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CONCEPT NOTE

12th ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production 2024 “Circular Economy transition as pathway towards accelerating climate and SCP policy and practice.”

4-6 November 2024

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR

A. Background

ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production

The ASEAN-Plus-Three (ASEAN+3) Leadership Programme (LP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) was launched in 2008 within the framework of the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP) (2008-2014) which was endorsed by the Governments of ASEAN Member States.

The ASEAN+3 LP aims to support capacity building for policy makers focusing on policy development and implementation, and upscaling and mainstreaming of SCP practices. It is intended to provide policy makers practice- and evidence-based learning that are illustrative for the change processes from a business-as-usual scenario to one which effectuates, or can potentially influence, change in behaviours, practices and systems of consumer and producers, as well as in policy making.

The ASEAN+3 LP was hosted during 2008-2019 annually by the ASEAN Environment Ministries in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) and the ASEAN Member States through the ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education (AWGEE), which is the main responsible body for implementation of the programmes and activities related to SCP. Previous partner organisations of the programme are as follows: the United Nations University-Institute for the Advance Study on Sustainability (UNU-IAS), United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through the SWITCH-Asia Programme, with endorsement and/or support from the ASEAN Secretariat, the Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and the European Union.

In the 12th and 13th AWGEE Meetings in 2020 and 2021, the Government of Lao PDR has postponed the 12th ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme on SCP due to the pandemic. In the Fifteenth Meeting of the AWGEE held on 13 – 14 July 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Lao PDR announced its readiness to convene the 12th ASEAN+3 LP in November 2024, in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat and prospective partners.

The 12th ASEAN+3 LP on SCP will contribute to the objective of the AEEAP, which is to promote environmental protection through effective environmental education and awareness programmes that build capacity and capability of institutional and human resources to adapt and respond to current and emerging environmental threats and challenges, so as to create a dynamic, sustainable, and resilient ASEAN Community that will proactively contribute to the achievement of global sustainable development goals.

SCP is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, having both a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal (SDG12), focusing on waste reduction, food waste,



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chemicals management and sustainable natural resources management, and integration with 12 other SDGs, including on water, energy, climate, cities, etc. Noting significant shortfalls in advancing the SDGs, the 2023 SDG summit urged accelerated action on six critical SDG transitions, three of which are central to SCP, respectively: (1) food systems; (2) energy transition and (3) climate, biodiversity and nature. The 2024 Summit for the Future is providing further impetus by positioning circular economy as the pathway for accelerating SCP progress.

B. Programme Concept Note

1. Background

The 12th ASEAN-Plus-Three Leadership Programme on SCP will be held from 4-6 November 2024 in Vientiane Lao PDR, hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) of Lao PDR, with support from the EU SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component (PSC), the Delegation of European Union in Lao PDR through the Lao PDR-EU Cooperation Facility, the EU Delegation to ASEAN through the EU-ASEAN-Technical Assistance Facility – the Green Team Europe Initiative (TAF-GTEI), and the Hanns Seidel Foundation – Vietnam.

The thematic focus of the 12th ASEAN+3 LP on SCP will be on “Circular Economy transition as pathway towards accelerating climate and SCP policy and practice.”

2. Objectives

The aim of the 12th ASEAN+3 LP is to enhance the knowledge and skills of policy makers, by focusing on SCP policy development and coherence and promoting SCP practices among members states, particularly on the two goals under the ASEAN SCP Framework’s Goal 1 on SDG 12 implementation and Goal 3 on establishing good practices for green products and guidelines for Green Public Procurement (GPP). The LP will also facilitate discussions about SCP-related goals and targets of the SDGs, seeking alignment with climate commitments.

Policy makers will learn from practical cases that demonstrate how changes in behaviour, practice, and systems of both producers and consumers, as well as in policy making, can be effectively implemented. This initiative aims to enhance regional collaboration, drive eco-friendly policies, and support the transition towards a more sustainable and resilient ASEAN community, in light of the results of the UN Summit of the Future in September 2024.

