

FULL REPORT

CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2020

THAILAND 2020s AND BEYOND: BUILDING SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

A Webinar to enhance sustainable society in Thailand, through promotion of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Conservation Biodiversity to celebrate UN's World Environment Day 2020



Celebrating World Environment Day 2020

THAILAND 2020s AND BEYOND: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

A Webinar to enhance sustainable society in Thailand, through promotion of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Biodiversity Conservation to celebrate UN's World Environment Day 2020

Date: 5th June 2020

Time: 10.15 - 12.30 hrs. (Bangkok Time Zone)

Venue: IPPD Online Event Platform

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
EEC	Environmental Education Center
EU	European Union
GHG	Greenhouse gas
IPPD	Institute of Public Policy and Development
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SWITCH-Asia RPAC	SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WED	World Environment Day

BACKGROUND

Objectives of the event

The overall objective of this webinar is to recognize the importance of biodiversity and to highlight important linkages between sustainable use of natural resources and human well-being especially safety and quality of life. Increasing threats to the health of humans and ecosystems is at an alarming rate and calling for more sustainable action-oriented policies from different authorities for a better and safer life. The Webinar will discuss common goals and understanding on sustainable society shared and share good practices and experiences in greening key sectors with SCP principles that contribute substantially to poverty alleviation and transition towards low-carbon and green economies. The Webinar then ended with recognition of value in building cooperation. Means and measures to build sustainable society in Thai context among different sectors will be highlighted. Different roles and responsibilities and innovative way forwards for closer cooperation were discussed.

Logistical information about the event

The organization of the Policy Webinar was proposed as a part of WED celebration to recognize the importance of biodiversity and to highlight important linkages between sustainable use of natural resources and human well-being especially safety and quality of life via IPPD's social media platform.

SUMMARY OF KEY MESSAGES

Opening Session

Announcement of UNEP Thai Ambassador: Mr. Alex Rendell (EEC)

This year's World Environment Day 2020, Alex Rendell, an actor and co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Education Center (EEC), is appointed as UNEP Goodwill Ambassador for Thailand. Growing up with the nature, Mr. Rendell was since inspired to care on biodiversity and nature at a very young age. The Environmental Education Center (EEC), an organization that raises environmental awareness among children, applies nature as a classroom to educate young people about their connection with the environment and encourage them to protect it. His most recent initiative, Kod-pa-Kod-talay (กอดป่ากอดทะเล) (Embrace Our Forests and Seas), is working across 11 Thai provinces to raise awareness in youth and local authorities on the connection between humans and nature.

"We are starting to see a change in people's awareness of protecting nature, and not a moment too soon. The more that people are conscious of our environmental impact, the closer we get to living sustainably and protecting our home. I believe that education is a powerful tool to empower people to make sound environmental decisions" – Alex Rendell

With the title of "UNEP Goodwill Ambassador for Thailand", Mr. Rendell will continue raising awareness to protect our natural resources and biodiversity as well as continuously promote and advocate UNEP's activities to reach out to wider audiences for making them realize that humans are parts of the system.

Official Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Dechen Tsering,

Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

“We are in trying times, facing the dual threats of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ever-present climate crisis. A sustainable society and economy will be vital to our recovery and long-term welfare. This year’s World Environment Day theme of #ForNature is a reminder that the environment is at the heart of our well-being and is a prerequisite to build back better”

Opening Remarks

H.E. Mr Pirkka TAPIOLA

Ambassador
The European Union to the Kingdom of Thailand

“Mainstreaming biodiversity is high on the EU agenda. We are determined to deliver on new wide-ranging standards for biodiversity cutting across trade, industry, agriculture and economic policy. This is why a comprehensive new biodiversity strategy is one of the key components of the European Green Deal – our new growth strategy”

Keynote Speaker

HE. Varawut Silpa-archa

Minister to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Government of Thailand

“Time for Nature: Find out what you can do is the Theme of the 2020 World Environment Day. We need to be friendly to our nature and the change begins with each of us. Rethink to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and care for Nature and the Environment. Build Back Better with nature is the foundation of Green Economy which enhances achievement of the UN SDGs. Spreading of COVID19 has led us to the “New Normal” that could bring changes to everyone’s everyday life to live in harmony with nature for a better environment. This would increase the resilience of ourselves, our families, our societies, our country and our planet to any circumstances. On the occasion of the World Environment Day, MNRE is considering a set of policies to close the National Parks in Thailand for 3 months annually for wildlife and nature recovery and protecting our precious biodiversity and rich ecosystems. It is time for Nature for our future and the next generations”

Panel Sessions

Dr. Sorapop Kiatpongsan

Managing Director
Institute of Public Policy and Development (IPPD)

Mr. Kiatpongsan briefly gave in introduction of IPPD which is the organization that is categorized as a policy think-tank and impact-oriented platform. IPPD’s mandates are to conduct strategic foresight and futures studies, analyze and visualizing data to provide directions and inform policy decisions, designing policy options and testing them with

partners. In addition, IPPD also works on obtaining opinions and insights from the public and engaging policy makers, stakeholders to promote inclusive and participatory policy dialogue.

