

The 6th ERIA's Experts Working Group (EWG) on Marine Plastic Debris

Date: 18 Feb 2025, Format: online/Jakarta

Organized by ERIA RKC-MPD and IGES

Concept Note

Overview: The EWG meeting aims to foster dialogue, exchange insights, and develop actionable solutions to these pressing topics among experts in the ASEAN region with the aim to support the function of ERIA's Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris. This expert working group meeting will consist of four sessions, with a focus on:

- (1) ASEAN Book Project on plastic pollutions in East Asia region
- (2) ERIA's activities overview for 2025
- (3) IGES reporting on Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) 5
- (4) IGES reporting on drafts report/on-going work

Session 1: ASEAN Book Project - "Plastic Pollutions in East Asia Region (Tentative title)"

The session will introduce the ASEAN Book Project led by ERIA focused on plastic pollution and its countermeasures in East Asia region. ERIA will discuss the Book's concept and theme and will seek reviews and contributions from EWG members. This proposed Book as one of the EWG outcomes will be the basis for capacity building and training of policymakers in ASEAN+3 member states. It consists of around 25 chapters with 10-15 pages for each. Topics include the status quo and outlook of plastic pollution, ecological effects and human health concerns, waste management and recycling efforts, plastic leakage prevention, SUP reduction and alternative materials, global and regional initiatives, and regional case studies in ASEAN+3 member states. This Book will also cover measures to address plastic value chain, such as extended producer responsibilities.

Expected outputs: Discussion on the draft table of contents and list of contributing authors for the ASEAN+3 book

Expected inputs from EWG: input on table of contents, missing topics, possible contributing authors

Session 2: ERIA activity 2025 input from the Experts

In this session, ERIA will seek to receive technical feedback from the Experts on 4 work items for the year 2025. Firstly, the team will share the knowledge products developed based on the Group discussions during the 5th EWG meeting (March 2024) on (a) Addressing data challenges to enhance knowledge sharing, (b) Strengthening Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in ASEAN, and (c) Ensuring a just transition in EPR implementation. The final input from the Experts will allow the knowledge products to be finalized and uploaded on ERIA website. Secondly, ERIA team will briefly present the ASEAN Conference on Combatting Plastic Pollution (ACCPP) 2023 and 2024 and share the concept note developed for the ACCPP 2025, expected to take place in Malaysia. Experts will be invited to comment on the pertinence or the selected topics and/or suggest possible speakers for different sessions. Thirdly the ASEAN Declaration on Plastic Circularity will be presented, while inviting Experts to suggest further steps forward to follow up on the Regional Action Plan (RAP). Finally, ERIA team will present the SEA-MaP Knowledge and Partnerships Platform (SEA-MaP-KPP) work, which is expected to be executed during 2025, and request any pertinent support from the experts.

Expected outputs: 1) Finalisation of the knowledge products as an outcome of the 5th EWG, 2) Improved agenda of ACCPP 2025 (selection of topics and possible speakers), 3) Further steps to implement RAP, and 4) Better understanding of SEA-MaP-KPP and possible collaboration plan with this EWG.

Expected contributions from the EWG: 1) Comments on the knowledge products, 2) Input on topics and speakers for ACCPP 2025, 3) How this EWG can contribute to the further implementation of the RAP, and 4) Relevant support or possible roles for EWG members in the SEA-MaP-KPP.

Session 3: Marine Plastic Leakage Policy Related Session

This session will present the main discussions and outcomes of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5), focusing on the outcomes of the side events organised by IGES at the INC. The session will also present the background to the proposed Expert Working Group (EWG) at the RKC-MPD on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

Expected outputs: 1) Improved draft of INC Issue Paper by IGES, and 2) Improved concept note as well as mission statement of EPR WG of RKC-MPD

Expected inputs from EWG: 1) expert opinions on the progress of INC and its implications for the ASEAN region beyond INC5, and 2) inputs/opinions on the missions and roles to be played by the EPR WG

Session 4: Marine Plastic Leakage Technical Related Session

This session will report the progress of various projects undertaken by under the ERIA-IGES collaboration of addressing plastic pollution in the ASEAN+3 region. Topics include policy design for tackling single-use plastics in a post-COVID-19 society, public attitudes towards plastic pollution, microplastics sampling in the Philippines, the impact of marine plastic pollution from fishing gear, and development of National Action Plans.

