

Full 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
IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
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.

Summary of Key Messages:

The work done to implement green public procurement in the region is possible through the partnerships among various organizations –EU SWITCH-Asia, UN Environment Programme, and Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production, as well as the government stakeholders of each country. While some experiences are similar among these countries, the program of implementing GPP in each country must be tailored-fit to their needs and capacities.

The Philippines has various legislations supporting the implementation of GPP. Twenty (20) products have been selected based on several criteria. Despite current initiatives, challenges are still being faced when it comes to compliance to green criteria, market readiness, GPP awareness, and employee turnover. There is a need to incorporate GPP in the implementing rules and regulations of the procurement manual to ensure the support of all procuring entities.

McDonald's Philippines shared the organization's green initiatives, which aim to create social and environmental impact. The company also measures the initiatives impacts on its business operations, particularly focusing on consumer impact assessment, brand impact assessment, operations impact assessment, and financial impact assessment. It was emphasized that the beauty of being part of a big system is that the company is able to learn from more advanced markets. Moving forward, McDonald's Philippines transformation journey is to expand from few but full Green & Good stores to responsible scaling through customized application of Green & Good elements.

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: procurement planning, requirement definition, sourcing, evaluation, and content management. She shared the GPP landscape in the Philippines which covered legislation, implementing agency, and the National Ecolabelling Program. Under legislation, five (5) key legislations were mentioned: Government Procurement Reform Act, Green Public Procurement Program, Support the Implementation of S/GPP, Recognize the GPP Roadmap, and the Green Public Procurement Act. The implementing agency of GPP is Government Procurement Policy Board – Technical Support Office, while the ecolabelling program is led by Green Choice Philippines. She then presented the status of GPP implementation, discussing the prioritized products with green specifications (10 common-use and 10 non-common-use supplies and equipment). These were selected based on the following criteria: market readiness, environmental impact, cost implications, practicability, support to government environmental objectives, and support to local economy. Updates on results of implementation were presented. On the issues and challenges, she mentioned the following: lack of GPP awareness, limited compliance to green criteria, limited market readiness in some areas, and high employee turnover. 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. She emphasized that the theme behind sustainability mindset is using the company’s size and footprint as force for good, reflecting the company values. Their actions center on the company’s global sustainability pillars – food quality, sourcing safety, our planet, community connection, and jobs, inclusion, and empowerment. Anchoring on the Sustainable Development Goals, the company’s various initiatives cover SDGs 4, 8, 9, and 12. Specifically on SDG12, she shared the “Green & Good” program, which is not just a tagline but a portfolio of environmental sustainability endeavors. 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 shared how these strategies impact the business on four fronts: consumer impact assessment, brand impact assessment, operations impact assessment, and financial impact assessment. Finally, she emphasized that the beauty of being part of a big system is that they are able to leverage learnings and solutions, and are able to learn from more advanced markets. Moving forward, McDonald’s Philippines transformation journey is to expand from few but full Green & Good stores to responsible scaling through customized application of Green & Good elements.

Reactor: GPP ASEAN Perspective

Dr. Chaiyod Bunyagidj

Vice President, Thai SCP Network

Dr. Bunyagidj congratulated the presenters for the interesting sharing and insightful information. He acknowledged the issues and challenges presented in the earlier discussion by Dr. Baquillas. He shared the experiences in the region, and reiterated the work that is being done by UN Environment Programme, EU SWITCH-Asia, and Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production. Based on the GPP initiatives of the ten countries, there is a need to establish good practices for green products and green procurement, both on the supply and the demand sides. This means being inclusive by promoting schemes for SMEs to implement SCP as well. On the demand side, a national directory of green products can help create awareness for the consumers to aid them in their buying decisions. Consumer information is very critical, and consumers must be given access to these kinds of information. He also emphasized that if there are more green products in the market, there would be more choices and the prices would be more competitive. Hence, market readiness of suppliers is crucial so more green products can be offered in the market. Dr. Bunyagidj also shared the experience of GPP implementation in Thailand, which strengthened its partnership with the private sector in implementing GPP. There are regular training programs on green procurement for all stakeholders. He pointed out the good work the McDonald's Philippines is doing, by showing the social and environmental impacts of their green initiatives, as well as the impact on their business.

