

3rd PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE

Collaborations and synergies for sustaining the implementation of SWITCH-Asia Programme for a more impactful #WeSwitch

3 December 2020



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EUSWITCHAsia



SWITCHAsia

ACRONYMS

10YFP	Ten Year Framework of Programme on SCP
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEF	Asia-Europe Foundation
ASEM	Asia-Europe Meeting
CE	Circular Economy
CEAP	Circular Economy Action Plan
CO2e	Carbon dioxide Equivalence
EGD	European Union Green Deal
DG DEVCO	European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
DG Environment	European Commission's Directorate-General for the Environment
EU	European Union
EUD	Delegation of the European Union
F2F	Farm-to-Fork
GACERE	Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency
GPP	Green Public Procurement
HDA	Heraklion Development Agency
HQ	Head Quarter
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
NFP	National Focal Point
(M)SME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
PSC	Programme Steering Committee
RPAC	Regional Policy Advocacy Component
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SCPF	SCP Facility
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
S/GPP	Sustainable/Green Public Procurement
TAP	Transformative Actions Programme
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WECOOP	European Union - Central Asia Water, Environment and Climate Change Cooperation

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Introduction

This report is a summary of the third Annual Programme Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting of the SWITCH-Asia Programme, which was organised online on December 3rd, 2020.

Objectives of the meeting:

- Provide an overall update on the Programme's implementation for 2020 with a focus on deliverables and thematic cluster issues, an overview of activities by grant projects and through regional and national support in similar thematic areas in different countries and by different grant projects, present possible synergies and value-added, discuss about the Programme's relevance to policy dialogue in the region (nationally but also across borders);
- Update on the communication, visibility and social media developments since November 2019 and discuss the way forward (including the engagement of their staff);
- Present the review of the 127 funded projects since 2007 and propose to Delegations a workplan for scaling up and reproduction as well as discussions with investors for selected business cases (which should become an example in other countries);
- Discuss about the future of the Programme: framing SWITCH-Asia within the new EU priorities (i.e. the external dimension of the EU Green Deal, CEAP, From Farm to Fork, Biodiversity 2030, EU Industrial Strategy, EU Initiatives for Consumers, etc.) and how the programme can be used by Delegations as a tool for their programming and the implementation of their Team Europe Initiatives;
- Presentation of workplan for the remaining period (2021-mid2022): upcoming activities, expected final outcomes with due consideration if and where relevant to the grant projects assessment results and the new EU priorities.

This meeting was attended by EU Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) HQ (Chair), SCP Facility and Regional Policy Advocacy Component, EU Delegations, National Focal Points within Ministries eligible to the programme, representatives of Grant Projects and external observers. The report summarises the opening remarks from the European Union (EU), followed by an overview of programme implementation during 2020 focusing on impacts and synergies between regional/national support and grant projects, the relevance of SWITCH-Asia programme on advancing EU Green Deal priorities together with partner countries in Asia and Central Asia, SWITCH-Asia communications focusing on raising the importance and visibility of SCP, the SWITCH-Asia programme and the EU in Asia and Central Asia and showcasing impacts in countries and in the region, accelerating investments on SCP practices in Asia, the planned activities (2021 to mid-2022) of SWITCH-Asia and joint effort with partner countries and key organisations in the region. Each section also summarises the interventions, questions and answers that occurred

during the respective sessions. The final section highlights key discussion points in an open dialogue session among participants.

Opening: Presentation of the Agenda and Objectives

Opening Speaker: Mr. Jean-Louis VILLE, Acting-Director for Middle East, Asia and Pacific at Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG-DEVCO, European Commission)

The opening speech was addressed by Mr Jean-Louis VILLE, Acting-Director for Middle East, Asia and Pacific at Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG-DEVCO, European Commission, who explained the steps that the EU has been working on under the European Green Deal to promote the transition to a circular economy in its partner countries around the world. A key priority of the SWITCH-Asia programme over the next two years is the replication of the SCP practices from our grant scheme to a larger scale to ensure that the other countries and communities can benefit from them. To achieve this objective, it will be important to facilitate the access to finance for SMEs so they can integrate these green solutions into their processes, products and services.

