

AGENDA

INTERNAL THEMATIC CONSULTATIVE AND BRAINSTORMING MEETING

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

Plastics

7th July, 2021 (1500-17:00 BKK TIME) | WEBEX

The [EU SWITCH-Asia Programme](#) provides a platform for partnerships and networks between Europe and Asia, supporting the implementation of national strategies and action plans on SCP practices. With the assistance of the European Commission, Asian countries are supported to transition towards low-carbon, resource-efficient and more circular economies that contribute to poverty reduction. This is done by technical assistance provided by the SCP Facility and the Regional Policy Advocacy Component at government-level, and through the Grants Programme in support of the regions' SCP-relevant entrepreneurs and SMEs.

A series of “**Internal thematic cluster consultative and brainstorming meetings**” is part of SWITCH-Asia activities 2021-mid-2022, featuring joint efforts with partner countries and key organisations in the region.

Objective

The objective of the consultation meeting on plastics is to strengthen cooperation through the three SWITCH-Asia components (SCP Facility, Grants programme and Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC)), involving the Country EU Delegations (EUDs), the National Focal Points (NFPs) of partner countries and their Ministry together with SWITCH-Asia implementing Ministry (if applicable), grant projects, and selected regional and international partners, to ensure an active exchange of experiences and ideas for creating larger impact.

Output

Hosted by the SCP Facility, the meeting is designed to achieve the following:

- Increased understanding of Asian countries' diversity and shared priorities regarding plastics, as well as relevance of EU initiatives on plastics for the region;
- Exchanging experiences among Asian and European experts on how policy-making, consumer awareness and private sector efforts are needed for systemic changes;
- Informing stakeholders of the SWITCH-Asia programme's learning experiences and achievements on plastics;
- Building the understanding and laying basis for initiating partnerships with participants;
- Prepare a high-level SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility event on plastics planned for beginning of 2022;
- Flagging of important issues for consideration by the EU for the next programming phase and for potential collaboration with other organisations.

TIME (min)	TOPICS	PRESENTERS
10	Welcome Remarks and Video <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance, urgency and visibility of the plastics challenge • Multitude of facets – good, bad & ugly 	Dr. Arab HOBALLAH, Team Leader SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility
10	Challenges and opportunities (EU) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the EU Plastics strategy, what are important milestones? In which way is the strategy relevant to Asian countries? • What are main barriers for adopting national strategies that tackle the plastics challenge? How could a global agreement strengthen their uptake? 	Mr. Luca MARMO, Senior Expert, DG Environment, European Commission
7	Presentation of major trends and challenges in Asia and opportunities for action – including focus on consumers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of (national) challenges • Role of consumers, corporate sector, policy and need for systemic change • Potential solutions 	Dr. Magnus BENGTTSSON, Expert, Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) Project
3	Sharing of experiences: Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different level examples from the SWITCH-Asia programme and interrelatedness of policy-level support, consumer awareness, corporate action 	Ms. Cosima STAHR, South Asia Expert, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility
5	Pakistan SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility assignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status and challenges around plastics in Pakistan • Main results of the assignment, including survey on single-use plastics • Policy recommendations and next steps 	Dr. Saima SHAFIQUE, Assignment Expert, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility / Mr. Irfan TARIQ, Director General Ministry of Climate Change
5	Laos SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility assignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations development including regulatory, economic, information and supportive instruments • Collaboration with other partners (e.g., World Bank) 	Mr. Steven LONG, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility Assignment Expert

TIME (min)	TOPICS	PRESENTERS
5	<p><u>Luang Prabang Handle With Care</u> (SWITCH-Asia grant project in Laos)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project experiences: an intervention at urban level • How did businesses work with the project? • What were effective means to shift perceptions and behaviours? 	<p>Ms. Thuy Phuong NGUYEN, Grant project SCP Expert, <u>SUSTOUR</u> and Handle with Care</p>
5	<p><u>PROMISE</u> (Regional SWITCH-Asia grant project in the Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can consumers/tourists/ urban and national policy be engaged? • Why choose a multi-partnership project setup? 	<p>Dr. Abdullah NAZEER, Project Manager, The Maldives National University</p>
40	<p>Panel discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can a transformative, systemic shift on plastics be propelled, and how can the concept of circularity contribute? What role for policymakers, businesses, and consumers? 2. What are the main challenges and opportunities for replicating and scaling-up SCP practices on plastics? What can SWITCH-Asia grant projects, EU Delegations, or the SCP Facility contribute? 3. What needs to be done at international, national and local/urban levels so that the plastic challenge can be solved? 4. What can the SWITCH-Asia programme do to reflect this topic's importance and urgency? 	<p>Moderator: Cosima STAHR Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jed ALEGADO, Senior Communications Officer, Break Free from Plastics Asia Pacific • Mr. Alvaro ZURITA, Team Leader, Rethinking plastics - Circular economy solutions to marine litter, GIZ • Ms. Soumya CHATURVEDULA, Deputy Director, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability South Asia • Mr. Feng WANG, Programme Officer, UNEP
20	Audience questions and discussion	
5	Summary and outlook	