

SEA of Solutions Back-to-Back Meeting

Building Synergy and Collaboration on Plastics in the ASEAN Member States: Towards Integrated Solutions to Marine Plastic Pollution

Initiated by:

Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris (RKC-MPD)

Background

Having access to accurate plastic data and the capacity to translate it into actionable recommendations should be the basis of any national strategic priority setting and policymaking. In ASEAN countries, however, there are big gaps in data availability on plastic at many stages of its life-cycle, and expertise surrounding it is insufficiently coordinated in order to make integrated policy recommendations on both national and regional levels. Analyzing currently available data to draw an overall picture of the issue would be the first step to address these gaps. For this, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES), and the IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET) have established the ERIA's Experts Working Group on Marine Plastic Debris to support the Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris (RKC-MPD). With experts from a diverse set of disciplines, this working group assists the establishment of baselines and offers a multidisciplinary assessment of marine plastics in the ASEAN Member States. Together, they would also reconfirm the importance to look at the matter not only as a waste management and plastic leakage (downstream) issues but also as a production and consumption (upstream) issues in order to find integrated solutions to marine plastic pollution.

This session aims to:

- Provide overview of the Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris (RKC-MPD).
- Introduce the newly established Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)'s Experts Working Group on Marine Plastic Debris and its workplan, activities and key priority areas.
- Identify data collection capacity and data availability across the plastic value chain of the in the ASEAN Member States and further suggests some recommendations to improve the data on plastics.
- Exchange views on the increase of plastic pollution caused by production and consumption, COVID-19, public awareness, innovation and technology, and policy recommendations,
- Explore synergies and partnerships to collaborations with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) and other key actors to find integrated solutions to plastic pollution.

Programme Agenda:

Time:

19 November 2021 at 16:00 – 17:30 (Bangkok Time)

Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqduCqqT4pGNXazggn_TwamKA9QpbfJq9

Contact Details of Organisers:

Ms. Chochoe Devaporihartakula (chochoe@iges.or.jp)

MC:

- Ms. Chochoe Devaporihartakula, Programme Manager, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Part 1: Capacity Building and Information Sharing on Plastics in the ASEAN Member States (30 minutes)

- **Introduction of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)'s Experts Working Group on Marine Plastic Debris (10 minutes)** – Mr. Michikazu Kojima, Research Fellow, Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)
- **Data on Plastics in the ASEAN Member States: Current Status and Future Directions (15 minutes)** – Dr. Vivek Anand Asokan, Policy Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
- **Reflection of the Presentations (5 minutes)** – Dr. Vong Sok, Head of Environment Division, Assistant Director of Sustainable Development Director, ASEAN Secretariat

Part 2: Panel Discussions and Engagement with Audience (60 minutes)

Moderator:

- Dr. Vong Sok, Head of Environment Division, Assistant Director of Sustainable Development Director, ASEAN Secretariat

Panelists

- Ms. Youna Lyons, Senior Research Fellow, National University of Singapore
- Mr. Muhammad Reza Cordova, Researcher, Research Center for Oceanography, Indonesian Institute of Sciences
- Dr. Kavinda Gunasekara, Geoinformatics Center, Asian Institute of Technology
- Ms. Kamala Ernest, Programme Management Officer – Coordinator of SEA circular Project, UN Environment Programme

Q and A

Wrap-up

Speaker Profiles



Dr. Vong Sok, Head of the Environment Division, ASEAN Secretariat

Dr. Vong Sok is a passionate and dedicated Environmental Professional, with over 20 years' global environmental compliance and governance experience, including in-depth knowledge of strategic environmental planning, environmental diplomacy, and operations control of environmental management systems.

In education, he holds a bachelor's degree in forestry from Cambodia and a master's degree in environmental science and management from Belgium. He further completed a PhD in Impact Assessment and Climate Change at the University of Western Australia in 2012. He works extensively on environmental management in Southeast Asia, in close collaboration with government agencies, international organizations, development partners, CSOs and communities. This has provided him with specific resources to direct and coordinate the strategic level and make significant impacts and contributions to this region.