Alessandra introduced about the mission of SWITCH-Asia Programme, the objectives and agenda of the meeting, and highlighted key points of discussion for the meeting.

Presentation of the new SWITCH-Asia Video



Session Moderator: Alessandra LEPORE, SWITCH-Asia Coordinator, DG DEVCO, European Commission.

As part of the social media strategy and visibility of the SWITCH-Asia Programme, the SWITCH-Asia video was produced and launched in September 2020 and provided with Chinese and Russian subtitles.

SESSION 1. SWITCH-Asia Programme Implementation: Impact and synergies between regional/national support and grant projects

Session Moderator: Arab HOBALLAH, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility and Mushtaq MEMON, Project Manager, Regional Policy Advocacy Component

Loraine Gatlabayan, Key Expert of Southeast Asia, Mongolia and China, SCP Facility, delivered a presentation on the overall activities during 2020 performed by the 35 ongoing grant projects, clustered by sector, highlighting the main issues covered under each cluster with the aim to identify areas for possible sharing of experience and good practices. Moreover, examples of COVID 19 response activities by selected Grant Projects were presented.

Zulfira Zikrina, Key Expert of Central Asia, SCP Facility, gave an overview of the national support activities in the year 2020 since the adoption of the Programme of work in Hanoi 2019 and showed coherence between thematic areas within Technical Assistance and Grant Projects. Arab presented major highlights from 2020 which ensured an improved programme delivery such as: the synergies created with different components, increased and more systematic collaboration with the EUDs and Grant Projects, more active and extended communication and participation in social media together with the large #WeSwitch campaign and the works that emphasise linkages with relevant EU policies.

Mushtaq and Tunnie Srisakulchairak, Programme Management Officer of Regional Policy Advocacy Component, presented the achievements of programme implementation 2020 in the national and sub-regional/regional levels with key success factors.

Comments / Discussion Points

- The SWITCH-Asia Programme consults with EU Delegations in countries from preparing concept notes based on national requests for technical assistance to the implementation of activities in coordination with National Focal Points. This also includes actions and responses to COVID-19 and integration of SCP with thematic areas of the EU Programme.
- Approaches of SWITCH-Asia Technical Assistance (TA) in countries: with regards to the mode of partnership between EU SWITCH-Asia programme and national government on implementation of the programme, it was clarified that there is no related overall MOU signed, that SWITCH-Asia initiates TA in the country through an approved concept based on the country's demand driven request, in close consultation with the EU Delegation and the NFP. The activities to be conducted take into account national priorities, local context in the country, and its relation to EU policy priorities. It was highlighted that the NFP assumes an important role in horizontal and inter-ministerial coordination to make sure information is

also spread to all other ministries related to the technical assistance and to ensure more successful implementation of the TA.

- RPAC informed that a study on SDG12 monitoring and reporting is in process. A draft report has been prepared following a consultative process. The work is much appreciated by the Ministry, and a related national workshop is being planned. The report is expected to be finalized in the next few months.
- India NFP mentioned the need to keep the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) periodically informed regarding the ongoing activities of technical assistance with the Ministry of Railways on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP), regarding the grant projects, and RPAC's activities. Requested information had been provided previously and updates will be shared soon with the MoEFCC.
- On query regarding request for the intervention of NFPs in the selection process of the grant scheme, it was highlighted that the call of proposals is a competitive process and that no information can be shared on and during the evaluation process. The selection process is done together with the EU Delegation in the country, topics and priorities are discussed and presented ahead to the different government in Asia. However, the European Commission will consider how to better inform the national government about the grant scheme, while respecting the internal rules of the evaluation and selection process.
- Malaysia NFP expressed his country's appreciation to the EU SWITCH-Asia support on SCP Policy during 2012-2016 and look forward to working closely with the EU SWITCH-Asia Programme for the new future. Regarding the demand received from Malaysia, SCPF and RPAC have been in consultation with Malaysia and are currently waiting to receive a green light to initiate technical assistance activities in the next few months. The NFP welcomed the preparations for the TA in Malaysia and looks forward to the implementation of activities when relevant.

