SWITCH-ASIA PROGRAMME

2018 REGIONAL NETWORKING EVENT

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Acronyms

10YFP	10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (One Planet Network)
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
APRSCP	Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CfP	Call for Proposals
COI	Community of Interest (SWITCH-Asia)
DG DEVCO	European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
EC	European Commission
ESCO	Energy Services Company
EU	European Union
EUD	Delegation of the European Union
FI	Financial Institution
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IGES	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
MICs	Middle Income Countries
MSC	Multistakeholder Consultation on SCP (SWITCH-Asia)
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NFP	National Focal Point
ONEP	Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (Thailand)
PSC	Programme Steering Committee (SWITCH-Asia)
RPAC	SWITCH Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component
SACEP	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SCPF	SWITCH-Asia Sustainable Consumption and Production Facility/ SCP Facility
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

TOR Terms of Reference

UNEP United Nations Environment/United Nations Environment Programme

UNEP FI United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative

UN-ESCAP United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

WP Work Plan

Introduction

The European Union supported SWITCH-Asia Programme aims at strengthening the implementation of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) policies at the regional, national and sub-national levels. By providing support to policy development and implementation, further raising awareness, scaling-up good practices, strengthening capacity building of stakeholders, it aims to deliver a long lasting and effective impact, through appropriate enablers and multipliers. The programme works through a combination of three components, grant-funded projects, the Regional Policy Advocacy Component (implemented by UN Environment) and the SCP Facility (implemented by GIZ, IGES and adelphi). One of SWITCH-Asia's key activities enabling the programme to achieve its goals is the annual Regional Networking Event.

The 2018 SWITCH-Asia Regional Networking Event was organised back-to-back with the first Programme Steering Committee Meeting and SWITCH-Asia II Programme Launch Event on 20 September 2018. These events were organized in conjunction with the UN Environment Low Carbon Consumption Week, 17 - 21 September 2018, held in Bangkok, Thailand. The Regional Networking Event, held on September 21st, aimed to provide an opportunity for relevant actors working on SCP in the region and beyond to share their experiences, best practices and recommendations. This inaugural year of the SWITCH-Asia II Programme had nearly 200 participants that saw two plenary thematic panels and five breakout expert panels to discuss key considerations of SCP implementation in Asia. This paper-free event was also an opportunity to launch the new SWITCH-Asia's digital network, SWITCHED-ON to share all event materials.

The Regional Networking Event provided an opportunity to forge partnerships as experiences were shared across several major groups: the three SWITCH-Asia components, including all active grants, national focal points, representatives from the European Union as well as European Union Delegations from SWITCH-Asia target countries in the region, other SWITCH institutions (SWITCH Africa Green and SWITCH to Green), UN staff members and experts from other organisations around the world.

- Consumption patterns in the region have evolved towards a more wasteful society. Beginning in the early 2000s, affluence has contributed to consumerism and less sustainable consumption patterns.
- Strong partnerships between governments, private sector and the civil society are a key premise to make the necessary changes and to switch to more sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Appropriate communication channels need to be used and identified according to the needs of each country and the people. Education is a key communication tool to build awareness and change the public mindset.
- Better connections between investments and increasing innovations need to be forged for low carbon solutions. It is important to see both the financial sector and the regulators as a part of policy dialogues and to leverage the power of international agencies, such as UN or EU to act as broker.
- Scaling-up the results is essential for making a big impact, especially via supporting adoption of the best available technologies in key industries.
- In order to regulations to be in sync with innovations, it is important for national planning to draw lessons from related market failures.
- It is important for policymakers to secure the right partnerships with the right stakeholders.
- Collective policies have proven highly efficient in improving environmental performance.
- One of the main challenges for SCP is the alignment and close collaboration between the ministries currently working in silos. SCP has implications in almost all sectors.
- Linking SCP to global agenda such as the SDGs as well as national strategies related to sustainable development will multiply the impacts of SWITCH-Asia programme, projects and activities
- Main drivers to deliver change will be through engagement with the private sector and innovative finance.



Opening and Session 1 Panel: The State of Play of SCP in Asia, Needs and Opportunities

Background

The opening began with an introduction on the importance of SCP and the SWITCH-Asia Programme by the EU, followed by an overview of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme's (SACEP) role as a key regional actor, and two components of the SWITCH-Asia Programme- the Regional Policy Advocacy and the SCP Facility. This was followed by a panel of five experts who shared their knowledge and experiences on SCP challenges and opportunities.

The Opening Plenary and Session 1 aimed to deliver a better understanding of challenges and opportunities to promote and deliver SCP, promote identification of the needs and drivers in support to a more impactful SWITCH-Asia programme and provide inputs and guidance to the parallel panels on related issues.

Session Chair: Mr. Arab Hoballah, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility

Opening Speakers:

- Mr. Andrew Jacobs, Head of Unit for Regional Policy Sector Analysis, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO), European Commission
- Dr. Abas Basir, Director General, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
- Mr. Mushtaq Memon, Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency, United Nations Environment, and Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC),
- Mr. Arab Hoballah, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility

Discussion Outline

The European Union (EU), Overview of the SWITCH-Asia Programme

• The Programme has covered 106 projects in the re-

gion, which has meant 106 partnerships with the EU, with 150 million Euro in the first phase and 120 million Euro in the new second phase.

- These are significant sums of money because the EU understands that achieving SCP is a prerequisite for sustainable development. The EU has been at the forefront of tackling these problems, and this has shaped cooperation with Asia.
- On a larger scale, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its SDGs respond very clearly to the need for global action, and the EU places a strong emphasis on this. The EU understands Asia and Europe are interconnected, and the EU is committed towards working together for mutual benefit, in particular through the SWITCH-Asia programme.
- The SWITCH initiatives need to be supported by all stakeholders at local and national levels. The SCP Facility is meant to support this and help define the most effective policies.
- The SCP Facility specifically helps establish the most appropriate set of policies and practices, and works with the RPAC to ensure countries committed to implementing SCP policies benefit from technical assistance from the EU.
- The EU through SWITCH-Asia also supports policy dialogue/consultation to better frame the needs and share experiences to help find the best solutions that correspond to local realities.
- There remains a strong focus on SMEs since most of the production system depends on them.
- The SWITCH-Asia programme will be expanded to Central Asia from 2019.
- This will mean new partnerships while the goal of the EU through SWITCH-Asia remains the same in promoting environmental benefits while fostering growth and reducing poverty.

