

ASIA-EUROPE

ENVIRONMENT FORUM



4th CLMV Regional Conference:
Sustainable Development Goals Implementation
26-27 March 2018 | Bangkok, Thailand



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



ASEF's contribution is made with the financial support of the European Union

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About the Asia-Europe Environment Forum

Established in 2003, the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) is a partnership of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF); ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center (ASEIC); the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) in cooperation with the Stockholm Environment Institute Asia (SEI); the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF); and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). During the first decade of its operation, the ENVforum organised over 50 high-level international meetings, roundtables, conferences and workshops, bringing together over 1,200 selected participants from government, ministries, academia, international organisations, NGOs and civil society and also authored seven prominent publications.

The ENVforum aims to foster inter-regional cooperation between Asia and Europe on sustainable development and its environmental dimensions. To support such collaboration, the ENVforum aims to provide a multi-stakeholder platform for knowledge-sharing, capacity building, to offer up-to-date information for policymakers and partner organisations on environmental themes, and to contribute to the formulation of sound political decisions that are mindful of their environmental impacts.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Since 2013, the ENVforum has been actively engaged in the global discussion surrounding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted by the UN Member States in the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015. The ENVforum was given its mandate by the ASEM Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR in November 2012. Going beyond its traditional format, the ENVforum launched a program to contribute to the bottom-up process that supports the implementation and monitoring of SDGs by providing Asian and European countries with key insights into sustainable development planning. The program is based on three pillars:

- It undertakes research on SDGs and their associated indicators;
- It organises knowledge-hub meetings of experts working on SDGs and indicators as well as on the Green Economy; and
- It disseminates the outcomes of consultations to policymakers.

Multi-stakeholder cooperation between international organisations, governments, businesses and the civil society will be required to address a variety of implementation challenges to translate the SDGs into reality. The ENVforum provides a platform for such multi-stakeholder cooperation to take place and supports global discussions with insights gained from its research on SDGs.

Sustainable Development Goals Delivery: Planning for Implementation



Picture 1: 4th CLMV Regional Conference Attendees

The Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) held a 1.5-day regional conference on “*Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation*” for policy makers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV). The conference was held on 26-27 March 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, and was co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Viet Nam office with the support from the ENVforum consortium. The conference involved the participation of government officials from the CLMV countries and representatives from multilateral organisations and research institutions.

The focus of this year’s conference was on the countries’ progress on national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation and the peer-to-peer discussion of challenges faced on the way to the 2030 Agenda. This report offers a summary of the proceedings and an overview of the issues discussed during the conference.

Day 1

Welcome Remarks



Picture 2: Mr SUN Xiangyang chairing the morning session

Mr SUN Xiangyang, Deputy Executive Director of the Asia Europe-Foundation (ASEF), opened the conference. Mr SUN welcomed the participants and emphasised that the focus of the conference was on experience sharing and common learning.

Dr Axel NEUBERT, Director of the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Viet Nam Office, lauded the consistency in attendance among the last four CLMV conferences and emphasised the need to distribute best practices within the region.

Mr Surendra SHRESTHA, Vice President for Development of the AIT, welcomed the fact that Lao and Viet Nam were both conducting Voluntary National Reviews this year, and highlighted challenges for SDG implementation in the CLMV context.

Keynote Remarks

The keynote speech, delivered by **Dr Darm SUKONTASAP, ASEF Governor for Thailand**, gave an overview of the state of SDGs implementation in Thailand and the country’s multilateral engagement with the 2030 Agenda. He lauded the interest in the SDGs coming from the CLMV countries and stressed that SDGs provide a platform for transparency as well as coordination among the CLMV countries. Speaking of the Thai development experience, Dr SUKONTASAP illustrated the Thai “Sufficiency Economy”. The sufficiency economy enhances the nation’s ability to modernise without defying globalisation – it provides a means to respond to negative outcomes caused by rapid economic transitions.



Picture 3: Dr Darm SUKONTASAP delivering his keynote remarks

Introductory Session

Ms Nur A’in RAZAK, Project Officer from Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) introduced ASEF and the background of ENVforum. She then provided an overview of the 2-day conference programme. The first day of the conference would focus on the state of SDG implementation in the CLMV countries and introduce the workshop themes of SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production, SCP) and indicator development. Day 2 would continue the roundtable discussions on SDG12, focusing on the challenges to implementation, while another roundtable would focus on multi-stakeholder partnerships. Ms RAZAK also highlighted some relevant publications of the ENVforum, for instance, the recently published [Implementation Guide for the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

Main Plenary Session

Panel 1: ENVforum involvement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The first panel provided an overview of the “ENVforum involvement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda”.