Key Messages

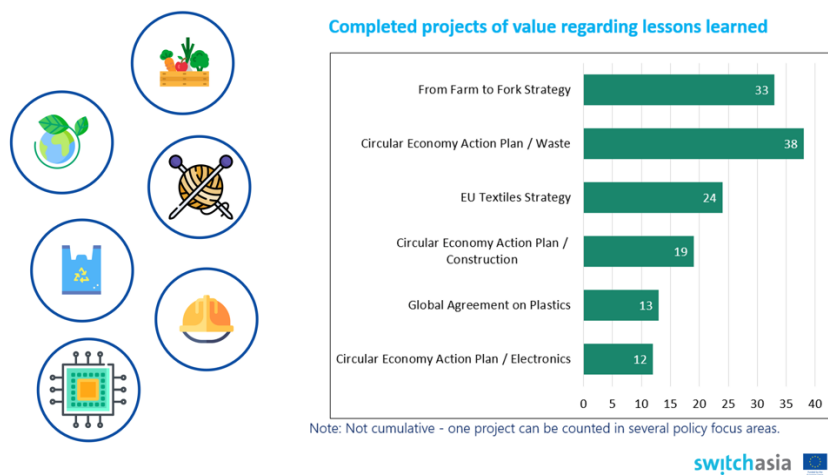
- Better coordination efforts among the SCP Facility, RPAC, EU Delegations and NFPs were considered as critical to establish partnerships needed to effectively implement joint activities in the programme.
- Synergy with grant projects is key to enhance the impact of the SWITCH-Asia Programme on SCP practices.

SESSION 2. The relevance of SWITCH-Asia programme in advancing EU Green Deal priorities and policies together with Partner Countries in Asia and Central Asia

Session Moderator: Alessandra LEPORE, SWITCH-Asia Programme Coordinator, DG DEVCO, European Commission

This session aimed to update the latest developments for the implementation of EU Green Deal's related strategies and Policies and provide an overview of the upcoming initiatives under the EGD.

Alessandra briefly explained about the EU Green Deal, a Growth Strategy adopted by the EU since December 2019. A recent analysis found that more than 100 of the completed and on-going grant projects correspond and contribute adequately to the major European Green Deal topics such as From Farm to Fork Strategy, Circular Economy Action Plan, Waste, Construction, Textiles and Plastics. SWITCH-Asia has been working on those topics.



Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) was presented by Mr. Luca PEREZ, Unit ENV.F2 – Bilateral and Regional Cooperation, Directorate-General for Environment. The CEAP is one of the key pillars of the EU Green Deal. It contains 35 actions to make sustainable products the norm of the EU, empower consumers and public buyers, relevant consideration of key product value chains, minimise waste, make circular work for people, region and cities, and lead global efforts on CE. Establishment of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) is an important element in the CEAP external dimension. EU would like to collaborate in partnership with the countries that are willing to advocate for the transition to CE and the Global Alliance at the UNEA and to lead the way to more exchange and discussion on resource efficiency.

Ms. Cristina Laso SANZ, Deputy Head of Unit, Unit for Bilateral international relations, DG for Health and Food Safety provided a presentation on “From Farm-to-Fork (F2F) and SWITCH-Asia”. She highlighted the works of EU towards a legislative framework for the sustainable food system, sustainable food production, sustainable food consumption, reducing food loss and waste and minimising the risk of ‘imported deforestation’. The relevance for SWITCH-Asia could be through incorporating F2F philosophy as an element of SWITCH-Asia projects. Anticipating of F2F implications could be higher EU standards and traceability, changing EU import demand, and sustainability criteria related to geographical areas.

