

ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement (AMUSE)

The Challenge

The ASEAN region is one of the fastest growing regions in the world with high population growth and rapid urbanisation. Cities and municipalities lack the resources and capacity to ensure clean air and land, as well as basic supplies in the water, waste and energy sectors, although these areas are the key to a good quality urban environment and services of general interest. In 2016, the volume of waste generated in Southeast Asia reached around 150 million tonnes and is one of the big challenges and critical problems the region is facing. It is estimated that waste generation will increase by 150 percent in 2025 compared to 1995 levels unless it is counteracted.

In addition, the importance of tourism as a relevant economic factor is growing. Between 2000 and 2018, tourism numbers (international arrivals) tripled in the East Asia and Pacific region. This is accompanied by growing amounts of waste. Small and medium-sized cities, in contrast to the large urban centres of ASEAN countries, are facing considerable difficulties in dealing with growing waste volumes due to population growth, changing consumption patterns, and increasing tourism numbers. Municipal administrations do not have the necessary technical and management competencies to adequately manage the steadily increasing waste volumes due to population growth, changing consumption patterns, and growing tourism, as well as to involve private sector actors in waste management and resource-efficient solution approaches.

Project name	ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement (AMUSE)
Commissioned by	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
Project region	ASEAN (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam)
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration	01.07.2022– 30.06.2025

Our Approach

The project applies a holistic, multi-level approach that addresses a wide range of relevant actors. The intermediaries include ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC) as well as national and local government structures. Among those who benefit are national and local tourism associations and local tourism operators. The project intends to cooperate with the tourism sector to prevent, dispose of and recycle waste within the scope of their activities. The urban population of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) is reached via intermediaries, in particular in the partner countries of Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Viet Nam and Thailand. By extension, other relevant public, private and civil society actors in the AMS will be involved in the project’s activities wherever possible and meaningful. As a result, the populations will profit from improved environmental conditions.

In particular, the project will (a) advise AMS through the relevant working groups on the establishment and further development of opportunities and platforms for the exchange of experiences and knowledge transfer as well as develop capacity development measures; (b) promote greater integration and participation of the private sector, especially the tourism sector, in joint approaches to



Page 1 (left to right): Launch and Regional Inception Workshop of AMUSE on 30 March 2023 in Bali, Indonesia and National workshop on 13 Feb 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand

Page 2 (left to right): Orientation of data collection on waste composition in Bang Khla District, Thailand and Trash collection in Cambodia



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solutions at national and local level; (c) develop and implement approaches to a circular economy (e.g., separate collection, recycling) in up to four pilot cities with the participation of the private sector.

Three pilot cities were selected by the respective AMS themselves during the project appraisal mission in 2020 : **Siem Reap (Cambodia)**, **Vang Vieng (Lao PDR)** and **Dalat (Vietnam)**. In these selected cities, beacon projects will be established. With **Thailand**, a close cooperation is envisaged as the country offers established waste management institutions with strong competencies and capacities and can therefore provide best practices for a mutual exchange of knowledge among AMS.

The Objectives

ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management (AMUSE) aim to improve environmental quality in small and medium-sized cities in the ASEAN region by optimising waste disposal and recycling. The **project outputs** include interventions in three areas of activities:

- 1) Developing a **new ASEAN-wide digital knowledge platform** provides sustainable knowledge, training, dialogue formats, and standards for optimizing municipal waste management and recycling for public and private stakeholders at national and local levels in ASEAN countries
- 2) Supporting medium-sized tourist cities in the **implementation of sustainable waste management by the respective responsible ministries** in cooperation with tourism associations and other national actors active in the waste and tourism sector.
- 3) Providing **field-tested options for optimizing municipal waste management and recycling** in terms of sustainability and gender sensitivity in medium-sized tourist cities which are documented for further dissemination.

These outputs will take into account gender equality and the concerns of marginalized and disadvantaged population groups. In summary, the project strengthens public awareness for the negative consequences of inadequate waste management and circular economy approaches.

The Implementation

Project activities are defined and implemented in close cooperation with regional, national, and local partners and the respective AMS representatives. Local institutions, civil society, private sector and universities will be involved. Technological innovations along the value chain provide opportunities for the development of materials that are recycled more easily, and which are less harmful to the environment.

The project is **funded** by the Federal Republic of Germany through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in close cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat.

A regional team of international and national advisors will be based in ASEAN Secretariat office in Jakarta, Indonesia with national advisors will also sit in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, and Thailand to implement activities and advisory services in the different areas of actions. Pilot projects by diverse partners and organizations will be identified and supported to establish and disseminate good practices.

Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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As at

May 2023

In cooperation with

ASEAN Secretariat



GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

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