Expected Outputs: Developing knowledge outputs that contribute to RKCMPD publications

Expected EWG contributions to the output: 1) Comments and suggestions to improve the knowledge products.

Tentative Agenda

Time	Item	Discussion topics
09:00-09:50 (50min)	Session 1 ASEAN Book Project	<p>Mr. Reo Kawamura, Director for RKC-MPD, ERIA and</p> <p>Mr. Fusanori Iwasaki, Research Fellow, ERIA (20 mins)</p> <p>Q&A, Discussions – 30 mins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Laying out the concept of the Book project. – Suggesting concrete Experts to draft different chapters. – Requesting holistic input and feedback from Experts.
10 min break		
10:00-10:50 (50min)	Session 2 ERIA activity 2025 input from the Experts	<p>Mr. Michikazu Kojima, Senior Research Fellow, ERIA (15 mins)</p> <p>Q&A, Discussions – 35 mins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Follow up of the 5th EWG meeting, and the knowledge products sharing for final feedback – ASEAN Declaration on Plastic Circularity and follow ups – Report on ACCPP2024 and the next step for ACCPP2025 (Malaysia) <p>Progress report of other RKC-MPD projects to collect the feedback, including the bidding to SEA-MaP-KPP</p>

10 min break		
11:00-12:00 (60 mins)	<p>Session 3</p> <p>INC-5 and Beyond</p>	<p>INC 5 Reporting and Introducing Current Chair's Text Dr. Yasuhiko Hotta, Programme Director, IGES (15 mins)</p> <p>Beyond the Negotiations: Highlighting Side Events on the Margins of INC-5 Ms. Chochoe Devaporihartakula, Programme Manager, IGES (15 mins)</p> <p>Q&A – 10mins</p> <p>Exploring EPR at INC-5: Key Discussions and Outcomes Ms. Chochoe Devaporihartakula / Dr. Yasuhiko Hotta: (10 mins)</p> <p>Q&A – 10 mins</p>
Lunch Break (1h)		

13:00-14:15 (75 mins)	<p>Session 4-1</p> <p>Key topics for plastic pollution countermeasures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Leakage prevention – SUP for Post-COVID-19 – Training needs for microplastics monitoring 	<p>Dr. Asokan: (15 mins) National Action Plan Development on Marine Plastic leakage in ASEAN Member countries</p> <p>Q&A (10 mins)</p> <p>Dr. Liu: (15 mins) Policy Design for Tackling Single-Use Plastics Consumption in ASEAN+3 for the Post-COVID-19 Society</p> <p>Q&A (10 mins)</p> <p>Dr. Bao (15 mins): Understanding Public Attitudes Toward Plastic Pollution and Addressing Training Needs for Microplastics Sampling and Analysis in the Philippines</p> <p>Q&A (10 mins)</p>
Afternoon Break (15 mins)		
14:30-15:20 (50 mins)	<p>Session 4-2</p> <p>Key topics for plastic pollution countermeasures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Plastic pollution by fishing gear – Behavioural Changes against SUP 	<p>Dr. Toyoshima: (15 mins) Present status of marine plastic pollution by fishing gear and future collaboration in Asia</p> <p>Q&A (10 mins)</p> <p>Mr. Dwayne: (15 mins) Behaviour Change, Plastics, and ASEAN: Update on Phase II of Breaking the Plastic Habit in ASEAN and Announcement of a New Behavioural Lab and Needs Assessment</p> <p>Q&A (10 mins)</p>