Comments / Discussion Points

- With regards to the relationship of SWITCH-Asia programme with other ongoing EU projects in the region, the approach of EU in Central Asia, and the number of projects supported under CEAP, it was clarified to CAREC that the CEAP is provided as an EU policy framework which EU committed to do in terms of new legislative development, development of new strategies and expressing certain ambitions to work globally, bilaterally and regionally with the number of partners to push this common agenda. For the context of Central Asia, the EU in Central Asia is very close to policy exchange in the context of a regional platform on environment and water cooperation supported by WECOOP project. The last conference of the EU and Central Asia platform on the environment, the circular economy was identified as one of the key priorities. SWITCH-Asia and REAP project are supporting tools that help deliver those political and policy commitments.
- In its Circular Economy policy, Indonesia has similar components to the EU Green Deal. The five-year strategy (2020-2025) of Indonesia is an initial framework of this instrument that will populate the community of SCP practices of Indonesia. The quantitative target will be considered later after the year 2025. Through the supports from EU SWITCH-Asia II, Indonesia has appreciated the work with three components and will be glad to continue the cooperation with the programme.
- On the role of the programme in facilitating dialogue and cooperation between the various players when it comes to eco-design of material to increase circularity and possibility of fabric, Mushtaq informed that on 9th December 2020, RPAC is organising an online regional dialogue on eco-design. The focus is on the recycling potential, collection system and proper recycling technologies. The link will be shared to the participants.

Key Messages

- SWITCH-Asia grant projects and technical assistance to countries have been practising some F2F interventions even before the strategy was signed and could contribute by providing good examples.
- F2F and CEAP are two important elements of EU Green Deal that would result in global initiatives, as well as closer link, whenever relevant under SWITCH-Asia programme.

SESSION 3. SWITCH-Asia Communications: Raising the visibility of SCP, the SWITCH-Asia programme and the EU in Asia and Central Asia, showcasing impact in countries and in the region

Session Moderator: Sara GABAI, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility

Sara presented the progress and achievements of SWITCH-Asia Communication Strategy including web performance, social media performance, partnerships and synergies and way forward. Regarding the web performance, **over two million people** visited the SWITCH-Asia website since its launch one year ago. Grants projects in Southeast Asia, Central Asia and South Asia enjoy an even share of visibility on the grants database section of the website. Moreover, publications produced by the SCP Facility, namely, the Scoping Studies on Sustainable Housing and Fashion and Apparel Sustainability, are the most viewed resources in the SWITCH-Asia Digital Library, followed by key EU Strategies, including the EU Green Deal.

A notable increase in **web news stories and human-interest stories** published in partnership with grant projects and EU Delegations has also been highlighted. These are the SWITCH-Asia voices from the ground and have received hundreds of views from followers, fans and stakeholders across Asia and Europe. Several stories have also been featured on EU DG DEVCO main website, building pride among grantees.

Cumulative Achievements (1 September – 30 November 2020)



On social media performance, since 1 September 2020, when the **#WeSwitch Social Media Campaign** was launched, we have seen outstanding results in terms of creation of innovative contents on SCP and people's engagement rate (people share, like, comment, save, click links). **481,000** people learned about SWITCH-Asia impact in countries, **470,000** have seen contents on consumer behaviour change (global trend), **223,000** have learned about individual grant

projects and their achievements, and **155,000** are consulting our resources and knowledge products.

Among our fans and followers, **EU Delegations** and their **Ambassadors** and **Heads of Cooperation**, are actively cross-sharing and retweeting SWITCH-Asia contents and staying up to date with ongoing projects and activities in countries. **Grants implementing organizations** and partners are also extremely active on social media, boosting the visibility of their work.

As part of SWITCH-Asia Communications Support / Technical Assistance to the Grants Programme, two webinars on **Effective Communication for Project Implementation** have been organized and delivered by the SCP Facility. Capacities have been built and strengthened on how to create an effective communication plan or strategy. This has resulted in better planning, organizing and implementation of communication activities, including the creation of well-designed project websites, stronger brand identity of each project, and production of creative social media contents. The overall branding of SWITCH-Asia has also been strengthened within the Grants Programme, through effectively applying programme guidelines.