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme and SCP

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme was established by the governments of South Asia to promote coordination between the member countries, support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region and to closely work with the national, regional and

- international institutions and organizations.
- South Asia is home to a quarter of the world's middle-class consumers, experiencing a long period of robust economic growth, averaging six per cent over the past 20 years.
- However, increases in production and household consumption from increasing economic prosperity will also place increased pressure on the environment, making the need to shift towards resource efficiency and SCP. This has shaped SACEP's focus today on SCP.
- The SACEP in partnership with UN Environment established a South Asia Forum on SCP, which is a policy dialogue forum where member countries can share their experiences and discuss how to act together to achieve SCP in the region.
- The areas identified by the member countries at the South Asia Forum on SCP where they need SACEP assistance cover various sectors, including:
 - Capacity building on the use of SCP tools and platforms to share experiences and knowledge exchange on best practices
 - Technical assistance for strategic environmental assessment and policy support for National SCP plans
 - > Sustainable Public Procurement; Sustainable Tourism; Sustainable Transport; and Sustainable Building and Construction.
- SACEP looks forward to continue working with UN Environment and the RPAC as well as beginning work with other components of the SWITCH-Asia Programme.

The SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC)

- Asia is the fastest growing region, but has threats, including from consumption and production trends.
- However, there are opportunities to make the region more resource efficient, noted by the partnership on SWITCH I, which had a high level of achievements, including national action plans, and increased skills.
- Moving forward, the RPAC will work from a resource efficient, circular economy and low carbon economy approach to complement countries aspirations to re-

alize SDG goals and targets, while also helping them

 The RPAC will support member states to advocate for regulatory frameworks, provide policy instruments to deliver on SCP and support countries for the uptake and reporting on progress for SCP with regard to the SDGs.

The SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility

to meet global commitments.

- The SCP Facility is an upgrade from the previous Network Facility with an expanded scope.
- It is a project coordination unit, working to improve synergies as well as a hub for stakeholder engagement across the value chain, especially for SMEs, a primary focus of SWITCH-Asia.
- All of this is framed within a demand-driven approach, based on articulated and defined needs, endorsed by respective governments and EU delegations within the countries, while ensuring the strategic approach is followed.
- The collaboration and demand response activities are framed around 5 strategic intervention areas:
 - Alignment, Engagement, Co-Creation in support to SCP delivery;
 - > Dialogues, Networks, Knowledge Management and Communities of Interest, to address evolving and pressing SCP issues in the region;
 - > Framing SCP needs for priority impactful actions;
 - Proactive stimulation of demand, for increased SCP uptake in national and regional agendas through active engagement with the target counties and EU Delegations; and
 - > Enabling Capacities, providing needed support at both the technical and institutional levels.

Session 1 Speakers:

- Mr. Karma Tshering, Policy Division Head, National Environment Commission, Bhutan
- Ms. Tserendorj Uranchimeg, Head of Division of Clean Technology, Investment and Production, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia
- Ms. Inhee Chung, Head of Sustainability and Safeguards Unit, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
- Mr. Noer Adi Wardojo, Senior Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia
- Dr. Anthony Chiu, President, Asia Pacific Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP)

Discussion Outline

Considering the major trends and relatively limited progress on SCP, what are the main challenges and limiting factors?

- Access to finance needs to be improved since it is generally very difficult to finance small scale SCP initiatives
- Alignment between the ministries is a consistent problem but necessary since SCP is cross-cutting by nature and connects to different sectors.
- Over the last 10 years, resource efficiency in the Asia-Pacific region has gone down significantly and needs to be a focus in the region.
- Systematic collection of data should be enhanced in the region since data is essential for adequate planning and effective delivery..

Where do you see opportunities to make progress and deliver impact and how to unlock them?

- Inter-ministerial cooperation is key and this has been effective with SDGs, but focus should be more on effective joint delivery and impactful outcomes.
- Intrinsically linking global development plans and national plans makes efforts more effective.
- Further inducing and supporting the development of start-ups and other eco-innovation actions and initiatives, through engagement of concerned stakeholders, can provide a push to needed enablers and multipliers..



- Food, energy and water remain key issues with many countries, but trends vary across the region and need to be focused on national priorities.
- Knowledge sharing, institution building and capacity building continue to be areas where impacts can be substantial.

What are the main drivers to induce and deliver necessary changes?

- Financing is always important to help the national governments while there is a more recent trend of blended funding. However, private financing needs to increase significantly from current levels in all countries in the region.
- There are many examples of incentives to drive private financing in the region. These examples should be highlighted further before being scaled up.

- Collective policies have proved highly efficient in improving environmental performance.
- Consumption patterns in the region have evolved, mainly towards wasteful societies and unsustainability. In the past the population had the greatest share of environmental impact, but from 2000-2010 affluence has become a bigger factor making the need for SCP patterns even more critical and urgent.
- One of the main challenges for SCP is the alignment between the ministries, working in silos.
- Innovative finance, from blended instruments to private financing, needs to increase and made accessible.



Panel 1: Low carbon economy – Enabling Policies and opportunities for impact delivery

Background

This panel was organised to explore what kind of enabling policy environment is required for dealing with and better delivering imapets to reduce climate change. While more countries are curbing emissions through the implementation of core climate policies, global GHG emissions have risen rapidly to levels which could cause severe and irreversible climate change impact. Aligning policies for a low-carbon economy is therefore necessary for greener, more resilient and inclusive growth.

