

3rd Regional Workshop Summary Booklet

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

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle to Protect the Marine
Environment and Coral Reefs (3RproMar)

19-23 March 2024
Richmonde Hotel
Iloilo City, The Philippines

Executive Summary



The ASEAN-German cooperation project implemented by GIZ, “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle to Protect the Marine Environment and Coral Reefs” (3RproMar), held the 3rd Regional Workshop in Iloilo City on March 19-23, 2024. Themed “From Knowledge to Action: Facilitating Concrete Efforts for Enhanced Land-Based Marine Litter Prevention in ASEAN”, the workshop updated participants on 3RproMar regional implementation and sharing best practices. It also covered topics such as EPR, Behavior Change, and Just Transition, and explored regional actions aligned with the ASEAN RAP for Combating Marine Debris and the upcoming ILBI. **Attendees included 120 in-person and 18 virtual participants**, with representatives from various ASEAN Working Groups, the German Embassy, and partners like AIT, ERIA, NIVA, and the World Bank.

Key outcomes of the workshop:

Upcoming Global Plastics Treaty (International Legally Binding Instrument [ILBI])

Empower ASEAN and the AMS to take collaborative and individual actions in the ILBI process as well its implementation to achieving:

1. Organising regular dialogues and consultations within ASEAN with AMS and relevant WGs to discuss common objectives, identify challenges, and harmonise positions on ILBI.
2. Harmonising the understanding of technical topics addressed by the ILBI, as a basis for engagement in ILBI negotiations and its implementation, including microplastics, just transition, BC.
3. Facilitating a just transition via inclusive dialogues/workshops among stakeholder and vulnerable groups to foster a more comprehensive understanding of the local Southeast Asian context and ensure the instrument reflects the concerns of all stakeholders.

Contribution to ASEAN RAP for Combating Marine Debris

EPR

1. **Regional level (ASEAN):** support ERIA RKC-MDP in the setup of a new webpage on EPR; create knowledge products about current EPR schemes; knowledge sharing on EPR covering PSE/EPR in line with the RAP, sharing best practices in ASEAN, among others
2. **National level (4AMS):** EPR knowledge sharing key topic in 3RproMar's annual National Stakeholder Forum; EPR policy support
3. **Local level:** creating best practices and learning experiences (EPR pilot in Phnom Penh, digital Deposit Return Scheme approach in Bandung)

Behavioural Change (BC)

1. Variety of BC initiatives and campaigns but these best practices are not evaluated and shared in consistent manner.
2. Proposed approach is to share the knowledge onto designated regional platform for all AMS. This shall be translated into Behavioral Change Design Toolbox with guidelines and platform.
3. Recommendation to have ASEAN circulate the tender and participate in the selection of consultant. Further step could transfer methodology into online toolbox.

Microplastics

Conduct a baseline study on microplastics to examine existing sources, status, flows, monitoring methods, and policies that pertain to microplastics in the ASEAN region.

Next steps for 3RproMar:

- **Disseminate the summary** of the discussions collected during the 3rd Regional Workshop to stakeholders and partners.
- **Incorporate the outcomes of regional exchanges**, i.e. the 3rd Regional Workshop, into the national action processes.
- **Make available the knowledges and experiences** shared among participants of working groups through a knowledge platform.
- **Continue coordination** with the regional knowledge partners to expand functional regional knowledge management on the topic within existing institutions
- **Establish mechanism for facilitation of regional exchanges**, i.e. 3RproMar's upcoming webinar series

Session 1

Regional Knowledge Hub for Marine Litter Prevention in ASEAN: Advancing Collaborative Efforts

Summary

The plastic crisis is a complex topic and can only be tackled when policymakers know the facts and have valid research and data. The “Regional Knowledge Hub for Marine Litter Prevention in ASEAN” aims to bridge the gap between policymakers in ASEAN and the global research community. Under the umbrella of this hub, three existing platforms are teaming up to provide research insights to the ASEAN Working Groups. The hub was launched about a year ago, and this session was evaluating major milestones and important challenges.

Main research topics were the processes of the International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI), Microplastics, as well as insights on EPR regulations and behavioural change. Especially interactive models are actively used, while there are still more opportunities for member states to contribute insights from national efforts, such as strategic documents. A main point of discussion also focused on the question of how to bring these important findings down to the local level.