Reactor: Sustainable Procurement in the Public and Private Sectors

Mr. June Alvarez

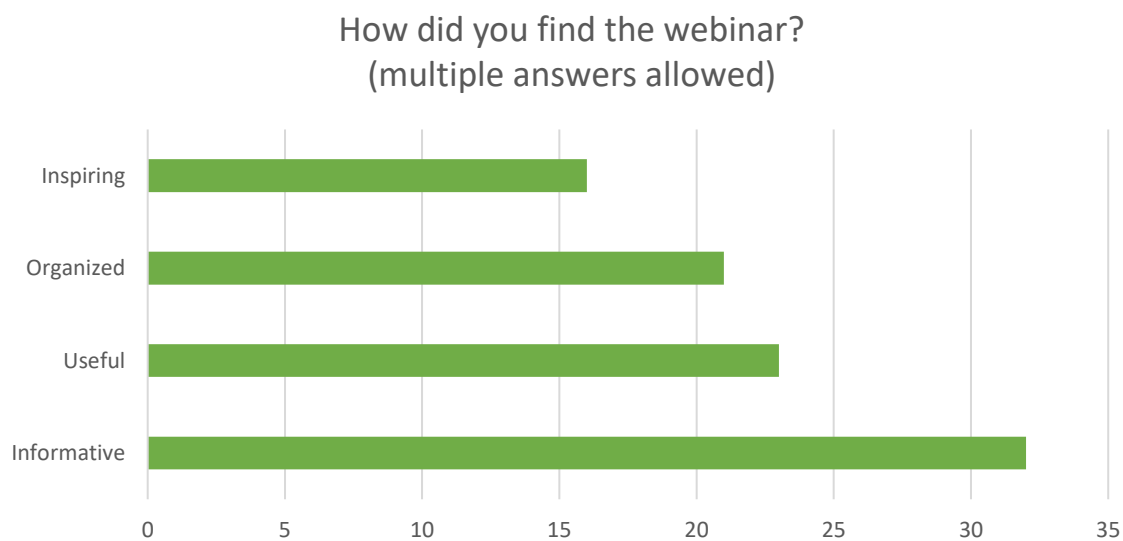
President & Executive Director, Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, INC (PCEPSDI)

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 policy and implementation in making GPP implementation a success. He mentioned the need for the incorporation of GPP in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the procurement manual. As it is, complying with the green criteria seems voluntary for the procuring entities, as also seen in the presentation of Dr. Baquillas where only 68 procuring entities are complying with it. The enabling tools have to be always present – in the case of ecolabelling, the program is supposed to assist the government in finalizing the criteria of green products. In terms of market readiness, government suppliers are mostly traders and they need to be capacitated and guided to be able to supply green products. Employees need capacity-building to popularize or institute GPP in agencies and departments. There is also a need to recognize that there is always corruption in the government and if correct measures are not taken, GPP can be an instrument of corruption. He cited an instance wherein procurement officers tend to just copy specifications of a branded product and incorporate these in the procurement criteria. When this happens, only those suppliers that have that kind of specifications in their products can qualify in offering the products. He closed his statement by

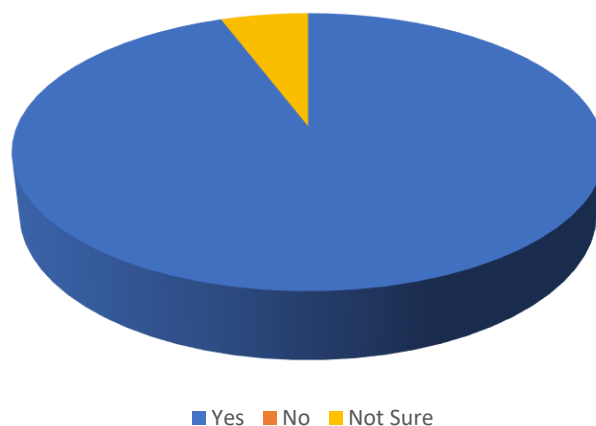
emphasizing that GPP is an instrument to attain a particular goal, and it needs the commitment of the government for it to succeed. At the end of the day, the success of the program relies on the “man who plays the instrument”, which is the government, as the key stakeholder in pushing GPP.

Evaluation/Assessment results:

An evaluation poll was conducted using the Zoom Poll function. A total of 35 participants answered the poll. Response was favorable, and most found the webinar informative, useful, and organized.

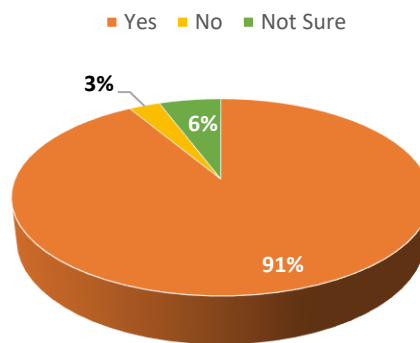


Would you be interested to attend similar events in the future?