The new **SWITCH-Asia video** (available in English, Russian and Chinese) was streamed at the beginning of the meeting. Three more videos will be produced in the upcoming months on Sustainable Housing, Fashion and Apparel Sustainability, and Waste Management and Plastics.

Comments / Discussion Points

- The participants expressed satisfaction and appreciation of the SWITCH-Asia communication work.
- Joint communication with SWITCH-to-Green helps promote activities of SWITCH-Asia to other regions. The SWITCH-Asia website will also be a platform for SWITCH Family and Partners to share their SCP-related activities in their region.

Key Messages

- Synergies and collaborations among SWITCH-Asia components, EU Delegations and grants projects are key to ensuring successful and impactful communication. Beyond skills and motivation, **passion** is a fundamental ingredient needed when promoting our work nationally and globally. SCP knowledge and the impact of our programme must be widely shared.

SESSION 4. Accelerating Investments on SCP Practices in Asia

Session Moderator: Alessandra LEPORE, Programme Coordinator, DG DEVCO

Alessandra explained the rationale of the review: the EU would like to know the impact of grant projects and ensure that governments could use the outputs to improve their national/regional policies, legislative and regulatory frameworks, among others. During the past few months, a review team coordinated by the SCPF analysed the impacts of grant projects and selected business cases of successful SCP practices with opportunities for scale-up and replication.



Projects' Review 2020



Verify the **impacts** of our projects in the region;

Select **business cases of successful SCP practices** with opportunities for reproduction and to be discussed with financial institutions and investors;

Improve the investment climate for “Green Solutions” in Asia providing evidence to investors that investing in SCP brings short-term (and long-term) economic benefits.

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Cosima Stahr, Key Expert of South Asia, SCP Facility, delivered a presentation on “Lessons learnt, challenges and opportunities for scaling-up and replicating SCP practices tested by SWITCH-Asia Grants (2007-2020): Business Cases for investors”. Cosima briefly outlined the process of and outcomes from the Grant projects review. The presentation aimed to provide participants with the most relevant aspects of the grant project’s review and in-depth ideas on how to best integrate financing into grant project delivery.

The review was conducted from May – October 2020. It covered all completed and ongoing projects, including 16 multi-country projects. An in-depth presentation of analyses and recommendations by the review team will follow in January 2020. Four steps were carried out, including a qualitative and quantitative review of 125 projects, clustering of projects according to economic sectors, and SCP practises, in-depth review of projects with financing opportunities and recommendations for grant scheme and financing. Recommendations from the study team is a standardised set of indicators for the grant projects to do their reporting, which is not only relevant to grant projects but also for monitoring national SDG 12

implementation. While many relevant indicators can be taken up by the SWITCH to Green programme, additional suggested indicators for SWITCH Asia are on consumption and social benefits that grant projects have.

The finance analysis was conducted to assess the prerequisite for scale-up, replication and impact at scale. The presentation of 7 successful sample financing approaches of grant projects showed that there are several contributing factors that they share, including sector and SCP practice promoted, as well as established relationships between SMEs and national or local financial institutions. An important aspect shared by the seven sample cases was a policy component, linking to either new national legislation or to international financing schemes.

For the next coming year, SCPF will analyse those success cases in detail regarding national SCP financing landscapes, further engagement of grant projects, the establishment of a networking platform, and organise finance-focused events with different stakeholders.

