

Flash report

Sub-Regional Webinar:

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



Date: 21 February 2022, 1330-1530 Bangkok Time

Venue: Online via Zoom Webinar with host in Thailand

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List of Acronyms:

APRSCP	Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GP	Green Public Procurement
GPP	Green Public Procurement
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SPP	Sustainable Public Procurement
RPAC	Regional Policy Advocacy Component
WTO	World Trade Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
10YFP	10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

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).

In 2020, as part of its SCP policy support to Thailand, the EU SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility has implemented the project: “Mainstream Green Integration of Thailand: Transformation from Policy to Implementation”. Under this initiative, a Green Procurement Policy, an Action Plan, and a National Green Directory have been integrated with Thailand’s Action Plan of Green Procurement Promotion (2021-2022) developed by the Pollution Control Department (PCD), the organisation responsible for GPP/GP in Thailand. This model was also developed to test how to advance green procurement in other government agencies, both central and local, as well as among private sector organisations.

In 2021, the EU SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC) has partnered with the Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP) to conduct a study to enhance the uptake and implementation of GPP Policies in Southeast Asian countries, using the results of the project, “Mainstream Green Integration of Thailand: Transformation from Policy to Implementation” supported by the SCP Facility. The SCP Facility is supporting this project by reviewing the studies conducted by the APRSCP and by supporting this sub-regional webinar.

Objectives of the event

The objective of this webinar is to share results of the study and discuss how to enhance the uptake and implementation of GPP Policies in Southeast Asian countries, presenting case studies from Thailand and the EU. Main implementation challenges as well as enabling factors and solutions from the region will also be discussed.

Logistical information about the event

The Sub-Regional Webinar was organized online via Zoom (with hosted in Thailand). There were 227 participants attending the webinar.

Summary of key messages:

Opening and Keynote Session

Opening remarks

Ms Francesca GILLI

Cooperation attaché, European Union Delegation to Thailand

Ms. Gilli showed her great pleasure to state an opening remark of the Webinar and the Webinar series on Public Green Procurement (GPP). According to GPP, she mentioned how important it is, particularly for the Southeast Asian countries, and referred to the EU Green Deal as the EU's main strategy of green transition. The SCP and Circular Economy, both are one of the main pillars of the EU Green Deal. She inspired the positive impacts on the environment and the further benefits for national-level action on GPP by implementing the SCP. She emphasized the support from the EU, its network development and the adoption of its GPP good practices to the Southeast Asian countries. This will assist in fulfilling SCP related to the SDG 12. She thanked all participants and hoped the Webinar to be useful for learning exchange.

Remarks by RPAC

Dr. Mushtaq MEMON

Project Manager, EU SWITCH-Asia RPAC

Dr. Memon thanked the EU's support on the SWITCH Asia Program aiming for the mainstream sustainable consumption and production in Asia since 2007, and its UNEP partner on implementing for the SCP Policy advocacy. He also thanked the UNEP and APRSCP teams for their hard working on Subregional and National online GPP Seminar. He further insisted that GPP or SPP was the one important mechanism to achieve SDG, with the reason that the overall public procurement in most of the developing countries is highly accounted by 30% to 50%. At final, he hoped the Webinar participants would learn more on the impact of GPP. He, together, went on inviting all participants to attend the coming GPP regional trainings.

Remarks by SCP Facility

Dr. Zinaida FADEEVA

Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility

On behalf of SWITCH Asia SCP Facility, Dr. Fadeeva welcomed all participants. She emphasized the importance of two component works of GPP or SPP, the implementation of practical work and the policy development. She explained that GPP or SPP was a critical work for SCP. She stated that SWITCH Asia SCP Facility grants project and support these two components through 9 countries projects such as India, Indonesia, Mongolia Thailand since 2008. The Innovative practices SCP were result of SCP Facility projects communication and networking. She hoped for the SPP network would be strengthened after the 3-day Webinar.

