



SWITCH-Asia

Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production

PROGRAMME BRIEF

Launched in 2007, SWITCH-Asia is the largest Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) programme supported by the European Union involving 24 countries from Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Mongolia and China. In line with the priorities of the European Green Deal, the programme aims to promote sustainable and inclusive growth in Asia decoupling it from environmental degradation and to support Asian countries in their transition towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient and a more circular economy while contributing to poverty reduction.

Through its grants scheme, the programme funds pilot projects helping companies to test and adopt cleaner technologies and more sustainable industrial practices as well as consumers to adopt more sustainable consumption behaviors and lifestyles. The evidence provided by projects is meant to feed into policy and regulatory discussions with national governments supporting them in adopting SCP national plans and regulatory frameworks. SWITCH-Asia will ultimately contribute to help governments in adopting measures to reduce their greenhouse gas

emissions, in line with their engagements and targets set within the Paris agreement on climate change.

So far, the EU has invested nearly **EUR 280 million** towards promoting SCP and funded **130 projects, of which 49 implemented in ASEAN countries**. Through the grant scheme, the programme successfully reached out to more than 400 Asian and European non-for-profit partners, 100 private sector associates, and 70,000 Asian micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). The replication and scaling-up effect of projects results, together with access to finance and public-private investments for green products, services and technologies, will be key elements within the programme in the next years in order to achieve a greater impact in the region.

The EU is committed to continue this support in cooperation with government partners and stakeholders in target countries and the joint efforts of the three SWITCH-Asia components:

switchasia
REGIONAL POLICY ADVOCACY



Implemented by **UN**
environment
programme

switchasia
SCP FACILITY



Implemented by **giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



switchasia
GRANTS PROGRAMME



Managed by 

Our Engagement in the Kingdom of Thailand

Since 2007, the EU SWITCH-Asia has been supporting ASEAN countries in the formulation of SCP policies and action plans and their implementation in key areas such as green public procurement, eco-labelling, eco-innovation, tourism and sustainable lifestyles among other country priorities.

The EU SWITCH-Asia Programme in Southeast Asia previously supported Thailand from 10/2011 to 09/2014, which is now continued by EU SWITCH-Asia Programme II.

The Thai government has put in place policy instruments supporting eco-labelling, green procurement, organic farming practices to promote SCP and sustainable lifestyles, which is addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation in an integrated and coordinated way.

With the support from the EU SWITCH-Asia Programme, [the SCP Roadmap in the Kingdom of Thailand 2017-2036](#), was approved by the National Committee on Sustainable Development in 2017 as the guideline to improve capacity of resource efficiency, inclusive growth and GHGs emission reduction.

Vision of the roadmap states that

“Thailand is a leader of ASEAN on Sustainable Consumption and Production adopting the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and mainstreaming through integration of social innovation by 2036”

The SCP roadmap adopted fundamental concepts such as the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, the SDGs, and the 20-year national strategy.

The ultimate goal of SCP in the next 20 years is to change the Thai society constantly to apply resource efficiently with balance of natural resources by adopting the Sufficiency Economy philosophy and building strength of science, technology and innovation. Additionally, the goals of the roadmap are in line with the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The EU-SWITCH-Asia II has continued to provide support on implementing the SCP Roadmap to accelerate, mainstream and replicate best practices elsewhere, to localize SCP at sub-national levels and strengthen national and regional dialogues.

SCP and Resource Efficiency in the Kingdom of Thailand

Thailand has long pursued sustainable development, which is naturally aligned with the country's Sufficiency Economy Principle (SEP) that drives its strategy development. Its commitment has included integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and participating in United Nations climate change agreements. Thailand presented its first Voluntary National Report (VNR) during the 2018 High-level Political Forum, which covered SDG 12.

Thailand has adopted a number of measures related to sustainable consumption and production and aimed at making progress on SDG 12. Some of the more prominent initiatives include: The Sustainable Consumption and Production Roadmap 2017-2036; the Green Industry Policy and the Green Industry Mark (GIM); the National Master Plan on Waste Management 2016-2021; the Stock Exchange of Thailand's (SET) Corporate Governance Code and the Green Procurement Plan 2017-2022.

Cooperation with the European Union has continued over many years to promote the shift to sustainable consumption and production through SWITCH-Asia through the Grants Programme, which currently operates the Dear Supermarkets project aimed at driving the adoption of sustainability standards in food production and previously implemented six addition projects between 2010 and 2018. The previous SWITCH-Asia National Policy Support Component also advanced eco-labelling, sustainable public procurement and increased awareness and action for SCP at the local government level.

In 2018, the first National Strategy took effect with the aim of turning Thailand into a developed country by 2037. National development during the Strategy's timeframe shall focus on an appropriate balance between social and economic development and environmental stewardship. The National Strategy is to be translated into action through the five-year National Economic and Social Development Plans, commencing with the Twelfth Plan. The twelfth Plan is composed of 10 strategies and one of those related to sustainable consumption and production issue is strategy 4 or strategy for environmentally friendly growth for sustainable development. The most relevant target to achieve the ultimate goals are encouraging sustainable consumption and production (SCP) approach by emphasising on managing resources efficiently and sustainability while adopting the Philosophy of the Sufficiency Economy as the guiding principle, as well as applying the life cycle concept.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) has collaborated with the EU SWITCH-Asia Programme to implement the SCP Roadmap 2017-2036 to mobilise SCP in Thailand. The 3 core strategies of the SCP Roadmap are; (i) to enhance Thai society towards sustainable productions, (ii) towards sustainable consumptions, and; (iii) more importantly towards using supported factors for sustainable development. Further support is currently being provided by the EU SWITCH-Asia II including ensuring engagement of relevant stakeholders at national, sub-national and particularly at local community level to understand the SCP concept and to implement SCP activities with respect to achieving Thailand's SCP Roadmap 2017-2036.

EU SWITCH-Asia's identified priority actions for SCP interventions in Thailand, following a demand from MONRE/ONEP

- Increase capacity of local authorities to deliver on SCP policies including on waste management (implemented 2018-2019)
- Build government capacity on selected topics: circular economy through sustainable tourism and food waste, sustainable reporting, green mobility and SCP, responsible business, and sustainable/green public procurement. (conference in 2019 on circular economy through sustainable tourism and food waste; others on-going)
- Support the development of and implementation of Green Product Integration Policy in Thailand. (under preparation, expected implementation April 2020-June 2021)

EU SWITCH-Asia Grant Projects

- 6 completed grants on sustainable tourism, sustainable transport, greening supply chains in automotive sector, lead paint elimination and including 2 ASEAN projects focused on energy efficiency.
- 1 ongoing grant on sustainable consumption in food markets, "Dear Supermarket project".
- 1 new grant in 2020 supporting the uptake of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in SMEs the touristic sector "TOURLINK – Moving Thai Tourism towards sustainability through a business led supply chain approach."

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