

Newsletter of Bangkok-based projects by GIZ and PARTNERS

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Dear Readers,

Time flies. After 7 years in Thailand, Mr. David Oberhuber, Country Director of GIZ Thailand and Malaysia will take a new position in Central Asia based in Kyrgyzstan. The highlight in this issue will be his interview which was focused on the development and changes of Thai-German international cooperation. During these years, the two countries have moved away from traditional donor-recipient-relation towards a partnership of equal terms, e.g. in the areas of climate change, regional integration and South-South cooperation.

Besides news from the projects, we will give a sneak preview about the results of an EU-Thai-German project on the economics of eco-system services (TEEB) which will end this August after 4 years.

As usual, you can also be informed on the German cooperation through our facebook page, www.facebook.com/gizthailand. Our website, www.thai-german-cooperation.info will be relaunched by this month.

Best regards,
The newsletter team

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7 Years in Thailand A Time of Changes, Challenges and Sanuk

By Tuangsiri Kanisthananda GIZ Office Bangkok



In July 2008 David Oberhuber moved from Berlin to Bangkok to take the position of the Country Director of GIZ Thailand & Malaysia. Germany and Thailand had already announced the ending of traditional development cooperation. The final bilateral technical assistance programme improving the competitiveness of Thai SMEs has then ended later in 2011. David Oberhuber was assigned to lead the changes of GIZ in Thailand since then. Khun David - as many used to call him - and his family will leave Thailand and move to Kyrgyzstan to run a regional economic and trade programme. Let's hear what he has to say looking back over the last seven years.

Tuangsiri: Khun David, I hope everything is going smooth and you are ready to move on.

David: Well, before starting the new job, my family and I certainly need a short break, a vacation. I hope, I can be away from the computer most of the time. But it looks good, yes we are almost ready.

Tuangsiri: Please tell us about the changes of German cooperation in and with Thailand during your time.

David: I think in the last years GIZ in Thailand has successfully managed the transition from traditional

development cooperation to a modern form of international cooperation between Germany and Thailand. It reflects the fact very well that Thailand, being an emerging economy, is among the 30 most important economies in the world. After the phasing out of traditional donor-recipient-relation between Germany and Thailand, new areas of cooperation between the two countries have been identified and implementation started. This includes for example our collaboration concerning global challenges in the areas of climate change, including the energy topic. Thailand and Germany partner to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, not just in the sense of one helping the other, but in the sense of joint interest to establish effective climate policy actions together on global level.

Tuangsiri: What else GIZ is working on, besides climate change?

David: Regional integration is of course the second important topic, including support to realise the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). But we do not mean only integration in economic terms, but any type of integration and harmonising efforts, in order to reduce the regional gaps within ASEAN. The third broad area of partnership is South-South cooperation, where for example



GIZ is working together with the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) to jointly support third beneficiary countries in the region to achieve their goals for sustainable development. This we call trilateral cooperation, in which Thailand and Germany act together as donors.

Tuangsir: Can you explain more about South-South cooperation?

David: South-South Cooperation is a way of international cooperation of former developing countries or emerging economies like Thailand to provide know how and information on their development solutions to developing countries. Trilateral cooperation is only one way of South-South cooperation, it was already agreed between Thailand and Germany shortly before I arrived here. Today also many GIZ regional and global initiatives include Thailand as a partner, because of the experiences and expertise which Thai agencies can share with other countries, for instance, in the field of disaster risk management, access to medicine or international anti-drug policies. Or there are specific activities on emerging market economies, e.g. on the fiscal policies or global players.

Tuangsir: How did you see Thailand before you came here, and how you see the role of GIZ now?

David: Before I came to Thailand there was a broad discussion and a big question mark within GIZ on what comes after the phasing out of German bilateral development cooperation with Thailand. Nowadays we have many answers. There are many specific topics of joint interest for both countries, where we benefit from each other in working together in the region. GIZ's role is much about to identify these areas of cooperation and also appraise such collaboration together with potential partners to see, if it is feasible and whether it makes sense to work together in a specific area. It is the decision of the public policy makers to decide in the end, if a specific cooperation activity is agreed on, then GIZ jointly with the identified partners design and establish these collaboration projects.

Tuangsir: So you are satisfied with GIZ's part in these types of new cooperation areas in Thailand?

David: We, both GIZ and all our partners can be satisfied with the progress so far, however, every year we have to make our efforts, since the projects and the budget to finance the cooperation activities do not anymore come automatically every year, as we were used to it in the five decades before.

Tuangsir: Can you describe an example, what do you mean by that?

David: Well, our cooperation on climate change is such an example: we looked into the demands of both sides, the Thai and the German, and we started small with a group of joint projects. In 2008, already before I arrived GIZ first applied together with Thai institutions for such climate policy related projects - the first four such "new kinds" of projects were financed by the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety or BMUB. Some years later GIZ and our partners could convince the German ministry to enter into an irregular dialogue with Thailand in the field of climate and environment - I mean on a political level. Only recently BMUB announced that they will formalise the process of cooperation on political level, on how to agree on joint climate policy related activities on a regular basis: from beginning 2016 onwards a biannual negotiation process will be established ensuring a more strategic agreement on climate policy cooperation with longer perspectives for the benefit and in the interest of both countries.

Similar to that, in the field of trilateral cooperation we also discuss with TICA how to jointly collaborate in a more strategic way - in order to make development cooperation more effective together in the beneficiary countries.

Tuangsiri: What does GIZ see in the future in Thailand and in the region?