Picture 4: Outcomes of the 1st panel



Picture 5: Ms Grazyna PULAWSKA delivering her presentation

Ms Grazyna PULAWSKA, Project Manager from Asia-Europe-Foundation (ASEF) spoke on how to deliver sustainable development at the national level. Her speech emphasised that current and future cooperation should always be need-based and built upon the requirements of the individual CLMV countries. She also clarified that national policy coordination should not occur just for its own sake but be tied to concrete outcomes. She provided an overview of implementation steps suitable for national implementation, based on the 3-step model of the ENVforum's [Implementation Guide for the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). In the first stage, countries conduct a baseline assessment of how the SDGs align with their national development goals. In the second step, countries customise the SDGs to their national planning frameworks and vice-versa to achieve coherence between national goals and global objectives. In the last step, implementation and monitoring frameworks are developed to accompany the implementation process in the long run. The common challenges for national implementation are related to funding and to specific follow-up and review frameworks including partnerships. She also mentioned the possibility of ENVforum might assist the CLMV countries in carrying out actionable and result-oriented specialised Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in the future upon request.

Next, Ms Dora ALMASSY, Researcher, Central European University, presented the overview of the available funding for SDGs implementation. The presentation was based on the ENVforum publication [Who Will Pay for the Sustainable Development Goals? Addressing Development Challenges in ASEM Countries](#). She highlighted opportunities to mobilise resources based on the analysis of submitted VNRs to High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). She elaborated on the existing opportunities originating both from the reform of public sector financing and the involvement of the private sector. Even though overseas development assistance (ODA) is declining in relevance worldwide, ODA remains important as a potential catalyst to attract other sources of funding. Irrespective of the ODA potential, it is the adequate use of domestic resources that will enable countries, also those in the middle-income rung, to fund their SDG commitments. These sources include, but are not limited to, tax income, a reduction of fossil fuel subsidies and the redirection of funds from other uses towards SDGs' objectives. What remains to be done for countries, particularly those operating under funding constraints, is to estimate the costs and benefits of various interventions and coordinate national budgeting. More effective uses of government resources and the identification of new sources of funding, possibly in the private sector, are the opportunities that countries should explore.



Picture 6: Ms Dora ALMASSY delivering her presentation

The following discussion tackled potential sources of funding, including private sector and remittances. Various frameworks to mobilise funding from the private sector were discussed. It transpired that measuring different sources of SDG funding is a challenge, particularly those coming from non-public sources. There is a room for improvement regarding resource mobilisation and one helpful strategy is to closely monitor financial flows on various governance levels.

Panel 2: CLMV National Progress Overview

The “CLMV National Progress Overview” Panel provided insight into the state of affairs on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within the four national contexts.



Picture 7: The outcomes of the national progress overview

H.E. Poch SOVANNDY, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Planning, Cambodia, provided insights into the state of the nationalisation of the 2030 Agenda, stakeholder coordination and the state of domestic resources. Nationalisation has been going on since 2015 and Cambodia remains in the process of preparing its Sustainable Development Goals Framework. 18 goals, 98 targets and 178 indicators are slated to be prioritised by Cambodia. Stakeholder coordination mechanisms have prepared sectoral plans, with clear lead agencies on different SDGs having been assigned. A challenge remains in the production of sub-national plans to diffuse the 2030 Agenda more broadly. Data collection also remains a challenge, which is something that is currently being considered in the design of the appropriate monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks. Cambodia is preparing to mobilise domestic resources to meet its commitment, which is a significant departure from the MDG (Millenium Development Goals) process. It is foreseen that budgeting for the SDGs will also occur, but these processes are still emergent. The discussion revolved around the disaggregation of data, which is an ongoing conversation within Cambodia. Also, Cambodia struggles with capacity at the sub-national level. Other CLMV representatives asked about the process of indicator selection in Cambodia, and Mr SOVANNDY gave some background on the coordination with the national statistical office.



Picture 8: H.E. Poch SOVANNDY sharing Cambodia's national experience

Mr Than Zaw, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Planning and Finance (MPF), Myanmar, also illuminated the ongoing process of consultations on the national SDG framework. Myanmar remains at an early stage of the process, relying strongly on external partner support to coordinate its ongoing consultations and capacity building.

The MPF envisions a five-step process to support the achievement of the SDGs, consisting of prioritising, planning, aligning with global and regional goals, capacity development and institutional strengthening accompanied by awareness raising. The Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan is structured around 3 pillars, 5 goals, 28 strategies and 238 action plans. Capacity development has been progressing with 700 government officials at both national and sub-national levels being trained on the SDGs. The challenges identified were statistical readiness and coordination of data collection. The inclusion of Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) and the diffusion of the SDG agenda within the territory of Myanmar were also mentioned as issues of concern. As 70% of the population live in rural areas, there is a lack of SDGs awareness. Ministerial collaboration, as well as cooperation with external partners, are also to be reviewed.