Key Takeaways

1

The first year of the “Regional Knowledge Hub for Marine Litter Prevention in ASEAN” has shown that there is global momentum for the topics of plastic waste, especially due to the negotiations as part of the legally binding instrument on plastic waste.

2

The platforms provide a wide range of topics that are relevant to ASEAN policymakers, especially using interactive elements.

3

Research findings are crucial to succeed and need to be brought down also to decision-makers on the ground. Here, language barriers could be in the way, as well as usability of the resources.

Speakers



Mr. Bishal Bhari

Program Officer, Waste and Resource Management Cluster, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP), Know Waste Knowledge (KWK) Platform



Ms. Diya Chakravorty

Environmental Economist, Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA), International Knowledge Hub Against Plastic Pollution (IKHAPP)



Mr. Reo Kawamura

Director, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris (RKC-MPD)



Mr. Laska Sophal

Director of Hazardous Substances Management Department, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia



Mr. Frederik Caselitz

Moderator
Communication Specialist, GIZ 3RproMar



The lively discussion in Session 1 in action
@GIZ 3Rpromar

Session 2

Unpacking the International-legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) on Plastic Pollution: Progress and Projections

Summary

The ILBI draft puts a significant emphasis on integrating just transition into the ILBI framework, acknowledging the potential for unemployment and poverty accompanying the transition away from plastic production. Incorporating just transition principles into the core measures, governance system, and amendments of the ILBI can serve to address immediate job loss concerns and underlying socio-economic barriers while fostering synergies with other treaty systems.

The objectives of this session were:

- a) Furnish AMS representatives with the latest developments regarding ILBI, following the 3rd Session of the Intergovernmental Committee (INC-3) on Plastic Pollution.
- b) Inform participants about the potential of just transition in the Circular Economy and the ILBI framework.

Key Takeaways

- 1 Just Transition is increasingly recognized globally to achieve social and environmental goals, as it provides opportunities to foster fairness and inclusivity, ensuring that no one is left behind in the transition to sustainability.
- 2 The ILBI acknowledges vulnerable groups across the plastic life cycle and contains provision aiming at participation, protecting human and occupational health and safety, and ensuring livelihood security and fair income. However, current draft lacks principles and guidelines for a just transition and a dedicated fund to support implementation and protect vulnerable groups livelihoods.

Speakers



Ms. Emmy Nøklebye

Research Scientist, Section for International Environment and Development, NIVA and Secretariat of the Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty

Topic:

Towards a Global Plastics Treaty: Navigating the Status of the Negotiations and the Revised Zero Draft of the ILBI to End Plastic Pollution



Ms. Christina Jaeger

Director and Co-Founder of Yunus Environment Hub

Topic:

Just Transition in the ASEAN Region: chances through the global plastics treaty



Dr. Srey Sunleang

Moderator
Deputy Director-General, General Directorate of Nature Protected Area, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia

- 3 Incorporating Just Transition into the ILBI in four key ways:

Social Equity

Prioritising the inclusion of affected workers and communities in the shift away from plastic-dependent industries.

Economic Resilience

Promoting the development of alternative, sustainable industries to mitigate economic disruptions for workers and communities reliant on plastic-related sectors.

Environmental Responsibility

Ensuring that environmental conservation and sustainability are upheld alongside socio-economic concerns.

Global Cooperation

Encouraging collaboration among nations to address the plastic crisis, striking a balance between environmental protection and socio-economic considerations.

Session 3A

Highlighting National Efforts: A plenary discussion between AMS (Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam)

Summary

This session discussed key highlights of national efforts through a plenary discussion between government representatives of the AMS Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam. The dialogue provided an overview of national priorities related to policies and strategies tackling waste leakage reduction, and marine litter management. It allowed representatives of AMS and the respective AWGs to exchange on policies and strategies applied in their respective countries. The objectives of this session were to share and discuss key progress and achievements of relevant national policies and best practices related to waste leakage reduction.

Key Takeaways

- 1 The representatives of 4 AMS (Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam) shared the key highlights of their national efforts in combatting marine debris and promoting a circular economy.
- 2 During a Q&A session, representatives from Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam discussed environmental campaigns and sustainable practices. These discussions underscored the importance of community involvement, sustainable materials, and adaptive governance in environmental initiatives.