David: There is one main change visible in the region. An increasing number of countries in the region are graduating from development cooperation, sooner or later most of the countries in the region will get beyond development status. The region is one of the most promising in terms of economic development and growth. It is very clear that Germany has a strong interest in cooperation with the countries in this region in the future, too, especially with Thailand as one of the regional leaders. The way GIZ took in Thailand I see is the future role of GIZ here in the region as a whole, too. Like we did it here in Thailand, GIZ can support in defining ways of cooperation between Germany and the countries in the region. This goes far beyond traditional development cooperation. It goes into the direction of defining joint interests and joint policies and joint actions, regionally and also globally.

Tuangsiri: Global policies and actions? Can you give us an example on that?

David: For example, there is a new initiative in the pipeline, which I hope will go this way: a global initiative on anti-drug policies, which is about to start in mid-2015. In the 1980s and in the 1990s Germany supported Thailand to eradicate of opium cultivation. Obviously, Thailand is one of the most successful cases in crop substitution and the so-called "alternative development". In the context of HRH the King's efforts, GIZ and many Thai institutions have supported former opium farmers in developing a new way of living. Since then Thailand is also active on the international level in the field of anti-drug policy. In the new initiative Thailand and Germany shall act together in providing services to third countries in how to exterminate drug cultivation and production, fight the international drug trade and collaborate also on how to alleviate drug addiction, as also emerging economies are increasingly facing drug related problems. In addition, the issue of

drug trading is of global concern, where only global cooperation can match the challenges. It is like with the emissions reduction, the similar logic applies here.

Tuangsiri: In the end of this month you are leaving for Central Asia, so what is the message you want to pass on to your colleagues and GIZ partners here in Thailand?

David: First of all, I like to thank our partners for the good cooperation in the last years which I personally really enjoyed - but also for the last six decades. I am convinced, that my colleagues and I had such a good and fruitful work mainly because of the good relationship with our partners - the trust and openness given to us were key factors. I hope, this will continue in the future. Thailand - because of its people - as you may know, is one of the most favorite locations where international GIZ colleagues like to come for work. That says a lot.

Secondly, to the Thai and international GIZ colleagues, I would like to thank you, too, for the last 7 years of pushing things together for this change and for the hard joint work to establish this new role of GIZ. I am happy to see that all staff understood that when we do an activity today, we already have to think of the future cooperation, too. I'm happy to see that the colleagues are always in the positive mood in the cooperation. Fun has to be part of our job. We are not able to do a good job, if we have no fun, no "sanuk". This is not a typical German working term, but this Thai "little word" is what I will take with me, wherever I go in the future.

“ Thailand has successfully managed the transition from traditional development cooperation to a modern form of international cooperation between Germany and Thailand. It reflects the fact very well that Thailand, being an emerging economy, is among the 30 most important economies in the world. ”

Mr. David Oberhuber



4 Years of the ECO-BEST project: a look at the Key Outputs

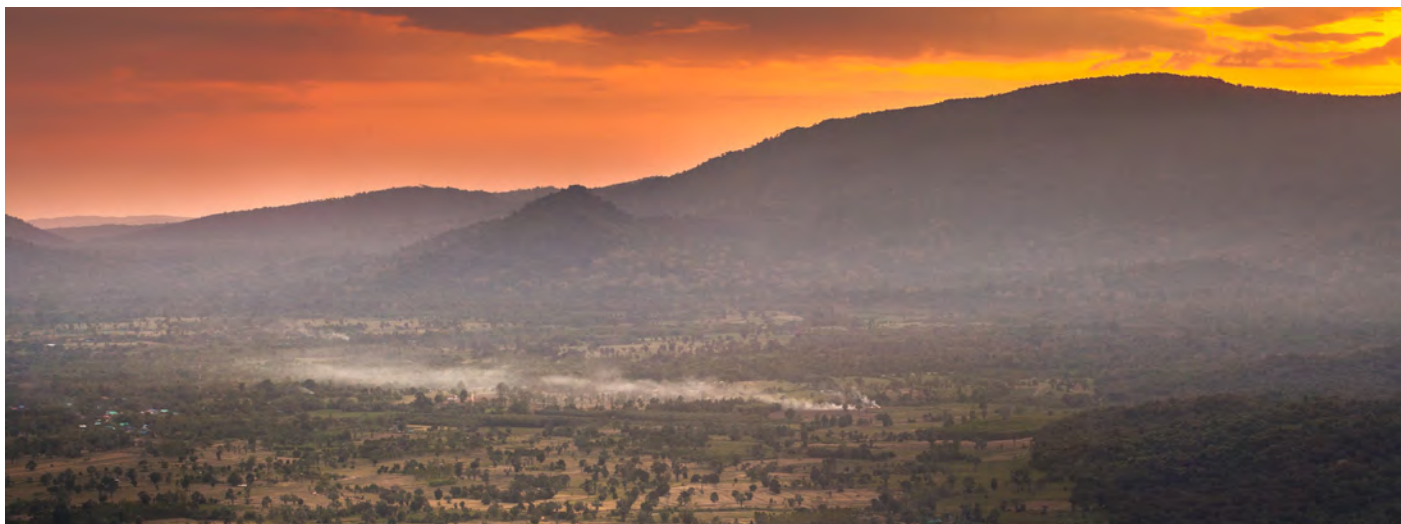
By Piyathip Eawpanich *The Enhancing the Economics of Biodiversity
and Ecosystem Services in Thailand/South East Asia (ECO-BEST)*



Four years after it started, the ECO-BEST project is coming to an end. Scheduled for completion in August 2015, ECO-BEST is co-financed by the European Union (EU), the Thai Government (through the Department of National Parks, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation – DNP) and the German Government (through BMZ) and implemented by GIZ. The project's focus has been to interpret and inform officers at DNP and other government authorities, whose missions relate to biodiversity and ecosystem management, of The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity or TEEB approach. What is TEEB? How is the TEEB applied by the organisations? How can TEEB help formulate and identify the economic instruments for biodiversity and nature conservation? What are the steps to be followed? What are the economic instruments that work, for example the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), certification, conservation fund and taxation?