Picture 9: Mr Than Zaw sharing Myanmar's national experience

Mr Kalouna NANTHAVONGDUANSY, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao PDR, gave an overview of the Laotian SDGs mainstreaming process. The country is conducting a VNR this year, which has galvanised efforts to coordinate on the 2030 agenda. The 8th National Sustainable Economic Development Plan of Lao PDR was prepared with a view towards the graduation of Lao PDR from the least developed country category and the challenges the country would face during this transition process. The plan focuses on 3 key outcomes, based on 17 outputs. The nationalisation of the plan has resulted in the implementation of 28 goals, 169 targets and 124 indicators. As the Lao PDR VNR process now takes centre stage, various preparations have been ongoing with a view towards the successful completion of the review and a thorough follow-up based on its main findings. This includes broad stakeholder meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Planning and Investment. The Lao PDR government is aware that more vertical and horizontal coordination is needed in the future, particularly with a view towards effective, results-based reporting on SDGs and inter-ministerial coordination. The discussion centred around the transition from MDGs to SDGs in the case of Lao as well as the choice of indicators and targets. Lao PDR has a very wide-ranging national development agenda where the SDG agenda is still being mainstreamed into, and so many points are still emerging.



Picture 10: Mr Kalouna NANTHAVONGDUANSY sharing Lao PDR's national experience

Ms NGUYEN Thi Thanh Nga, Official, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam, presented the evolution of the Vietnamese national development plan to various sectoral plans and the Vietnamese effort to diffuse the SDGs according to the different relevant line ministries and sectoral bodies. The National Action Plan signed in 2017, which includes the 2030 Agenda, envisions 17 VSDGs and 115 targets overall. From 2017 to 2020, the government will focus on completion of various policies to enable an environment for VSDGs implementation. From 2012 to 2030, implementation is slated to occur. In this process, the establishment of inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, indicator establishment and strengthening of awareness and capacity remain challenges to be tackled. The discussion revolved around the capacity to finance commitments domestically. Viet Nam has seen tax income stagnate as a percentage of gross domestic product, which calls into question the sustainability of public domestic sources of financing. Moreover, Viet Nam envisions a significant strengthening of the partnership aspects of its national SDGs commitments and designs stakeholder partnerships for implementation.



Picture 11: Ms NGUYEN Thi Thanh Nga sharing Viet Nam's national experience

Parallel Roundtables



Picture 12: Summary of welcome and keynote remarks, and outcomes of Day 1 roundtables

The following sessions of the conference divided the participants into parallel panels, two of which focused on multi-stakeholder partnerships and indicator measurement. The other two panels focused on SDG 12 – this year’s focal area for ENVforum. In the first panel of this series, SDG 12 was discussed in general, while the second panel addressed SDG12 with a focus on the implementation of concrete initiatives, targets and indicators.

Roundtable 1: Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for SDGs Policy Making

The roundtable on “Multistakeholder Partnerships for SDGs Policy Making”, moderated by Mr Surendra SHRESTHA, Vice President for Development of AIT, focused on (1) Business and Industry; (2) SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Resource-based, Time-based deliverables) partnerships; and (3) policy coherence and integration.



Picture 13: Mr Niall O'CONNOR delivering his presentation

Mr Niall O'CONNOR, Asia Centre Director of the Stockholm Environment Institute, underscored the need to integrate private sector in SDG development and implementation from the beginning of the country’s process. Additionally, Mr O'CONNOR highlighted that partnerships bring collective ownership for successful implementation. He suggested a bottom-up approach for all stakeholders. In his presentation of a study on the networked interactions of the various SDGs, he pointed out that certain SDGs have the potential to act as “accelerator interventions” and provide resource-effective options to achieve progress. They may also facilitate partnership policy dialogue and cross-sectoral cooperation and give guidance for more coherent policies.

Next, under business and industry, **Dr Faiz SHAH, Director of the SDG Transformation Laboratory**, emphasised the importance of small businesses and industries as they form the majority in the private sector. Mainstreaming the SDGs not just at the national but also at the local level is necessary for policy coherence and implementation. Small business and industry are the majority, thus, focusing on their inclusion is key to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Overall, there is a great need to integrate the private sectors into the development and the implementation of the SDGs. SMART Partnerships must include small businesses and must also enable learning in the sense of research and policy integration and bring about collective ownership for successful implementation of the SDGs.

From the academic point of view, **Dr Surichai WUN'GAEO of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies of Chulalongkorn University**, highlighted that the scientific and technological community could be a catalyst for change in the business community. SDGs should enable societies to move past the simple “balance-sheet-approach”, towards shared values, objectives and goals. Internationally accepted norms are the basis for our future and adjustments must be made to our understanding of global risks and rights. Defining what those risks and rights remain a challenge of our time. In a government context, SDGs should enable us to bridge the gap between government silos and create thematic structure and realities of interconnectedness between sectors. Moreover, short-term demands and long-term concerns need to be bridged. Dr WUN'GAEO ended with a plea for more vertical inclusion of academia in the SDG process.



Picture 14: Dr Surichai WUN'GAEO delivering his presentation

During the discussion, it transpired that private sector involvement in SDG implementation is very uneven across the CLMV-region. Lao PDR has not yet approached private sector actors but plans to do so in the VNR process. Myanmar is currently conceptualising how the private sector may be approached. In the case of Cambodia, business was involved only at the start of CSDG localisation, but there is interest for additional coordination. In the case of Viet Nam, development of an action plan for private sector involvement is ongoing. Another discussion dwelled on the cultural aspects of the CLMV region. People are resilient and are used to innovate their way around local challenges. Too much “over-policy” may, in fact, be detrimental to certain ways of thinking.