With respect to these concerns, the six expert panellists focused their presentations and discussion on the following key concerns and challenges to adopting and implementing greener policies while highlighting good examples through experience sharing. This panel built an understanding on the link between SCP and climate mitigation and on how localizing and mainstreaming SCP at local and sub-national levels can help accelerate SDG delivery. It also identified pathways for the EU and SCPF to support accelerating implementation and creating impacts.

Panel Moderator: Mr. Jerome Pons, Head of the Operations Section, European Union Delegation, Thailand

Panellists:

- Ms. Marie-Anne Charlotte Serve, Central Asia Regional Director, GERES "Kabul Green Home" (Afghanistan)
- Ms. Beatriz Maroto Izquierdo, Mongolia Country Director, GERES (Mongolia)
- Md. Mohiuddin, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Mr. Jens Kristian Nørgaard, Technical Expert, SWITCH to Green Facility
- Ms. Jutamanee Martchamadol, National Project Coordinator, UNIDO
- Ms. Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, UN Environment

Discussion Outline

What are the key concerns and challenges to adopting and implementing greener policies?

- Creating a feasible business model in light of seasonal employment and other common development issues is a challenge in many developing countries.
- Ministries working in "silos" with their own action plans prevents coherent policy.
- Financing and access to markets remains a big issue for SMEs due to a large array of partners and processes involved in supply chains. Without clear directives at the higher level, it is difficult for SMEs to navigate a bottom-up process.
- How can green growth contribute to sustainable development?
- Examples from the forestry sector reveal that Community-based forest management supports livelihoods and saves forests. Low carbon supply chains create a competitive edge for regulated markets such as the EU, leading to increased jobs and improve environmental conditions. All of these are examples of green growth's contributions to sustainable development.

What is the role of national governments and international agencies in promoting low carbon economy?

- National governments can support coordinating policy between ministries and integrating SCP into national policies.
- On the international level, institutions like the UN provide common frameworks, networks and mechanisms through global policy e.g. Paris Agreement, Green Climate Fund, Sustainable Development Goals.

What is the relation between SCP and climate mitigation?

- Climate change mitigation overlaps with SCP processes and practices, making policy implementation mutually beneficial, from energy to the transport sector and from green buildings to agriculture.
- SCP is an essential vehicle for climate change mitigation; due to the carbon footprint of resource use, climate change is about resource efficiency, all the way from extraction to consumption.

What kind of support is most needed to stimulate green growth?

Better access to finance is needed. Without it, initiatives cannot get off the ground. Grants and seed money encourage change.

- Matchmaking with finance institutions to scale up along with other types of innovative finance.
- Consumer education is required on a frequent basis.
 For example, with regard to lifecycle costs where net cost is lower on products, consumers can be encouraged to make a switch. At the same time, microfinance solutions can help where some capital is needed (e.g. cook stoves).
- International agencies need to act as matchmakers to help countries and businesses tap into public and private finance e.g. UN Environment support to access Green Climate Funds.

What kind of support is most needed to stimulate green growth?

- Closer partnerships between government, private sector and civil society are needed.
- Some institutions can play a brokerage role, including the UN and SWITCH-Asia.
- In some cases, there needs to be more support for implementation and enforcement of existing policy.
- Communication is a constant challenge. More work needs to be done on many levels, including finding the right channels to communicate to people who need to implement policies, which include education on green growth policies.

- Strong partnerships between governments, private sector and the civil society are important to effectively understand the needs of the people. In turn, policies have to be made more understandable for stakeholders through awareness raising.
- Appropriate communications channels need to be used and identified. Education is a key communication tool to allow future generations to be made aware of the issues and to allow a change of mindset.
- Better connections are needed between investments and increasing innovations for low carbon solutions.
- Focus on implementation rather than laws and regulations. Pilot projects will have to be run and scaled-up.
- The SWITCH-Asia Programme needs to scale up the results. It should focus on helping industries, cooperating on the latest technology and support efforts to adopt best available technologies.



Panel 2: Localizing Green Finance in support to SMEs and local municipalities

Background

Rapid economic growth over the past two decades has led to enormous benefits, especially in developing countries. However, this growth has also led to detrimental environmental and social impacts, exposing growing areas to serious pollution concerns and rising inequalities. Substantial emissions reductions in developing countries would require strong policy commitments and subsequent investments in a green economy. Decentralization with suitable access to finance to cities and municipalities has not been implemented on a large scale.

This panel looked at what is required to enable and equip local authorities with the right policy set, mandate and financial resources to tackle the problems. Panellists also shared their experiences in green finance. Overall, this panel sought to highlight the importance of sustainable financing mechanisms for acceleration of SDG/SCP implementation, find examples of projects with high uptake or support from green finance and consider key lessons learned and expectations from country case studies (markets and players).

Panel Moderator: Mr. Mikael Henzler, Director, Adelphi

Panellists:

- Atty. Alberto B. Reyno, ACMFN project (China, India, Indonesia)
- Dr. Chun Xia-Bauer, WESTERN CHINA SUSBUILD Project (China)
- Ms. Suwida Kingmuangkow, Senior Investment Officer. AFD
- Mr. Jens Radschinski, Head of UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre, Bangkok
- Ms. Yuki Yasui, Programme Operations Manager, United Nations Environment Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)

Discussion Outline

Why do we need green finance in the first place?

The current financial system is geared towards financing the brown economy. Unless efforts are made directly to encourage change with green finance, many projects will not have a funding source.

What are the key challenges for implementing and accessing green financing?

