



Issue No. 3 | March 2024

3RproMar Newsletter



Updates on combatting marine debris within ASEAN

A service by GIZ project 3RproMar – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – protect marine environment and coral reefs

Dear Readers,

as Assistant Director of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau, I am delighted to open this edition of 3RproMar's newsletter, with a special emphasis on the noteworthy 3rd Regional Workshop Series of this project held from 19. – 23. March in Iloilo City, Philippines. This event organized by GIZ together with ASEAN was an important step for jointly addressing the critical issue of marine pollution and spotlighted the synergy between ASEAN Member States, highlighting our unified commitment to marine conservation.



Engr. Esperanza Sajul, Assistant Director
EMB / DENR of the Philippines

I very much welcomed the conference theme “From Knowledge to Action: Facilitating Concrete Efforts for Enhanced Land-Based Marine Litter Prevention”. We need to acknowledge that the “root causes” for marine litter have to be addressed “at land”, at the places where we work and live, in our households and by considering the sustainability of the way we produce and distribute goods and materials that are delivered to the communities and users.

The Philippines, along with other ASEAN member states, has made substantial progress in waste management, evident since the enactment of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act in 2000. Despite challenges, including increasing waste generation and the need for improved management capacities, we've seen growth in engineered waste disposal facilities. The recent policy amendment, RA

11898, emphasizes Extended Producer Responsibility, aiming for a significant reduction in plastic footprint by private companies in the coming years.

The conference objectives mirror the visions and targets we have set with our National Action Plan on Marine litter that follows the Bangkok Declaration of ASEAN from 2019, with the joint aim of ASEAN member states to drastically reduce packaging and plastic waste emissions into waterbodies and oceans. Particularly through the efforts of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, operating under the auspices of the United Nations to elaborate the International Legally Binding Instrument to end plastic pollution the issue of plastic waste has gained international momentum. Our discussion at the workshop delved into the ways in which this global initiative might impact regional development and how it can be effectively integrated into the policies and actions of ASEAN for combating marine debris.

Reflecting on our collective journey towards reducing marine litter, the workshop not only reinforced our dedication to environmental stewardship but also outlined actionable steps for future measures. I am eager to continue this journey alongside our ASEAN partners, leveraging the insights and momentum gained from the forum to further our cause. A crucial topic raised during the workshop was how these regional debates can be implemented on a national and local scale. The 3RproMar project, along with its sister project AMUSE (ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement), aims to bridge this gap.

In this newsletter you find more detailed articles on both project and our common journey towards cleaner oceans.

Yours,

Engr. Esperanza Sajul

Assistant Director Environmental Management Bureau (EMB / Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Partners of 3RproMar,

it is a pleasure to once again deliver the latest news from 3RproMar! Together, we reached a further prominent



Dr. Johannes Paul, Team Leader
Philippines of 3RproMar

milestone with the conduct of the 3rd Regional 3RproMar Forum that took place on March 19-22, 2024, in Iloilo City, Philippines. Around 140 experts from ASEAN and the involved partner countries Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Philippines met and shared experiences and latest know-how under the conference topic: From Knowledge to Action: Facilitating Concrete Efforts for Enhanced Land-Based Marine Litter Prevention in ASEAN.

Indeed, I have enjoyed this conference and its exciting panel discussions about knowledge management, the Regional Knowledge Hub (RKM) initiated by 3RproMar, and jointly implemented by ERIA, NIVA, and AIT, as well as the sessions on behavior change and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Specific knowledge and latest updates were delivered to the participants related to the ongoing negotiations for the upcoming International Treaty on Marine Pollution that may enter into force at the end of this year.

I have witnessed a 'deep dive' into the 3RproMar project implementation in the participating countries within a panel session that was followed by a roundtable discussion, where pilot initiatives of 3RproMar were presented, reflected upon and discussed. Indeed, that provided a vivid marketplace to explore local solutions and to exchange ideas and experiences!

Besides, the participants gained knowledge about the topic of "Microplastics", that sadly increases as negative impact of the rising global plastic production and related pollution. It is also a consequence of improper management and low-level waste collection and treatment systems that need to be enhanced to more efficiently recycle plastic and packaging waste. However, these systems are lacking in most municipalities.

Some statements made by various participants triggered my attention, likewise also demonstrated the depth of thinking and intense exchange related to the needed knowledge, skills and capacity development to more efficiently address the marine litter issues in the ASEAN Member States.

Many thanks to all participants, ASEAN delegates and partners for their active participation and much appreciated efforts to support 3RproMar!

We are happy to share this issue of the Newsletter, where you are able to dive deeper into the work of the project. Starting with this issue, we also report on our sister project AMUSE (ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement) that works closely with us on similar topics.

Best wishes and enjoy reading!

