

ASEM High-level Meeting on Marine Sustainability

— Connect Asia with Europe —



When maintained and protected, aquatic resources can contribute to sustainable and inclusive global development.

The World Bank estimates that oceans absorb about 25% of the extra carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels. Oil and gas remain major sources of world energy with roughly 30% of production being offshore.

The Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that blue economy industries assure the livelihoods of 660 to 820 million people worldwide.

Challenges

Despite the benefits of using aquatic resources, there are many challenges that also need to be addressed.

Marine Sustainability

Oceans and seas are essential components of the global biosphere. Marine sustainability and human society are intrinsically interlinked. The Oceans are crucial for global food security, human health and climate regulation. The livelihoods of over 3 billion people worldwide depend upon services from marine and coastal biodiversity.

Over the past 10 years, there has been increased focus on marine and maritime governance both in Asia and Europe. The fundamental challenge that all policymakers must address is how to maintain and protect aquatic resources and to achieve sustainable use of the oceans to ensure that marine resources are available for future generations, while meeting the demands of human population growth and sustainable economic growth.

These include:

- unsustainable mineral extraction
- poorly planned and unregulated coastal development
- unsustainable fisheries
- biodiversity loss caused by pollution, invasive species, ocean acidification

To overcome these challenges and seize growth opportunities, Asia and Europe must allocate more resources to sustainable investment. Transformative thinking and integrated actions between Asia and Europe will make marine resources more sustainable.



Objectives of the Meeting

The goal of the ASEM High-level Meeting on Marine Sustainability is to have action-oriented discussions pertaining to a marine sustainability strategy that is people-centric and environment-centric. The Meeting will provide an opportunity for both Asia and Europe to explore:

The priorities and challenges of promoting marine sustainability and its contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The innovative role of various stakeholders including national and local governments, private sector, civil society, regional and sub-regional groups as well as scientists and researchers in formulating sustainable ways for marine sustainability.

Participants

- 53 ASEM Partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat
- Ministers of Oceans, Seas and Environment, Economy, Tourism
- Mayors and Governors of Ocean facing cities
- Regional Economic Institutions
- Private Sector, Shipping, Fisheries, Tourism
- United Nations Funds, Program and Specialized Agencies
- Civil Societies
- Researchers and Scientists

In view of the mentioned objectives, topics that may benefit from further consideration include the following:

- How can marine sustainability and sustainable blue economy be promoted between Asia and Europe?
- How can marine sustainability contribute to conserving and sustainably using the marine and coastal ecosystem?
- How can science and technology and innovation be promoted in the service of a sustainable marine environment?

Date and Venue

- Date: 7 March 2019 (Plenary Session)
- Venue: Centara Grand at Central World Bangkok
- Address 999/99 Rama 1 Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330
Tel: +66 (0) 2100 1234
Fax: +66 (0) 2100 1235
- Date : 8 March 2019 (Field Trip)
- Venue : Klong Khon Mangrove Forest Conservation Center

Host

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

Co-sponsors and Supporters

- Dow Chemical Thailand and SCG-Dow Joint Venture
- Embassy of Finland, Bangkok
- Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bangkok
- Green Industries South Australia, Australia
- Griffith University, Australia
- Kasetsart University, Thailand
- Mahidol University, Thailand
- Ministry of the Environment, Japan
- OceanMind
- Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
- Thai Hotels Association, Thailand
- Thammasat University, Thailand
- The Artisanal Fishermen Network of Prachubkirkhan Province, Thailand
- The Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Thailand
- United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD)
- United Nations Environment Program, International Environment of Technology Center (UNEP-IETC), Japan
- UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
- VITO NV, Belgium
- VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd

Cost:

The host will bear the costs of the venue, conference meals and conference-related expenses. Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation cost during their stay.

Language:

The Official language for the conference is English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided from English to Thai / Thai to English.

Contact:

Ms. Thareerat Laohabut

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

☎ Tel: + 66 (02) 203 5000 ext 13116

Fax: + 66 (02) 625 3717

✉ E-mail: asem_thailand@mfa.go.th