- Banks are not confident with green projects and MSMEs. As a result, most projects have been focusing on private financial institutions (FIs).
- The FIs do not perceive SCP correctly, thus they believe that sustainable organisations do not understand their commercial standpoint. Moreover, the Energy Services Company (ESCO) concept is also not well understood by some FIs. The ESCOs are still often just seen as suppliers and not as a guarantor, including by ESCO clients; demonstrating the need to raise awareness and education on schemes of risk sharing.
- Challenges regarding green financing vary from country to country. In China, clean tech financing is mainly for large enterprises as the banks are biased in favour of them; SMEs are not high on the agenda. Meanwhile in India, there is low interest from SMEs and Fls.
- Compliance with various international conventions means the countries also need to adopt greener and fairer practices for development. Hence access to green finance is of pivotal importance for greening the SMEs.

What is the role of international institutions and governments in greening finance?

- International institutions have convening power to bring the FIs together and to identify the needs and barriers and explore how to overcome them.
- Some organisations e.g. UNEP FI have worked to repurpose financial institutions to make them fit for green finance. This includes helping FIs set up a framework and determining what tools are needed to set it up. In this regard, UNEP FI has already launched principles for sustainable finance and insurance and is developing a framework for sustainable banks. Importantly, these are roadmaps and practical tools while they are also member led activities.

What is the role of municipalities and SMEs in greening the development pathway?

 Municipalities have the convening power for public procurement, which can help focus on the impacts and not just the services through a changed tendering definition. For example, lamp posts in London are being used as electric charging stations, but they could also be used as Wi-Fi-transmitters.

What are some of the practical examples from countries (highlighting what works and what does not)?

- In the Philippines there is a mandated portfolio agreement for green finance allocation while Thailand has seen a credit line provided to encourage banks to lend back to the private sector to increase energy efficiency in tertiary buildings, excluding the manufacturing sector. There are a variety of effective methods to encourage green finance and have been implemented across the region.
- Public awareness should not be underestimated, especially in the markets that do not understand these sustainable concepts.
- In most countries, the manufacturing and service industries drive economic development. These industries comprise largely of MSMEs, which need to increasingly play an important role in greening the supply chain. This is essential for reducing the environmental impact of SMEs as a key success factor in greening the economy.

- Green finance is widely available but often not accessed mainly due to lack of awareness.
- It is important to work with Fls to help them better understand the green finance concept and build confidence to formulate their own strategies of support.
- The need for public awareness and public relations programmes should not be underestimated within markets that are not familiar with sustainability concepts.
- Clustering MSMEs could provide a useful solution to build more confidence for banks to engage.
- Microfinance still remains a largely unexploited territory.
- There is willingness for banks to explore the opportunities in green finance with opportunities for international banks and development agencies to act as brokers to bridge the confidence gap.



Panel 3: Eco-Innovation and Design

Background

Eco-innovation is an opportunity for businesses as it leads to reduced costs, helps capture new growth opportunities and strengthens the company image in front of its customers, and is expected to deliver significant progress towards the goal of sustainable development. Innovation is not about finding a new way or process or technology. It is not only about inventions and ideas, but rather implementing ideas in the market.

This panel went into detail on the importance of eco-innovation and its role, how eco-innovation helps business transformation and creates opportunities for sustainable trade and discussion on whether or not low carbon economy can be achieved solely by eco-innovation and what other incentives need to be put into place. Panel Moderator: Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Division Director, EDD, UN ESCAP

Panellists:

- Md. Anisur Rahman Chowdhury, SusBuild Project (Bangladesh)
- Dr. Andreas Hofmann, Luang Prabang Handle with Care Project (Lao PDR)
- Mr. SHI Feng, Executive Director of Technology Division of China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center (CAEC), China
- Dr. Tanawan (Chirapol) Sintunawa, Vice President and Secretary, Greenleaf Foundation
- Ms. Sooksiri Chamsuk, Programme Officer, UNIDO
- Ms. Lathika Chandra Mouli, Business Development Manager, Energo Labs

Discussion Outline

What is eco-innovation?

- Eco-Innovation is not only about technology. It is also about the market and business model. It is about social innovation, behaviour change and customer experience change. Eco-Innovation is about reducing complexity.
- In some cases, Eco-Innovation is often about largescale innovation, but it can be focused on eco-products, eco-processes or eco-service innovations while it plays a direct role in contributing to the SDGs and can be aligned as such.

What are the obstacles to eco-innovation? What needs to be understood?

- Commercialising technology at the water-energy-food nexus is particularly challenging and needs special attention because of its importance in the region. This is an example of eco-innovation issue that goes hand-in-hand with green finance issues.
- With respect to all eco-innovation, there are a lack of economic incentives to compensate for market failures.
- While eco-innovations may occur quickly, regulations need to be synchronised or progress can be stunted.
- Technology is not always necessary for innovation. It could be service-oriented. There could be impacts on measurement systems for energy usage, efficiency, sustainability and service experience or service design.
- Massive promotional intervention is often required to promote new technologies popular and familiar, especially in larger countries. Capacity building in particular is required for some industries.

How can demand for eco-innovation be stimulated to replace business as usual practices? How can challenges be overcome?

- Business models are key to commercialising eco-innovations.
- Especially in the field of e-mobility it became clear that follow-up innovation is needed
- Standards e.g. tourism standards and labelling facilitate innovation through creating a framework in how to implement, and innovators need to listen to the industry and encourage their leading role in the development of standards. Technology such as blockchain is appealing and adds transparency

 Scale, partnerships and community engagement are all needed to stimulate eco-innovation while convincing stakeholders to switch to eco-innovations to foster economic growth makes business sense. Other straightforward solutions include providing business development support to encourage investment in eco-innovation.

Are there any success stories and obstacles to share under different settings/partnerships (Circular Economy)?

- Eco-innovation has reached scale, such as in e-commerce (Alibaba) or share economy examples such as sharing of bicycles (Mobikes)
- In the case of the electric vehicles that reached scale it became clear that large scale brings issues e.g. the transformation in infrastructure and the availability of charging stations

- To promote eco innovations, organisational agility at all levels, supported by evidence-based policy making is deemed required.
- There is a need to sync eco-innovation with the national regulation.
- Policy, Business and Technology are important aspects of eco-innovation in providing new opportunities.
- Financing is needed in all areas of eco-innovation in order to scale-up and overcome obstacles from research to market.