The ECO-BEST findings and outputs show that TEEB can be effectively applied to enhance the effectiveness of management by both government organisations and private enterprises whether their missions involve nature conservation or economic development. It is of particular value to enterprises whose value chain or business depends on the richness, security and health of the ecosystem and biodiversity. The key message conveyed in applying the TEEB approach to government agencies and private enterprises is that it seeks the most efficient ways to “*Internalise the Externalities*”.

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Another major output of the project has been implementation at the 3 pilot sites in Thailand. This has focused on developing with the key stakeholders the appropriate economic instruments that allow people who benefit from ecosystem and biodiversity resources to share some of the burden with those who bear the cost of conservation to ensure the quality and quantity of ecosystem services for all beneficiaries. The project has applied the Beneficiary Pays Principles at all three pilot sites.

The first site is Pang Ma O Village, Chiang Dao District, Chiang Mai Province: with ECO-BEST technical support to the staff of Highland Research and Development Institute (HRDI), the villagers defined how they can earn more from ecologically friendly products and forest seedlings.

The second site is Bu Phram Sub-district, Na Dee District, Prachinburi Province: where the Thap Lan National Park Conservation Fund has been developed and authorised by the Thap Lan National Park Advisory Committee. The Fund aims to restore the forest and grassland ecosystem between Khao Yai National Park and Thap Lan National Park, and (later on) other degraded areas so that it becomes a wildlife ecological corridor within the Dong Phrayayen - Khao Yai World Heritage Forest Complex. Local and international forest and wildlife lovers will increase their contribution, sharing costs with the farmers whose cultivation of tapioca, eucalyptus and other crops will be minimised and the land changed to grassland. This will leave space for the indigenous endangered species, Laan palm, and restore an ecosystem conducive to the free and safe roaming of local wildlife.

The third site is the Klong Tha Dee Micro - watershed, which starts from the top of Khao Laung Peak in Khao Laung National Park and runs downward to the Gulf of Thailand at Pak Nakorn. The basin covers two districts in Nakhon Si Thammarat: Laan Saka and Muang District. In order to reduce flood and drought, beneficiaries can help conserve the KTD basin by paying a *"Maintenance Fee of KTD Ecosystem Services"*. The fee will be collected and administered by the newly established "Association of Nakhon Si Thammarat Environmental Conservation: ANEC". These fees will be used as financial and non-financial incentives for farmers or landowners who voluntarily join the programme and allow their land to absorb water and enrich the soil moisture by restoring forest cover on their land. These small pieces of land will be bundled for absorption capability, thus reducing the effects of flood and drought for the people in town and downstream.

The KTD Fund is designed as a Payment for Watershed Ecosystem Services, and is the first PES scheme to be developed through the application of TEEB in Thailand. Lesson learns from these three sites have been extracted and incorporated into the ECO-BEST's Guidelines for Capturing Ecosystem Services Opportunities: **Guidelines for identifying, selecting and planning economic instruments to conserve ecosystems and enhance local livelihoods.** Training courses in the use of these guidelines will be available at GIZ Training Services Bangkok, GIZ Bangkok and online at www.training.thai-german-cooperation.info

Electronic copies of the guidelines will be in both Thai and English, and can be downloaded at www.teeb-sea.info from 31 October 2015.

For more information, contact Mrs. Piyathip Eawpanich by email: piyathip.eawpanich@giz.de

Microfinance for Thai farmers needs improvement

By Kamol Taukitphaisarn Better Rice Initiative Asia



Thailand has a developed functioning banking system. However, for Thai farmers, the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) still remains their major financial source. This lending business does not seem to attract other financial institutions. The Thai government should encourage loan competition so farmers have a choice.

"As far as we can tell, the current financing available to smallholder farmers is limited to one major source, the BAAC. Other major banks in Thailand do not seem to have programmes geared to small farmers' needs. Other sources appear to be cooperatives and community banks run under a scheme established by the Government Savings Bank since 1999," said Mr. Sven Sievers, Director, Corporate Banking Coverage, Capital Markets & Treasury Solutions, Deutsche Bank, about agricultural finance when he met farmers in Ubon Ratchathani, a major province selected to be the first implementation site for BRIA in the northeastern region of Thailand.

Mr. Sven Sievers and Mr. Karolis Verseckas were two volunteers from Deutsche Bank, who recently conducted an assignment in support of the agribusiness model for rice farmers in Thailand for BRIA. The assignment was done under the International Corporate Volunteering (ICV) program. ICV is offered by GIZ to companies that wish to allow its experts and employees to carry out limited - term assignments for their professional development.