Yours,

Dr. Johannes Paul
Team Leader Philippines of 3RproMar

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- » Knowledge to Action: Facilitating Concrete Efforts for Enhanced Land-Based Marine Litter Prevention in ASEAN
- » ASEAN Knowledge Exchange Series on Marine Litter Prevention
- » Enquiry for Knowledge Products and Reports

CAMBODIA

- » Celebrating Environmental Action with the Youth
- » Ministry of Environment (MoE) and GIZ Collaborate to Enhance Waste Management Expertise

INDONESIA

- » Showcasing Local Initiatives and Innovations to Combat Marine Litter
- » Supporting the Implementation of Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR)

PHILIPPINES

- » Combatting Plastic Pollution through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Law
- » Visiting PETValue Philippines' State-of-the-Art recycling Facility in the South of Manila
- » Moving toward Zero Littering and 100% Plastic Waste Collection through Community Effort

VIETNAM

- » Cementing partnerships at the national level

AMUSE

- » Reporting on AMUSE as Part of this Newsletter
- » AMUSE Event Highlights 2023
- » Development of ASEAN Digital Knowledge Platform
- » AMUSE Workshop on Enhancing ASEAN Tourism Standards
- » AMUSE Regional Training Series
- » Waste Recycling Bank in Vang Vieng, Laos
- » A Starting Point for Clean-Green-Sustainable Da Lat, Vietnam

EVENTS

LINKS

Regional activities

From Knowledge to Action: Facilitating Concrete Efforts for Enhanced Land-Based Marine Litter Prevention in ASEAN

3rd Regional Workshop in Iloilo City with more than 100 participants.

3RproMar has just concluded its 3rd Regional Workshop Series from March 19 to 22 in Iloilo City, the Philippines, in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines. Under the theme “From Knowledge to Action: Facilitating Concrete Efforts for Enhanced Land-Based Marine Litter Prevention in ASEAN,” more than 100 participants from ASEAN Member States and international organizations joined to work on joint solutions to combat plastic waste. Next to Mrs. Engr. Esperanza A. Sajul, Dr. Andreas Michael Pfaffernoschke highlighted Germany's commitment to ASEAN's environmental goals, urging a united effort for sustainability.



Participants of 3RproMar 3rd Regional Workshop © GIZ

The event explored collaborative waste management strategies, spotlighting the progress of the Regional Knowledge Hub for Marine Litter Prevention in ASEAN and the necessity for international cooperation in tackling plastic pollution. Mr. Laska Sophal, Director of the Hazardous Substances

Management Department of the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia highlighted the importance of bringing the knowledge down to the local level where most measures are implemented.



National ministries showcasing their efforts towards a sustainable waste management in ASEAN © GIZ

Discussions led by Ms. Emmy Nøklebye and Ms. Christina Jaeger on the International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution underscored the treaty's aim to address the entire lifecycle of plastics and ensure a just transition. National efforts by ASEAN Member States, such as Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam were presented, showcasing initiatives in circular economy adoption and waste management improvement.

The sessions emphasized the importance of regional collaboration and innovative solutions in overcoming environmental challenges. Another focus was placed on microplastic pollution, with experts stressing the urgent need for standardized research methodologies and policymaking based on collaborative data. The session highlighted the significance of addressing microplastics through comprehensive strategies that involve all stakeholders.



Group picture of field trip participants in Guimaras Island © GIZ

In two engaging deep dive sessions, the focus shifted to the critical realms of "Behavioral Change" and "Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)." The first session, dedicated to Behavioral Change, presented the Behavioral Change Design Toolbox for the first time. The toolbox is developed by 3RproMar to support the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Member States. This session highlighted the importance of tailoring strategies to diverse communities and offered a live testing of elements of the toolbox.



In Guimaras Island participants were able to visit pilot sites of 3RproMar © GIZ

Principle Advisor of 3RproMar, Piyush Dhawan, concluded the workshop by emphasizing the importance of including the local level: "We hope that this event will enhance the effectiveness of translating regional strategies into concrete national and local initiatives. This workshop gives us the opportunity to gain insights into the practical implementation of these measures at the grassroots level."

The workshop was concluded by field visits to the pilot sites of 3RproMar around Iloilo City and Guimaras Island. (See articles in Philippines section). ASEAN representatives had the opportunity to visit implementation sites and dive into discussions with local stakeholders. We are currently working on a comprehensive summary booklet of the workshop that will be made available shortly. We also would like to use this opportunity to thank all participants for all the valuable contributions.

ASEAN Knowledge Exchange Series on Marine Litter Prevention

An invitation for all stakeholders and change makers to collaborate and create impact.