Panel 4: The Media and Communicating on SCP

Background

Consumption and production patterns in Asia are putting increased pressure on limited resources with the impacts being visible across the region. However, despite people experiencing these effects they still do not fully understand what is happening or how to respond, partly due to inadequate knowledge sharing practices.

In order to support the shift towards SCP, we need to know how to talk about it; how to write about it and have open discussions with newsmakers on how they view their role and how to better engage with them. We can also learn from the challenges projects have faced on the ground in communicating their messages.

This panel was aimed at providing an exchange platform for experiences communicating on SCP from SWITCH-Asia grants projects followed by perspectives from the media. The discussion covered topics including: the role of the media in sharing socially responsible information, what goes into the decision-making process, how practitioners can do a better job telling stories and writing about sustainability and what this will mean for Asia's future.

Panel Moderator: Mr. Ricardo Dunn, Communications Chief, UN-ESCAP

Panellists:

- Mr. Abhishek Jani, CEO, Fairtrade Foundation India and Lead, SWITCH-Asia Grant Switching to fair and sustainable food (India)
- Mr. Jacob Clere, Team Leader for SWITCH-Asia Grant SMART Myanmar (Myanmar)
- Mr. Cod Satrusayang, Managing Editor, Asia News Network
- Mr. Panu Wongcha-um, Senior Correspondent, Reuters
- Mr. Skyler Wiet, Communications Manager, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility

Discussion Outline

What are the challenges viewed from the implementation perspective?

- The current challenge is how to change the mind-set.
- Budgets and resources are often limited for both media outreach and producing communications materials. This is coupled with the difficulty of communicating on SCP topics because people do not understand SCP itself or themes within it.

Where does the implementation side need to improve from the media perspective?

- It is crucial to find the right medium. However, building relationships with the press improves coverage of opportunities.
- Practitioners need to improve their understanding of the publishing process.
- Simplification of uncharted topics.

What do practitioners need to understand about media outreach?

- Time and other resources need to be invested towards relationship building with the media.
- Time investments require meeting with members of the press on a frequent basis.
- Be available for quotations whenever possible to build credibility for you and your organisation.
- Reputations need to be built for people involved with projects and policies. This requires time and being on key social media channels. Team members need to get involved and invest time to build credibility.
- Practitioners need to follow the news cycle and identify with trending stories.

What is the role of social media and technology?

- Social media is important, but there is also the need to use resources carefully e.g. focus on channels your audience and/or region uses. Twitter is key for reaching the press, and hashtags and repetition can help.
- There's no need to be afraid of technology, but carefully assess before making commitments e.g. mobile applications can be really powerful for some purposes, but a mistake for others.
- If you don't fully commit resources to a particular channel or tool you may not see the results you expect.
- When it comes to online publications, it is important to know that the legacy media aren't fading away.
 The idea is not to shift the attention completely from the legacy media but to balance it.

What makes an interesting story about SCP?

- Stories that work are not completely local and have wider implications on the world. The media wants to cover stories that global audiences can connect to. This requires collaboration between the project agencies and media outlets.
- Do not focus on statistics, but follow that one person whose narrative can be used to get the message across.

What role or responsibility does the media have in promoting SCP? And what are the constraints?

- Practitioners need the media to be a watchdog, but it is not. This is a failing of the media. Still, some editors make it a point to set standards about covering certain types of issues on a regular basis. At the moment, this could be climate change, which resonates more with audiences than SCP.
- There are publications that specifically look towards causes and social stories. However, when it comes to the newsroom, you must come up with stories that sell.

What prospects are there for the future with respect to the constraints?

- It needs to be understood that now is the time for SCP. Climate change has only been an issue in the media for 15 years. Only in the last ten years have people been talking more and more about sustainable development. Now we are talking about everything that falls under the broader umbrella of sustainable consumption and production.
- Practitioners and the media need to work together to discuss further how SCP can become a better covered issue, including within its specific themes. This is what the Community of Interest on Media intends to do.

- Do not send news, reports and briefs with jargon and acronyms that do not interest the editorial team or story formation will never take place;
- Differing views of organisations present conflicting ideas and adds to the pile of confusion for journalists (for example, a fair trade organisation and the NGOs working on human rights presents a completely different view point about the same topic), so explain ideas in a simple way;
- Communication starts with investing resources and prioritizing audiences;
- Building media relationships is an investment that pays off over time;
- Need to build human narratives the general public can identify with.



Panel 5: Behavioural Change

Background

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that came into effect on 1 January 2016 were developed in consultation with governments, community advocates, businesses and researchers. The 17 goals and 169 targets provide an inspiring, if daunting, "plan of action for people, planet and prosperity." The contributors who helped draft these goals hope that by setting aspirational, universal targets – and monitoring progress towards them – we can make a sustainable, global difference toward "the future we want." Fast forward; the goals are agreed yet many important questions remain. In particular, who is the 'we' who should take-action and what action might make the biggest difference? One of the first questions embedded in the debate is whose behaviours should be the focus of change: individuals, societies or institutions (including both state and non-governmental agencies).

Panellists in the session on Behavioural Change provided an in-depth take on intrinsic indicators and tools such as certification, eco-labelling and sustainable procurement, all essential instruments to transform consumption and production patterns and how the roles of lifestyle and education triggers changes. In a broad-spectrum approach the panellists shared their views on behaviour change regarding their different fields of expertise. Behavioural change has to take place at different levels e.g. individual, community, state and should be accompanied by a structural change.