Both analyzed the financial conditions of rice farmers with regard to the microfinance available for farmers. The

BAAC uses a simple formula to calculate the amount of working capital (1 year term) they are prepared to provide to smallholder farmers, based on the amount of paddy a farmer produces. They deduct a small percentage from the amount for personal use and seeding. The remaining paddy amount is multiplied by the market price and reduced by a safety margin (40%), resulting in the loan amount available. The interest rate they currently charge is 7% (MRR), plus a risk premium ranging from 0 to 3%, depending on the payment history of the farmer (rating mechanism). The BAAC is also willing to provide investment loans for equipment with the maximum loan amount of up to 80%. According to the BAAC, the bank achieves an overall ROE (Returns on Equity) of 10.2%. This should suggest that lending to the farming industry looks attractive and should be of interest to other players.

They met farmers in a community rice center (69 farmers with ca 2,200 rai) in Ubon Ratchathani who revealed that to get sufficient working capital, farmers need to use informal loan sources such as family members or other informal money lenders in their communities. These loans usually come with very high interest rates which decrease the gross margin of these farmers.

To scale up the impact of the study conducted by the Deutsche Bank volunteers, BRIA will work further on suitable business and financing models for rice farmers together with lending institutions such as the BAAC in order to provide financing options for modernisation of rice farms in Ubon Ratchathani.

BRIA and RD Launch ToT Program to Start New Paradigm of Farmer Learning

By Kamol Taukitphaisarn Better Rice Initiative Asia

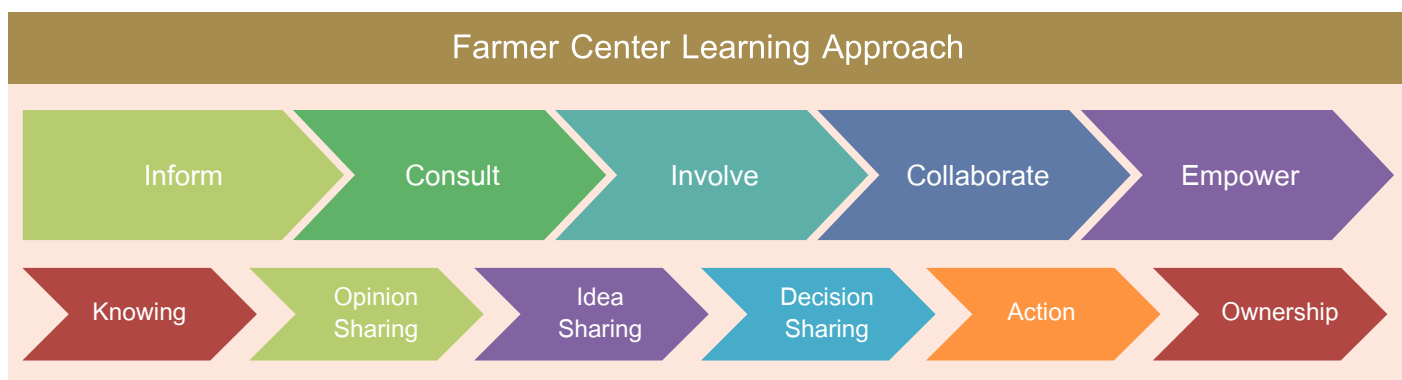


Better Rice Initiative Asia (BRIA), a project of the German Food Partnership (GFP), and the Rice Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in collaboration with Bayer CropScience recently organized the Training of Trainers (ToT) for lead farmers at the Ubon Ratchathani Rice Research Center.

This training represented a new learning dimension for farmers and resulted from a concerted effort between the public and private sectors to contribute to the sustainability of the Thai rice industry. The training combined the concept of community knowledge management, new paradigm for change, theories and best practices of the Rice Department, with local wisdom in order to improve Thai rice cultivation. Because in December last year, BRIA held the 'PIPA' (Participatory Impact Pathway Analysis) workshop to allow rice farmers to analyse impacts and issues of rice farming in this province, this subsequent training offered 'site-specific' knowledge.

"The training material was designed, based on proven research done by the Rice Department and farmers learn through a 'Farmers to Farmers' approach whereby the participants in the training share and exchange their ideas and experience and combine what they have learned with their local knowledge, the outcomes from the training become the Site Specific Rice Recommendations (SSRRs) to benefit their communities," disclosed Mr. Kukiat Soitong, BRIA Consultant on Capacity Building and former Rice Promotion Specialist at the Rice Department.

The first group of 40 smart farmers from 8 selected Community Rice Centers (CRC) in Ubon Ratchathani participated in this training. Until 2017, the BRIA project plans to train farmers in 200 sub-districts in the provinces of Sisaket, Surin, and Roi Et, in addition to Ubon Ratchathani.



Better Rice Initiative Training Curriculum	
Module 1	Change Your Thinking, Change Your Life
Module 2	Quality Seeds for Better Rice
Module 3	Good Rice Cultivation Management
Module 4	Good Soil Fertility & Plant Nutrition Management
Module 5	Good Weed Management
Module 6	Good Pest Management
Module 7	Good Harvest & Post-harvest Management
Module 8	Dreams Come True

Farmers and officers will play an important role as drivers of a new learning paradigm. A total of 1,000 smart farmers will undergo this training activity. In order to meet the criteria of this component, the recommended methods from the training will increase the gross margin of the smart farmers by 20%. At least 700 smart farmers will use their new knowledge on recommended farming practices and a minimum of 6,000 out of 10,000 farmers in the four provinces trained apply recommended farming practices.

BRIA as an international cooperation project intends to improve rice quality, increase income of rice farmers, and promote sustainable production of rice in Thailand with four components, namely training for sustainable rice production, awareness raising for sustainable rice production, post - harvest efficiency and by-products, and market linkages and young agripreneurship.

