



**CLIMATE &
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TO REDUCE SHORT-LIVED
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Workshop on Integrated Policy Solutions and City Models to End Open Waste Burning in Lao PDR

-Regional Roadmap to End Open Burning of Waste for Asia-

18 December 2025, Souphattra Hotel, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR (Hybrid)

Background and Rationale

Open Waste Burning (OWB) continues to pose significant environmental, health, and climate challenges across Asia and in Lao PDR, particularly where infrastructure, financing, and operational capacity for sustainable waste management remain limited. In many peri-urban and rural communities, burning waste in open spaces remains a default practice due to the absence of collection and disposal alternatives. This leads to severe air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and loss of opportunities for recycling, composting, and resource recovery that are fundamental to a circular economy.

To address these challenges, the *Regional Roadmap to End Open Burning of Waste for Asia* was developed based on assessments in 10 countries, sub-regional dialogues held in Vientiane, Lao PDR and Kathmandu, Nepal, and city pilot activities in Lao PDR and the Maldives. In parallel, the *Policy Recommendations Report for Lao PDR* and Iraq, and *Regional Waste Management Strategy for zone 6&7* in the Maldives have been developed to provide actionable policy and institutional measures to improve the waste management with a particular aim to eliminating OWB region-wide and nation-wide

This final workshop offers an important platform to:

1. Present the Policy Recommendations Report for Lao PDR,
2. Disseminate the Regional Roadmap to End Open Burning of Waste for Asia,
3. Discuss pathways to translate these recommendations into national or sub-national strategies and policies.

Objectives of the Final Workshop

- Present the Policy Recommendations Report for Lao PDR on OWB.
- Present the Regional Roadmap to End Open Burning of Waste for Asia.
- Discuss policy and institutional pathways for integrating the recommendations into national policies, regulations, and action plans
- Strengthen coordination among government agencies and partners to support implementation and follow-up actions.

Expected Outcomes



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- Developed the Policy Recommendations Report for Lao PDR, shared widely with national stakeholders.
- Clear understanding of the Regional Roadmap and its relevance to waste and air quality priorities in Asia
- Agreed mechanisms and next steps for integrating OWB-related recommendations into national and sub-national strategies, plans, and policy processes.
- Strengthened cross-sectoral coordination and commitment to follow-up actions, partnerships, and capacity-building.



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Agenda

Time	Description	Facilitator/Presenter
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	
<u>MC:</u>		
<u>Opening Session</u>		
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome Remarks	Mr Sivixay Salivanh, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture and Environment, Vientiane Capital
09:05 – 09:15	Opening Remarks	Dr. Premakumara Jagath Dickella Gamaralalage (Kumara), Director, IGES-CCET
09:15 – 09:20	Opening Remarks	Ms. Camille Tahon, Programme Manager, UNEP - CCAC
09:20 – 09:35	Presentation “Overview on air pollution in Asia and Actions Taken”	Ms. Yujeong Kim, Senior Programme Management Officer, UNEP ROAP (Online)
09:35 – 09:50	Presentation “Regional Roadmap to End Open Burning of Waste in Asia”	Ms. Miho Hayashi, Programme Manager, IGES-CCET (Online)
09:50 – 10:00	Q&A	
10:00 – 10:10	Launching Ceremony “Policy Recommendations Report on OWB for Lao PDR”	Dr. Premakumara Jagath Dickella Gamaralalage (Kumara), Director, IGES-CCET
10:10 – 10:40	Group photo Coffee / Networking Break	All participants
<u>Technical Session</u>		
10:40 – 11:10	Presentation “Policy Recommendations on OWB for Lao PDR” “Experience from other countries”	Mr. Lakshitha Paranagamage, Program Coordinator, IGES-CCET
	Presentation “Regional Waste Management Strategy for Zone 6 & 7 (GaafuAlifu, GaafuDhaalu, and Gnaviyani/Seenu)” Transformative Action to End Open Burning of Waste	Mr. Mohamed Hamdhan, Project Coordinator, Waste Management and Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Tourism and Environment (Maldives) Online
	Recommendations on Policy and Legislation to End Open Burning of Waste in Iraq	Mr. Rzgar Bewani, Universität Rostock, Germany (Iraq) Online
11:10 -12:00	Interactive Discussion with Panellists “Integrating the Policy Recommendations and Roadmap into National and Sub-National Policies and Plans”	Facilitator: Dr. Premakumara Jagath Panelist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Bounmany Soulideth, Deputy Director Biotechnology and Ecology Institute, MAE Ms. Souvanna Phengasisomboun, Head of Natural Resources Management Unit, National University of Laos.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mohamed Hamdhan (Maldives) Online • Mr. Rzgar Bewani (Iraq) Online
12:00 – 12:15	Presentation: Proposed Mechanisms for Integrating OWB Recommendations into National Policies	Ms. Bounmany Soulideth, BEI, MAE
12:15 – 12:20	Takeaways	Dr. Premakumara Jagath, IGES-CCET
12:20 – 12:30	Closing remarks	Director, BEI, MAE