Illustration of Webinar Topics

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Just transition and the informal waste sector

Microplastics

Behavior change

National Action Plans (NAPs)

Harmonization of indicators and monitoring methods of plastic waste

Solid Waste Management

Public-Private Partnership

Since 2022, global leaders have initiated the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), aiming to establish an international legally binding agreement (ILBI) on plastic pollution by 2024. In line with the international and regional commitments to address marine litter, 3RproMar is partnering with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) to establish the “3RroMar Regional Knowledge Hub for Marine Litter Prevention in ASEAN”.

This collaboration endeavors to provide a platform to enhance knowledge and information sharing among ASEAN Member States through the “ASEAN Knowledge Exchange Series on Marine Litter Prevention”.

The Knowledge Exchange initiative will include a series of webinars scheduled throughout 2024, diving deep into various themes aligned with the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris and the upcoming ILBI, see graphic.

The webinar series serves as an opportunity for knowledge sharing best practices and scientific insights, as well as capacity-building efforts targeted at 3RproMar’s related stakeholders. Most importantly, the initiative strives to foster partnerships and collaboration, promoting a joint approach to combat plastic waste in the region.

Stay connected with [GIZ Indonesia & ASEAN's](#) page to receive more updates on the event!

Enquiry for Knowledge Products and Reports

Disseminate knowledge products on regional level.

In view of enriching our Regional Knowledge Hub for Marine Litter Prevention in ASEAN, which will eventually be aligned with the ASEAN Environment Knowledge Hub, we cordially invite participating AMS and partner organizations to contribute to the Hub. Your contributions may encompass policy papers, strategy documents, field reports documented lessons-learned or any other knowledge projects from pertinent initiatives on marine litter, waste management and circular economy. These submissions may carry strategic significance and potential for replication or upscaling within the ASEAN framework. [Find the enquiry here.](#)

3RproMar Cambodia

Celebrating Environmental Action with the Youth

Cambodian Comedian Joins Forces with Youth Group and 3RproMar Youth Ambassadors

On December 2, 2023, a powerful alliance took shape against the backdrop of Kirirom Mountain. Dourng Sokea, the beloved Cambodian comedian, extended his hand in collaboration with the passionate youth group, No Trash, and the dedicated Youth Ambassadors of the GIZ-implemented

3RproMar project. Over 70 participants converged to inaugurate the “No Plastic Bag” campaign, an initiative championed by the Ministry of Environment, within the renowned national park. In his opening address, Mr. Sokea expressed gratitude to all who heeded the collective call for action, journeying from Phnom Penh to the National Park.



Youth Ambassadors at Kirirom Mountain (Click for Video) © GIZ

Their mission was to contribute to the restoration of Kirirom Mountain’s natural splendor. He underscored the critical need to disseminate knowledge about the adverse effects of plastic bags and other single-use plastic items. Mr. Frank Jattke, Leader of the GIZ ASEAN Team, echoed the sentiment, urging further action to maintain the pristine state of the national park. His message was clear: Every tourist should leave with everything they brought, ensuring the park remains unspoiled. Subsequently, participants scoured the street and forest edges, collecting discarded refuse left behind by careless visitors and tourists. Styrofoam food containers, plastic cups, beer bottles, and bags—these remnants painted a vivid picture of the challenge ahead. The magnitude of the collected trash was both staggering and sobering, emphasizing the urgency of raising awareness and transforming ingrained habits.

Ministry of Environment (MoE) and GIZ Collaborate to Enhance Waste Management Expertise

Impactful training workshop on Waste Analysis and Waste Flow Diagram

On the 11th and 12th of December 2023, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) joined forces with GIZ under the 3RproMar project to organize a highly informative and impactful training workshop on Waste Analysis and Waste Flow Diagram. The event aimed to equip participants with a deeper understanding of waste analysis theory, various approaches, and practical tools.

Representatives from relevant line departments within the Ministry of Environment and Municipal administrations from provinces including Battambang, Banteay Mean Chhey, Siem Reap, and Kratie actively participated in this enlightening workshop. The diverse array of attendees ensured a comprehensive exchange of knowledge and expertise.



Training for better understanding of waste analysis theory, various approaches, and practical tools © GIZ

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Participants had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of waste analysis theory, different approaches, and tools. They gained practical experience in conducting waste analysis and learned about waste generation and solid waste management based on the analysis results. The workshop also focused on applying the waste flow diagram, an essential tool for estimating the generation, sources, and remains of various waste streams. The training included hands-on activities such as sampling, sorting, and analysis at the GAEA facility.

3RproMar Indonesia

Showcasing Local Initiatives and Innovations to Combat Marine Litter

Impactful actions through technology advancement, behavioral change and consumption pattern.