Speakers



Mr. Ros Bandos

Director of Department of Environmental Education, Ministry of Environment (MoE), Cambodia



Mr. Ujang Solihin Sidik

Head of Sub-Directorate for Producer Management, Waste Reduction Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), Indonesia



Ms. Engr. Esperanza A. Sajul

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



Ms. Nguyễn Thị Ngọc Hoàn

Principal Official, Science, Technology and International Cooperation Division, Vietnam Agency of Seas and Islands (VASI), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Viet Nam



Mr. Piyush Dhawan

Moderator
Principal Advisor, GIZ 3RproMar



AMS presentation and gallery walk
@GIZ 3RproMar


Session 3B

Deep Dive into Sustainable Waste Management: Gallery Walk of AMS' Selected National Efforts & Innovative Municipalities


Summary


This session displayed key highlights of national efforts through a gallery walk and presentation by government representatives of the AMS Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam, as well as representatives of Kratie City (Cambodia), Manado City (Indonesia), Guimaras Island (the Philippines), and Tran De Town of Soc Trang Province (Viet Nam) shared the key progress and achievements of their respective municipalities in enforcing sustainable waste management. While presented by national and local partners, the gallery walk will display measures taken with the support of the project 3RproMar. The format will give a deeper dive into how concrete national policies will look, that aim for sustainable waste management and tackle waste leakage reduction. It allows representatives of AMS and the respective AWGs to see policies and strategies applied in different AMS.



Read more on our National Gallery Walk by scanning the QR Codes below!




Kratie

**Ms. Yim Chansreynuch**
MoE

**Mr. Khoun Tola**
CRDT





Manado

**Mrs. Esther Lunita Mamarimbing**
POKJA 3RproMar Manado City





Guimaras Island


**Mr. Leonard Pasiderio**
Provincial Environment Officer,
Jordan, Guimaras



Tran De

**Ms. Nguyễn Thị Ngọc Hoàn**
MONRE

**Ms. Nguyễn Thị Thùy Nhi**
CRDT

**Ms. Huỳnh Minh Như**
MONRE

Session 4

Microplastics in ASEAN: Assessing the Present and Forging a Pathway Forward

Summary

In support of the implementation of the ASEAN RAP, 3RproMar partners with the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) under the 3RproMar Regional Knowledge Hub for Marine Litter Prevention in ASEAN to carry out a regional ASEAN baseline study on microplastics (MP). The regional study seeks to examine existing sources, status, flows, monitoring methods, and policies that pertain to microplastics in the ASEAN region.

The objectives of this session are:

- a, Present the preliminary result of the regional baseline study.
- b, Validate the results with results from other studies.
- c, Establish a shared understanding of the region's imperative to tackle microplastic pollution.

Key Takeaways

1

Widespread Presence of Microplastics

The studies demonstrate that MPs are extensively distributed across marine environments in the ASEAN region, including protected zones, suggesting pervasive contamination regardless of depth or distance from the shoreline. This highlights the significant environmental dynamics and human activities contributing to microplastic pollution in the region.

2

Policy Gaps and Knowledge Deficits

Despite existing policies targeting waste and plastics broadly, there is a notable lack of specific policies addressing MPs in ASEAN region. Additionally, significant knowledge gaps exist, particularly regarding human exposure pathways and the fate of MPs in various environmental matrices. This highlights the need for more focused research and policy development to comprehensively address MP pollution.

3

Call for Regional Collaboration and Standardization

Harmonizing methodologies and enhancing regional collaboration is essential to combat plastic pollution in Southeast Asia. The Mekong River Commission's Riverine Plastic Monitoring System highlights the need for transboundary cooperation. Standardized research approaches and capacity building are vital for generating comparable data and facilitating collaborative decision-making.

Speakers



Ms. France Collard *(online)*

Researcher, Catchment Biogeochemistry Section, NIVA: Regional Baseline Study on Microplastics in the ASEAN Region



Mr. Jon Alfonso P. Horvidalla

Senior Science Research Specialist, Coastal Resources and Ecotourism Research, Development and Extension Center, DENR Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB): Microplastics in Philippine Marine Waters



Mr. Amila Abeynayaka, Ph.D *(online)*

LCA Researcher, Technical University of Denmark: FAIR Microplastic Pollution Research Data through Standardized Methods and Collaboration



Mr. Kongmeng Ly, Ph.D

Ecosystem and Wetland Specialist, Environmental Management Division, Mekong River Commission (MRC): Transboundary Cooperation on the Development of a Basin specific Riverine Plastic Monitoring Protocols in the Lower Mekong River



Mr. Phong Giang

Moderator
Advisor, GIZ 3RproMar and AMUSE

Session 5A

Transitioning from Raising Awareness to Influencing Behavioral Change: Introduction to Behavioral Change Design Toolbox for ASEAN