Comments / Discussion Points

- Considering that micro-finance institutions are less developed in Central Asia, how can the Grant Projects do a bankable microfinance product after completing the project with special loans to MSMEs? Being a grant, no additional resources can be provided for the continuation of the project. SWITCH-Asia's assistance is to help grant projects developing their business plan, to further develop their technologies and products, that could be presented to investors and how to identify suitable indicators where the project is making a change locally.
- The representative of MSME Clusters Bamboo project in India shared his view on key aspects for successful financing in the project, including trust at the centre and local level, bridging the gaps between actors, state-level financing programme and singular financing programme.
- It is challenging to connect financial flows and the willingness of financiers to invest in more SCP relevant practices and understanding the need of those who would take up those types of financing. It requires very detail-oriented type of work; this implies high "transaction costs" which financial institutions typically try to avoid and where programmes like SWITCH Asia could provide support.
- The representative of the SWITCH Off Air pollution project described how the project set up the financing scheme for the project and how they scoped both the needs of households implementing the energy efficiency measures, the procedures of the local bank, and of international climate finance so that financing was successful; in addition, there will be a new policy on energy efficiency in this type of housing come into effect early 2021, which will further increase demand by households.
- With regards to promoting green finance in countries where the financial framework is challenging and no enabling conditions exist for SMEs to get green loans, the EU adopts different approaches. One of them is an international platform for sustainable finance.

This platform enables exchange among countries on their financing policies, and several Asian countries, i.e. China, Indonesia, Malaysia, are part of this group. For national banking authorities that are interested to join the platform SWITCH-Asia can facilitate the connection with EU directorate general that oversees it. This is also another way to push the green finance transition in countries. RPAC is also supporting sustainable finance in Myanmar by initiating a project on sustainable finance to understand the mechanism and how the banks can provide low-interest green loans for different types of new businesses.

- Concerning replicability and scaling up against the limited timespan of projects and a possibility to receiving funds for the 2nd and 3rd phase of SWITCH-Asia, the EU reiterated that no such automatic possibility exists and that funds are allocated to the best proposals from a selection process in which all submissions compete equally.

Key Messages

- Project design and project implementation should devote more attention to defining clear financing targets, so as to ensure better impact and scaling up of the project outcomes. It is also important to have a strong relationship between financial institutions and SMEs and/or conduct relationship building as part of the SWITCH-Asia programme; a trustful relationship between SMEs and financial institutions and consideration of their needs is the prerequisite for successful financing of SMEs to scale up or replicate grant projects.

SESSION 5. The Way Forward Towards Our Shared Goals: SWITCH-Asia activities (2021-mid-2022) and joint efforts with Partner Countries and key organisations in the region

Session Moderator: Arab HOBALLAH, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility, and Mushtaq MEMON, Regional Policy Advocacy Component

A presentation on the expected/upcoming national and regional supports and side actions of SCP Facility and RPAC for the year 2021 until mid-2022 was given by Arab, Mushtaq and Tunnie.

For SCP Facility, the technical assistance prepared in response to demand and its implementation associate as much as possible the grant projects in the countries, at least through regular consultations. The proposed activities in countries are categorised according to clustered thematic issues including NAP on SCP, housing/buildings, textiles and garments, agri-food, waste management, plastics, sustainable/green public procurement, sustainable finance, cleaner production and communication. Such thematic clustering allows for easier collaboration. By bringing the grant projects' technical work in countries to be associated in regional events and share experience, events organised at sub-regional level by RPAC and other entities, as well as with technical assistance in countries, value-added is expected

together with the development of synergies for increased impact. Moreover, SCPF plans to organise internal consultations on thematic issues among the EUDs, NFPs and grant projects, those working on similar topics to exchange experiences between countries and partners. Selected topics for these internal consultations-brainstorming sessions will be along the identified thematic clusters above. These could be considered as a preparatory step for few larger conferences, structured around the SWITCH-Asia programme related thematic achievements to better value the experiences cross-border and building partnerships.