Remarks by APRSCP

Sanjay KUMAR

APRSCP President

Mr. Kumar proposed the importance of GPP, which was due to the strong purchasing power of any governments in worldwide countries. According to World Bank's study, business sectors did follow to adopt the GPP, since; the global value of government purchasing was at USD11 trillion, accounted 12 % of the global GDP. There is greater realization now than ever before to use this public money strategically to deliver broader public goods. However, he mentioned that there was not, at this time, the implementation progress of GPP Policy in all Asia Pacific countries. In his opinion, Thailand could advance GPP policy implementation and extended being as Southeast Asian model, for example, the simplified tool of GPP implementation like Eco labeling Life Cycle. Mr. Kumar thanked SWITCH Asia and UNEP that selected APRSCP agency for enhancing the GPP implementation in Southeast Asian countries comprising Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Moreover, he invited all participants to join the 16th APRSCP Roundtable Conference to be held on October 2022 in Sri Lanka, mainly focusing on the issue of GPP implementation in Asia Pacific countries

Keynote speaker

Ms Anna LUPU

Legal and Policy Officer, Public Procurement Unit, DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG-GROW), European Commission

Ms. Lupu presented about the sustainable procurement in the EU. She mentioned on the impact of public procurement, which was at 14 % of EU's GDP, and the goal of its procurement policy was to bring a fair competition, a social responsible and the efficiency of public funds. She stated that Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) was a strategic tool for "Sustainable Development Growth", by stimulating both a socially responsible and a sustainable market. The EU government had harmonized its public procurement legal rule since 1970. EU's legal framework was coped with "WTO's Government Green Procurement", and its social consideration under its law, was optional. EU's SPP was promoted to most of the "Big Buyers", detailed an initiative leading for climate and environment, a guidance on investing a procurement of sustainable construction and a mandatory for a green public procurement in some sectors. There were a lot of various supporting tools for SPP promotions, such as Buying Green, Circular Procurement Guidance, GPP Training Toolkit, EU SPP Helpdesk, etc.

Session 1 Technical Session

Short Presentation on results of the project “Mainstream Green Integration of Thailand: Transformation from Policy to Implementation”

Dr. Thumrongrut MUNGCHAROEN

Chairperson of Circular Economy Subcommittee, Program Management Unit for Competitiveness (PMUC) and Sustainable Development Advisor, National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

Dr. Mungcharoen presented an overview of the project, “Mainstream Green Integration of Thailand: Transformation from Policy to Implementation”, aiming to overcome the pain point of green procurement practices differentiating between government and private sectors. He explained the key partners in the Project, three objectives of the Project and its outputs. He further elaborated the Project procedure, including reviewing the best practices of international GPP/ SPP, making GAP analysis and Stakeholders’ consultation, purposing on clustering product / services for Green Directory and testing in 3 pilot organizations, comprising one organization from the central government, one from the local government and one from the private sector. The five main outputs, and two outcomes were described accordingly. Finally, he thanked the SWITCH Asia SCP Facility for its support, together with all parties concerning in the Project, the government sector, the private sector and Thai SCP Network.

Short Report on enhancing the Implementation of GPP in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines

Noer Adi WARDOJO

Ministry of Environment and Forestry Indonesia

Mr. Wardojo expressed his appreciation for continuing the collaboration UNEP SWITCH-Asia and APRSCP. He congratulated on the extension of the mandate 10 of YFP in SCP, as “Multi-stakeholder Collaboration Platform” for SDG 12 until 2030, and the continuing of UNEP acting as the Secretariat to 10 YFP. He further congratulated on the publication of SCP framework, with the support of ASEAN Secretariat, APRSCP and UNEP through EU SWITCH-Asia. He also showed his intent to promote SCP to Indonesia’s next generation by asking Dra Nurmayanti to later present GPP study on behalf of Indonesia country.

Dra. Nurmayanti, M.Si

Head of M&E Division of ASEFI/BSILH

Dra Nurmayanti presented the Indonesia’s status of GPP till 2031. She highlighted that GPP is a part of government reform, as an instrument of government officials’ behavior change to be more efficient and environmentally friendly. GPP was mainstreaming agenda of GHG, SCP and green-growth economy for sustainable development. She stated the targets of GPP implementation and emphasized the regulatory framework for GPP, under Indonesia’s Policy on Environment and Forestry, and Regulations on Government Procurement so as to achieve the 12.7 Sustainable procurement of SDG 12. She went on stating green label scheme for GPP, under the Regulations and Decree of Ministry of Environment and Forestry. In addition, she talked about GPP challenging issues from both sides, the government and the provider/industry ones, together with the roadmap and the following steps of GPP policy. The information system of GPP Green Products were, also, explained.