Workshop to Strengthen Regional Capacity Development in Rice Sector

By Kamol Taukitphaisarn **Better Rice Initiative Asia**



The BRIA Regional Secretariat recently held a regional workshop on capacity development (CD) for rice cultivation to promote lesson sharing on capacity building in the context of Public - Private Partnerships (PPP)-collaborating for sustainable rice production in four BRIA implementing countries at "In Residence" Hotel, Bangkok.

Mr. Bruce Milligan, Regional Manager, Sustainability and Product Stewardship, Crop Protection Division, Asia Pacific, BASF South East Asia Pte Ltd, provided CD input for BRIA, sharing the company's past experiences, progressive outreach approach and key learnings. He suggested that to enhance the likelihood for farmers to accept a message that leads to behaviour change, the message should be simple and positive, give benefits and reason why farmers should take such an action and 'emotionally' appeal to what they care.

In Thailand, GIZ implements the BRIA project in cooperation with the Rice Department, its public partner, and BASF and Bayer CropScience, its private partners. In addition to representatives of the public and private partners and BRIA Thailand, key members of BRIA Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam presented their capacity building activities in the PPP context in this event.

Dr. Martin Maerkl, Sustainable Development Manager, Bayer CropScience AG shared some critical success factors for PPP's from a private sector perspective. Apart from full commitment on resources, people and financial support, the private party has to understand the complexity of the public sector such as approval of resources, structure in decision making whereas the public party has to recognize and understand the business interest of the private player. The identification of common goals and strategy needs to be clear and the implementation part is, to him, 'challenging.' Bayer is aiming for sustainability, environmental and social responsibility.

He emphasised the importance of capacity building for rice cultivation, saying that rice feeds 3 billion people and the demand for rice will grow 30% by 2030. Rice is grown on 160M hectares (90% in Asia) by 144M smallholder farmers, uses 30% of global fresh water. Rice demand, labour shortage, water efficiency, technology gaps and public policies will drive the intensification of production inputs.

BRIA will use the output from this two-day workshop to work with its public-private partners to boost the rice sector in Southeast Asia.

Thailand's 1st Policy Dialogue on Food and Nutrition Security calls for stronger cooperation mechanisms

By Lisa Faust ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems



Most of the 805 million people who do not have enough to eat in the world live in countries that have food surpluses rather than deficits. Thailand - the world's leading exporter of rice and fruits and referred to as the *"Kitchen of the World"* - too suffers from this paradox. The underlying reason behind why 6.8% (FAO, 2014) of the Thai population is considered undernourished is thus not a lack of food availability, but rather insufficient access to food. This challenge is particularly prevalent in many remote areas and has been exacerbated by a steady increase in food prices and production costs throughout the past decade. Other major obstacles to ensure food security in Thailand include insufficient nutrition, poverty, climate change, an ageing farmer population coupled with their deteriorating health, and inadequate soil and water management.

These issues were raised and discussed at the first **"Policy Dialogue on Food and Nutrition Security and the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework in Thailand"**, which was organised in Bangkok on 31 March 2015, by the ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems (SAS)

project. Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the SAS project aims to enable ASEAN Member States to implement the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework, and its Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security (SPA-FS) at the national level.

The ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework was adopted by the Member states at the 14th ASEAN Summit in 2009 to provide scope and joint pragmatic approaches for cooperation among ASEAN Member States. The ASEAN leaders reiterated the importance of developing a common and unified position to ensure sustainable food security and nutrition in ASEAN and endorsed the new phase of AIFS Framework and SPA-FS, 2015 - 2020 at the 25th ASEAN Summit held in November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

“ The government of Thailand has given priority to food security as highlighted in the Eleventh National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016), which provides a Strategy for Strengthening the Agricultural Sector, Food and Energy Security. The importance of food security is also emphasised in the Strategic Framework for Food Security of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (2013-2016) to promote sustainable food production and access to quality and nutritious food ”

Dr. Apichart Pongsrihadulchai, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, noted in his keynote speech at the Policy Dialogue.

With more than 60 participants from various agencies and ministries in Thailand, including high-level policy makers from relevant Ministries, the Policy Dialogue provided a platform for exchange of information and to build consensus on policies and strategies for tackling food insecurity collectively within Thailand.

There was consensus among participants on the following: firstly, the need to revise the mechanisms of the existing food security frameworks in Thailand and their implementation. Clear roles and responsibilities have to be assigned to the relevant ministries, private sector and other actors, in order to ensure a better understanding among every stakeholder involved. Secondly, as effective implementation of technical solutions is often hindered by limited collaboration between stakeholders, participants called for a concrete cooperation mechanism that facilitates and mandates coordination between the private and public sector. Thirdly, at the ASEAN level, improved cooperation and communication is necessary between the different ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry reporting food-security bodies and parallel initiatives. This will enable a more fluid sharing and exchange of information, lessons learned and experiences between the ASEAN Member States.

To follow-up on the outcomes of this Policy Dialogue, the SAS project will organise a second Policy Dialogue on Food and Nutrition Security in early 2017. It is hoped that these Policy Dialogues can contribute towards Thailand's progress in creating food production systems that incorporate economic, social and environmental dimensions, and eliminate poverty and hunger across the nation.



Farmers Sleep Better with Crop Insurance

Public-Private Partnership Project Promotes Risk Management among Rice Growers

Author and Photographer: Rojana Manowalailao ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems



▲ Boonserm Gochouy

Never in his life had farmer Boonserm Gochouy experienced a drought as bad as that of last year. Due to a shortage in water supply, his 62 rai of rice in Central Thailand's Chai Nat province were ruined. Nothing was left, not even a little for household consumption.