Valuing SWITCH-Asia Work & Synergies 2021-2022



Housing and Buildings
Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Bangladesh,
Grant Projects, EUDs



Textiles and Garments
Cambodia, Uzbekistan, Grant
Projects, EUDs



Agri-food
Kyrgyzstan, Vietnam, Bhutan,
Tajikistan, Grant Projects, EUDs



Waste/plastics management
Lao PDR, Pakistan, Kazakhstan,
Grant Projects, EUDs



Sustainable Public Procurement
Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan,
Thailand, Indonesia, India,
Mongolia, Grant Projects, EUDs



NAP SCP
Central Asia, Cambodia, Lao
PDR, Myanmar, Maldives,
EUDs

The proposed activities of RPAC for the year 2021 are built on the activities implemented in the previous year and observation and comments received during the dialogues this year. RPAC will organise policy dialogues covering sustainable finance, eco-design, food waste, SPP and promote more engagement of the private sector also in policy dialogues. Activities at the country level will be continuing and completing on advocating for enabling environment to the process of SCP roadmaps. On SCP policy instrument and demonstration, RPAC will focus on taking up F2F strategy and demonstrate in Asia as a sub-regional area. The Leadership Academy will focus on CE technology and making dialogues through the World Environment Day celebrations in Thailand, China and India to demonstrate and highlight tools. With regards to SDG 12 uptake, the focus will be to complete the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting for India and Pakistan, produce more regional assessment, indicators, and database to link SCP to other emerging issues in Asia.

Comments / Discussion Points

- APRSCP is organising a conference in March/April 2021 in the Philippines and considers the suggested topics mentioned in this PSC in the event. The APRSCP extends its appreciation to SWITCH-Asia for their interest to partner with APRSCP in organising the 2021 event and will work closely with SWITCH-Asia on selection of priority themes for the

event, to which relevant grant projects will be invited to participate, either in person if possible or remotely.

- ICLEI expressed an interest to collaborate with the SWITCH-Asia programme on the dissemination of information on relevant activities and outputs to the city and sub-national levels of implementation. ICLEI has launched a programme on finance (TAP Programme) which ICLEI can link to the financial initiatives of SWITCH-Asia and scaling up the pilot projects. Such cooperation could strengthen national and city level implementation of SCP for a more impactful delivery.
- With regards to the links between sustainable tourism and COVID, it will be useful to consult on related activities by the sustainable tourism programme of 10YFP - One Planet Network, to which SCPF can connect concerned partners such as the Heraklion Development Agency (HDA).
- With regards to the possibility to encourage national institution, private sector, and international partners for collaboration to assess the existing condition in Nepal, RPAC highlighted that they expect receiving an official request from Nepal so as to be able to include it in the work plan which will be submitted to the EU by 15th February. Regarding sustainable finance, RPAC will contact the EUD and specific partners when organising the activities.

Key Messages

- Strengthen cooperation and partnerships in delivering activities, involving EUDs, NFPS, other national stakeholders, Grant projects and regional/international partners, to ensure cross-border exchange of experiences and larger impact;
- Ensure that the EUDs are regularly informed about progress and keep them informed about contacts with NFPS and relevant local/regional partnerships;
- Look more systematically for synergies with the grant projects in national and regional activities/events;

Wrap up and Conclusion

Session Moderator: Alessandra LEPORE, Programme Coordinator, DG DEVCO

Alessandra expressed her thanks to the participants, while informing on following proposed activities of the SWITCH-Asia Programme:

- Between January and May 2021, SWITCH-Asia SCPF will organise a series of meetings for sector areas to share experiences among countries.
- Relation between COVID and green recovery will be further explored, in particular in the context of the Grants Programme.

- In support to the green finance programme, more partners will be identified and associated, in particular for possible synergies and joint events.
- The SWITCH-Asia calendar will be shared with potential partners highlighting the major events and receiving feedback on how we could create opportunities to further engage with them.
- An evaluation form will be sent to the participants to provide feedback, suggestion on the programme implementation and expectations.