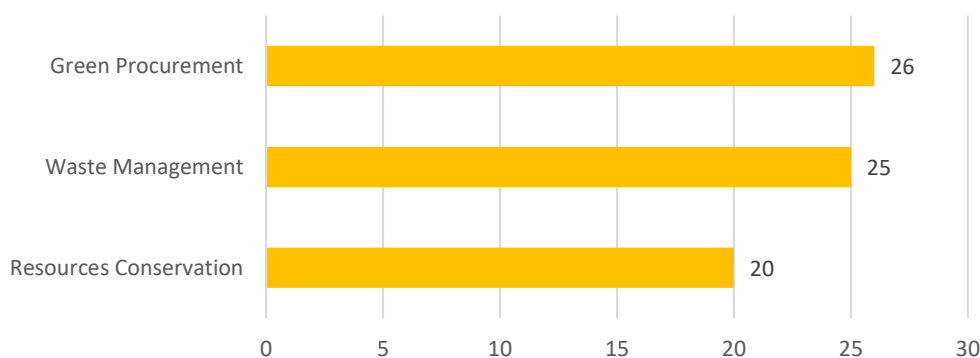


Participants were also asked as to whether the organization or department they are representing implement green initiatives, and what kind. Majority of the participants responded that they do have green initiatives in their organization or department, which are focused on green procurement, waste management, and resource conservation. They think that their organization or department will continue engaging in green initiatives.

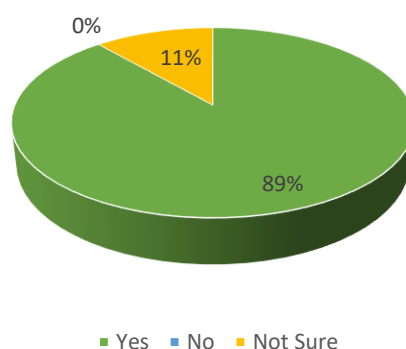
DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION/DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENT GREEN INITIATIVES?



What are these green initiatives? (multiple answer allowed)



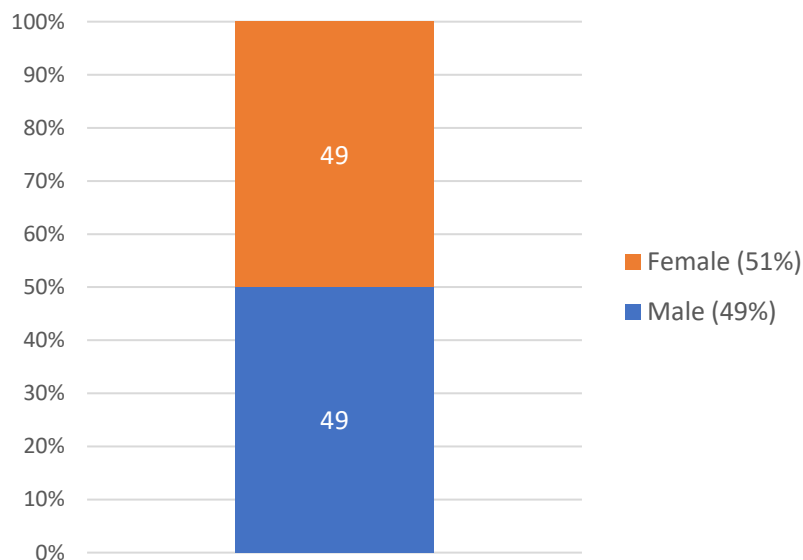
Do you see your organization starting or continuing its green initiatives?



Review on Participants:

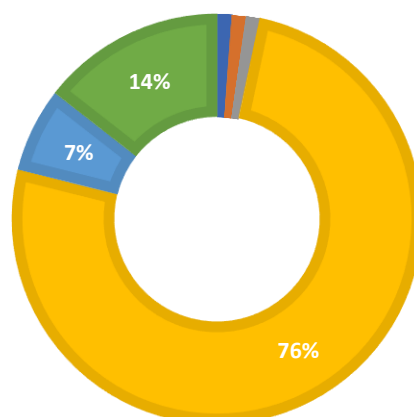
A total of 90 participants were present during the webinar, with an attendance rate of 82.6% versus the registration. Attendees came from different sectors. There is an almost equal distribution of gender, with 46 females (51%) and 44 males (49%). Participants came from the following countries: China,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

Registration by Gender (%)

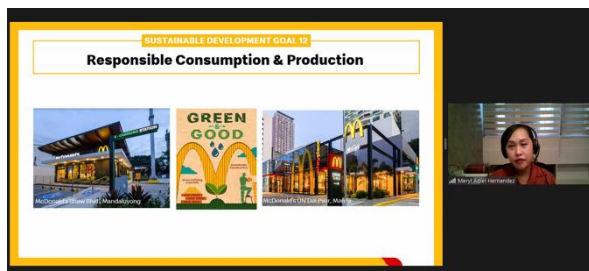
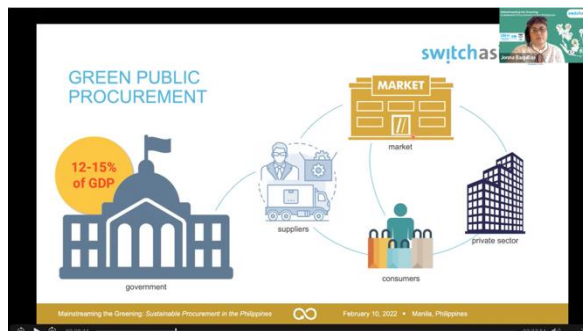


Attendees By Country (%)

■ 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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