Michikazu Kojima, Chief Senior Researcher in Institute of Developing Economies in Japan External Trade Organization

Michikazu Kojima is a Chief Senior Researcher in Institute of Developing Economies in Japan External Trade Organization. He is also Research Fellow in Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). In ERIA he is working for Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris. He has studied in environmental policies, especially on waste management, recycling, and policy on marine plastic pollution. A recent work is "Regional Waste Management – Inter-municipal Cooperation and Public and Private Partnership", which points out the way to expand waste management in rural area.



Dr. Vivek Anand Asokan, Policy Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Dr. Vivek Anand Asokan is a policy research at Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). He has an interdisciplinary research background with a Bachelor in Technology from SASTRA University, two Masters in Interdisciplinary Sustainability-related programs—Tata Institute of Social Science and the University of Tokyo, and a PhD in Sustainability Science from the University of Tokyo. His research interests are cross-disciplinary, focusing on human dimensions of environmental change and sustainable development. He applies an interdisciplinary lens with interests in sustainability assessments, sustainability frameworks, footprint analysis, natural hazard and resilience, science-policy (science-business; science-society) interface for decision making and philosophy of interdisciplinary research.



Dr. Kavinda Gunasekara, Associate Director, Geoinformatics Center (GIC), Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

Dr. Kavinda Gunasekara is the Associate Director at the Geoinformatics Center (GIC), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand. He holds an affiliated faculty position in the School of Environment, Resources & Development, AIT. Over the past 15 years, he had involved in implementing geospatial-related projects in South, Southeast, and Central Asian countries. He leads the UNEP CounterMEASURE Phase I & II project components in AIT by integrating digital tools for mapping plastic litter in streets and waterways. He holds a doctorate in Coastal Engineering from the Department of Civil Engineering, the University of Tokyo, Japan, and recently completed a professional master's degree in Digital Transformation in AIT.



Kamala Ernest, Programme Management Officer - Coordinator of SEA circular Project, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Kamala Ernest is the Coordinator of the SEA circular project at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific based in Bangkok. She leads engagements with governments, businesses and other partners in the region to enhance the management of the plastic value chain to reduce land-based plastic leakage into the marine environment.

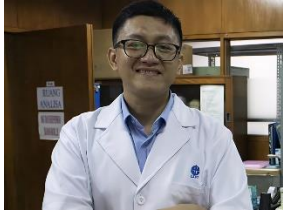
She has 20 years of progressive experience working with the private sector, governments, and the UN on sustainable development. She has worked in Africa, Asia, Middle East and Europe mainstreaming sustainability in diverse sectors including transport, manufacturing, oil and gas, agriculture, integrated waste management, and tourism.



Youna Lyons, Senior Research Fellow, National University of Singapore

Youna Lyons is a marine policy analyst, trained in international law and oceanography, specializing in issues of global and regional marine environmental governance, with a particular focus on Southeast Asia. She works at the interface of law and marine sciences, leads multi-disciplinary research projects on the protection and preservation of the marine environment and has 25+ years of professional experience in Europe and Asia. Her current areas of particular focus are the identification and management of marine sensitive areas, pollution from marine plastics and the governance of marine environment issues, including institutional mechanism at the legal and science interface to tackle issues raised by climate change and biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

Youna leads the marine environmental research of the Ocean Law and Policy Programme of the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore where she has been working since its creation in 2009. She is also a trustee and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS), an observer in a number of intergovernmental bodies involved with the protection of the marine environment as well as an active participant to specialized task groups that support their work.



Muhammad Reza Cordova (Reza), Researcher, Research Center for Oceanography, Indonesian Institute of Sciences

Muhammad Reza Cordova (Reza) is currently employed as a researcher at the National Research and Innovation Agency's (the Indonesian Institute of Sciences) Research Center for Oceanography in Indonesia. Reza's interest in marine pollution, ecotoxicology, and environmental stress motivated him to contribute to a study on marine litter and plastic pollution in the Indonesian marine ecosystem. Reza is a member of the Indonesian National Coordination Team for Marine Debris Management and is tasked with conducting research and developing a policy to combat marine plastic litter. Reza has worked as a lecturer at several universities in Indonesia and as an environmental impact assessment consultant, assessor, and evaluator in the private sector. Reza establishes a link between research, government, and the public by disseminating research findings through the mass media, including Indonesian television, radio, newspapers, and a variety of other platforms.

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TOWARDS INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS TO MARINE
PLASTIC POLLUTION



**19 NOVEMBER 2021 • 4:00- 5:30 PM •
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For more information, please contact
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