German Ambassador to Indonesia, ASEAN & Timor-Leste, Ms. Ina Lepel, visited Manado, North Sulawesi, to observe the collaborative efforts of the government, GIZ, private sector, and informal sector in reducing plastic waste leakage. During her trip on January 30, 2024, she visited TPS 3R (A temporary landfill that aims to minimize waste that go into the landfills through Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) to witness how do the municipal waste sorting facilities and community involvement function. This visit was accompanied by city representatives Ms. Lieke Kembuan, pertinent to the campaign of the NGO Manengkel Solidaritas. Ambassador Lepel also discussed approaches to involve the younger generation through a plastic bottle reduction campaign, which has already begun at Eben Haezer School and is led by Ms. Amelia Tungka, a private sector representative from Daur Sinar Gemilang. Additionally, Ambassador Lepel learned about the river barrier system that will be

implemented in several rivers in Manado, which will be led by NTTI (No-Trash Triangle Initiative).



German Ambassador to Indonesia, ASEAN & Timor-Leste, Ms. Ina Lepel visiting local pilot initiatives © GIZ

The river barrier system, known for its low-cost and easy-to-manufacture design, has the capability to intercept approximately 80% of all trash flowing through the river. Therefore, by implementing this barrier, NTTI and 3RproMar could potentially reduce ocean plastic waste in Manado by 20%. During her trip, the Ambassador said "What I saw is all stakeholders actively taking part in joint action to reduce plastic waste in Manado. I believe the process of collaboration will have a positive impact on Manado City."

Supporting the Implementation of Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR)

Conducting background studies of EPR Law Development after 2029 and Market Share

The successful implementation of the EPR system in Indonesia will significantly impact waste reduction and resource management. However, effective implementation of EPR requires regulation to oversee the technical implementation of EPR as well as clear product governance. Hence, the first research on EPR Law aims to develop an academic paper recommending EPR packaging policy as a continuation of the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) Regulation P.75/2019 in Indonesia. By utilizing this academic paper, policymakers can develop a more comprehensive and effective EPR legal framework that addresses the specific needs and challenges in implementing EPR in Indonesia. This framework will provide clear and enforceable guidance for all stakeholders involved in the EPR system.

At the same time, it is essential to address concerns from plastic producers and gaps compared to the regulators' expectations. The step is crucial as the endeavors to reduce plastic waste might contradict companies' race to grow economically – which produces more plastic packaging in the process. Hence, the Market Research Analysis of National Packaging Goods Products Distribution & Market Share in Indonesia started with a Kick-Off FGD, inviting representatives from key players, particularly in the Indonesian FMGC market.

A key takeaway from the discussion is the importance of creating a level playing field for large and

small businesses in implementing the P.75. Simultaneously, The Indonesian MoEF strives to provide comprehensive information for private sectors while adapting their reporting system to the always-developing products that hit the market.

3RproMar Philippines

Combatting Plastic Pollution through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Law

Mobilizing innovations and local stakeholders to reduce marine littering at the community level.

The 3RproMar project in the Philippines supports the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Law of 2022. The EPR Law is an amendment to the Republic Act No. 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, to institutionalize the extended producer responsibility on plastic packaging waste.

Under the law, the obliged enterprises (OEs) are required to achieve a 20% recovery and diversion of their plastic footprint in 2023 with incremental increase annually. DENR, with support from the 3RproMar project, held roundtable discussions in Cebu and Cagayan de Oro to spread awareness about the EPR Law and its provisions especially to the OEs.

Apart from the roundtable discussions on EPR, 3RproMar also supported the Speakers' Bureau Training held in Iloilo City hosted by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Region 6 to support the EPR Law implementation.



Participants at the 2nd National Stakeholder Forum of 3RproMar Philippines ©Niña Abogado

The training gathered environmental advocates from various national and regional ecology center members across the Philippines. The training also provided the participants with a more comprehensive understanding of current environmental issues to help them be well-equipped to develop and support sustainable solutions.

Furthermore, a planning workshop between 3RproMar and DENR was held in SEDA Hotel, Quezon

City on February 20, 2024, to strengthen partnerships and explore how 3RproMar can provide additional support to the EPR Law. The event presented project implementation status updates, discussing relevant findings of the various conducted studies, next steps and updated workplan activities, and the joint preparation for the 3rd 3RproMar Regional Forum in Iloilo City.

Workshop attendees from DENR were headed by Engr. Esperanza Sajul, OIC Assistant Director of EMB and Engr. Vizmindia Osorio, Executive Director of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC). Representatives from various EMB offices were also present at the Planning Workshop.