Speakers



Mr. Khoun Tola

Programme Manager of Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT) as Representative from Kratie Province, the pilot site of GIZ 3RproMar Cambodia

Topic:

3RproMar's Behavioural Change Intervention Strategy in Local Context



Mr. Paritosha Kobbe *(online)*

Consultant for Behavioural Change Design Toolbox Development and Co-Founder of Making Oceans Plastic Free

Topic:

Introducing Behavioural Change Design Toolbox



Ms. Riska Hasan

Moderator

M&E Specialist, 3RproMar (GIZ)

Resource Persons



Mr. Ros Bandos

Director of Department of Environmental Education, Ministry of Environment (MoE), Cambodia



Mr. Solomon Huno

Senior Programme Officer, Waste and Resource Management Cluster, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (AIT RRC.AP)



Mr. Terence Dacles

GIZ Advisor/Trustee Adviser for Sustainability, Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation, Inc. (PRRCFI) in Iloilo

Summary

Building on the results from the 2nd Regional Workshop and stocktaking of national and municipal behavioral change campaigns in ASEAN Member States (AMS), this session emphasizes the critical role of Behavioral Change Communication Strategies in tackling marine debris, particularly to support the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan (RAP) on Combatting Marine Debris. The focus this year is on presenting the ongoing development and enhancement of the Behavioral Change Design Toolbox for ASEAN, including thorough documentation, user guides, and instructional resources to facilitate its utilization.

Live demonstrations of the Toolbox were conducted to exhibit its functionalities, and features to stakeholders, as well as to gather feedback for further improvements. The objectives of the session include showcasing the Behavioral Change Intervention Strategy from a pilot implementation, presenting and demonstrating the Toolbox, encouraging dialogue and collaboration for its adaptation, receiving feedback for refinement, measuring impact, and exploring online development possibilities.

Key Takeaways

1

Behavior Change Communication (BCC) example from Kratie Province, Cambodia

Mr. Khoun Tola's presentation highlighted the effective use of various methods such as billboards, social media, and community engagement in Kratie to promote solid waste management.

2

Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges in coordinating clean-up events and content strategy were noted, with opportunities identified in using short videos and interactive tools like comic books to engage youth and alter public behaviors effectively.

3

Behavioral Change Design Toolbox for ASEAN

Mr. Paritosha Kobbe introduced a structured toolkit divided into Ready-to-Use Solutions and Tailor-Made Solutions, emphasizing stakeholder engagement, targeted messaging, and cost-effective interventions for behavior change campaigns.

4

Feedback and Improvements

Feedback from panelists highlighted the need for clarity in messaging, targeted campaigns, baseline studies, user motivation insights, professional training for toolbox usage, and direct community engagement for effective implementation of behavior change campaigns.

5

Testing and Collaboration

The Behavioral Change Design Toolbox was tested with on-site audiences, leading to active discussions, collaboration, and valuable feedback for further refinement and improvement of the toolbox and behavior change strategies.

Session 5B

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Schemes in ASEAN Member States Contributing to Minimise Plastic Pollution

Speakers



Mr. Choo Kim Kian (online)

Assistant Director (Department of Sustainable Packaging Policy), Sustainability Division, National Environment Agency Singapore

Topic:

Advancing Sustainable Packaging Waste Management - Singapore's Approach



Ms. Delia Valdez

Environmental Specialist, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Philippines

Topic:

Implementing Mandatory EPR Schemes - Strategies for Establishing Effective Frameworks in the Philippines



Ms. Ilusion Farias

Managing Director, Friends of Hope: The Aling Tindera Plastic Waste-to-Cash Program

Topic:

Bridging National EPR Policies to Local Implementation



Mr. Michikazu Kojima

Senior Advisor, ERIA RKC-MPD

Topic:

Navigating EPR Schemes in Advanced material Systems: An Overview of EPR Strategies in AMS



Dr. Johannes Paul

Co-Moderator
Team Leader 3RproMar, Philippines (GIZ)



Mr. Reo Kawamura

Co-Moderator
Director, ERIA RKC-MPD

Summary

Building on the outcomes of 3RproMar's 1st and 2nd Regional Workshops in 2022 and 2023, enhanced knowledge sharing of EPR best practices as well as strengthening capacities for decision makers in the ASEAN region are the key priorities to be addressed to continuously support the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Combatting Marine Debris, in particular Action 13 "Establish a Regional Platform for EPR Knowledge and Implementation Support". Under the 3RproMar Regional Knowledge Hub for Marine Litter Prevention in ASEAN, GIZ 3RproMar together with ERIA RKC-MPD facilitated this session, aiming to share best practices of AMS, focusing on Singapore and the Philippines, and to accelerate knowledge sharing through the soft launch of an EPR webpage and a Focus Group Discussion.