Ms. Tunnie Srisakulchairak

Programme Management Officer, SWITCH-Asia RPAC
United Nations Environment Programme

“It is essential to recognize value of protecting biodiversity for development and SCP is an inclusive solution to mitigate negative impacts to nature and promote sustainability. SCP works with both consumption and production to enhance “build back better”.

Action Showcase

Private Sector

Deesawat showcased on green supply chain

by *Mr. Jirawat Tangkijngamwong*

Deesawat is a company which specialize on green furniture manufacturing; the company also adopts the eco-design principles throughout the green supply chain to ensure that the production of the furniture, from scratch to final products, produce minimal waste outputs. For the many years in furniture industry, Deesawat strives to improve the connection between the furniture, people, and ownership to enjoy it in a healthy environment. Sustainability is at the core of the business, Deesawat attempts to achieve a product and company balance between the environment, profitability and employee and community wellbeing.

Civil Society Organization

Jaibaan Studio showcased on community-led action to increase livable/sustainable city

by *Mr. Supawut Boonmahathanakorn*

Formed by a group of community architects who are interested in the process of collaborative design, Jai Baan Studio works with younger generations and people in the community to share knowledge and exchange experiences that design can co-created with the nature.

Individuals

Showcased on encouraging individual actions

1) Little Big Green by *Mr. Kanatip Soonthornrak*

Little Big Green project provides environmental information and build up a green lifestyle community under the concept "As Green As You Can", to encourage a green lifestyle as much as you can through many forms as well as inspires to start changing for the greener and sustainable society and environment at the same time

2) Environmental Education Center (EEC) by *Mr. Alex Rendell*

Education plays a role towards achieving sustainability. Environmental Education Center has embedded a passion and mindset for conservation and an in-depth understanding and appreciation for the environment to young children and students by using nature as a classroom.

Conclusion Session

The session ended with the question being asked to speakers to reflect their thoughts on the importance of cross-cutting issues that can influence and/or put forward to all stakeholders to realize the importance of sustainable development

Mr. Kanatip Soonthornrak

The hardest thing to solve environmental problems is to make people aware of the problem in the first place. Divided by age group, adults whose voice and power are at hands, are the most concerned to make them realized the importance of sustainability. Who would have thought that a-3 million-followers person on social media platforms can have impacts on influencing and conveying clear-cut messages to wider audiences on environmental problems. It is important to unite and make all stakeholders aware to start the process to transform a better change for biodiversity and environment.

Ms. Tunnie Srisakulchairak

In an overall picture, it would be a big problem for leaders or policymakers to find a balance between social development, economic growth and environmental conservation which varies from country to country due to the different resources. Therefore, action at the community level is considered to have a huge role to affect at the national level such as a group of individuals gathered to protect and develop the environment as these voices are the driving force behind change and finding a balance in three aspects of sustainable development.

Mr. Jirawat Tangkijngamwong

Having adults' mindset changed to be proactive onto environmental issues is difficult which involves a gradual change. Major issues and trends that have happened in the past has made a huge impact on getting people to pay more attention. One people start to realize the importance of the issues, they can be considered as a change agent in translating policies into actions as well as connecting the dots for all of us to move forward for environmental sustainability.

Mr. Supawut Boonmahathanakorn

Reaching out to the government for collaboration is a time-consuming process to explain to them on real problems and impacts. On the side note, collaborative actions between a wide spectrum of stakeholders, at the end of the day, is a key to achieve what it can be achieved for sustainable development.

Highlights of Discussions

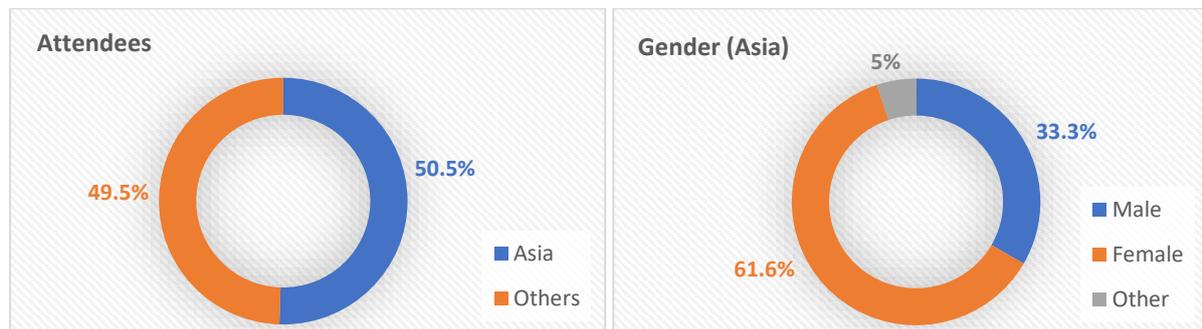
During the session, panelists were actively engaged in discussing the importance of biodiversity and linkages between sustainable use of natural resources and human well-being especially safety and quality of life. Increasing threats to the health of humans and ecosystems is at an alarming rate and calling for more sustainable action-oriented policies from different authorities for a better and safer life. Understanding complexity of major ongoing issues in Thailand and in the region could draw more attention and collaboration. Circular Economy is an approach to attack excessive waste volume generated from production and consumption process and to reasonably prove that nothing was wasted. Urban farming is another

sustainable solution to environmental degradation, social disparity and economic recession at urban community scale. Consumption behavior is another major factor for a change. Inspiration brings better decision in consuming and treating reusable items. Education is a tool to connect people to nature. Finally, it was elicited that without healthy nature, society and economy cannot be sustained.