Visiting PETValue Philippines' State-of-the-Art Recycling Facility in the South of Manila

Shifting the lens on the country's private sector initiatives towards building a circular economy

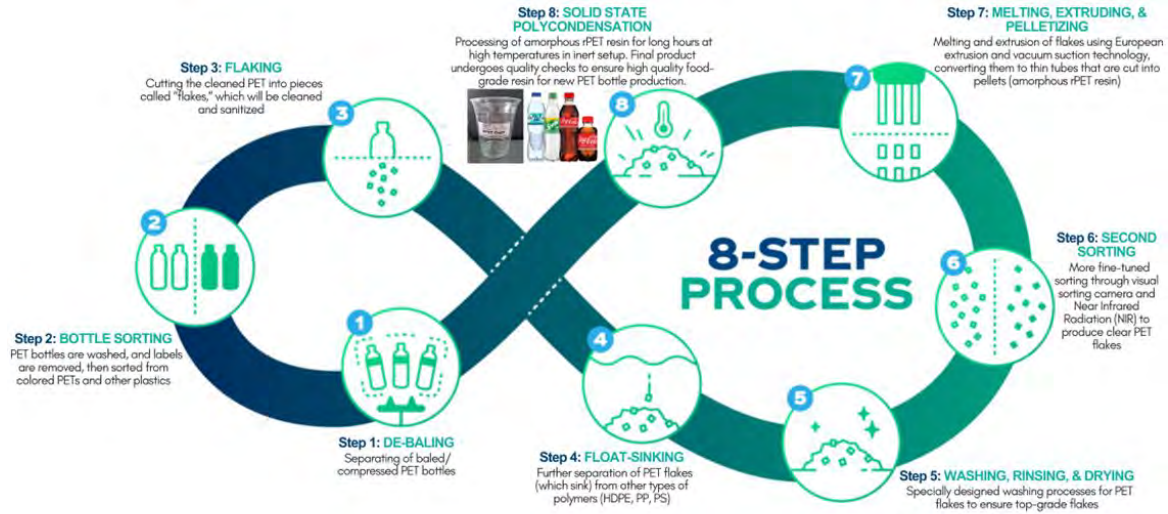
On 31 January 2024, 3RproMar and Scaling Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Philippines, together with 3RproMar Principal Advisor, Piyush Dhawan, and Cluster Coordinator for GIZ ASEAN projects, Shameer Khanal, visited PETValue Philippines Corporation – the pioneering bottle-to-bottle recycling facility in the country, located in Cavite. The initiative is a multi-billion-peso joint venture between Coca Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc. (CCBPI) and Thailand-based Indorama Ventures, the world's largest producer of recycled resin used in plastic beverage bottles.



University faculty representatives working together in identifying Solid Waste Management issues. © PETValue

The purpose of the visit is to observe PETValue's recycling operations and explore potential collaboration with 3RproMar's Guimaras pilot especially in clarifying the logistics and costs of transporting used PET bottles from Guimaras to a facility like PETValue and exploring possible schemes for EPR participation for small and remote areas. The GIZ team did a roundtable discussion and a tour guided by PETValue Philippines' site management, mainly: Commercial Head Peter Lapuz, Chief Financial Officer Haider M. Sangki, and Site Head Joel Potian.

PETValue employs an eight-step cutting-edge, green technology to recycle PET bottles into new food-grade packaging. The facility is designed to process 2 billion plastic bottles (40,000 metric tons) annually and had collected 910 million PET bottles by January 2024. It has been a supplier of recycled PET to some of the world's largest FMCG brands in the country since end-quarter of 2022. The site has supported the launch of recycled products like Wilkins Pure 500ml and Coca Cola 190ml in 100% rPET bottles, already publicly sold in 2023. As a local entity, PETValue Philippines helps create a sustainable supply chain for rPET in the country and reduce its importation. The company has been a supplier of recycled PET to some of the world's largest FMCG brands, such as supporting the launch of recycled products like Wilkins Pure 500ml and Coca-Cola 190ml in 100% rPET bottles since 2023.



The 8-step recycling process of PETValue. @PETValue Philippines

PETValue's technology is capable of segregating clear PET bottles from other types of plastics and materials. The company helps create a sustainable supply chain for rPET in the country, reducing importation, and promoting the circular economy in the Philippines. Nonetheless, this emphasizes the importance of proper waste handling and management from the source, as proper practices can significantly impact the final stage of the plastic waste chain.

PETValue and similar entities are crucial in building recycling capacity and operating facilities in an economically beneficial manner, which supports national laws and marine litter reduction targets. The condition underscores the importance of keeping such businesses afloat through, for instance, competitive price differences between virgin PET and rPET. The EPR Law of 2022 is currently an enabler on plastic waste collection; however, more can be done and results could be more significant if incentives for using recycled (i.e. rPET Pellets) materials are made available to obliged enterprises (OEs). Another driver to gain support is the climate change context, as production from recycled materials generally results in significantly lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions compared to using virgin materials.