Roundtable 2: Benchmarking on Sustainable Consumption and Production Practices

In the roundtable discussion on “*Benchmarking on Sustainable Consumption and Production Practices*”, Moderator **Ms Ella ANTONIO of the Earth Council Asia-Pacific** highlighted the importance of SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production. It has the highest number of interlinkages with other SDGs, and therefore has a large impact on the attainment of all other SDGs.

Dr Ampai HARAKUNARAK, President of the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), drew attention to listing concrete implementation challenges in the CLMV countries. So far, Southeast Asian countries have focused mainly on the



Picture 15: Dr Ampai HARAKUNARAK addressing the questions raised

production aspect of SCP as opposed to the consumption and production would require significant changes. Thailand's practice towards SCP involves a series of policies and initiatives, including green public procurement, eco-labelling and plastic management. Having an SCP roadmap 2017-2036 allows Thailand to promote the SCP concept in different sectors and implement various plans in the medium and long run. This includes strategies on green industry, chemical and waste management, environmental management and green labelling initiatives. Green public procurement was initiated in 2005, with a first stage focusing on the central government, then the provincial governments in the second phase and then the inclusion of the private sector in the third phase, from 2017-2021.

Ms Ngoc Anh NGUYEN, Official of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam, provided an overview of the Vietnamese SCP framework and progress made in this particular SDG. Starting in 2007, Vietnam has enacted a range of action plans, laws and strategies related to SCP. Key documents here are: the National Strategy for Green Growth (2011-2020); the National Strategy and Action Plan on Environmental Protection (-2020); the National Strategy for Clean Technology Usage (-2020); and the Strategy and Planning for Industry Development in Viet Nam (-2025). A cleaner production strategy that was implemented set targets for 2015 and 2020. Most targets for 2015 were met. Therefore, Viet Nam is on track for significant improvement in the realm of SCP. This is at least partly due to international support for the establishment of sustainable industrial zones, the Switch Asia Program and the Sustainable Product Innovation Project. Another strategy that is being applied in Viet Nam is the ranking of enterprises by the Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development, which reports on the sustainability of enterprises on the stock exchange. Progress is also being made on eco-labelling, where the Viet Nam Green Label, the Energy Efficiency Label and Green Public Procurement, plays a role. Change towards sustainable consumption patterns remains a challenge, particularly on the consumer side of SCP.

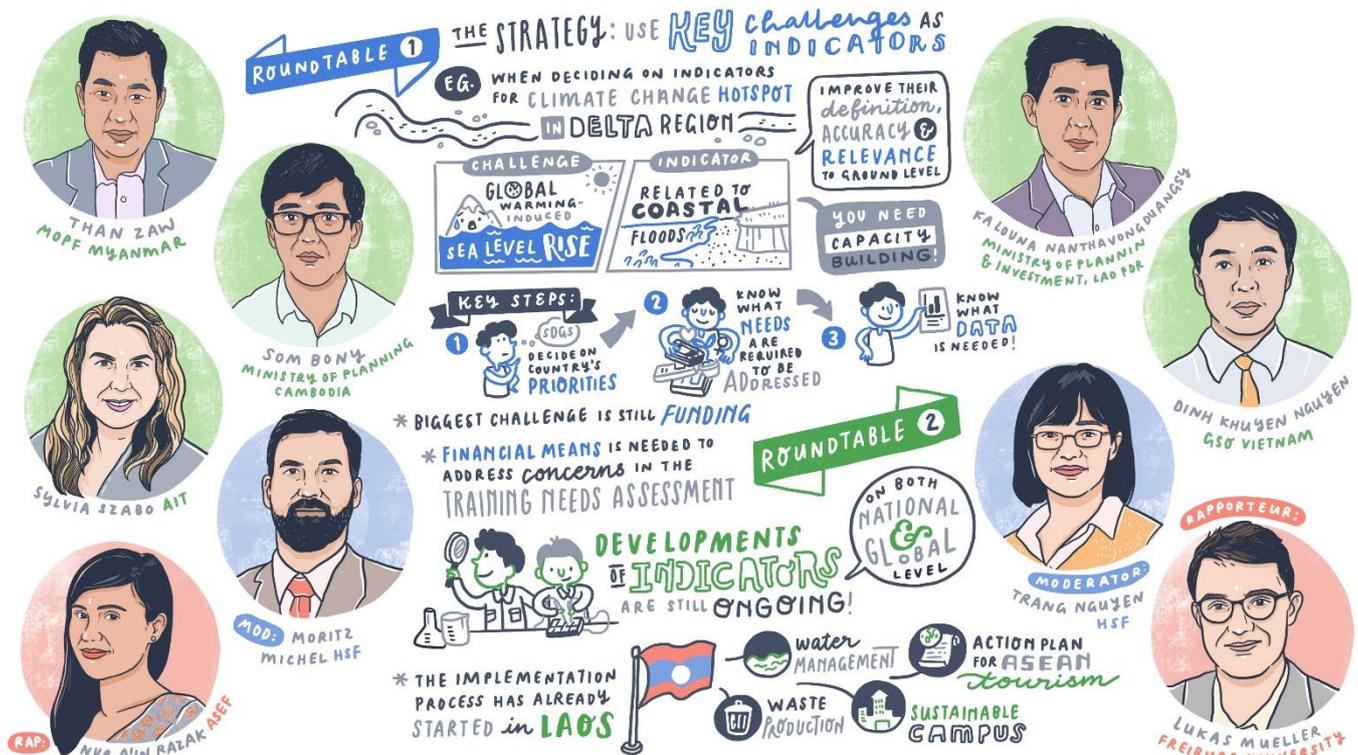
Ms Ira LARASATY of the SWITCH-Asia Project illustrated the role of her project as a collaborator in the effective implementation of SCP projects throughout Asia. SWITCH-Asia operates as an enabler of capacities in various countries, a mainstreamer of policies and practices across context, a collaboration platform for different stakeholder and a multiplier of beneficiaries and scale. Looking at various SWITCH-Asia-supported projects in the CLMV countries not only demonstrates the diverse nature of the supported projects, but also showcases that there remains a wide scope for additional projects. In the following discussion, however, it transpired that sometimes there are issues of capacity at work here. SWITCH-Asia may be seen as a challenging option for governments and a private sector with little experience in international cooperation and partnerships. The lack of capacity and awareness of governments, the general public and the private sector have also been identified as a challenge. Lack of synchronous processes within governments, technical gaps and contradictory policies affecting SCP in CLMV countries are also viewed as potential roadblocks. But it was clear that the dual strategies of capacity building of national and sub-national agencies and the advocacy and scaling up of good practices on SCP projects was considered as an attractive option by the participants. Much of the following discussion revolved around the role of external partners in supporting SCP initiatives.



