

CONCEPT PAPER

ASEM Meeting on “Sustainable Marine Environment: Marine Debris” 3 August 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

Rationale

The marine environment is the essential component of the Earth’s ecosystem and is crucial to the achievement of sustainable development. Oceans not only contribute to poverty eradication for people who depend on marine and coastal resources, but also form an integral part of global security, climate change and biodiversity. As a result, the increasingly adverse impacts of marine-related problems such as ocean acidification, and marine pollution are timely topics of discussion for protecting the world’s oceans.

The importance of sustainable marine environment is widely recognized by the international community and is embodied in Agenda 21, in RiO+20 as well as in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”. The goal underlines the need for international commitment and cooperation in addressing the environmental crisis and an effective implementation to protect the planet and ensure prosperity through global partnership.

To promote global partnership for sustainable marine environment is the core area of focus for multi-stakeholders in international and regional level. Those existing partnerships include the global partnership on waste management, and global partnership on marine litter which mainly focus on achieving the goal to reduce levels and impacts of accumulated marine debris on shorelines, aquatic habitats, and biodiversity.

Recently, marine debris has captured the attention of the world as its devastating impact is witnessed on the global scale. Entanglement in marine debris can cause restricted mobility, starvation, infection, amputation, drowning and smothering to marine species. Marine species also confuse plastic bags, rubber, balloons and confectionery wrappers with prey and ingest them.

It is estimated that 8 million tons of plastic debris have been going into the ocean annually. While large plastic debris are severely affected marine environment, the debris also fragmented overtime into “microplastic” which came from a variety of sources and may eventually find itself back into the food chain for human consumption. Thus, many organizations in European countries initiated the campaign to reduce plastics debris by *banning* single-used plastic by 2020.

According to the recent report in 2015, Thailand was ranked sixth as country that delivered 1.03 million tons of plastic debris to the ocean. Of this number, plastic bag waste accounted for 13% of marine litter. However, the Royal Thai Government is keenly aware that it is in the country's interest to protect its natural resources and the country requires a comprehensive approach in solving the problem that would include development of better waste management and recycling system.

In 2017, national and international conferences on marine debris were held in Thailand. At National level, the main objective of the conference was to draft a roadmap for managing marine debris in local communities and measures to reduce plastic consumption. At international level, the ASEAN Conference on Reducing Marine Debris in ASEAN Region was organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The Conference was held during 22-23 November 2017 in Phuket, Thailand. Over 250 participants, including delegates from ASEAN Member States, international conservation groups, government partners, researchers and local community members, gathered to discuss on the impact of marine debris pollution and methods to address this urgent and growing issue.

As the issue of marine debris is recognized, at both the global level and within Asia and Europe, as threats to marine environment and resources, it is imperative that international cooperation and engagement of governments and non-governmental organizations should be forged. Measures and cooperation to reduce the impact of the issues by sharing of best practices on how to solve the existing problems and on how to ensure sustainable marine environment shall be encouraged systematically at all levels.

This ASEM meeting will bring together relevant ASEM sectoral bodies and a broad range of stakeholders, i.e. governments, international organizations, business and industries, academia and experts, and civil society organisations who are involved in marine, science, technology and innovation, as well as legal and regulatory framework to gather inputs and discuss ways forward for ASEM to address the issues of sustainable marine environment more effectively and holistically as well as to raise awareness of global community on marine debris issue and to achieve the action plan on reducing marine debris in local and region scale.

Objectives

1. To review the current status of marine debris pollution on local, regional, and global scales and its impacts.
2. To identify gaps and challenges, and share best practices for the national governments, local municipalities and private sector to work together to create innovative solutions for tackling marine debris problems and for sustainable marine environment
3. To initiate the draft of Marine Debris Reduction Management Plan for reducing the quantity of plastic debris entering into the ocean and marine environment
4. To provide a platform and to create networking and forging partnerships among ASEM members for future collaboration in tackling the marine debris problem

Participants

Invitation will be extended to all ASEM members, relevant international and regional organisations, development organisations, interested think tanks, as well as other academia and interested stakeholders.

Co-sponsors

ASEM members are invited to co-sponsor the Meeting by sending speakers for each sessions.