Panel Moderator: Ms. Alina Neacşu, Regional Policy Sector Unit, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO), European Commission

Panellists:

- Ms. Nipatta Quamman, Food Justice Project (Thailand)
- Mr. Abhishek Joshi, Promoting sustainable consumption and production systems for safe and organic foods in India Project (India)
- Dr. Sylvia Szabo, Department of Development and Sustainability, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
- Ms. Janet Salem, Programme Manager, Sustainable Consumption and Production, SWITCH-Asia RPAC, UN Environment
- Dr. Chuttree Phurat, Project Manager of Green Label Scheme, TEI

Discussion Outline

How can projects influence transformative individual behaviour and social change; in what way?

- The methods to induce behaviour change range widely. This includes capacity building on the production side as well as consumer awareness and consumer empowerment.
- Technology can enhance approaches to behaviour for infotainment (e.g. collaboration with public figures to organise talks and spread awareness) to conducting social media campaigns targeting specific demographics.
- Encouraging effective stakeholder engagement contributes to behaviour change campaigns.

What type of support is needed in order to achieve sustainable transformation on a national scale?

- Government support, EU support and that of SWITCH-Asia are all important. Everyone has a voice and a role. And when there is the 'right' type of product or service, efforts need to be wide-scaled.
- Additional support can also come from the start-up community with its own influencers and platforms while also providing products and services that will encourage sustainable lifestyles.

What can government bodies and institutions do to stimulate changes?

- Putting into place most effective policies, which, include placing bans, restrictions, and standards on products that are not sustainable and requiring consumer information through ads, eco-labelling and award schemes. The government has the power to stimulate the market on sustainable public procurement.
- The government can further promote sustainable behaviour. For example, in Japan, when a particular household exceeds a certain usage-level of electricity higher than other similar households they are notified with a sad face on the bill. While seemingly innocuous, there is a psychological effect.

- It is important for policymakers to work on influence.
 The right partnership with the right people can significantly increase influence.
- Behaviour change requires individual and collective efforts, and changes need to take place at different levels.
- Getting the buy-in is the main narrative of behaviour change and it has to be accompanied by a structural change.
- If change does not hit a critical mass, it risks reverting.



Plenary and Panel on Synergizing SWITCH Impacts

Background

The SWITCH ASIA Programme has completed 10 years of operation; this leads to various questions with regards to its new phase: How do we take SWITCH ASIA II forward? What have been the impacts of SWITCH-Asia so far? How effectively has impact been delivered through internal collaboration or collaboration across countries?

In 2007, when the programme was approved, SCP was on the billboard, but not something many people knew about. The SWITCH Programme was designed to distil and cluster together a better understanding of scaling-up and scaling-out SCP. Since SWITCH-Asia I started, important policies and relevant tools where developed and implemented with more or less. Many countries have SCP related policies or action plans. These provide a good framework that now needs to be further developed, scaled up and implemented at relevant levels, regional, national but mainly local.

This session covered the projects and benefits to bring about the programme. It is also focused on solidarity within the SWITCH family through SWITCH to Green, SwitchMed and Switch Africa Green as well as the One Planet Network.

Session Moderator: Mr. Jens Kristian Nørgaard, SWITCH to Green

Speakers:

- Dr. Chatchai Inthata, ONEP, Thailand
- Ms. Ira Larasaty, Southeast Asia Expert, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility
- Mr. Charles Arden-Clarke, Head of the Secretariat of the 10YFP
- Ms. Rhoda Wachira, SWITCH Africa Green

Discussion Points

ONEP Thailand

- Thailand began by focusing on four components: monitoring progress, clean public procurement, clean industry and SCP awareness.
- In term of policy making, Thailand brought key stakeholders together and increased capacity and coordination. Thailand also increased a number of clean products in the market and identified key factors that could lead to behavioural change.
- Clean products and eco-innovation are difficult because processes are too complex for many companies.
- Evaluating SCP awareness is a priority, but obtaining data from municipalities is a challenge. Furthermore, some crucial sectors are left out because they are not within ONEP's mandate e.g. tourism.
- The programme helped officials work closely together and led to long and medium-term policies and has prepared Thailand to move forward into more sectors.

SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility

- The Switch-Asia SCP Facility has a new mandate, expanded from the Network Facility, to induce demand for policy support to governments. As a result, the SCP Facility works very closely with governments and identified potential collaborators early on.
- The SCP Facility needs strong partnership and financial instruments as well as collaborative platforms.
- It has already moved ahead with stronger branding and will work on Switch-Products with Switch-Med in the same respect.

Switch Africa Green

- Switch Africa Green has found clustering to be a useful tool; it allows equipment sharing as well as greater influence on policies. There have been real examples of these impacts Africa faces the same problems trying to get information out to the media, while financing is even more difficult.
- SMEs require more assistance to remain sustainable beyond the programme.

One Planet Network

 The One Planet Network (OPN) faces the same issue of scale that other partners are facing. It has developed a strategy for 2018-2022 in order to scale up. Rather than focussing on policy and tools, OPN sees

- finance and bringing together actors to reach the scale as the major obstacles.
- The OPN has benefited from SDG12 around Agenda 2030 and framing some of the targets in that goal. The Agenda 2030 gives a big mandate to SCP.
- The targets here are to catalyse efficient action as defined by OPN partners, but it can incorporate any tools identified that work. OPN has staff in places to reach a more systemic and cohesive action to support this enormous effort.
- The OPN would like to create more synergies between the SWITCHes because the SWITCHes are still operating in silos. So how can the One World Network help? It is essentially another partnership doing exactly the same thing. OPN partners may be able to help implement SWITCH ideas.

SwitchMed

- SwitchMed's green entrepreneurship component acts as a demo component. The website switchers. eu then shares the stories on the individual (around 300) stories on how they made the switch.
- Sustainable product retailers and distributors are also being engaged via Switch-Med to create platforms and leverage for the entrepreneurs to reach out to the markets, which is very different to the Asian case. This is possible where synergies could be created and new market opportunities identified.