Picture 16: Ms Ira LARASATY answering questions raised

Day 2

Parallel Roundtables



Picture 17: Outcomes of Day 2 roundtables

Roundtable 1: Measuring What Matters

The roundtable discussion on “Measuring What Matters” moderated by **Mr Moritz MICHEL**, Deputy Director of **Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Viet Nam Office**, first discussed on the strong points related to SDGs monitoring and what countries can do to reduce the workload on their statistical systems.

Dr Sylvia SZABO, Assistant Professor of the **AIT**, gave examples of using key challenges as key indicators in the measuring of the SDGs. Challenges such as the global warming-induced sea level rise can be addressed by using indicators related to that challenge. In this case, an indicator related to coastal flooding. It is important to know what the data are needed. The needs to be addressed will depend on the countries’ national development goals. Dr SZABO also mentioned the challenge of collecting data across borders in cases where problems are trans-national, such as global warming case or other environment-related issues. She presented a framework to analyse how better monitoring systems can contribute to an acceleration to the achievement of SDGs. Setting up robust monitoring frameworks lead to greater accountability in reaching the objectives. To substantiate her argument, she applied the framework to analysing SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).



Picture 18: Dr Sylvia SZABO answering questions raised

Mr Than Zaw, Deputy Director General, **Central Statistical Organisation, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Myanmar**, presented the state of the statistical system of Myanmar, which is highly decentralised. The current capacity building initiative is split into two phases; developing a set of strategies in the first phase, and then working with clusters to develop implementation plans in the second phase. These reform processes are also tied to Myanmar’s SDG priorities, which include poverty alleviation, improving education and health, employment creation, improving access to affordable energy and infrastructure and environment and disaster resilience. However, the limited financial and human resources, lack of awareness, and difficulties in conducting the planning

and budgeting process remain as challenges to the system. Given the strong involvement of external partners in Myanmar statistical capacity building, managing aid to avoid donor fragmentation will also be a challenge.

Mr Som BONY, Deputy Director of the Ministry of Planning, Cambodia, presented 3 steps to be taken by Cambodia to move forward: (1) strategic approach in linking Cambodia's National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) to NSDP; (2) having strong advocacy by conducting user-producer dialogues, endorsement of National Strategic Development Plan by the Prime Minister, and using PARIS21 Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT); and (2) planning for future capacity and resource mobilisation by developing national implementation plans. A recurring point emphasised during the discussion was that it is important to identify the data needed, which is dependent on the countries' priorities regarding national development goals. Additionally, one key area of concern was identified as financial means — although training needs assessment has already been conducted, or priorities have already been identified funding is essential to move forward.



Picture 19: Mr Som BONY, Dr Sylvia SZABO, Mr Moritz MICHEL & Mr Than Zaw (left to right) engaging in a discussion

During the discussion, it transpired that improvement of indicators regarding definition, accuracy and ground-level was identified as the key challenge for most actors involved. But for this to happen in a meaningful way, the capacity building would be necessary. A key area for those concerned were the financial means needed to attain the necessary capacity. Training needs assessments have already been done in most cases, but the implementation of the next steps may face financial difficulties.