Contact

Mr. Ittimon Sumitpaibul

ASEM Desk Officer, European Union Division, Department of European Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

Tel: +66 (0) 2203 5000 ext. 13191 Fax: +66 (0) 2625 3717

Email: asem_thailand@mfa.go.th, ittimons@mfa.go.th

Mr. Weeratan Bunprasongkij

Second Secretary, European Union Division, Department of European Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

Tel: +66 (0) 2203 5000 ext. 13184 Fax: +66 (0) 2625 3717

Email: asem_thailand@mfa.go.th, weeratanb@mfa.go.th



**Tentative Program of
ASEM Meeting on “Sustainable Marine Environment: Marine Debris”
On 3 August 2018, Vibhavadee Ballroom B, Lobby Level
At Centara Grand at Central Plaza Ladprao Bangkok
Bangkok, Thailand**

08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:20	<p>Opening Ceremony</p> <p>Opening Remarks H.E. Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand</p> <p>Group Photo</p>
09:20-10:00	<p>High-Level Session I: “Global and Regional Status and Impacts of Marine Debris”</p> <p>Current Status and the Impact of Marine Debris Problems, and Key Challenges for Asia and Europe Ms. Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director, UN Environment Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>ASEAN Initiatives and Cooperation on Marine Debris Management H.E. Mr. Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community</p> <p>Impact of Marine Debris in Asia and What Asian Countries Have Been Doing so far to Tackle the Plastic Pollution Dr. Wijarn Simachaya, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand</p>
10:00-10:30	Tea-Coffee Break
10.30-12.30	<p>Session 2: “Workshop and Discussion on Marine Debris Reduction Management Plan for Asia and Europe”</p>

	<p><i>Moderator:</i> Asst. Prof. Thon Thamrongnawasawat, Kasetsart University, Thailand</p> <p><i>Discussants:</i> Dr. Petch Manopawitr, Deputy Head of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Southeast Asia Group</p> <p>Dr. Naporn Popattanachai, Faculty of Law, Thammasat University</p> <p>Ms. Maria Chiara Femiano, Foreign Policy Instruments-Asia/Pacific, Delegation of the European Union to Thailand</p> <p>Mr. Nattawut Kasem, Campaign Assistant, Environment Justice Foundation (EJF)</p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	<p>Session 3: “Sustainable Marine Environment, Innovative Technologies and Solution to Prevent, Clean, and Reduce Marine Debris for Asia and Europe”</p> <p><i>Inspirational Speaker:</i> Mr. Alexander Simon Rendell, Environmental Education Centre Thailand</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Marine Litter: A Global Problem Needing Global Solutions And Local Actions Mr. Vegard Holmelid, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Bangkok</p> <p>New Solutions for Waste Management in Europe Mr. Werner Kossmann, Project Director of the Domestic Waste and Wastewater Management Project, Thai-German Climate Programme, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)</p> <p>China Actions for Controlling Marine Debris Dr. Lihui An, research fellow, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES)</p>

	<p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <p>Innovative Ideas to Tackle Marine Debris Mr. Kittsanan Kittamaytrapemadej, Chief Marketing Officer, Singha Estate Public Company Limited</p> <p>Dr. Suracha Udomsak, R&D Director and Emerging Business Director, Chemicals Business, Siam Cement Group Public Company Limited (SCG)</p> <p>Mr. Natthanun Sirirak, Vice President, Business Development, PTT Global Chemical Public Company Limited (PTTGC)</p> <p>Local Community Actions in Tackling Marine Debris: An Experience from Phi Phi Island Mr. Kanakorn Wongn <i>(Presented in Thai and translated into English by Asst. Prof. Thon Thamrongnawasawat)</i></p> <p>Community’s Best Practices to Tackle with Marine Debris in Thailand Dr. Somkiat Khokiattiwong, Specialist on Marine Biodiversity Research, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand</p> <p>Success Story of KIMO International on “Fishing for Litter Initiative” Mr. Mike Mannaart, Executive Secretary and National Coordinator of the Netherlands-Belgian KIMO Network, KIMO International</p> <p>Keeping Our World Clean for Future Generation Dr. Nattapong Nithi-Uthai, Rubber Technology and Polymer Department, Faculty of Science and Technology, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus</p>
15:00-15:10	<p>Closing Remarks Mrs. Sirilak Niyom, Deputy Director-General, Department of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand</p>
	<p>Tea-Coffee Break</p>