3. Target Audience

The target participants for the Leadership Programme are mainly government policy makers from the ASEAN Member States and three ASEAN dialogue partner countries - China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. This year’s ASEAN+3 LP will also request the participation of mixed inter-ministerial delegations of two delegates from each ASEAN Member State, to highlight the cross cutting nature of SCP and the Sustainable Development Goals in national public governance. These participants are:

- ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN) National Focal Points or their representatives; and ASOEN counterparts or their representatives from China, Japan and Republic of Korea
- National Focal Points in Southeast Asia of the SWITCH-Asia Programme’s Policy Support Component on Sustainable Consumption and Production



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- Designated Ministerial counterparts with interest in SCP, Sustainable/Green Public Procurement (S/GPP) and the SDGs from Ministries of Finance, Ministries of Education, Ministries of Planning, Ministries of Industry and Trade, Ministries of Local Government or Urbanisation, Government programmes for SMEs, or other public institutions of concern for the SDGs. It would be particularly beneficial to engage delegates who work on SDG monitoring and Green Public Procurement.

4. Learning Content and Learning Objectives

Learning Content

In this year's ASEAN+3 LP, participants discuss policy frameworks and critical issues for the development of sustainable consumption and production systems, in particular policy support and monitoring and decision-making tools, including SDG 12 reporting and S/GPP. These two areas constitute topics of the two pillars of the ASEAN ACP Framework. The programme's focus this year is the importance of policy coherence and how SCP can create momentum for the climate and circularity agendas. Collective learning and innovation will be facilitated by presenting and discussing cases on SCP implementation. The case work engages participants in analysing, understanding, synthesising, and generating policy options.

Learning Objectives

The 12th ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme will enable participants to:

1. Define key SCP goals and priorities in line with national and regional context and accelerating ambition for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Discuss SDG 12 reporting as a helpful tool for assessing policy progress and mainstreaming SCP.
3. Explore relevant business practices and their contribution to SCP and Circular Economy (CE), as well as key SDG transitions and associated SDGs and targets.
4. Examine how S/GPP contribute to SCP and ASEAN's achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and how to elevate its potential towards market transformation.

5. Structure of 12th ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme on SCP

a. Day 1 Circular Economy as pathway for creating policy coherence and raising ambition towards SCP

The session will discuss the national progress on SCP and CE policy development and implementation and how to raise ambition to contribute to regional and global commitments on climate and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Pact for the Future agreed at the 2024 Summit of the Future, held in New York in September 2024.

Objectives:

- Discuss the interlinkages of SCP, climate action and Circular Economy and need for policy coherence.
- Discuss synergies among the policies and strategies related to SCP, which links use of materials and other natural resources and climate through circular economy.
- Discuss the policy options in SCP and circular economy practices and how to raise ambitions and accelerate actions on global and regional commitments on climate and the SDGs, in light of the developments based on results of the Summit of the Future 2024



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- Explore relevant SCP and CE innovative practices through business case studies and discuss how to support businesses to scaling up in transitioning to SCP and CE.

Approach:

- Presentations and interactive discussions drawing on experiences of the resource persons and delegates;
- Group discussion of case materials.

Areas/topics for discussion:

1. Taking Stock – Accelerating Progress: unlocking circular economy as pathway for SCP and climate action
2. SCP and CE Policy coherence to raise ambitions in relation to climate and SDG commitments Circular economy as a responsible business action in ASEAN: Lessons and potential strategies
3. Circular economy as a responsible business action in ASEAN: Lessons and potential strategies

b. Day 2 (am): SDG 12 reporting as enabling the circular economy transformation

Objectives:

- (Re-)Introduce SDG 12 reporting as a helpful tool for assessing policy progress and mainstreaming SCP as a priority into national policies (specific focus on SDG 12.2-12.7).
- Discuss different national approaches to SDG 12 policy development and implementation
- Discuss options for supporting businesses that enable the circular economy

Approach:

- Presentations and Interactive discussions drawing on experiences of the resource persons and delegates;
- Group discussion of case materials.

