

## Flash report

# National Webinar: Enhancing the Implementation of the Green Public Procurement in Malaysia



**Date:** 14 February 2022 | 09.15 – 11.30 (Malaysia Time)

**Venue:** Online via Google Meet

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## List of Acronyms:

<b>APRCP</b>	Asia Pacific Roundtable for Cleaner Production
<b>APRSCP</b>	Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>ENSEARCH</b>	Environmental Management and Research
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GGP</b>	Government Green Procurement
<b>GP</b>	Green Procurement
<b>GPP</b>	Green Public Procurement
<b>MGTC</b>	Malaysian Green Technology & Climate Change Corporation
<b>RPAC</b>	Regional Policy Advocacy Component
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme

## Background:

The European Commission defines Green Public Procurement (GPP) as a process, whereby public authorities seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle when compared to goods, services and works with the same primary function that would otherwise be procured. The benefits associated with GPP implementation are not limited to environmental impact but can also include social, health, economic or political benefits.

Over the last two decades, there has been growing political commitment to promote GPP not only in EU member states but also at international level, with sustainable procurement policies having been launched in many countries, including in Southeast Asia. In 2002, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) adopted a Recommendation on green public procurement, while in the same year, as a follow-up to the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, a Marrakech Task force on sustainable procurement was created with the aim of spreading sustainable (green) public procurement practices. More recently, the 10YFP / One Planet Network Programme on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) was developed as a global multi-stakeholder platform supporting the implementation of SPP around the world.

In Southeast Asia, almost every country integrates GPP in their national policy. However, in order to drive green markets and GPP, countries require mechanisms and tools to be in place. Green Procurement (GP) has also been promoted among the private sector and general consumers, contributing to both sustainable consumption and production (SCP).

Asia Pacific Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP), in partnership with EU-Switch Asia, is doing a research on the status of GPP implementation in Malaysia. The main objective is to get the latest input on 'Green Public Procurement' implementation. The result of this research will be combined together with EU-Switch Asia's research on 'Enhancing the implementation of the Green Public Procurement in Southeast Asian Region'.

This webinar will become one of the catalysts to encourage local industries, service providers, and manufacturing industries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 12 by Malaysian Government

## Objectives of the event:

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

## Logistic information about the event:

The National Webinar on Enhancing the Green Public Procurement in Malaysia was organized as an online event (via Google Meet) and was attended by a total of 43 participants.

## Summary of key messages:

### Welcome address by ENSEARCH

**Dr. Subramaniam Karuppannan**

Vice-President, ENSEARCH

Dr Subramaniam welcomed participants and thanked all for their interest in Green Procurement. He introduced and outlined the objectives of the webinar expressing hope that this webinar would catalyze more uptake of SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production from local industries, service providers and manufacturing industries in Malaysia. He mentioned about the forth-coming sub-regional webinar on Enhancing the Implementation of Green Public Procurement in the Southeast Asian Region that will deliberate the outcome of the study. He also briefly described ENSEARCH and its objectives, and its activities under SDG 12 including raising GPP awareness in industry.

### Remarks by RPAC

**Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon**

Project Manager, EU SWITCH-Asia RPAC

Dr. Mushtaq outlined the sub-regional GPP project and expressed the hope of learning from each other for those promoting GPP and leapfrog the national knowledge. The possibility of developing uniformity across the sub-region was mentioned. Sustainable Public Procurement has been included under SDG 12.7 and it is high time to incorporate GPP into national public procurement and enable this to trickle down into the private sector. Green Procurement is not very different from conventional procurement except that it includes technical improvements incorporating the life cycle approach. He illustrated with an example of the plastic industry.

### Remarks by APRSCP

**Dr. Chaiyod Bunyagidj**

Vice President, Thai SCP Network

Board Member, APRSCP

Dr. Chaiyod shared the history of APRSCP as a multi-stakeholder for sustainable consumption and production since 1997 when it was first conceived as APRCP. It adopted its current name in 2006. Since its inception, 15 APRSCP roundtables have been organized, with the 16th APRSCP scheduled for October 2022 in Sri Lanka. APRSCP has worked with UNEP on projects and programs to promote SCP in the ASEAN region. For this GPP project, country webinars have already been conducted in Philippines and Indonesia. It is hoped that the study will bring regional aspirations to country levels in GPP.