Evaluation/Assessment Results

Evaluation was not conducted for this webinar as the purpose was to reach out to the maximum public. Therefore, there is no registration required to attend. However, RPAC received comments written on FB pages indicating interest and request to organize similar topics in English and for ASEAN. The RPAC will seek opportunities to organize similar awareness raising online activities if time and resources allow.

The WED Quiz was released in a period of one month (June). It was available in 3 languages, namely Chinese, English and Thai. The Quiz was designed to observe personal behavior and level of basic knowledge on biodiversity with facts provided. The Quiz was made available through different channels until 30 June. With support from RPAC consultants in India and China, totally, there were 1,200 attendees out which 606 were from Asia (50.5%). In average, there were 40 attendees per day. More details of the results of the Quiz will be compiled and analyzed accordingly.



Annexes:

Annex 1: The Final agenda

Friday 5 June 2020 at 10:00-12:30

Time	Programme
10:15 - 10:45	Opening session
1015-1020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background and rationale of the webinar and Announcement of the collaboration between UNEP and IPPD
1020-1025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of UNEP Thai Ambassador with a short interview: Alex Rendell (EEC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What inspired you to start EEC? What have you accomplished with EEC? What are your next steps with EEC and how can people join your cause? What are your suggestions for people to start working on their own environmental cause?
1025-1030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official Welcome Remarks Dr Dechen Tsering, Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific, UN Environment Programme
1030-1035	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening Remarks H.E. Mr Pirkka TAPIOLA, Ambassador of the European Union to the Kingdom of Thailand
1035-1040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote Speaker HE. Varawut Silpa-archa, Minister to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand (tbc)
1040-1045	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing panelists
10.45-11:40	Technical session
5 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing interactions: Q&A, live poll, and FB comments Poll: What is your impression with the word "sustainability"? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I know it by heart, I'm actually doing something about it. I know it and want to help, but not sure how to get on board. I know it in passing but I need more convincing rationales to get on board. I don't know about it and I'm here to find out. I know it but don't believe in it. (Please let us know why in the comment.)
5 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IPPD (Dr.Sorapop): Concept and definition of sustainable society for Thailand
5 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNEP (K.Tunnie): Importance of Biodiversity in sustainable society context : Overview of WED Theme and linkages to sustainability context (Biodiversity and SCP)
(total of 40 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action showcase: What are the actions taken under your responsibilities or your organization that promote sustainable society? How are those action also help preserve biodiversity or nature in Thailand and how they are contributing to overall achievement of SDGs, sustainable development, sufficient economy? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private sector: showcase green supply chain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deesawat by K.Jirawat Tangkijngamwong Civic sector: showcase community-led action to increase livable/sustainable city <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jaibaan Studio by K.Supawut Boonmahathanakorn Individual: showcase and encourage individual actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little Big Green by K.Kanatip Soonthomrak (Loukgolf) EEC by Alex Rendell
10 mins	
11:40-12:20	Q&A session:
20 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A prepared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges: Recognizing that it is a process, a journey, what are challenges you face to initiate/implement your actions to achieve sustainable society COVID19: How COVID19 pandemic is affecting or interrupting your initiatives and how it can trigger more sustainable actions.
20 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A from audience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4-6 questions
12:20-12:30	Closing session
2 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing poll: Poll: How is your impression with the word "sustainability" changed/not changed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm among my peers here. It inspires me to continue working on sustainability. I want to connect with one of the panelists/organizations here to play a part in Building A Sustainable Society. I'm on board! Let me know how I can play a role. I learned a lot! It inspires me to learn more. Others (Let us know in the comment.)
5 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts and Media Campaign: call for entry
8 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to get involve and contacts Thank you

Annex 2: The Online Quiz on WED and SCP

A one-minute short quiz was developed and launched on 3 June 2020 and closed by 30 June to gauge general understanding on linkages of the general public on SCP and biodiversity and their consumption behavior. The data of players were collected based on their gender, ages, and countries. The players were allowed to post the final page on their social media after finishing the quiz. The Quiz is made in 3 languages: Chinese, Thai and English and available on mobile and desktop platform. The link to the Quiz is <https://bit.ly/3gNGdk8>



The RPAC gathered final results of the quiz and hope to develop a quick analysis on consumption behavior of Asian population.

For more information

SWITCH-Asia event page:

<https://www.switch-asia.eu/event/wed2020-thailand-2020-and-beyond/>

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