The roundtable emphasized the importance of local government units leveraging the EPR Law, like partnering with recyclers such as PETValue for effective plastic waste management. 3RproMar views PETValue as a potential partner for plastic waste management, particularly recovering PET bottles from remote municipalities and islands where sustainable solutions and recycling access are lacking despite increasing waste generation. Despite logistical challenges, connecting remote municipalities like those in Guimaras Island with urban centers like Bacolod and Metro Iloilo, could create positive opportunities for private sector's involvement in recycling.



GIZ staff and site management of PETValue Philippines posing with the 3RproMar hand sign. @GIZ

Moving toward Zero Littering and 100% Plastic Waste Collection through Community Effort

Best practice in Barangay La Paz, Guimaras

Barangay La Paz in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, one of the 11 3RproMar pilot barangays started its segregated waste collection on February 15, 2024 with tremendous community support. Within the first month, it has collected almost 65 kg of plastics, approximately 12,000+ pieces, preventing them from becoming polluters. The coastal Barangay is home to 500+ households, 7 small Sari-Sari stores (kiosks), and 9 beach resorts and restaurants also including the top tourist destination of the Barangay, the Taklong National Marine Reserve. Based on the regular monitoring since February 2024, the Beaches regularly receive a substantial amount of foreign plastic, especially during the northeast monsoon. During the period which usually lasts between November to April, it can collect up to 55 kgs transboundary marine litter weekly. With the growing awareness toward marine litter dangers, the community anticipates collecting more plastic. Recyclable plastic waste is now collected through the newly established motorized tricycle (see picture), provided by the provincial governments to all pilot barangays.



Motorized Tricycle for plastic collection in Guimaras

The plastic is collected monthly then stored in their local MRF until it is a truck load to be sent to Central Waste Management Facility in Sapa. The plastic will be processed into eco-lumbers for manufacturing fences, benches and tables and other furniture.

Simultaneously, the general residual waste, comprised of dry waste is collected weekly through a well established system. While the Plastic collection is free of charge, all households and shops are required to buy a large sack @50 peso/sack for residual waste collection. The residuals are handed over to the Barangay on collection day. The Barangay charges an additional 3 peso/kg waste collected to recover some of the collection and transportation cost. Hence, as more plastic is segregated and collected, less residuals is produced, decreasing retribution fee for every household.

3RproMar Vietnam

Cementing Partnerships at the National Level

Planning Meeting with Vietnam Agency of Seas and Islands



The audience filled the hall to join the discussion on EPR implementation and PPP for projects in the waste field. © Rx Tradex Vietnam

Upon the approval of the project document by the Vice Minister of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), in January 2024, the Vietnam Agency of Seas and Islands (VASI) and GIZ experts discussed a plan for activities of 3RproMar Vietnam in 2024-2025. The workshop substantiated partnerships between GIZ and VASI, while the parties provided updates on project progress until now. In 2024, GIZ and VASI plan to implement various activities to achieve joint goals. Among these is the facilitation of the support from central MONRE to Soc Trang province to convert national strategy into local implementation. This means, upon the guidance from the Ministry, GIZ can organize training to support Soc Trang in developing their solid waste management roadmap. The training will be based on the promulgated **Technical Guidelines on the Segregation of Domestic Solid Waste**, the **National Action Plan on marine litter management**, etc. Another activity discussed is a study trip for local partners to exchange knowledge and learn about waste management models (i.e., material recovery facility -MRF, waste segregation at source) in Ha Noi, Hai Phong and Ha Long tentatively April 2024.

The planning meeting is among a host of vibrant discussions with central/local public stakeholders, private partners, development partners, local NGOs, etc., to formulate project activities in 2024-2025.



Stakeholder forum attendees toured Binh Duong Water – Environment Corporation’s plant and learned about its waste treatment methods and processes. © Rx Tradex Vietnam

The collection rate in Tran De Town is about 89.1%, with the Soc Trang Public Works Company (SPWC) accounting for 73.8%, the informal waste collectors accounting for 15.3%, and the uncollected waste rate being 10.9%. The plastic waste generated is approximately 1.05 tons per day.

The status survey provides a database on the waste flow in Tran De Town, allowing for the joint development of solutions by GIZ and the local Department of Natural Resources and Environment to prevent plastic leakage. Points of intervention involve increasing collection rate in unserved households in small alleys, communication on waste segregation, regular clean-up campaigns with households, Youth and Women Unions, and constructing and implementing the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) models in plastic hotspots, to name a few. For waste management authorities, GIZ plans to support, for instance, building a roadmap for waste segregation at source, and enhance capacity with seminars, training sessions, exchanges and study tours.

ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement (AMUSE)

Reporting on AMUSE as part of this Newsletter

Project ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement (AMUSE) will be covered due to similarity of the projects.