Evening Session

Time	Description	Presenter/Speaker
13.30 – 13:45	Registration	
	Vientiane City Pilot Session Facilitator: Dr. Premakumara Jagath Dickella Gamaralalage	
13:45 – 14:00	Presentation: Vientiane City Pilot Model	Dr. Champathong Phochanthilath Director of Gender Studies Centre, Project Leader
14:00 - 14:15	Presentation: Progress of waste collection in pilot areas	Ms Tadam, Viengchalern Company
14:15 - 14:45	Village Leaders providing Remarks on the Recyclables Waste Collection Strategy	Mr. Vilay, Village Leader, Hongkaikao Mr. Chitthanom, Village Leader, Bonangua Mr. Somthong, Village Leader, Chommany Mr. Khamsouan, Village Leader, Doung Mr. Khamkhoun, Village Leader, Done Noune Mr. Nongkhan, Village Leader, Nakhae
14:45 - 15:00	Remarks on the Recyclables Waste Collection Strategy	Mr Sivixay Salivanh, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture and Environment, Vientiane Capital, Deputy Director, MAE, Vientiane
	City Models Session Facilitator: Mr. Lakshitha Paranagamage	



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15:00 - 15:15	Presentation: City Pilot Models: Lessons Learned from Kratie Island, Cambodia.	Mr. Phalla Sam, COMPOSTED, Cambodia (online)
15:15 - 15:30	Presentation: Zero Waste Model and lessons learned from India	Mr. Shibu KN, GAIA: Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), India (online)
15:30 - 15:45	Presentation: City Pilot Model: Lessons Learned from Philippines	Mr. Rap Villavicencio, Mother Earth Foundation, Philippines. (online)
15:45 - 16:00	Presentation: GGGI Pilot Project	Mr. George Asimwe, Senior Officer and Lead, Circular Economy Unit, GGGI
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee Break	
16:15 - 17:00	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. George Asimwe, GGGI Pilot Project• Dr. Champathong Phochanthilath Director of Gender Studies Centre, Project Leader• Mr. Phalla Sam, COMPOSTED, Cambodia• Mr. Shibu KN, GAIA: Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), India• Mr. Rap Villavicencio, Mother Earth Foundation, Philippines.	Facilitator: Dr. Premakumra Jagath Dickella Gamaralalage, IGES-CCET
17:00 - 17:15	Brief explanation of air quality monitors	Ms. Bounmany Soulideth, MAE
	Hand over Air Quality Monitors to the Pilot Villages	Ms. Bounmany Soulideth, MAE
17:15-17:30	Closing Remark	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Champathong Phochanthilath Director of Gender Studies Centre, Project Leader• Dr. Premakumara Jagath Dickella Gamaralalage



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Participants.

The event will bring together government agencies, international organisations, academia and private company representatives, including:

No.	Name	Designation	Department/Organisation
1.	Mr Sivixay Salivanh,	Deputy Director	Department of Agriculture and Environment, Vientiane Capital
2.	Mr. Vilaysack Xayasith,	Deputy Director	Department of Agriculture and Cooperative, Division of contract farming and marketing engagement.
3.	Ms. Bounmany Soulideth,	Deputy Director	Biotechnology and Ecology Institute, MAE

1. **Pollution Control Division, MAE**
2. **Modelling Centre, MAE**
3. **Chanthabouly Department of Natural Resources and Environment**
4. **Xaysetha Department of Natural Resources and Environment**
5. **Xaythany Department of Natural Resources and Environment**
6. **Chanthabouly City Office Management and Services**
7. **Xaysetha City Office Management and Services**
8. **Xaythany City Office Management and Services**
9. **Small B**
10. **Village Heads**
11. **Viengchalern company**
12. **GGGI 1 person**
13. **Swiss contact**
14. **Gender Studies Centre team**