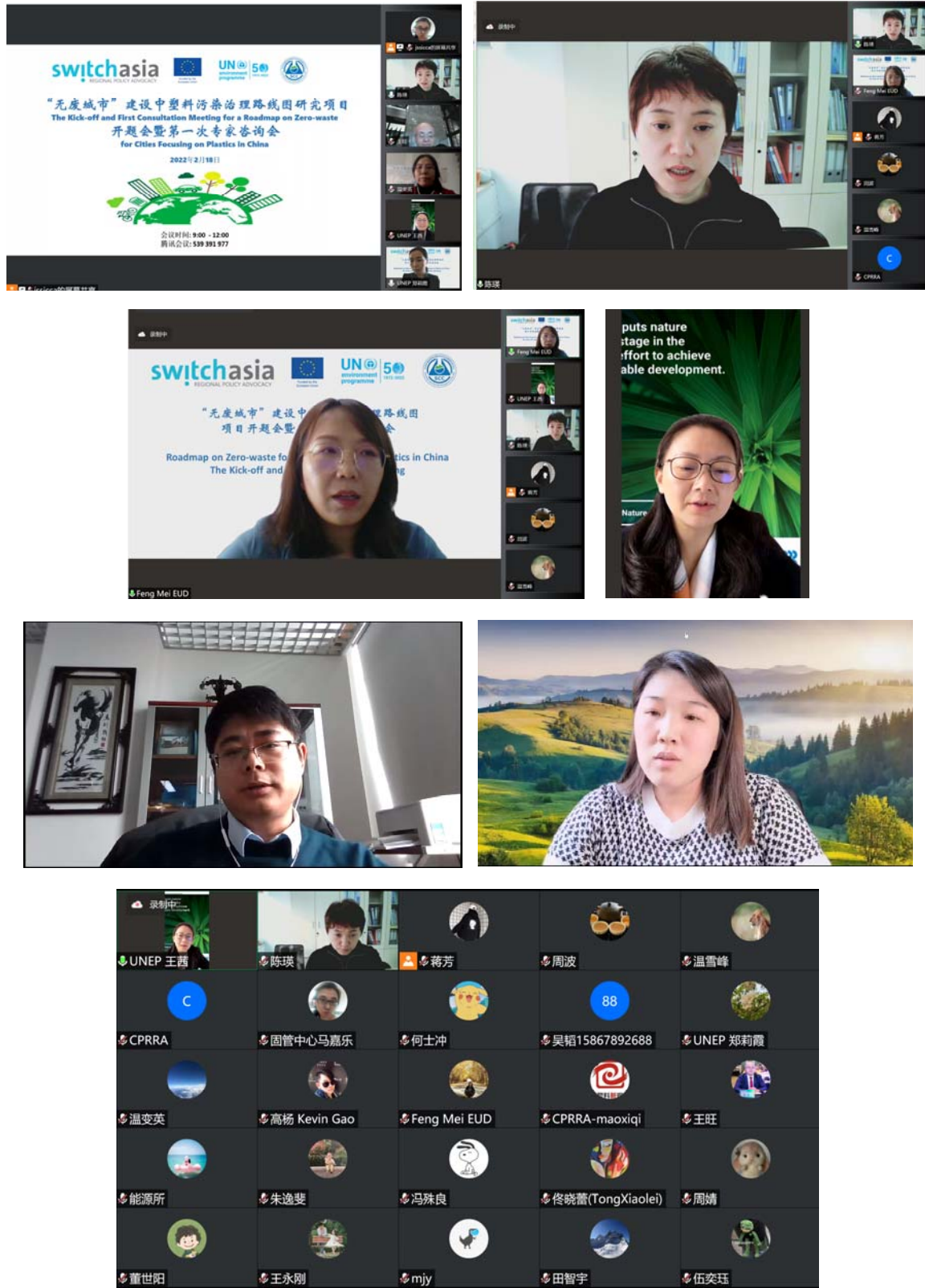
The invited participants and experts discussed the draft outline of the Roadmap. The main comments and suggestions are summarized below.