Dr. Hari Ramalu RAGAVAN

Principal Consultant, Akar Asia Consulting; Council Member, ENSEARCH Malaysia; Board of Trustees, APRSCP

Dr Ragavan thanked SWITCH Asia and APRSCP for inviting Malaysia as a part of GPP lesson-learn study. He presented about basic assessment of GPP implementation in Malaysia by introducing terms and definition of Government Green Procurement (GGP), being used as Green Public Procurement (GPP) in Malaysia. He explained more about the initiative development for implementation of GGP Policy in Malaysia. This was started from National Green Technology in 2009 and resulted the SCP policy and its supporting project occurred during 2012-2016, funded by EU SWITCH -Asia in Malaysia. Later, the GPP policies was integrated in the 11th Malaysia's Plan (during 2016-2020), following with the National SCP Blueprint (during 2016-2030). The GGP policy is mandatory for all government ministries and agencies, only at the Federation agencies level, and no legislation for GPP implementation. He stated more on GPP action plans, both in a short-term (during 2013-2015) and a long-term period (during 2016-2030). Furthermore, he highlighted about "MyHIJAU" scheme (the GGP supporting program and the government GGP guideline), detailed that all ecolabelling for GPP had to be accepted via "MyHIJAU" scheme. He also described more about the goals and targets achievement of the GPP long-term action plan during 2016-2030. The result of GGP implementation showed 20.7% selected product and services, which was higher than the 20% target set at the end period of the 11th Malaysia's plan. In conclusion, he highlighted about GGP coming challenges relating inactive GGP implementation of the private sectors, no legal framework for GGP implementation, green purchasing networking and certified GGP

Dr. Jonna BAQUILLAS

Board of Trustees, APRSCP

Dr. Baquillas presented background and current status of GPP legislation in the Philippines. The Green Public Procurement was begun by the Government's Procurement Reform Act in 2003, orderly resulting National Ecolabelling program, which was initiated under the GPP Program in 2004. Later, Green Public Procurement Act in 2020 was enacted and established the system to develop the green criteria for both the "Common-use Supplies and Equipment (CSE)" and the "non-Common-use Supplies and Equipment (Non-CSE)". The Government Procurement Policy Board Technical Support Offices (GPPB-TSO) was the key GPP implementing agency, responsible with initiative support from 6 agencies. She described more about 6 criterions of product category selection, comprising Marketing Readiness, Environmental Impact, Cost Implications, Practicability, Support to the Government's Environmental Goals and Support to the Local's Economy. She presented the GPP implementation results; the implementation of green product criteria (as of December 2020) and the development of green specification of non-CSE products by providing GPP training. The challenges of GPP implementation in the Philippines were emphasized on GPP awareness of the private and public sectors, with the mainstream GPP training and Ecolabelling promotion scheme.

Session 2 Summary and Closing

Lesson Learned from the Cross fertilization of the Southeast Asian Countries Good Practices to Advance GPP/GP and How to Leap Frogging

Dr. Mushtaq MEMON

Project Manager, the EU SWITCH-Asia RPAC

Dr. MEMON presented the definition, the connection of the Public Procurement with Green Public Procurement and SCP with Sustainable Development, and the difference between GPP and SPP. GPP was focused on reducing the environmental impacts, while SPP was totally accounted on economic, environment and society. Therefore, SPP was one of the tools to promote SCP. Study showed that public procurement shares was at 18% GDP in the EU and at 30-50% GDP in developing countries. He emphasized that SPP should be concerned in a procurement process, along with procurement products and services, aiming for environment friendly, efficient, and social responsibility. He brought the case of solar cell energy procurement and insisted the importance of GP awareness in private sectors like, "Think Green, Buy Green and Be Green". GPP case study in EU was, also, mentioned. He summarized lessons-learn knowledge by the comparative analysis of Leapfrogging from GPP Implementation in 4 countries; Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand as follows.