Areas/topics for discussion:

1. Overview over SDG 12 implementation and monitoring status, particularly SDG 12.1;
2. Moving the needle for improving resource efficiency (SDG 12.2,3,4,5) (recycling rates and domestic material consumption per GDP/capita), and limiting food loss, pollution / hazardous waste: policies, monitoring systems and sanctioning mechanisms
3. Sustainability reporting by companies: how to create an environment conducive to corporate engagement in circularity, climate solutions, and SCP (SDG 12.6)

Approach:

- Presentations and Interactive discussions drawing on experiences of the resource persons and delegates;
- Group discussion of case materials.

c. Day 2-3 (One day and a half): Green Public Procurement

Objectives:

- Discuss the links between national progress and the regional ambitions inscribed in the ASEAN SCP Framework.
- Discuss how sustainability could be mainstreamed into procurement functions of bodies of ASEAN Member States that have overarching strategic planning responsibilities in Government at national or sub-national level.



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- Discuss the links between climate change and GPP and how GPP can be a tool to reach climate targets.

Approach:

- Presentations and Interactive discussions drawing on experiences of the resource persons and delegates;
- Group discussion of case materials.

Areas/topic for discussion:

1. Progress in ASEAN countries in GPP and links with ASEAN SCP Framework
2. Presentation and discussion on links between Public Finance and GPP
3. GPP and Climate Change: reducing GHG emissions through GPP and eco-labelling

6. Organisers and Resource Team

The organisers and collaborators of the LP are:

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR
- ASEAN Secretariat
- EU Delegation to Lao PDR
- EU SWITCH-Asia PSC
- EU Delegation to ASEAN
- Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF)

7. Tentative Detailed Programme



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**12th ASEAN-Plus-Three Leadership Programme on
Sustainable Development Goal 12 “Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and
Production (SCP) Patterns”
4-6 November 2024
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR**

Sunday, 3 November 2024

Arrival of participants

Monday, 4 November 2024

Time	Agenda Item	Objectives
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of Participants	Participants registration and evaluation forms distribution
09:00 – 09:40	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of Welcome by MoNRE Lao PDR • Statement of Welcome by ASEAN Secretariat • Statement of Welcome by European Delegation to Lao PDR • Opening Remarks by SWITCH-Asia PSC 	Statements by host and convening partner institutions to welcome participants and officially open the Leadership Programme
09:40 – 9:50	Group Photo for all attendees	
09:50 – 10:20	Session 1 – Introduction of Participants and Introduction to the Leadership Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour de Table Introductions by Participants • Overview of Leadership Programme by SWITCH-Asia • Overview of the three topics for the sessions. 	This session will provide an overview of the LP and the topics for the sessions while introducing all participants and resource persons.
10:20 – 10:35	Tea Break and Networking Session	
10:35 – 12:20	Session 2 – Taking Stock – Accelerating Progress: unlocking circular economy as pathway for SCP and climate action Part 1: SDGs status and renewed ambition Part 2: The centrality of material's use and waste generation Presentation and facilitation of discussions SWITCH-Asia PSC Experts Participants' reflections on SDG progress in their countries (brief statements by participants of SDG progress in own country with focus on SDG12 and other SCP relevant SDG targets) Reading materials for Session 2 could be accessed here	This session will discuss SDG progress, focusing on critical SDG transitions, as well as share key insights from recent global resource and waste assessments connecting material and resource use to climate change, loss of nature and pollution. It will also discuss potential and challenges for circular economy.
12:20 – 13:30	NETWORKING LUNCH	



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13:30 – 15:00 **Session 3 -- SCP and CE Policy coherence to raise ambitions in relation to climate and SDG commitments**

Presentation and facilitation of discussions SWITCH-Asia PSC Experts

5 minutes country presentations (provide overview on SCP and CE implementation)

Reading materials for Session 3 could be accessed [here](#)

This session will provide an overview on the status of SCP and CE policies and implementation in the ASEAN, presentation on the ASEAN SCP Framework and discussion on the challenges and opportunities for implementation. It will further zoom in on specific opportunities on mainstreaming SCP and CE in key sectors in ASEAN economies, particularly on food processing, textile and garments and tourism to raise ambitions in relation to climate and SDG commitments.

15:00 – 15:15 **Tea Break**

15:15 – 17:00 **Session 4 – Circular economy (CE) as a responsible business action in ASEAN: Lessons and potential strategies**

Part 1: Clarifying the circular economy, and its ambition!