1. To clarify the definition of plastic pollution and guide the roadmap for plastic pollution control;
2. To clarify the respective main responsibilities of the whole chain of plastic pollution control and establish a responsibility system;
3. It is suggested to provide professional technical guidance on how to use high-value urban waste after collection;
4. It is suggested to combine the carbon neutralization goals in the formulation of the roadmap. In the top-level design at city level, it is recommended to 1) Incorporate the prevention and control of plastic pollution into various urban planning; 2) Include environmental information disclosure requirement; 3) Increase research on sustainable consumption; 4) Pay attention to the requirements of the new 'Solid Waste Law', and focus on how to implement at city level with boxes in the roadmap for easy reading; 5) provide technical guidance on supply chain management especially for the advanced enterprises; 6) Focus on a standard system for plastic pollution control.
5. Promote awareness raising for public based on science, and encourage research projects on public awareness raising.
6. It is suggested to consider including assessment indicators and clarifying measurable rigid indicators in the process of developing the roadmap. It is suggested to distinguish between different cities so that the roadmap is both universal and targeted.
7. It is suggested to clarify the methodology to develop the roadmap, such as questionnaire survey, expert consultation and desk research. The analysis of the local implementation of national policies on policies should be included in the roadmap. The priorities and research scope should also be considered so as to finalize the outline of the roadmap.

Conclusion

Dr. Chen Ying, MEESCC, concluded the meeting with thanks to all the experts' presentations and comments. She announced that MEESCC will continue to design the roadmap through desk research, investigation and consultations. Finally, Dr. Chen once again expressed the gratitude to EU for the funds support, to UNEP and SWITCH-Asia RPAC for the technical support.

Snapshots of the event



Annex:

Annex 1: The Final Agenda

Date: 9:00-12:00 AM, 18 Feb. 2022

Venue: Virtual via Tencent (Meeting No.: 539 391 977)

Language: in Chinese

Time	Session Details
9:00-9:15	Opening Session Ms. Feng Mei Project officer, EU delegation to China Ms. Wang Qian Programme Management Officer, UNEP China Office Mr. Wen Xuefeng Director, Department of Solid Waste and Chemicals, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE)
9:15-9:25	Project Background Ms. Zheng Lixia , SWITCH-Asia RPAC
9:25-9:40	Speech: Request on Plastic Pollution Control in the Framework of 'Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Wastes' newly amended Mr. Liu Gang , MEESCC
9:40-9:55	Speech: Implementation of plastic pollution control under 'zero-waste' pilot city development in 2020-2021 Mr. Lan Xiaofeng , MEESCC, China
9:55-10:10	Speech: EU Policy Experiences on Plastics Ms. Feng Mei , Project officer, EU delegation to China
10:10-10:40	Case Presentations: Experience Sharing of 'Zero-waste' Pilot City Development with a focus on Plastics Dr. He Shichong , Zhejiang Provincial Department of Ecology and Environment Mr. Lin Weiqiang , Director, Shenzhen Municipal Bureau of Ecology and Environment Wu Tao , University of Nottingham Ningbo City
10:40-11:00	Background Paper on Developing a Roadmap on 'Zero-Waste' with a Focus on Plastics at City Level in China (with the draft outline of the Roadmap) Ms. Ma Jiale , MEESCC, China

11:00-11:55	Discussion and Comment All invited participants
11:55-12:00	Conclusion Dr. CHEN Ying, Director, Department of Waste Management, MEESCC

Annex II: Final Participant List

1. FENG Mei, EUD China
2. WEN Xuefeng, Department of Solid Waste and Chemicals, Ministry of Ecology and Environment
3. Prof. LIU Jianguo, School of Environment, Tsinghua University
4. Prof. WEN Bianying, Beijing Technology and Business University
5. TIAN Zhiyu, Deputy Director, Efficiency Center, Energy Research Institute, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)
6. WANG Wang, Deputy Chairman, China Plastics Reuse and Recycling Association (CPRRA)
7. YU Keli, Secretary-General, China National Resources Recycling Association (CRRA)
8. GAO Yang, Deputy Director, China Green Plastic Joint Working Group Office
9. Institute of Science and Development, Chinese Academy of Sciences
10. China Petroleum and Chemical Industry Federation
11. Zhejiang Province Environmental Bureau
12. Ningbo City Environmental Bureau
13. Shenzhen City Environmental Bureau
14. Dr. CHEN Ying, Director, Department of Solid Waste Management and Technology, MEESCC
15. LIU Gang, Senior Engineer, Department of Solid Waste Management and Technology, MEESCC
16. LAN Xiaofeng, Senior Engineer, Department of Solid Waste Management and Technology, MEESCC
17. MA Jiale, Department of Solid Waste Management and Technology, MEESCC
18. JIANG Fang, Department of Solid Waste Management and Technology, MEESCC
19. WANG Qian, Programme Officer, UNEP China Office
20. ZHENG Lixia, SWITCH-Asia RPAC

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