ANNEXES

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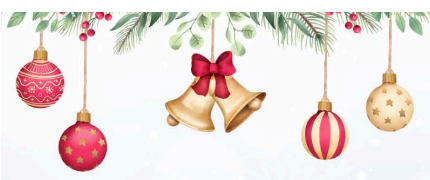
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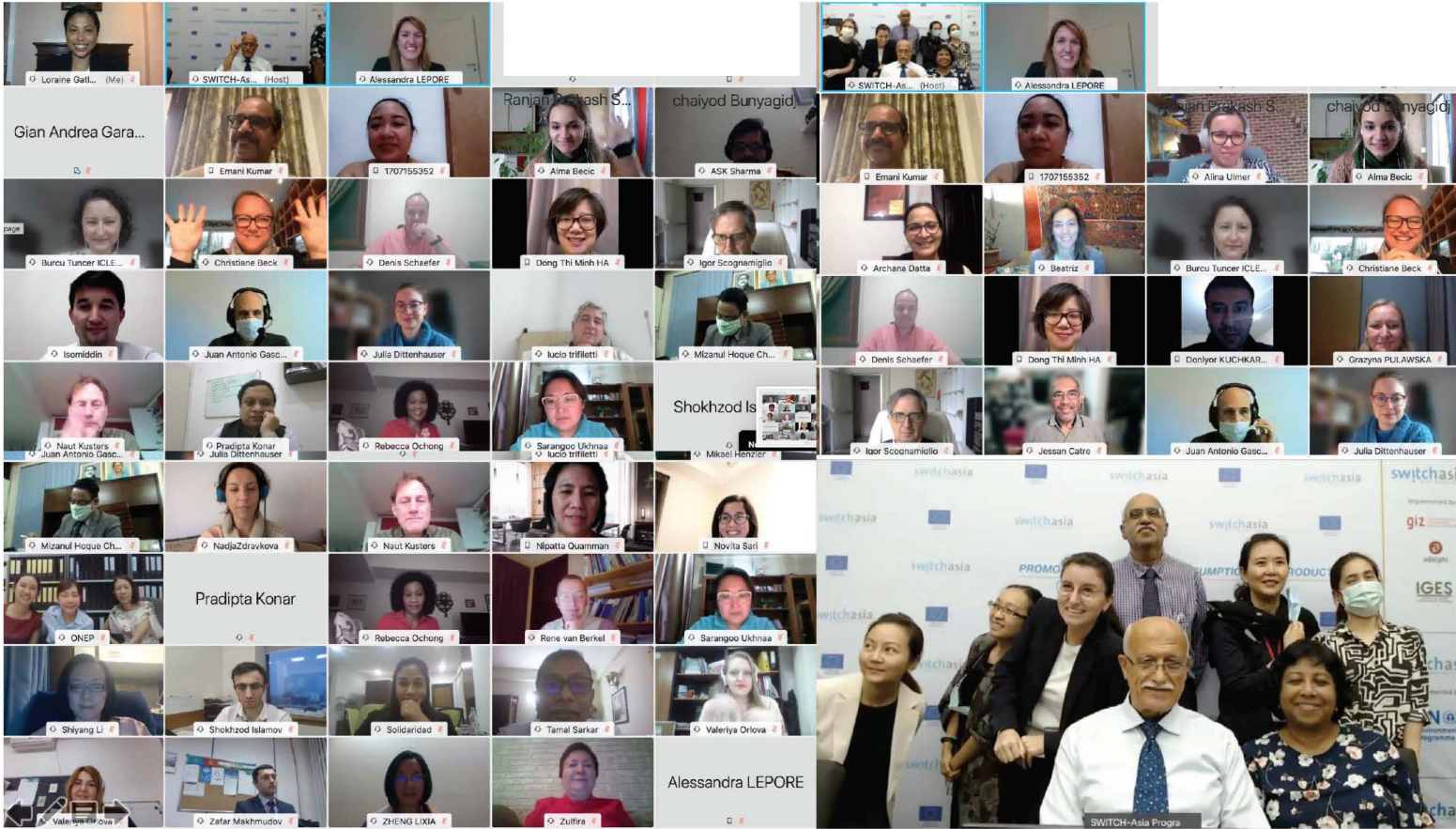
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Your next action, even if small, can transform the world. Make it a responsible one!

Share on your Facebook or Twitter the action you wish to take to transform the world into a better one.

Use our hashtags [#WeWish](#) [#WeSwitch](#)



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