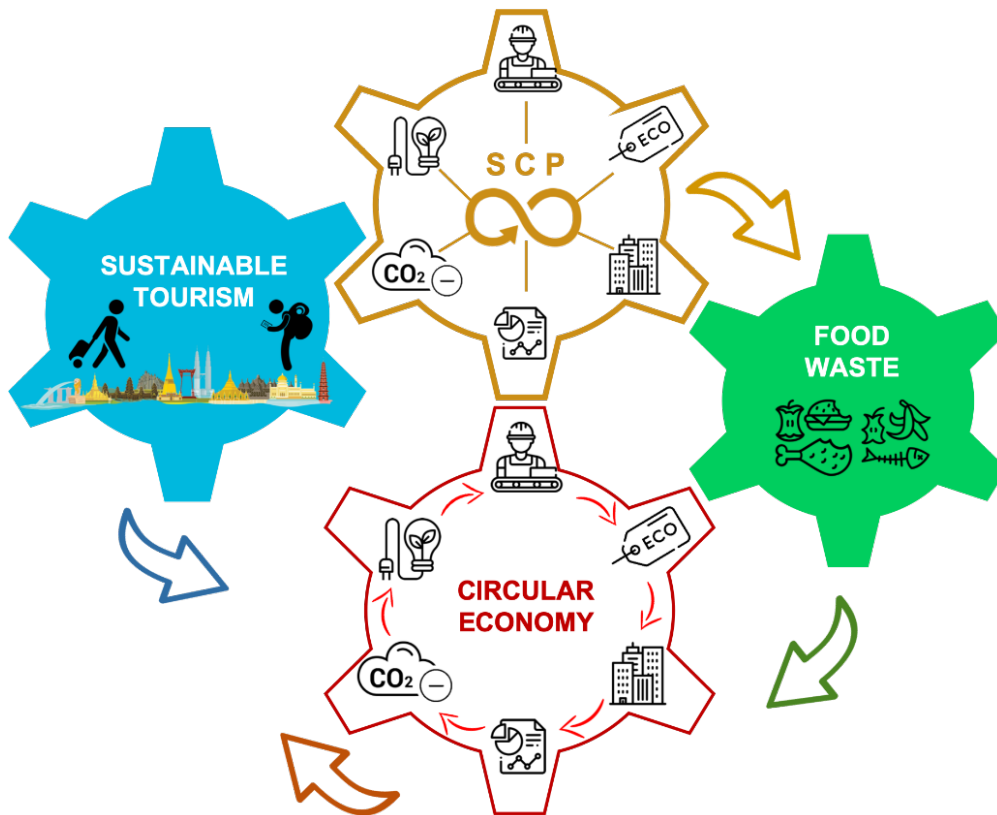


## FLASH REPORT

### ASEAN SCP Multi-stakeholders Dialogue *with a focus on* SCP and Circular Economy through Sustainable Tourism and Food Waste



On 12 July 2019, over 150 participants from government, private sector, academic institutes, NGOs and CSOs from ASEAN and European countries, attended the **ASEAN SCP Multi-stakeholders Dialogue: SCP and Circular Economy through Sustainable Tourism and Food Waste**. The event has been organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand, the Thai-SCP Network, and the SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility. Key objectives of the meeting were to:

- Exchange experiences, perspectives and lessons learned on how to overcome the challenges for SCP and circular economy, in particular through sustainable tourism and food waste management;
- Provide comprehensive knowledge and practices for strengthening stakeholder's knowledge and capacity on related key areas;
- Elaborate recommendations and suggestions from the dialogue to improve the SCP policy in Thailand and the ASEAN region;
- Engage SCP networks among stakeholder groups in Thailand, other ASEAN Member States and leading countries.

## Key Observations

In his opening remarks, **Giuseppe Busini**, Charge d'Affaires, European Union to Thailand, clearly acknowledged that as ASEAN has undergone dramatic transformation, driven by increasing population, growing urbanisation and developing industrialisation, the level of consumption will sharply increase, resulting in GDP growth over the next 10 years. Busini stressed the urgent need to *"building our future responsibly by taking into account sustainable consumption and production, and bringing it back to a sustainable path"*.

**Dr. Wijarn Simachaya**, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand, emphasised the importance of applying a Circular Economy approach when dealing with waste management in ASEAN. Partnerships and support from the EU, the Thai SCP Network, the SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility were recognized as crucial to achieving Thailand's SCP Roadmap targets and SDG12.

ASEAN SCP policy implementation to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs) was discussed during the first panel discussion moderated by Arab Hoballah, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility. In particular, progress and challenges of implementing national SCP action plans from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines were presented. The second panel discussion focused on SCP and Circular Economy, with emphasis on greening the supply chain, eco-innovation, and waste management. The focus of the dialogue later shifted towards sustainable tourism in ASEAN and good practices from Thailand and Malaysia. Finally, the dialogue tackled the issue of food waste management and the importance of effective laws and regulations. Experiences and lessons learned from the EU and other countries were also exchanged.

Active discussions were led by the panel chairs with representatives and external speakers who deliberated and compared the respective SCP policy approaches from ASEAN, shared lessons learned

and brainstormed innovative ways for scaling up opportunities to further mainstream and deliver SCP and Circular Economy, sustainable tourism in ASEAN and more effective food waste management.

## Recommendations and Next Steps

Among other outcomes, the following could be highlighted:

- Ensure more exchange between the ASEAN member countries for sharing experience and cross-fertilization.
- SCP policies and strategies should be followed by a clear Action Plan for short and medium delivery.
- Raising SCP awareness to change people behaviour is challenging for all target groups, hence, stronger behaviour change communication strategies should be adopted and put in place.
- The national SCP monitoring system, data-base and reporting mechanism should be strengthened in order to improve the capacity of main responsible organisations and related stakeholders.
- It is important to establish an inter-ministerial consultation or coordination body since SCP and CE are multi-sector and multi-actor.
- The tourism sector, a driving force for development in various Asian Countries, should integrate SCP and resource efficiency if to seriously contribute to Circular Economy.
- With the increasing population and growth in most Asian countries and considering the large potentials for waste reductions and savings, the management of food supply and consumption should integrate more sense of responsibility.

## Follow-up Activities

Follow-up activities might include, but are not limited to:

- Review and Update the demand from Thailand for support from SWITCH-Asia.
- Consider options for providing support to the Thai SCP Network, as an enabler for SCP and delivering Circular Economy with MONRE and other actors.
- Explore opportunities for collaboration with the ASEAN SCP Committee, to further strengthen collaboration between ASEAN countries.

Please find a few [photos](#); [press release](#); [presentations](#); and the [programme](#), including some background information and an overview of speakers. Social media coverage: [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)