"There was some rain but somehow the water just went. There was no water in the pond or in any of the natural sources," said Gochouy, who has been a farmer in Hanka District for 30 years.

Luck, however, didn't completely desert him. He was able to harvest his crop grown on a small plot of land near a dam on the other side of town and this was adequate to feed his family. In addition, his loyalty to the Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives paid off and helped him survive.

"Last year the officer from the bank asked me whether I would be interested in buying rice insurance and I said yes. He told me it was for my benefit. The bank has always provided good support and service to me over the years and I was confident that if it were offering such a scheme, it would be to the benefit of the farmers."

"It is like an investment. There is a risk in crop planting. No one knows what will happen in the season to come. There could be flooding, a drought or disease. Putting aside some savings for the rice insurance can at least guarantee I will get some money back, at least to cover my initial investment. Also, my family won't have to suffer harsh living conditions because of the risks," said the father of three.

Thailand's Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives, a state-run bank, has been instructed to arrange the insurance scheme in collaboration with insurance companies.

This year, the crop insurance scheme kicked off in May in Central Thailand's Ang Thong province with around 300 farmers attending the opening event.

Finance Minister Sommai Phasee said at the opening that the scheme is expected to cover 1.5 million rai out of a total 63 million rai of rice paddy nationwide.

"I was pleased to see the happy faces of the farmers and would very much like to encourage all parties to fully promote the scheme so that the target can be met. If all concerned parties push for the scheme, farmers will be able to sleep well at night," Mr. Phasee said.

The Thai cabinet approved 476 million baht to finance the rice insurance scheme for the 2015 harvest year. The insurance premium will be shouldered by farmers and the government. Farmers who join the 2015 crop insurance scheme are required to pay an insurance premium of 60 - 100 baht per rai, depending on the degree of risk in the location of their farmland while the government will contribute between 64 and 383 baht per rai. Farmers who are customers of the state-owned Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives will receive a discount of 10 baht per rai. The insurance coverage is 555 baht and 1,111 baht per rai, offering protection mainly from floods, drought, storms, cold weather, fire and disease.

Last year farmers with 800,000 rai participated in the insurance scheme or 1.27% of the country's total rice farmland of 63 million rai.

Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, GIZ's ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems project's regional adviser, attended the launch of the scheme.

"The road to sustainable agrifood systems is long and different factors and efforts are needed. Sustainable agriculture requires sustainable production. It needs environmental friendly inputs and processes, suitable market linkages and business models, and supporting laws and regulations. Risk management for crop insurance is also a path to sustainable agrifood systems," Mr. Vichitlekarn said.

As a partner, GIZ's ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems project (www.asean-agrifood.org) provides technical advisory support to Thailand's Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives through Remote Sensing-Based Information and the Insurance for Crops in Emerging economies (RIICE) project, also a GIZ partner.

RIICE is a public-private partnership aimed at reducing the vulnerability of smallholder rice farmers through the use of remote sensing technologies to map and observe rice growth. Such information can help stakeholders involved in rice production to better manage the risks involved. RIICE is underwritten by five parties, namely Allianz Re, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and sarmap. (www.riice.org)



▲ Finance Minister Sommai Phasee visiting the green farmer booth



▲ Farmers buying rice insurance

Thailand and Germany Strengthens the Cooperation on Flood Protection

By Poom Pinthep and Falk Jonas Momber Improved Management of Extreme Events
through Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Watersheds (ECOSWat)



On 22 April, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and GIZ ECOSWat organised the dialogue forum **“German Flood Protection Strategy”** in Bangkok, followed by a one day field trip to the GIZ ECOSWat pilot river basin Tha Di, Nakorn Si Thammarat.

The forum introduced the German Flood Protection Strategy as well as the Draft Water Resources Management Strategy of Thailand to 80 international attendees. Mr. Thomas Stratenwerth from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) presented recent developments and lessons learned from the German National Flood Protection Program. This Program mainly seeks to reinforce solidarity within river basins. Based on lessons learned, Germany adjusted its legal framework on aspects of flood prevention measures, continues to improve the flood forecast systems and furthers the dissemination of private insurances.





Mr. Marcus Hatz from the German Federal Institute of Hydrology (BFG) focused on modelling as a component of the National Flood Protection Program, presenting the potential modelling has for effective flood risk management, as well as the requirements.

Mr. Boonjong Jarusdumrongnit from DWR introduced the main components and their practical implications of the newly drafted Water Resource Management Strategy. The strategy aspires to implement six components over a 12 year period to achieve integrated water resources management in the country. The goal of the strategy is resolving issues of water consumption, ensuring water security for agriculture and industry, mitigation of flood and drought impacts through structural and non-structural measures, enhancing water quality, rehabilitation of river basin watershed areas through reforestation and soil conservation, as well as an administrative and managerial implementation framework.

The forum was a platform for disseminating and exchanging knowledge between representatives from public and private sector, academia and international organisations. A lively discussion showed that more coordination and cooperation between the different organisations is needed, and that the unused potential of combining grey infrastructure with ecosystem-based adaptation measures is becoming more and more recognised in Thai water management institutions.

On the next day, Walailak University welcomed the BMUB delegation in Nakhorn Sri Thammarat. The study visit of the Tha Di river basin enabled the delegates to get a firsthand experience of the local conditions and to learn about the project progress.