Roundtable 2: SDG 12 - National SDGs Challenges

The Roundtable Discussion on “SDG12 and implementation challenges” provided insight into the national progress on implementation of the SDG 12 in the case of Lao PDR and Viet Nam.

Mr Kalouna NANTHAVONGDUANGSY, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao PDR, reported on the challenges in Lao PDR, which concerned the transfer from the national to the local level, both regarding governance coordination as well as data availability. Lao PDR remains in the early stages of SDG12 localisation. There is an ongoing discussion on which indicators may be applied to national monitoring framework of Lao PDR that includes consultation process. There are several indicators that are being considered as ones to add such as “sustainable natural resource use per head”, “loss of production after harvest or yield”, “waste production”, “number of universities that have sustainable campuses”, and an indicator related to the ASEAN action plan on eco-tourism.

Mr Dinh Khuyen NGUYEN, Deputy Director of the General Statistics Office, Viet Nam, reported on the state of implementation of SDG12 in the country. Viet Nam introduced 11 indicators for SDG 12, but only three of those were considered feasible. In the realm of statistics, some challenges remained to effective monitoring of SDG12. In this case, there is an issue with the lack of metadata. Metadata is lacking for 8 out of 11 indicators attached to SDG12. The concept behind SDG12 is not clear, and there are remaining issues on how to adapt it to the national level as guidance on the global level is divergent from what is needed and actionable at the national level. New data sources would require survey methods such as collecting administrative data. Moreover, building the capacity to conduct these types of big data analyses would take time and effort. After reviewing the SDG 12 indicators, it was found that only 3 indicators are feasible, and 8 indicators are



Picture 20: Mr Dinh Khuyen NGUYEN sharing Viet Nam's experience

not. However, capacity building to collect data in support of SDG12 may be promising as 6 indicators are deemed feasible with some technical support.

The Moderator, **Ms Trang NGUYEN, Project Manager, Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Viet Nam office**, emphasised that implementation of SDG 12 remains patchy, but that there are examples of successful implementation within