Part 2: Mobilizing business action on circular economy

Presentation and facilitation of discussions SWITCH-Asia PSC Experts

Reading materials for Session 4 could be accessed [here](#)

This session will introduce key CE concepts and practices and zoom in on the importance of fostering and supporting responsible business action, thereby contributing to achieving SCP, CE, and climate policy objectives.

17:00-17:15 **Wrap up for Day 1 – by Delegation of Lao PDR**

Welcome Dinner Reception hosted by SWITCH-Asia PSC

Tuesday, 5 November 2024

Time	Agenda Item	Objective(s)
09:00-10:00	<p>Session 5: Day 2: Introduction to Topic 2 - SDG 12 reporting as enabling the circular economy transformation</p> <p>Background to SDG 12 – and today’s perspective Presentation and facilitation of discussions SWITCH-Asia PSC Expert</p> <p>Participant contributions: (What can indicators show regarding transformative change? What are they not able to portray? What can they hide?)</p>	(Re-)Introduce SDG 12 reporting as a helpful tool for assessing policy progress and mainstreaming SCP as a priority into national policies (specific focus on SDG 12.2-12.7).



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Session 6: Overview over SDG 12 implementation and monitoring status, particularly SDG 12.1

Presentation and facilitation of discussions SWITCH-Asia PSC Experts

Two country delegates to share experience on SDG 12 implementation and monitoring (What is the reporting status for SDG 12 in your country? What role does SDG 12.1 play for your work? Who drives SDG 12.1 monitoring / implementation in your country?)

Reading materials for Session 6 could be accessed [here](#).

10.00– 10:30

Session 7 -- Moving the needle for improving resource efficiency (SDG 12.2,3,4,,5) (recycling rates and domestic material consumption per GDP/capita), and limiting food loss, pollution / hazardous waste: policies, monitoring systems and sanctioning mechanisms

The session will discuss the different national approaches to SDG 12 policy development and implementation

Resource efficiency (RE) introduction

Presentation and facilitation of discussions SWITCH-Asia PSC Experts

Two country delegates present successful Resource Efficiency (RE) measure(s)

10:30 – 10:45 **Tea Break**

10.45 – 12:30

Session 8 – Making sustainability reporting work for scaling up and mainstreaming SCP (SDG 12.6)

This session will start with an overview and update of the global sustainability reporting landscape and accountability frameworks. It will then dive deep into opportunities and challenges for deepening, broadening and spreading good SCP/CE practices

Part 1: Sustainability reporting, transparency and accountability

Part 2: Raising ambition – creating scale (

Presentation and facilitation of discussions SWITCH-Asia PSC Experts

Taking the pulse – **participants feedback on sustainable consumption and lifestyle initiatives**

Reading materials for Session 8 could be accessed [here](#).

12:30 – 13:30 **LUNCH**

13:30 – 16:45

Session 9 – Elevating Green Public Procurement (GPP) in the ASEAN Countries

This session will discuss how to elevate GPP policy and practices in ASEAN countries and the interlinkages with the ASEAN SCP Framework.

Presentation and facilitation of discussions SWITCH-Asia PSC Experts

Selected Country Presentations - status of GPP implementation and Monitoring

Reading Materials for Session 9 could be accessed [here](#).



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Session 10 – Operationalizing ASEAN SCP Framework: Pathway to Achieving GPP Maturity

