

Flash report

**Mainstreaming the Greening:
Sustainable Procurement in the Philippines**



Date: 10 February 2022 | 14.00 – 16.00 (Thailand Time)

Venue: Online via Zoom Webinar

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List of Acronyms:

APRSCP	Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production
GPP	Green Public Procurement
GPPB	Government Procurement Policy Board
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SPP	Sustainable Public Procurement
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

Background:

Sustainable development and transitioning towards a greener economy rely on a holistic cycle that reduces the impact of economic activities on the environment, with a focus on enforcing greener life-cycle of products, building market demand for sustainable products and production technologies, and shifting consumer choices to make informed decisions towards sustainability. Given the government's authority to enforce policies as well as the mechanism to trigger market demand, it is seen as an essential driver in influencing consumption of environment-friendly products. Likewise, as a large consumer of goods and services, the public sector has the potential to influence manufacturers and service providers towards the use of sustainable raw materials and practices in their business operations. Establishing and maintaining this virtuous loop is an essential role for the government.

In 2020, the House of Representatives passed the House Bill No. 6954 or the Green Public Procurement Act (GPPA). Anchored on the governing principles of GPRA, the GPPA intends to build and promote sustainable practices and informed decision-making across the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of the Philippine government by incorporating environmental, economic, and social considerations in government procurement processes through the Green Public Procurement (GPP) Program implemented by the Government Public Procurement Board (GPPB). Pursuing this is consistent with the country's commitment to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Green initiatives in both public and private sectors are key in achieving SDG12 goals. In this webinar, we highlight the efforts done by the government in Green Public Procurement, and we showcase how one company in the private sector is incorporating green efforts in their management decisions. These programs ensure adherence to sustainable consumption and production (SCP) with the end goal of shifting towards a circular economy.

Objectives of the event:

- To create a conversation on implementing green procurement in the Philippines
- To share results of Philippines GPP country status report

Logistical information about the event:

A Zoom webinar was conducted on February 10, 2022 to jumpstart the conversation on green procurement in the Philippines. Dr. Mushtaq Memon of UN Environment Programme and Mr. Sanjay Kumar of Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP) delivered the Welcome Remarks. This was followed shortly by the technical session where Dr. Jonna Baquillas from APRSCP shared the country status report of GPP implementation in the Philippines, while Ms. Meryl Adiel from McDonald's Philippines discussed the organization's sustainable consumption initiatives. Panel reactors provided their insights on ASEAN GPP perspective by Dr. Chaiyod Bunyagidj of Thai SCP Network, and sustainable procurement in public and private sectors by Mr. June Alvarez of Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, INC (PCEPSDI). A total of 80 participants joined the online event.

Welcome and Opening remarks:

Welcome Remarks by RPAC

Dr. Mushtaq Memon

Project Manager, the EU SWITCH-Asia RPAC

Dr. Memon acknowledged the support of EU in promoting SCP programs in the region. He emphasized that the SDG12 focuses of sustainable consumption and production, and these initiatives strengthen achieving goal 12.7 which emphasizes the importance of sustainable public procurement. Given the government spending is equivalent to 13 to 15% of the GDP, public procurement can influence the market by building the proper criteria for products and working with suppliers to adhere to green specifications. He concluded by stating that the discussion is an important conversation to tackle how Philippines can take advantage of SPP in achieving its national targets, global commitments, and bring sustainable development to the local level.

Welcome Remarks by APRSCP

Mr. Sanjay Kumar

APRSCP President

Mr. Kumar began by thanking EU SWITCH-Asia for partnering with APRSCP to conduct this multi-country study in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia. He briefly introduced APRSCP to the audience, and the active participation of Philippine members and officers in mainstreaming SCP and influencing policy and practices in the country. He ended by welcoming all the participants, expressing his joy that people are willing to be part of this important conversation.

Panel Session:

Green Public Procurement Implementation: *Presentation of Country Status Report*

Dr. Jonna Baquillas

Board of Trustees, APRSCP

Dr. Baquillas opened her discussion by emphasizing briefly the role of sustainable development in responding to climate crisis. She then introduced the public procurement process, showing the steps where “greening” can be incorporated. She then presented the status of GPP implementation in the Philippines, covering legislation, GPP Roadmap, and the National Ecolabeling Program. This was followed by discussing the prioritized products with green specifications (10 common-use and 10 non-common-use supplies and equipment), updates on GPP implementation, and the issues and challenges. She concluded by emphasizing the role of the government in influencing sustainable procurement among other stakeholders in the market.

Mainstreaming the Greening in Fast Food: *The Case of McDonalds*

Meryl Adiel Hernandez

Corporate Relations Director, McDonalds Philippines

Ms. Hernandez discussed McDonald's Philippines' sustainability initiatives. Their actions center on safety of product, people, community, and planet, and anchors their activities to the sustainable development plans. Specifically on SDG12, she shared the "Green & Good" program where they utilize green building solutions through the use of sustainable building system and materials, utility efficient solutions that reduce consumption of energy and water, and proper waste management and sustainable food packaging. She showed the financial impact assessment, and the vision of transforming more stores adapting the "Green & Good" program through expansion and responsible scaling.

Reactor: GPP ASEAN Perspective

Dr. Chaiyod Bunyagidj

Vice President, Thai SCP Network

Dr. Bunyagidj shared the experiences in the region when it comes to GPP implementation. He acknowledged the issues and challenges presented in the earlier discussion by Dr. Baquillas, and offered suggestions to improve the implementation moving forward.