The Tha Di population suffers regularly from intense flash floods. Large parts of the river are regulated by grey infrastructure measures and lead to the common problems of sedimentation and erosion. Incorrect and unregulated land use intensifies the problems. Ecosystem-based measures, which make use of the flood regulating services the ecosystem is providing, exist, so far, only sporadically in the pilot catchment. Greater use of ecosystems, however, could draw a greater resistance to negative effects of extreme weather events by itself. That's why GIZ ECOSWat on behalf of BMUB, started to collect data and design ecosystem-based measures specific to the problems in Tha Di.

The BMUB delegation was delighted by both the dialogue as well as the progress made in the Tha Di river basin and plans to visit Thailand again in 2016.

Integration of Drones into the Thai Water Management Sector

By Jaruwan Ngamsing Improved Management of Extreme Events
through Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Watersheds (ECOSWat)



Local communities, the public and private sectors and individuals in many parts of Thailand are struggling with floods and droughts. In addition to the traditional grey infrastructure solutions, a combination of new technologies and local wisdom presents unused potential in tackling these problems.

Topographical study and data collection from throughout the watershed areas provide valuable data for scientific research. Based on this information, topographically specific as well as problem-specific flood and drought prevention measures can be designed. However, studies conducted in dangerous zones can be challenging and costly.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) or Drones offer a solution to these challenges. During a two-day workshop held in April titled, **“Integration of Drones into the Thai Water Management Sector”**, the GIZ-ECOSWat project

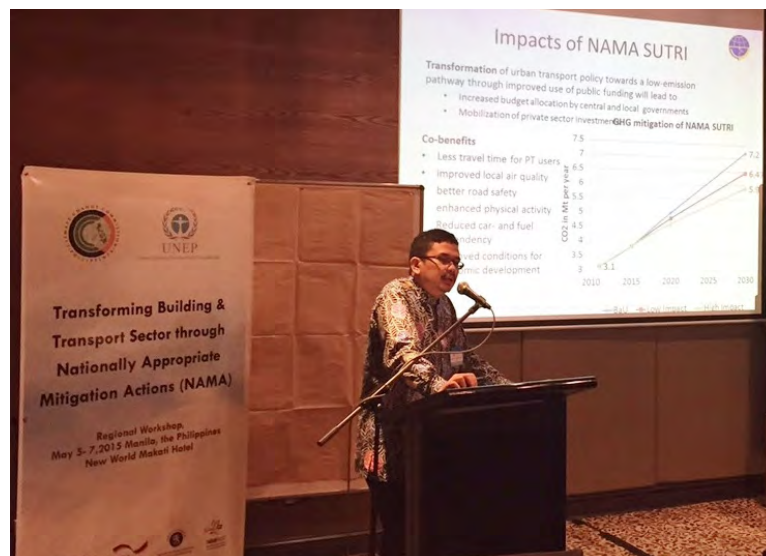
introduced the potential uses and requirements of drone technology to interested stakeholders from the Department of Water Resources, Royal Irrigation Department, academic institutions and the private sector. The meeting was co-organised by Walailak University and the Department of Water Resources, Bangkok. Drone operation experts elaborated on the required hardware and software to develop a 3D model out of drone-generated data. The experts also visited the Tha Di river basin to learn about the local topography and discuss the use of drones for local problems.

The participants expressed their interest in learning more about the integration of drone technology into the water management sector. GIZ-ECOSWat will thus co-organise a further workshop on hardware (drones) operation and data collection guidelines with the German experts. This is scheduled for July 2015.

Transport and Climate Change Project co-organised the Regional Workshop on Transforming Building and Transport Sectors through NAMAs, 5-7 May, in Manila

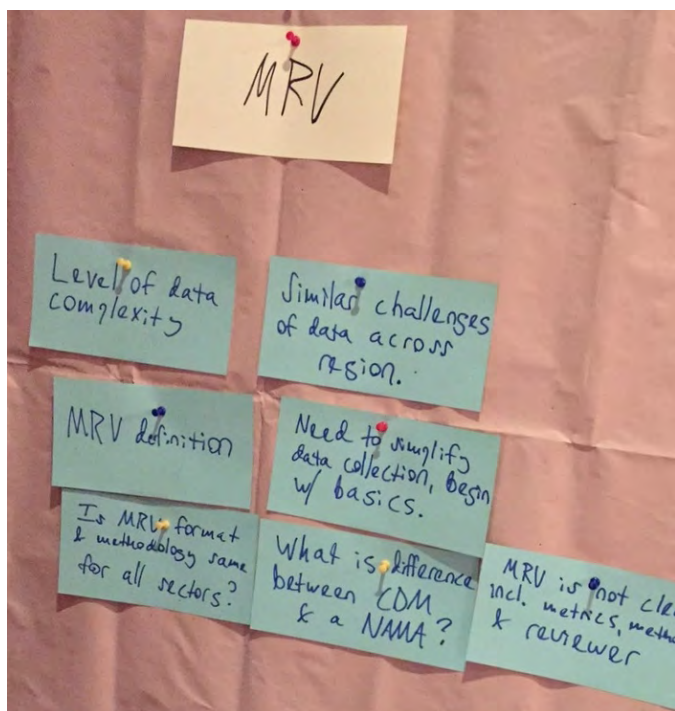
By Rico Krüger and Julia Nagel

Energy – Efficiency and Climate Change Mitigation in the Land Transport Sector in ASEAN region