- 1) Asia Pacific countries had a gap to improve the efficiency of resources management due to 50% resources consumption, while contribution of 32% of GDP. To enhance SCP through GPP and SPP needed improving the gap by giving benefits to trade, technology transfer, ecological and environmental awareness, etc.
- 2) For Indonesia, there were GPP laws and concerning regulations since 2009, however; still required to enact the regulations to integrate GPP in the government procurement system. Also, there were 3 kinds of eco-labelling and their standards provided for GPP implementation. Indonesia had a good journey for GPP, its challenges, the same as other 3 countries, were like marketing readiness, GPP awareness, etc.,
- 3) Malaysia was rather strong by broadening GPP as GPP in various sectors, like for energy-used efficiency, carbon footprint, etc. GPP implementation was promoted to SME assisting to local-market development. One of the challenging issues for Malaysia was its higher purchasing cost of green products and services.
- 4) The Philippines was the leader in Public Private Partnership (PPP). PPP had been applied in GPP Act since 2003, all types of eco-labelling were implemented accordingly. The Philippines was a good case to learn on GPP implementation. Its challenges were GPP awareness, compliance with the green criteria, marketing readiness and employees' turnovers.
- 5) For Thailand, it had had a long journey in GPP implementation since 2005, starting from Pollution Control Department, MONRE. Its GPP implementation plan was utilized in any of other (government) agencies with support from international agencies; GIZ and SWITCH-Asia. The development of GPP criteria are National Green-Label criteria, Environment-friendly criteria and National Performance and Environment Standard. The GPP incentive mechanisms was developed by benchmarking incentives for economic, regulatory and reputation aspects of any other countries. Many of Thai government agencies had a cooperation to develop GPP implementation based on sectors concerned.

At last, he concluded the lesson-learn; how to support of GPP policy development and how to establish the basis and its implementation of GPP policy. He also emphasized on how to optimize the outcome and the impact of GPP. By learning one another (4 countries) and by frequently monitoring GPP policy, this could bring with it the improvement of GPP policy.

Lesson Learned from SWITCH -Asia SPP Projects

Dr. Lunchakorn PRATHUMRATANA

Project Manager, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility

Dr. PRATHUMRATANA presented an overview of SPP projects under SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility Technical Assistances; SWITCH-Asia Grant Programme (during 2008 to the present) and SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component (in 2017). She explained key observation issues from project experiences as follows.

- 1) To Support GPP/SPP policy development, the importance of political level and the integration of all activities at the practical level should be a must.
- 2) To broaden GPP and SPP to various sectors, particularly the private sectors to be widely promoted in their business.
- 3) To connect the management and practical level, the implementation, especially, of the private sectors should be enhanced.

Finally, she concluded that the way forward to keep GPP/ SPP momentum by prioritization to get work done should provide capacity building of procurers via E learning tool and dynamic platforms for experiences sharing. As for the marketing engagement, the SPP-driven system was required by both demand and supply sides as well as all actors concerned. She highlighted the importance of GPP / SPP as a key contribution to achieve SCP.

Conclusion and Closing

Dr. Mushtaq MEMON

Project Manager, the EU SWITCH-Asia RPAC

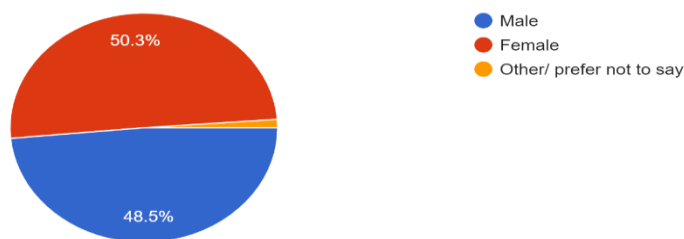
Dr. MEMON thanked the organized team and encouraged the Meeting to build up the Working Group. The Working Group should comprise of the representatives from 4 countries, from UNEP and the experts. Therefore, we should optimize GPP lesson-learn on Leapfrogging GPP implementation from each country, which assisted to not repeating future mistakes He also invited all participants to join GPP trainings.