- Presentation and facilitation of discussions SWITCH-Asia PSC Experts

16:45-17:00 **Wrap up for Day 2 – by Delegation of The Philippines**

Wednesday, 6 November 2024

Time	Agenda Item	Objective(s)
09:00 – 10:30	Session 11 – Linking Public Finance, Public Procurement and Sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and facilitation of discussions SWITCH-Asia PSC Experts <p>Reading materials for Session 11 could be accessed here</p>	This session will discuss the challenges at ASEAN level for sustainability to be mainstreamed in public finance and more specifically in procurement and identify institutional mechanisms that could tackle these challenges
10:30 – 10:45	Tea Break	
10:45 – 12:15	Session 12 – Regional Synergy: How harmonizing eco-labels can enhance green public procurement in ASEAN Presentation and facilitation of discussions SWITCH-Asia PSC Experts	This session will discuss the feasibility and benefits of developing Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA) for eco-labels across ASEAN and identify key challenges and opportunities for MRA implementation that would support GPP.
12:15 – 13:30	NETWORKING LUNCH	
13:30 – 15:30	Session 13 – Regional Synergy: GPP and Climate Change: reducing GHG emissions through GPP and eco-labelling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and facilitation of discussions SWITCH-Asia PSC Experts 	This session will discuss the role of GPP in reducing GHG emissions and how eco-labelling system can help government and industries reduce carbon footprints.
15:30 – 15:45	Tea Break and Introduction of Exercise for final day	
15:45 – 16:00	Wrap up for Day 3 – by Delegation of Cambodia	
16:00 – 17:00	Closing of 12th ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme Closing Remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host Country Lao PDR • Partner organizations – ASEAN Secretariat, EU Delegation to Lao PDR, SWITCH-Asia PSC, and Hanns Seidel Foundation 	Participants will be presented with their certificates of participation in the 12 th ASEAN+3 LP on SCP.



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APPENDIX. Previous ASEAN +3 Leadership Programmes on Sustainable Production and Consumption:

11th ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme on SCP

Date & Venue: 11-14 November 2019, Bandung, Indonesia

Organised by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the Hanns Seidel Foundation (Jakarta and Hanoi Offices),

10th ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme on SCP, Policy And Implementation

Date & Venue: 10-13 October 2017, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Main Co-Organizers: Hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia, UNU-IAS, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), Universitas Gadjah Mada, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia, the ASEAN Secretariat, the Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and the European Union Delegation to Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam (EU Jakarta Office).

9th ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme on Sustainable Development Goal 12 “Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Patterns”

Date & Venue: 25-28 October 2016 Hanoi, Vietnam

Organisers: Hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam, the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat, in collaboration with partner organisations, and with the support of the EU funded SWITCH-Asia Programme and Hanns Seidel Foundation

8th ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme on SPC and Workshop on ASEAN and SCP Governance in the 2030 Agenda for SD,

Date & Venue: 20-23 October, 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Main Co-Organizers: Hosted by Malaysia in collaboration with UNU-AS, UNEP, UNIDO, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the ASEAN Environment Ministries, together with partner organisations.

7th ASEAN-Plus-Three Leadership Programme on SCP and SWITCH-Asia Workshop on National SCP Policy Developments – Progress and Impacts,

Date & Venue: 30 September – 3 October 2014, Bali, Indonesia

Co-organisers: Hosted by Indonesia and supported by UNEP, UNU-IAS, ASEAN Secretariat among others.

6th ASEAN-Plus-Three Leadership Programme on SCP

Date & Venue: 2013, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Main Co-organisers: Hosted by Cambodia and supported by International Resource Panel, UNEP, UNU-IAS, UNIDO, and the ASEAN Secretariat

5th ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme

Date & Venue: 17-19 October 2012, Quezon City, Philippines



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Main Co-organisers: Hosted by the Government of the Philippines through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in collaboration with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, UNU-IAS, UNIDO and UNEP, and the ASEAN Secretariat.

4th ASEAN +3 Leadership Programme

Date & Venue: 6-8 October 2011 Bangkok, Thailand

Main Co-organisers: UNU-IAS, ASEAN Secretariat, Chulalongkorn University, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand, SIEP, and RCE Cha-am, Thailand.

3rd ASEAN +3 Leadership Programme

Date & Venue: 6-7 October 2010 Manila, Philippines

Main Co-organizers: UNU-IAS, ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines.

2nd ASEAN +3 Leadership Programme

Date & Venue: 8 August 2009 Cha-am, Thailand

Main Co-organizers: UNU-IAS, ASEAN Secretariat, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand, SIEP, and RCE Cha-am (Thailand).

1st ASEAN +3 Leadership Programme

Date & Venue: 18-19 July 2008 Cha-am, Thailand

Main Co-organizers: UNU-IAS, ASEAN Secretariat, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand, and the Sirindhorn International Environmental Park Foundation (SIEP) under the Patronage of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Thailand.