- In the 10th year of the programme this has been a useful exercise to look back and identify the successes and challenges faced by the programme going forward.
- Many issues faced by the SWITCH programmes in the three different regions (Mediterranean, Asia and Africa) are different but a lot of synergies can be seen and can be used to help cross-fertilise and share experiences.
- Coordination among programmes, ending grants and upcoming investments windows and other mechanisms will need to be identified and will form part of future discussions by the EU in order to better coordinate resources.
- Thailand has shown significant progress on SCP through the existing mechanisms by concentrating on four key areas and pilot exercises which were successfully rolled out over time.



Plenary and Panel on Moving forward: Enablers and Multipliers

Session Chair: Arab Hoballah

Low carbon economy – Enabling policies and opportunities for impact delivery

- Strong partnerships between governments, private sector and the civil society are important to effectively understand the needs of the people. In turn, policies have to be made more understandable for stakeholders through awareness raising.
- Appropriate communications channels need to be used and identified according to the needs of each country. Education is a key communication tool to allow future generations to be made aware of the issues and to allow a change of mindset.
- The knowledge gained during these days of discussion needs to be fed back and implemented back into the national context of the countries.
- Better connections are needed between investments and increasing innovations for low carbon solutions.
 It is important to see the financial sector and the governments as part of this policy dialogue and to have international agencies, UN or EU to act as a connectors or brokers.

- Giving focus to implementation can be more important than to focus on laws and regulations. Pilot projects will have to be run and scaled up later.
- The SWITCH-Asia Programme should be about scaling-up the results. It should focus on helping industries, cooperating on the latest technology and supporting efforts to adopt best available technologies given their situations.

Localizing Green Finance in support to SMEs and local municipalities

- The paradox with green finance is that is already widely available but often not accessed mainly because public awareness remains low.
- It is important to work with financial institutions to help them understand the green finance concept and build confidence to formulate their own strategies of support.
- The need for public awareness and PR programmes should not be underestimated within markets that are not familiar with sustainability concepts.

- Clustering MSMEs could provide a useful solution to build more confidence for banks to engage.
- Microfinance still remains a largely unexploited territory.
- There is willingness for banks to explore the opportunities in green finance as well as opportunities for international banks and development agencies to act as brokers to bridge the confidence gap.

Eco-innovation and design

- In order to promote eco-innovation, there needs to be organisational agility at all levels, and for this evidence-based policy making is essential.
- Current market failures need to be taken into considerations. Only then can regulation be in sync with innovation.
- There is a difference between eco-product innovation and eco-service innovation and eco-process innovation.
- Policy, Business and Technology are important aspects of eco-innovation in providing new opportunities. E-commerce for example can cut down on traditional land and energy cost.

The Media and Communicating on SCP

- The challenge lies in the fact that the stories of importance are not given priority at times because they aren't deemed interesting enough for viewers;
- Organisations constantly send news, reports, briefs with jargon and acronyms that do not interest the editorial team, which results in story formation never taking place;
- Journalist need help when differing views of organisations with different priorities (human rights vs. environment) present conflicting ideas;
- Communication starts with investing resources and prioritizing audiences;
- Building media relationships is an investment that pays off over time;
- Build human narratives the general public can identify with.

Behavioural Change

- It is important for policymakers to work on influence.
 The right partnership with the right people can significantly increase their influence.
- Behaviour change requires the people's effort to change by themselves as well.

- Getting the buy-in is the main narrative of behaviour change. But behavioural change has to take place at different levels.
- Behavioural change has to be accompanied by a structural change.
- If change does not hit a critical mass, it risks reverting.



Concluding Remarks

Speakers:

Mr. Arab Hoballah, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility

Mr. Andrew Jacobs, Head of Unit for Regional Policy Sector Analysis, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO), European Commission

SWITCH-Asia is a great programme and the single most important implementation mechanism in support to SCP in Asia. Established in 2007 during the Marrakesh Process, the whole work on SCP has since evolved in the world and in Asia. Now the second phase of SWITCH-Asia has been launched. 106 grant projects have been implemented or are being implemented, and more to be funded soon. The Grants Programme together with the two other components, the Regional Policy Advocacy Component and the SCP Facility, which have both been further promoting SCP and mainstreaming it into national policies and actions, at regional and national levels, a lot has been achieved. Meanwhile needs have changed and increased, together with requests for support to increase capacity and enable stakeholders to change the current unsustainable consumption and production patterns.

Overall, knowledge has increased, technologies have expanded and adapted to needs, change is happening and policies have become more aligned with SCP needs. However, access to information, knowledge and technologies is still very limited, and there is a greater need for eco-innovation and incentives so as to induce more change. There is also still a need to effectively implement policies and enable concerned stakeholders while easing access to green finance.

Communication about and advocacy for SCP need to be improved and expanded as well. All stakeholders are contributing to SCP, but mostly do so in silos, isolated from scale and multipliers. Together with the RPAC, the EU Delegations and the projects funded by the Grants Programme, the SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility aims at further contribute to scaling and enabling, inducing Multistakeholder Consultations to better frame the needs, collectively, towards SCP, involving, besides the national and local actors, other stakeholders such as UN agencies and regional players such as GGGI, APRSCP, ASEAN and SACEP.

After a decade of exercise and implementation in the region, SCP concerned stakeholders, Governments, busi-

ness and SMES, civil society and consumers should consider the SWITCH-Asia Programme as their ally in action to become more responsible, to be the change and to hear the call to action encouraging the SWITCH to SCP, as stated on the reusable, cotton fabric bags handed over to participants. Together with the SWITCH-Asia Wall at the launch, the revised and aligned logos, and this bag, we now have a stronger Branding for the "ONE" SWITCH-Asia Programme.

Finally, it is important to understand and advocate accordingly that SCP is a necessity. It is a necessity for effective delivery of green growth, green economy, circular economy, low carbon economy and climate mitigation. SCP can be a solution provider to them, a driver, an enabler and finally, an ally, on the journey to sustainable development.

The next Regional Networking Event, together with the Programme Steering Committee, will be held in September-October 2019. The date and venue will be communicated later.