It is a great pleasure to share the first articles of AMUSE Project in this issue of the 3RproMar Newsletter. With a holistic and multi-level approach, this regional project – in cooperation with Environment Division of the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) and ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC) – aims to improve municipal solid waste management and to promote circular economy oriented and sustainable tourism in focal partner countries such as Cambodia (Siem Reap), Lao PDR (Vang Vieng), Thailand, and Vietnam (Da Lat). At the regional level, the AMUSE project aims to develop an ASEAN digital knowledge platform and strengthen institutional capacity for streamlining municipal waste management and circular economy in tourism. At the national and local level, the pilot project will be implemented in four countries involving national and local tourism associations and local tourism operators. By extension, other relevant public, private, and civil society actors in AMS will be involved in the project’s activities wherever possible and meaningful. In future issues of this newsletter AMUSE activities will be covered as well.



AMUSE Launching and Regional Inception Workshop © GIZ

AMUSE Event Highlights 2023

A recap of 2023's milestones for AMUSE

On the 30th of March 2023, the **AMUSE Project was officially launched in Bali**, Indonesia which not only marked the beginning of a new chapter but also underscored a commitment to improving cooperation and knowledge exchange between AMS and the relevant stakeholders.

AMUSE – together with its sister project, 3RproMar – supported the ASEAN Youth – School Eco Champion Award 2023 to celebrate the outstanding efforts of youth and schools from 10 AMS. The awarding ceremony was held on 23 August 2023 and attended by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME) and high-level officials, with a total of 300 participants.

In early September 2023, AMUSE conducted the **ASEAN Cross Sectoral Dialogue on Waste Management and Sustainable Tourism in Luang Prabang**, Lao PDR, back-to-back with the ASEAN Tourism Committee Meetings. As the first cross sectoral dialogue in the region, AMUSE brought together two ASEAN working groups, namely AWGESC and ASEAN Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Committee (ASITDC), as well as the private sector to discuss key issues and potential collaboration on sustainable tourism and solid waste management in ASEAN tourist cities. With 70 total participants, the Dialogue comprised of panel discussions with experts and breakout sessions, followed by a field trip, a debriefing session with private sector, and internal consultation with AWGESC.

Development of ASEAN Digital Knowledge Platform

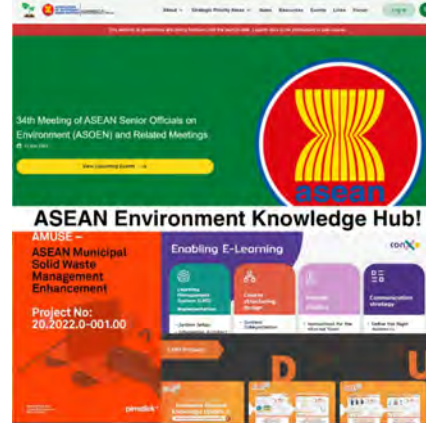
One-stop platform to access the knowledge and information sharing of the emerging environmental issues in ASEAN.

The significance of digital knowledge platform is increasingly recognized today as they enable the exchanges of knowledge and expertise across the borders and fostering regional integration and cooperation. This importance is also reflected in the ASEAN Environment Knowledge Hub, which aims to become an integrated knowledge management system towards a more effective environmental data and

information management system.

AMUSE is currently supporting the further development of the **existing ASEAN Environment Knowledge Hub**. This effort focuses on enhancing user interaction, promoting knowledge exchange, and fostering engagement within the ASEAN Knowledge Hub on Waste Management and Sustainable Tourism.

Key initiatives include a comprehensive review of the ASEAN Environment Knowledge Hub and the development of a concept for the revised platform. The proposed concept will undergo through consultations with the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC) for endorsement, ensuring alignment with overarching regional priorities.



Asean Environment Knowledge Hub

AMUSE Workshop on Enhancing ASEAN Tourism Standards

Step up efforts to enhance sustainability and improve waste management in ASEAN through tourism standards.

On 4 March 2024, AMUSE held a workshop on Enhancing ASEAN Standards towards Sustainability and Waste Management in Tourism in Kuching, Malaysia, back-to-back with the ASEAN Tourism Committee Meetings (ATCM). Attended by representative of ASEAN Tourism Competitiveness Committee and the ASEAN Secretariat (Tourism Unit), the workshop aimed to foster a robust discussion across two sessions, focusing on current state of ASEAN standards, awards, and frameworks related to circular economy, sustainability, and waste management in the tourism sector. During the workshop, a survey showed that most participants were well familiar with existing standards. However, integrating sustainability and waste management aspects remain a challenge.

The first session explored current standards' effectiveness in addressing food waste, the impact of tourist behavior on waste management, opportunities for embedding sustainability into tourism experiences, and strategies for integrating waste management principles into tourism business models. Meanwhile, the second session delved into the gap between policies and implementation, support mechanisms needed for effective integration, challenges of incorporating sustainability into standards, and potential cooperation with AMUSE to enhance standards. This collaborative effort will pave the way for greener and more sustainable tourism in ASEAN.