Key Takeaways

1

Enhancing EPR Strategies in AMS: Involving Informal Workers and Private Sector

The session showed the need for AMS to continuously implement EPR strategies on national and local level, taking into account the needs of informal waste workers, increase public awareness, successfully involve private sector engagement in national EPR discussion.

2

New EPR Webpage: Legal Frameworks and Stakeholder Engagement

To promote enhanced knowledge sharing among AMS, a new EPR webpage has been soft-launched under ERIA RKC-MPD, summarizing collection of legal frameworks and best practices in AMS, as well as challenges and opportunities. Participants gave valuable feedback to the webpage, including new digital approaches, providing case studies and enhancing the linkage to the private-sector stakeholders. (Link: <https://rkcmpd-eria.org/extended-producer-responsibility>).

3

EPR Knowledge Sharing: Addressing Stakeholder Diversity and Infrastructure Challenges

Discussions revealed that the EPR knowledge network and sharing are facing several barriers, among others the diversity of involved stakeholders, inadequate infrastructure of recycling facilities and progress tracking, and insufficient availability of waste data. On the other hand, those challenges may be addressed through workshops on local level, community outreach, knowledge-sharing sessions and forums to address common topics, as well as through clear legal frameworks and guidance through incentives and penalties for industry.



Quote Highlights

There is really a need to acknowledge that the root cause for marine litter has to be addressed at land, at the place where people work and live. In households and by considering the sustainability of people's actions that in the first place produce and distribute goods and materials that are delivered to the community communities and its users.

Engr. Esperanza Sajul

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



There is too much plastic in the world and we are in a plastic economy. It is very difficult challenge and we need to go back to knowledge management and knowledge sharing.

Dr. Johannes Paul

Team Leader, 3RproMar, Philippines





Field Visits to Iloilo City

On the third day of the workshop, a **91-member delegation visited the Island of Guimaras**, the pilot province of the 3RproMar in the Philippines implemented by Gopa Infra. The visit was welcomed by the Hon. Governor G C Rahman at the Information Center of the Taklong Island Marine Reserve (TINMAR) of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). An overview presentation of plastic waste collection of Barangay La Paz and its processing at the centralised waste management facility in Barangay Sapal was shown to the delegates with a session on questions, answers, and clarifications. During the visit, the **participants were being shown demonstrations** of the sorting of plastics generated locally in the Barangay and foreign plastics that were collected by fisherman either in the sea or seashore – traced back from other neighbouring countries and ending up in Taklong Island Marine Reserve. The visit to the centralised waste facility in Barangay Sapal, where the Plastic Processing Centre is established with required equipment, was highly appreciated by the participants and was **viewed as a best practice in learning experience and practical** in terms of low value plastics being upcycled into lumbers and blocks to be replaced for wood and used for chairs and benches. The ultimate objective is to make them useful products that can have both private and public sector procurement/market.



*Presentation on plastic waste management in Barangay La Paz
@GIZ 3RproMar*



*Local cottage industry weaving site showcase
@GIZ 3RproMar*

Along the field visit, a **showcasing** of weaving site of local cottage industries was equally appreciated by the participants, **demonstrating how we can minimally replace some of the plastic as alternatives with longer usage**. The visit indicated an interest in organising systematic collection systems, working with local communities, understanding local and foreign originated plastics, processing of low value plastics into long term recycled products and alternatives of plastics for certain products.

The 3RproMar Regional Workshop Series

30-31 May 2022
Indonesia, Cambodia

1st Regional Workshop
*Accelerating the Implementation of
the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for
Combating Marine Debris*



19-23 March 2024
Iloilo, The Philippines

3rd Regional Workshop
*From Knowledge to Action:
Facilitating Concrete Efforts for
Enhanced Land-Based Marine Litter
Prevention in ASEAN*



22 May 2023
Bali, Indonesia

2nd Regional Workshop
*Preventing Marine Plastic Pollution
for a Stronger Circular Economy in
ASEAN*





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