Presentations

All presentations made during the SWITCH-Asia Regional Networking Event are available in the SWITCH-Asia digital network (SWITCHED-ON) group created for this event at the following URL:

https://network.switch-asia.eu/groups/viewgroup/12-switch-asia-regional-networking-event-group

Access requires registration.

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Agenda

Session 1: Opening Session Chair: Mr. Arab Hoballah, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility Speakers Mr. Andrew Jacobs, Head of Unit for Regional Policy Sector Analysis, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (ICEVOD), European Commission Dr. Abas Basir, Director General, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) Mr. Mushtaq Memon, Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency, SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC), United Nations Environment Mr. Arab Hoballah, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility Panel on the State of Play of SCP in Asia, Needs and Opportunities Session Moderator: Dr. Arab Hoballah Panelists Mr. Karma Tshering, Policy Division Head, National Environment Commission, Bhutan Ms. Tserendorj Uranchimeg, Head of Division of Clean Technology, Investment and Production, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia Ms. Inhee Chung, Head of Sustainability and Safeguards Unit, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Mr. Noer Adi Wardojo, Senior Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forestry Dr. Anthony Chiu, President, Asia Pacific Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP) Photo and coffee break Panel 1: Low carbon economy – Enabling Policies and opportunities for impact delivery Session Moderator: Mr. Jerome Pons, Head of the Operations Section, European Union Delegation, Thailand Representatives from SWITCH-Asia Grant Projects Ms. Marie-Anne Charlotte Serve, Central Asia Regional Director, GERES "Kabul Green Home" (Afghanistan) Ms. Beatriz Maroto Izquierdo, Mongolia Country Director, GERES (Mongolia) Panelists Md. Mohiuddin, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Mr. Jens Kristian Nørgaard, Technical Expert, SWITCH to Green Facility Ms. Jutamanee Martchamadol, National Project Coordinator, UNIDO	08.00-09.00	Registration	
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		Md. Mohiuddin, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	
Ms. Jutamanee Martchamadol, National Project Coordinator, UNIDO		Mr. Jens Kristian Nørgaard, Technical Expert, SWITCH to Green Facility	
		Ms. Jutamanee Martchamadol, National Project Coordinator, UNIDO	
Ms. Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, UN Environment		Ms. Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, UN Environment	

Panel 2: Localizing Green Finance in support to SMEs and local municipalities

Session Moderator: Mr. Mikael Henzler, Director, adelphi

Representatives from SWITCH-Asia Grant Projects

- Atty. Alberto B. Reyno, ACMFN project (China, India, Indonesia)
- Dr. Chun Xia-Bauer, WESTERN CHINA SUSBUILD Project (China)

Panelists

- Ms. Suwida Kingmuangkow, Senior Investment Officer, AFD
- Mr. Jens Radschinski, Head of UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre, Bangkok
- Ms. Yuki Yasui, Programme Operations Manager, United Nations Environment Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)

Panel 3: Eco-Innovation and Design

Session Moderator: Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Division Director, EDD, UN ESCAP

Representatives from SWITCH-Asia Grant Projects

- Md. Anisur Rahman Chowdhury, SusBuild Project (Bangladesh)
- Dr. Andreas Hofmann, Luang Prabang Handle with Care Project (Lao PDR)

Panelists

- Mr. SHI Feng, Executive Director of Technology Division of China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center (CAEC), China
- Dr. Tanawan (Chirapol) Sintunawa, Vice President and Secretary, Greenleaf Foundation
- Ms. Sooksiri Chamsuk, Programme Officer, UNIDO
- Ms. Lathika Chandra Mouli, Business Development Manager, Energo Labs

12.40-13.40

Lunch

13.40 - 15.10

Panel 4: The Media and Communicating on SCP

2nd Breakout Parallel Sessions:

Session Moderator: Mr. Ricardo Dunn, Communications Chief, UN-ESCAP

Representatives from SWITCH-Asia Grant Projects

- Mr. Abhishek Jani, CEO, Fairtrade Foundation India and Lead, SWITCH-Asia Grant Switching to fair and sustainable food (India)
- Mr. Jacob Clere, Team Leader for SWITCH-Asia Grant SMART Myanmar (Myanmar)

Panelists

- Mr. Cod Satrusayang, Managing Editor, Asia News Network
- Mr. Panu Wongcha-um, Senior Correspondent, Reuters
- Mr. Skyler Wiet, Communications Manager, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility

	Panel 5: Behavioural change	
	Session Moderator: Ms. Alina Neacșu, Regional Policy Sector Unit, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO), European Commission	
	Representatives from SWITCH-Asia Grant Projects	
	Ms. Nipatta Quamman, Food Justice Project (Thailand)	
	Mr. Abhishek Joshi, Promoting sustainable consumption and production systems for safe and organic foods in India Project (India)	
	Panelists	
	Dr. Sylvia Szabo, Department of Development and Sustainability, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)	
	Ms. Janet Salem, Programme Manager, Sustainable Consumption and Production, SWITCH-Asia RPAC, UN Environment	
Dr. Chuttree Phurat, Project Manager of Green Label Scheme, TEI		
15.00-15.30	Coffee Break	
15.40-16.40	Plenary and Panel on Synergizing SWITCH Impacts	
	Session Moderator: Mr. Jens Kristian Nørgaard, SWITCH to Green	
	Dr. Chatchai Inthata, ONEP, Thailand	
	Ms. Ira Larasaty, Southeast Asia Expert, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility	
	Mr. Charles Arden-Clarke, Head of the Secretariat of the 10YFP	
	Ms. Rhoda Wachira, SWITCH Green Africa	
16.15-17.30	Plenary and Panel on Moving forward: enablers and multipliers	
	Session Chair: Dr. Arab Hoballah	
	Rapporteurs from each of the 5 parallel events to present the main outcomes as basis for a final moderated panel discussion	
17.30-18.00	Closing	