Which ASEAN standards are you excited to experience first? [Click this link to learn more.](#)

AMUSE Regional Training Series

Strengthening competencies for optimising waste management, sustainable tourism, and the circular economy.

AMUSE is currently developing series of regional training program to provide municipalities and relevant stakeholders involved in waste management and tourism initiatives across the ASEAN region with essential knowledge and skills in addressing the multifaceted environmental management challenges.

With practical tools and resources tailored to the ASEAN context, this collaborative training program will encompass key areas of waste management, circular economy, and sustainable tourism practices, providing learners with the

Illustration of Training Modules

Introduction to Circular Economy (CE) and Sustainability

Waste Generation and Composition Analysis

Waste Collection and Segregation

Sustainable Packaging and Plastics Reduction

Food Waste Management

Community Engagement, Awareness and Behavioural Change

Certifications and Standards

Private Sector involvement and Circular Economy Business Models

flexibility to customize their training according to their roles and needs.

To create an engaging and participatory learning environment that accommodate different learning styles and preferences, the training program will leverage mix delivery methods include live virtual sessions, pre-recorded lectures, interactive workshops, group discussions, case study, and study trip/site visit.

Stay tuned for more updates on these exciting trainings opportunity!

Waste Recycling Bank in Vang Vieng, Laos

Transforming Vang Vieng into a greener, cleaner city through the Waste Recycling Bank initiative.

On February 09, 2024, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) – as the implementing agency of AMUSE – held an official ceremony at Angle Cave in Vang Vieng district to distribute the first batch of Recyclable Waste Bins (35 units out of total 75 units) to the businesses in the tourism sector such as restaurants, guesthouses, hotels, as well as to schools and temples. These bins are specifically designed to facilitate the collection of recyclable waste generated by these establishments, with the ultimate goal of reducing landfill waste and promoting sustainable resource consumption.



Participants celebrate recyclable waste bins © GIZ/GGGI

Furthermore, awareness raising campaign on source separation and capacity building on recycled waste management activities have also been conducted.

A Starting Point for Clean-Green-Sustainable Da Lat, Vietnam

Strategy and Operational Plan development workshop in Da Lat City, Lam Dong province.

On 29 January 2024, Da Lat City's People Committee, GIZ, and local experts joined hands to develop a preliminary Operational Plan for AMUSE's activities in the city throughout 2024. Da Lat City (Lam Dong province) – honored with the “ASEAN Clean Tourist City Award 2022” – was selected as the pilot site for the Vietnam AMUSE project. The pilot interventions in Da Lat aim to leverage the management of municipal waste and recycling, which faces significant drawbacks. The interactive workshop allowed GIZ and Da Lat partners to update on project progress until now and envision coming activities.



GIZ and partners learnt about sustainable tourism under Da Lat lush pine forests © GIZ/GGGI

For 2024, Da Lat and GIZ plan to steer AMUSE's focus on 3 priorities: the development of effective communication activities on environmental protection and waste treatment, an action plan on waste segregation at source and composting models.

Key initial findings from the baseline study on stakeholder mapping, physical waste management system, as well gender analysis in Da Lat, were shared. The experts highlighted that Da Lat waste service companies are overloaded, while predominantly domestic tourists lack a sense of environmental protection awareness and propaganda campaigns prove inconsistent. These concerns will be mitigated Under AMUSE's framework.

As spring reemerged, participants visited the Terracotta Hotel & Resort, known as a beacon of sustainable accommodation in the city for their single-use products' prevention and reduction principles, composting models of organic food and waste segregation. The team gained an understanding of their best practices and discussed the potential to improve their waste management SOP to support the resort in embarking on a more sustainable journey.

Upcoming Events

- **April 15th – 18th 2024:** World Circular Economy Forum in Brussels, Belgium with e ASEAN Circular Economy Meeting on 16 April 2024
- **April 2024:** Study trip to in Ha Noi, Hai Phong, Ha Long to exchange knowledge and learn about

waste management models in Vietnam

- **3rd or 4th week of May 2024:** National Stakeholder Forum on Solid Waste Management in Tourism Sector, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- **May 2024:** 2nd PSC Meeting of AMUSE back-to-back with 22nd AWGESC Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand

Useful Links

3RproMar Project Page:

» <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/129342.html>

AMUSE Project Page:

» <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/114732.html>

ASEAN Environmental Hub:

» <https://environment.asean.org/>

kNOwWaste Knowledge Platform:

» <https://knowwaste.net/>

Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris:

» <https://rkcmpd-eria.org/>

International Knowledge Hub Against Plastic Pollution:

» <https://ikhapp.org/>

AMUSE's Knowledge Products:

» <https://bit.ly/AMUSEKnowledgeProduct>

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