Reactor: Sustainable Procurement in the Public and Private Sectors

Mr. June Alvarez

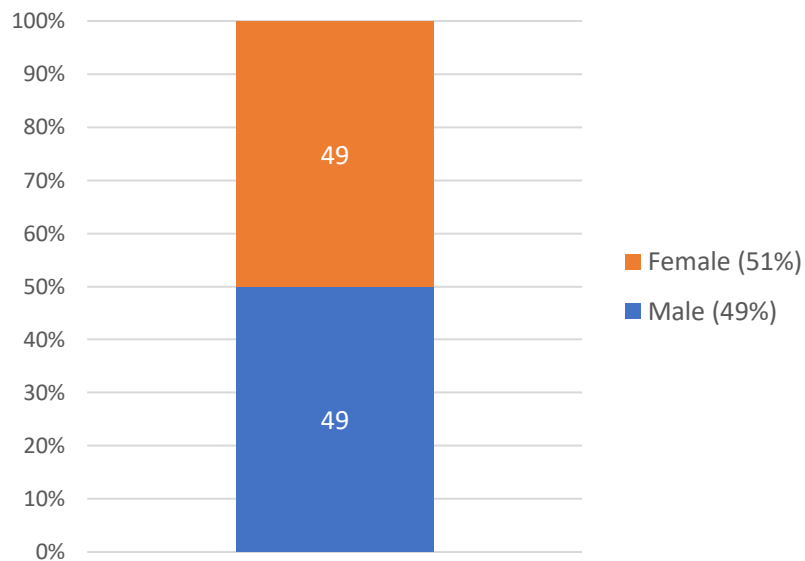
President & Executive Director, Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, INC (PCEPSDI)

Mr. Alvarez recounted his involvement in the development of the National Ecolabeling Program in the Philippines. Having worked in this field for many years, he understands the struggles in implementing GPP in the country. He emphasized the importance of everyone's role in ensuring that GPP is properly implemented, from policy decisions to monitoring and evaluating implementation progress.

Review on Participants:

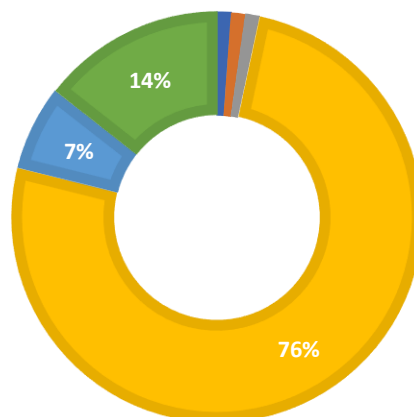
A total of 90 participants were present during the webinar, with an attendance rate of 82.6% versus the registration. Attendees came from different sectors. There is an almost equal distribution of gender, with 46 females (51%) and 44 males (49%). Participants came from the following countries: China, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and USA.

Registration by Gender (%)

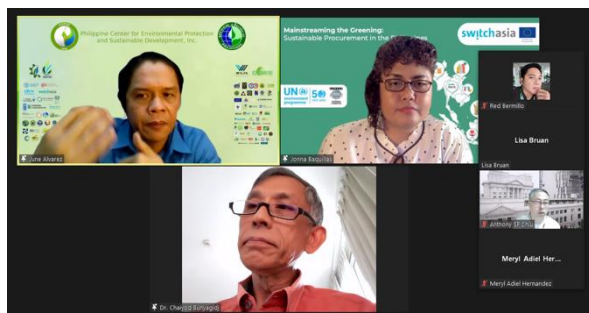
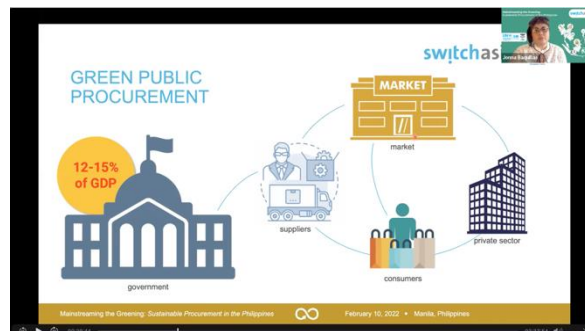


Attendees By Country (%)

■ China ■ India ■ Malaysia ■ Philippines ■ Thailand ■ USA



Snapshots of the event:



Annex:

Annex 1: The Final agenda

Time (ICT)	Theme
1400-1405	Introductory Opening Ms. Lisa Bruan
1405-1410	Welcome Remarks by RPAC Dr. Mushtaq Memon Project Manager, the EU SWITCH-Asia RPAC
1410-1415	Welcome Remarks by APRSCP Mr. Sanjay Kumar APRSCP President
1415-1445	Green Public Procurement Implementation: Presentation of Country Status Report Dr. Jonna C. Baquillas APRSCP Board of Trustees
1445-500	Mainstreaming the Greening in Fast Food: <i>The Case of McDonalds</i> Dr. Ms. Meryl Adiel Hernandez Corporate Relations Director, McDonalds Philippines
1500-1515	Reactor: GPP ASEAN Perspective Dr. Chaiyod Bunyagidj Vice President, Thai SCP Network
1515-1530	Reactor: Sustainable Procurement in the Public and Private Sectors Mr. June Alvarez President & Executive Director, Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, INC (PCEPSDI)
1530-1545	Q & A Ms. Lisa Bruan
1545-1600	Evaluation Poll and Ways Forward Ms. Lisa Bruan

For more information

Enhancing the implementation of Green Public Procurement in the Southeast Asian Region

<http://switch-asia.eu/event/enhancing-the-implementation-of-the-green-public-procurement-in-southeast-asian-region/>

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