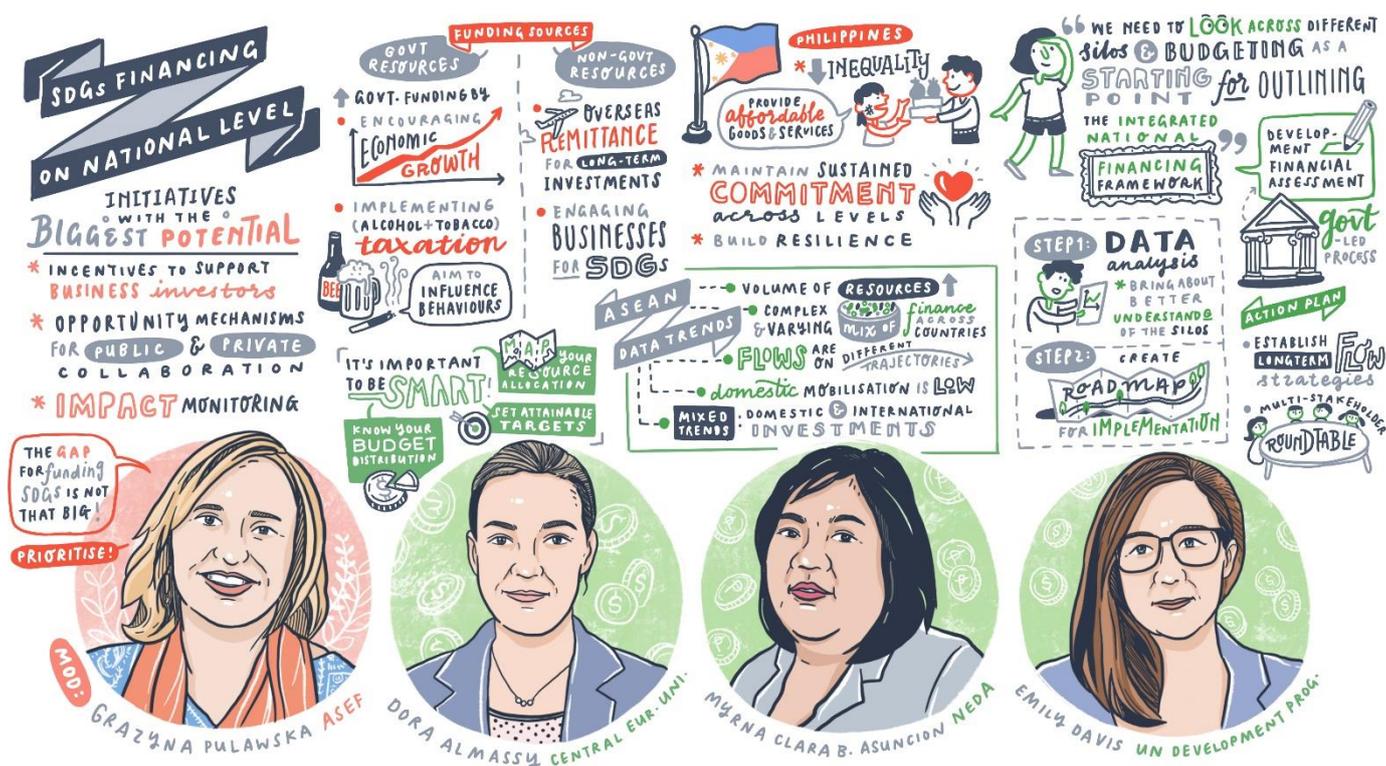


Picture 21: Ms Trang NGUYEN moderating the roundtable

the region for CLMV states to model themselves after. In the following discussion, the conversation mainly turned towards the number, character and feasibility of the indicators designed for SDG 12 in Lao PDR and Viet Nam. Lao PDR still has an ongoing discussion on national monitoring system. An exchange of information between the two countries ensued, with the discussion focusing on the indicators used as well as the metadata foundation. It transpired that metadata at the global level remains problematic for SDG 12, which hampers the progress that can be made at the national level. This calls for even more coordination between countries facing similar challenges so that best practices can be diffused more effectively.

Main Plenary Session

Panel 1: Experts' Panel on SDG Financing on National Level



Picture 22: Outcomes of the expert's panel

The last panel consisted of experts on the SDG Financing on the National Level. An impromptu poll conducted by the organisers revealed that majority of participants felt that their countries were well positioned to implement their SDG commitments. Furthermore, many of them understood that strong mobilisation of domestic private finance would be necessary to achieve their objectives. 11 out of 18 participants agreed that their countries are “rather prepared to finance SDGs”. The ideal mix of funds for the financing of SDGs, according to the participants, would be 39% government spending, 33% private resources, 21% ODA, and 8% other funds. The two biggest challenges to SDG financing were seen as “improving taxation and government spending”, and “mobilisation of business financing” (6 respondents each), followed by “assessment of the costs of SDGs” (4 respondents)



Picture 23: Ms Myrna ASUNCION providing a case study from the Philippines, and on the right, Ms Emily DAVIS

Ms Emily DAVIS, the Policy Specialist at the UNDP Regional Hub, provided an overview of the finance sources available within the ASEAN region and CLMV. Still, there are considerable divergences in the national contexts, meaning that countries will face unique challenges in their financing of the SDGs.

Ms Myrna Clara B. ASUNCION, Director III of the National Economic and Development Authority of the Philippines, provided some background on the case of the Philippines, where various initiatives to finance SDGs are being tested. She outlined innovative forms of excise tax going directly towards social projects as well as diaspora bonds. In the following Q&A, questions turned towards the potential to collect sufficient tax to provide public finance for SDG implementation. Increasingly, countries are hoping to rely on private sources of funding.

The panel ended with a statement of optimism by **Ms PULAWSKA, Project Manager from ASEF,** who highlighted that given the variety of financing available, SDG funding should not be seen as posing such a big challenge, due to the huge potential of innovative approaches to the funding to CLMV countries. The mentimeter exercise conducted right before the experts' panel highlighted that CLMV decision-makers themselves consider financial means as a challenge but certainly as one that can be overcome with an intelligent mix of various funding options.

CLMV Regional Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation

26-27 March 2018 | Bangkok, Thailand

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Day 1 – Monday, 26 March 2018

Venue: AIT, Bangkok, Thailand

08:15 – 09:00 **Registration**

Chair for the morning session: SUN Xiangyang, Deputy Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

09:00 – 09:30 **Welcome Remarks**

Mr SUN Xiangyang, Deputy Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

Dr Axel NEUBERT, Director, Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Viet Nam Office

Mr Surendra SHRESTHA, Vice President for Development, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

09:30 – 09:45 **Keynote Remarks**

Dr Darnp SUKONTASAP, Chairman, Board of Directors, Vesak Capital Ventures Co. Ltd.
ASEF Governor for Thailand

09:45 – 10:00 **Photo Session**

10:00 – 10:30 **Coffee Break**

10:30 – 11:15 **Introductory Session**

Ms Nur A'in RAZAK, Project Officer, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

11:15 – 12:00 **Asia-Europe Environment (ENVforum) and its involvement in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Delivering Sustainable Development at the National Level

Ms Grazyna PULAWSKA, Project Manager, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

SDGs Financing Strategies

Ms Dora ALMASSY, Researcher, Central European University

12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch**

Chair for the afternoon session: Ms Grazyna PULAWSKA, Project Manager, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

13:00 – 14:30 **CLMV National Progress Overview**

H.E. Mr Poch SOVANNDY, Deputy Director General, Planning Directorate, Ministry of Planning, Cambodia

Mr Than Zaw, Deputy Director General, Central Statistical Organisation, Ministry of Planning and Finance (MOPF), Myanmar

Mr Kalouna Nanthavongduangsy, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao PDR

Ms NGUYEN Thi Thanh Nga, Official, Department of Science, Education, Natural Resources and Environment, Sustainable Development Office, Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Viet Nam