Review on Participants:

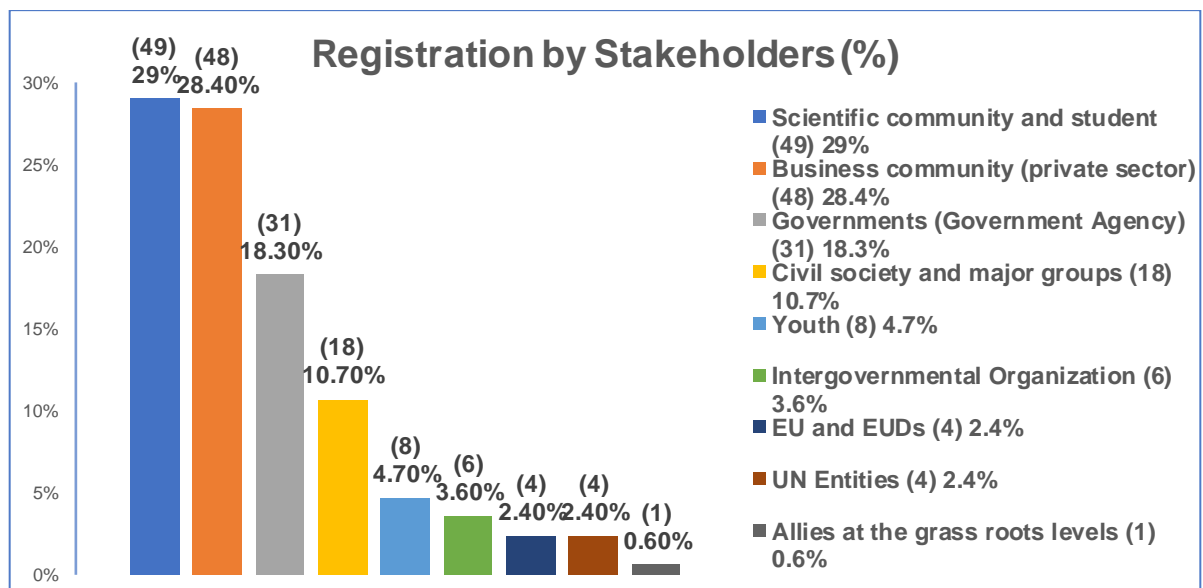
There were 169 participants registered prior to the events. The regional webinar was attended by 227 participants belonging to different stakeholder groups on Zoom. Figures below present the distribution of participants who registered prior to the event by stakeholders. Based on the registrations, 50.3% of participants were female, 48.5% were male and 1.2% were other (prefer not to say). They represented mainly by Academia sector, Business and Private sectors and Government sectors.

Registration by Gender (%)