## Panel Sessions:

### Draft Report Presentation

**Dr Hariramalu Ragavan**

Board of Trustees, APRSCP

Council member, ENSEARCH

Principal Consultant, AKARASIA

Dr. Hari presented the Malaysia Country Report on Current Status of GPP Implementation. With a view to promoting GPP best practices the study is a brief assessment of salient features of GPP implementation, focusing on the public sector. The Malaysian government uses the term Government Green Procurement for GPP. Related government policies initiated since 2009 with the Green Technology Policy were described. Subsequently the National SCP Blueprint is instrumental for GPP implementation, as well as solid backing for GPP in the Malaysian 11th and 12th Development Plans. So far implementation has been carried out through Treasury circulars and administrative orders. Integral to GPP is the MyHIJAU program for registering and certifying green technologies, products and services, and green labelling schemes. Departments responsible were named, with the Ministry of Finance having a major role in leading the implementation of GPP. The Criteria for GPP was mentioned. Results of GPP implementation as at end 2020 were shared, with an overall achievement exceeding the 2020 target of 20%. Challenges mentioned included lack of private sector traction for GP, no legal framework for mandatory GPP, lack of expertise and lack of skills. In considering the way forward, Government linked companies can play a role in GPP promotion, a possible need for a certified GPP Procurer course (GPNM with ENSEARCH and SIRIM). More research and study are needed as well as an independent Green Directory to encourage more private sector participation.

## Conclusion session:

**Dr. Subramaniam Karuppannan**

Vice-President ENSEARCH

Dr Subramaniam informed that ENSEARCH will incorporate the suggestions and recommendations in this webinar into the final report to be forwarded to the Malaysian government through the Economic Planning Unit.

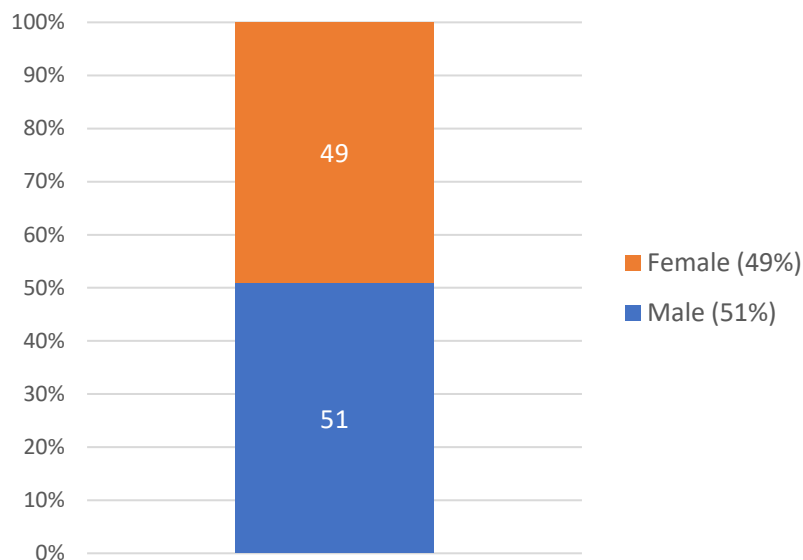
There is a need to engage the private sector more in order to develop the green procurement mechanism for the industry so that business-to-business green procurement and business-to-consumer green purchasing can be encouraged. The government of Malaysia had shown good example by leading the effort to develop and implement green procurement through GPP. Now the private sector and consumer should also make efforts to implement green procurement and purchasing to support SDG12.

More support is needed for SDG 12 – the implementation is not good enough at the moment. The Asia Pacific SDG 2021 progress report shows that SDG 12 is not performing well in this region. ENSEARCH is committed to support the implementation of the SDG12 in Malaysia by supporting activities under the National SCP Blueprint that the government of Malaysia has developed and have lined up some activities accordingly.

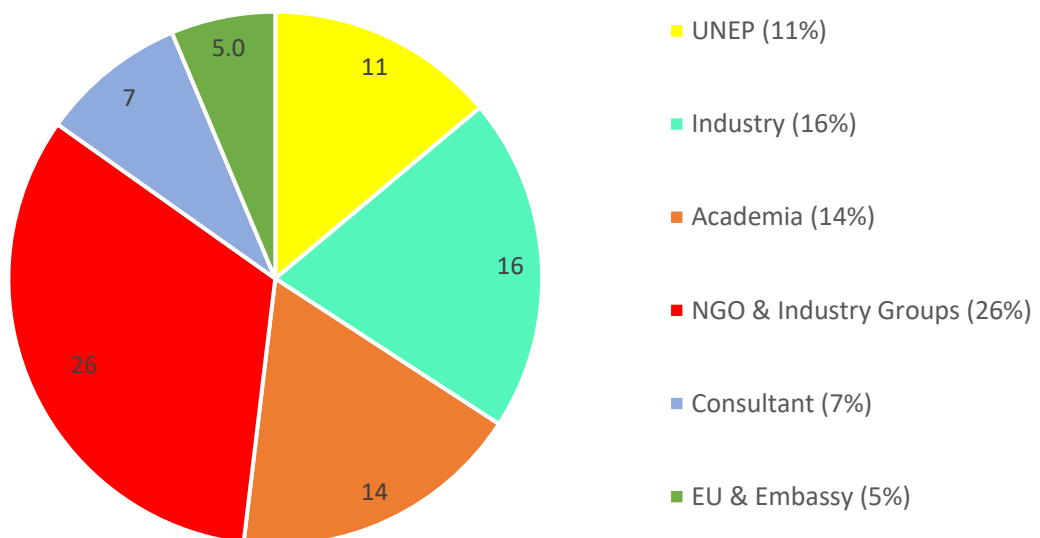
## Review on Participants:

More than 40 participants registered prior to the events. The regional dialogue was attended by approximately 43 participants belonging to different stakeholder groups on Google Meet. Figures below present the distribution of participants who registered prior to the event by stakeholders. Based on the registrations, 51% of the participants were male and 49% were female.

Registration by Gender (%)

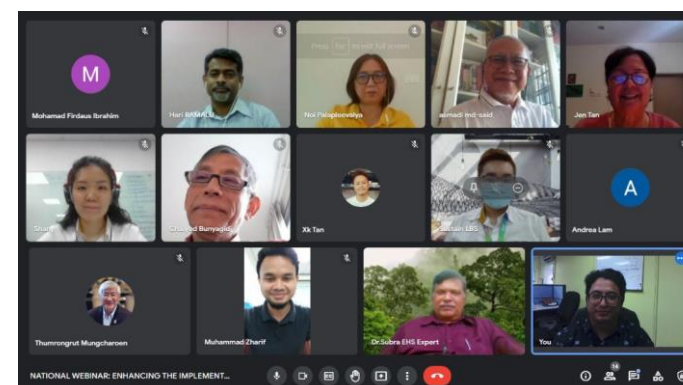
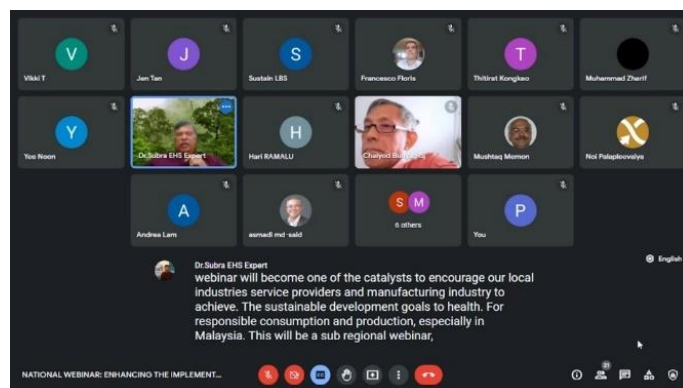
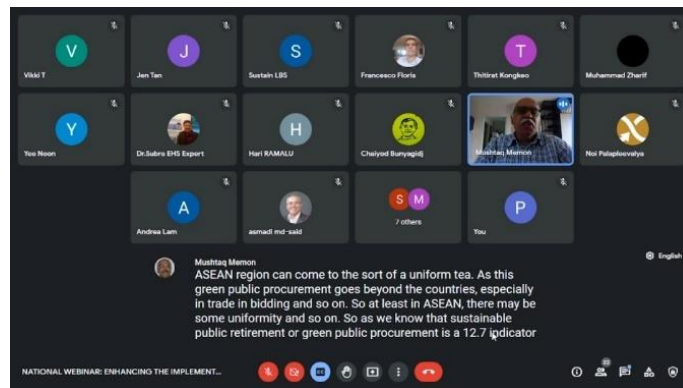


Registration by Stakeholders (%)





## Snapshots of the event:





## Annex:

### Annex 1: The Final agenda

<b>Time (MYT)</b>	<b>Theme</b>
<b>0915-0925</b>	<b>Welcome address by ENSEARCH</b> <b>Dr. Subramaniam Karuppannan</b> Vice President, ENSEARCH
<b>0925-0935</b>	<b>Remarks by RPAC</b> <b>Dr. Mushtaq Memon</b> Project Manager, EU SWITCH-Asia RPAC
<b>0935-0940</b>	<b>Remarks by APRSCP</b> <b>Dr. Chaigyod Bunyagidj</b> Vice President, Thai SCP Network Board Member, APRSCP
<b>0940-0945</b>	<b>Remarks by the Government representative</b> (TBC)
<b>0945-1045</b>	<b>Presentation on the Draft Report</b> <b>Dr. Hari Ramalu Ragayan</b> Board of Trustees APRSCP Council member ENSEARCH Principal Consultant AKARASIA
<b>1045-1145</b>	<b>Discussion with Participants</b> <b>Dr. Hari Ramalu Ragayan</b>
<b>1145-1230</b>	<b>Conclusion and closing Remarks</b> <b>Dr. Subramaniam Karuppannan</b>

## For more information

SWITCH-Asia event page:

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

### **Contact SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Funded by European Union**

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