14:30 – 15:00 **Coffee Break**

15:00 – 16:15	Roundtable 1: Multistakeholder Partnerships for SDGs Policy Making	Roundtable 2: Benchmarking on Sustainable Consumption and Production Practices
	<p>Dr Faiz SHAH, Director, SDG Transformation Laboratory</p> <p>Dr Surichai WUN'GAEO, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, Chulalongkorn University</p> <p>Mr Niall O'CONNOR, Asia Centre Director, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Surendra SHRESTHA, Vice President for Development, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Ms. Nur A'in RAZAK, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)</p>	<p>Dr Ampai HARAKUNARAK, President, Thailand Environment Institute Foundation (TEI)</p> <p>Ms Ngoc Anh Nguyen, Institute of Strategy, Policies on Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam</p> <p>Ms Ira Larasaty, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Ella Antonio, President, Earth Council Asia-Pacific</p> <p>Rapporteur: Mr. Lukas MUELLER, Freiburg University</p>

16:15 – 16:30 **Thematic Roundtables Highlights**
Rapporteurs' Presentation on the Thematic Roundtables Discussions

16:30 - 16:45 **Conclusions of Day 1**

16:45 onwards

Departing to Dinner Reception
River Star Princess Cruise

Boarding dock: YODPIMAN RIVER WALK Soi San Chao Ban Mo, Khwaeng Wang Burapha Phirom, Khet Phra Nakhon, Krung Thep Maha Nakhon 1020

Day 2 – Tuesday, 27 March 2018
Venue: AIT, Bangkok, Thailand

Chair for the morning session: Mr Surendra SHRESTHA, Vice President for Development, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

09:30 – 09:45	Rationale and Objectives of the Programme for Day 2	
09:45 – 10:00	Introduction to the Thematic Roundtables on Role of Different Stakeholders in SDGs Implementation	
10:00 – 11:15	<p>Roundtable 1: Measuring What Matters</p> <p>Mr Than Zaw, Deputy Director General, Central Statistical Organisation, Ministry of Planning and Finance (MOPF), Myanmar</p> <p>Mr Som BONY, Deputy Director, National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Cambodia</p> <p>Dr Sylvia SZABO, Assistant Professor, Department of Development and Sustainability, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Moritz MICHEL, Deputy Director, Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Ms. Nur A'in RAZAK, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)</p>	<p>Roundtable 2: SDG 12: National SDGs Challenges</p> <p>Mr Kalouna Nanthavongduangsy, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao PDR</p> <p>Mr Dinh Khuyen NGUYEN, Deputy Director, Statistical Standards, Methodologies and IT Department, General Statistics Office (GSO) Viet Nam</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Trang NGUYEN, Project Manager, Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Mr Lukas MUELLER, Freiburg University</p>
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee Break	
11:45 – 12:15	Thematic Roundtables Highlights Rapporteurs' Presentation on the Thematic Roundtables Discussions	
12:15 – 13:15	Experts' Panel on SDGs Financing on National Level	
	<p>Ms. Dora ALMASSY, Researcher, Central European University</p> <p>Ms Emily Davis, Policy Specialist, Development Finance & Effectiveness, Bangkok Regional Hub, United Nations Development Programme</p> <p>Ms Myrna Clara B. ASUNCION, Director, Social Development Staff, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Philippines</p>	

4th CLMV Regional Conference: Sustainable Development Goals Implementation

Moderator: Ms Grazyna PULAWSKA, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

13:15 – 13:30

Closing Remarks

Mr SUN Xiangyang, Deputy Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

Dr Axel NEUBEURT, Director, Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Viet Nam Office

13:30 onwards

Lunch

List of Speakers

Keynote Speaker

Dr Darnp SUKONTASAP

Chairman
Board of Directors
Vesak Capital Ventures Co. Ltd.
ASEF Governor for Thailand

Speakers

Dr Ampai HARAKUNARAK

President
Thailand Environment Institute Foundation (TEI)

Dr Axel NEUBERT

Director
Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Viet Nam Office

Mr Dinh Khuyen NGUYEN

Deputy Director
Statistical Standards
Methodologies and IT Department
General Statistics Office (GSO) Viet Nam

Ms. Dora ALMASSY

Researcher
Central European University

Ms. Ella ANTONIO

President
Earth Council Asia-Pacific

Ms. Emily DAVIS

Policy Specialist
Development Finance & Effectiveness
Bangkok Regional Hub
United Nations Development Programme

Dr Faiz SHAH

Director
SDG Transformation Laboratory

Ms Grazyna PULAWSKA

Project Manager
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

Ms Ira Larasaty

SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility

Mr Kalouna Nanthavongduangsy

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Ministry of Planning, Cambodia

Mr Som BONY

Deputy Director
National Institute of Statistics
Ministry of Planning, Cambodia

Mr Surendra SHRESTHA

Vice President for Development
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Dr Sylvia SZABO

Assistant Professor
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Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

Mr Than Zaw

Deputy Director General
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Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment,
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Mr SUN Xiangyang

Deputy Executive Director
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

Rapporteur

Mr Lukas MULLER

Researcher
Freiburg University

About the Organisers



The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health.

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ASEF's contribution is made with the financial support of the European Union.