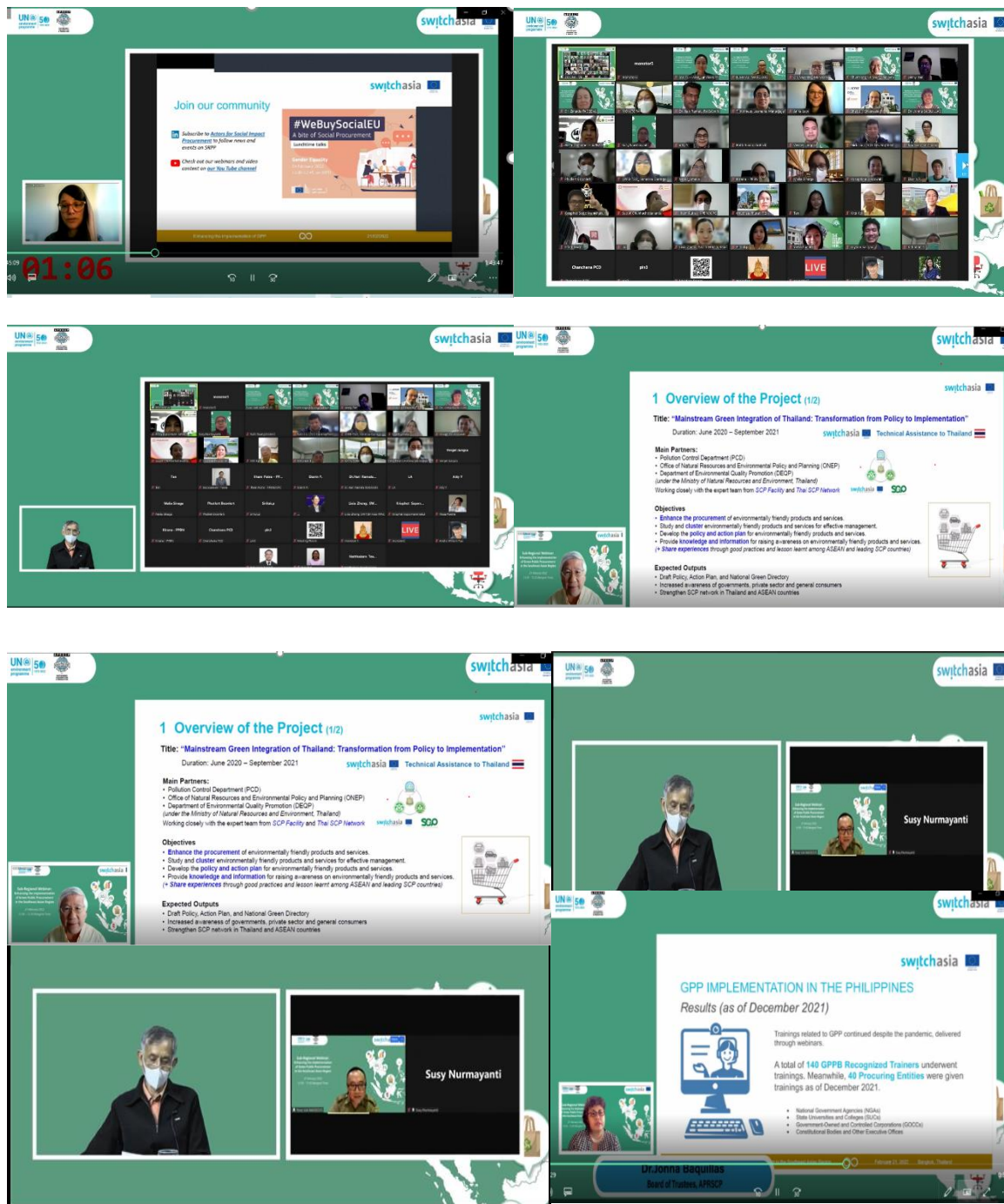
Gender
169 responses



Registration by Stakeholders (%)



Snapshots of the event:



Annex:

Annex 1: The Final agenda

Opening and Keynote Session

1330 – 1335 Opening Remarks

Ms Francesca GILLI

Cooperation attaché, European Union Delegation to Thailand

1335 – 1340 Remarks by RPAC

Dr. Mushtaq MEMON

Project Manager, EU SWITCH-Asia RPAC

1340 – 1345 Remarks by SCP Facility

Dr. Zinaida FADEEVA

Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility

1345 – 1350 Remarks by APRSCP

Sanjay KUMAR

APRSCP President

1350 – 1410 Keynote speaker

Ms Anna LUPI

Legal and Policy Officer, Public Procurement Unit, DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG-GROW), European Commission

Session 1: Technical Session

1410 – 1440 Short Presentation on results of the project “Mainstream Green Integration of Thailand: Transformation from Policy to Implementation”

Dr. Thumrongrut MUNGCHAROEN

Chairperson of Circular Economy Subcommittee, Program Management Unit for Competitiveness (PMUC) and Sustainable Development Advisor, National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

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Principal Consultant, Akar Asia Consulting; Council Member, ENSEARCH Malaysia; Board of Trustees, APRSCP

Dr. Jonna BAQUILLAS

Board of Trustees, APRSCP

Session 2: Summary and Closing Session

1440 – 1500 Lesson Learned from the Cross-fertilization of the 4 Southeast Asian Countries Good Practices to Advance GPP/GP and How to Leap Frogging

Dr. Mushtaq MEMON

Project Manager, the EU SWITCH-Asia RPAC

1500 – 1520 Lesson learned from SWITCH-Asia SPP projects

Dr. Lunchakorn PRATHUMRATANA

Project Manager, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility

1520 – 1530 Conclusion and Closing

Dr. Mushtaq MEMON

Project Manager, the EU SWITCH-Asia RPAC

For more information

SWITCH-Asia event page:

URL

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

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