Following the regional workshops on Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMAs) in Singapore in 2013 and Vietnam in 2014, a workshop on **“Transforming Building and Transport Sectors through NAMAs”** was held in Manila, Philippines from the 5 - 7 May 2015. The workshop was jointly organised by UNEP and GIZ projects **“Transport and Climate Change” (TCC)** and **“TRANSfer”**. The Climate Change Commission of the Philippines hosted the event. In total, 90 individuals participated in the event. During the transport-specific sessions, up to 40 participants from eight different countries discussed a variety of topics including five different NAMA concepts, which were presented by ASEAN countries

For Thailand, Ms. Chutinthorn Mankhong, Plan and Policy Analyst, Professional level, from the Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning in the Ministry of Transport, presented the NAMA concept with focusing on their experience in overcoming data issues. TCC, which is part of the regional programme Cities, Environment and Transport in the ASEAN region, based in Bangkok, is supporting the development of the People-centered Urban Transport in Bangkok-NAMA in Thailand.



The transport stream of the workshop examined

- 1) how NAMAs can foster sustainable transport policy development and implementation,
- 2) how the concept of transformational change can be applied to transport NAMAs (t-NAMAs),
- 3) how the knowledge on t-NAMAs can be enhanced worldwide,
- 4) which support mechanisms can be implemented, and
- 5) how t-NAMAs relate to the COP 21 in Paris. The workshop also highlighted the significance of NAMAs as an instrument for intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) and the call for action in formulating climate activities in a bottom-up approach.

Within the workshop discussion, the challenges during the development and implementation of NAMAs were mainly attributed to: Firstly, data availability, which restricts an efficient MRV (measurement, reporting, verification) methodology during the NAMA implementation, and secondly, the challenge to harmonise and improve the funding mechanisms of NAMAs (national vs. international).

Potential approaches to tackle those challenges within the NAMA development and implementation were identified as follows:

- 1) set up an efficient steering structure to improve coordination among stakeholders and mainstream the NAMA approach,
- 2) prioritise programmatic approaches to achieve transformational change,
- 3) strengthen the involvement of the private sector from the beginning.

Please see

<http://transportandclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/ASEAN-Message-from-Manila1.pdf> which highlights the main outcomes and statements made during the three-day workshop in Manila.

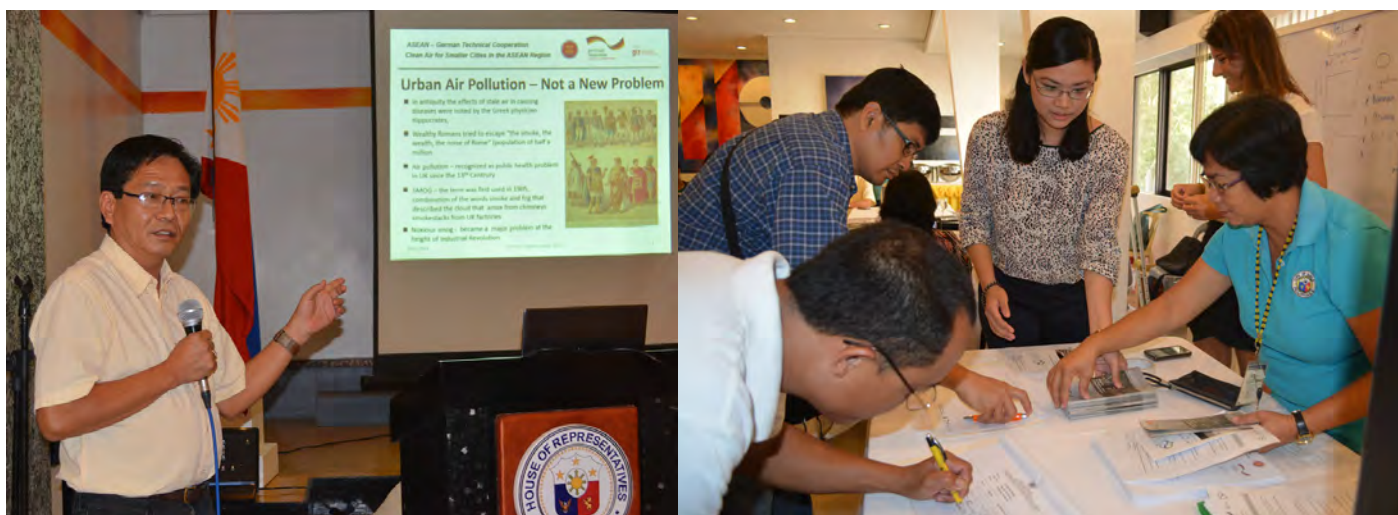
Please visit our website

<http://transportandclimatechange.org/news-events/regional-nama-workshop-manila/>

Cleaner Air for Iloilo City

Successful Public Forum marks hand over of Clean Air Plan in the Philippines

By Hanna Maass Clean Air for Smaller Cities in the ASEAN Region



After four years in the making and a lot of hard work, the Clean Air Plan (CAP) for Iloilo, the Philippines, has finally been completed and was presented to the city during a Public Forum on the 28th of May, 2015. The CAP was developed by the regional project 'Clean Air for Smaller Cities' (CASC) together with the Iloilo City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), University of the Philippines – Visayas, University of San Agustin, and Central Philippine University in close cooperation with the regional NGO Clean Air Asia (CAA). It represents a comprehensive report suggesting measures for reducing common air pollutants in the city, which mainly stem from the transport sector, households and commercial cooking, as was found in the city's Emission Inventory. The development process involved various stakeholders from the government, private sector, civil society and academe in order to set a common vision and to improve air quality management in Iloilo. Alongside the CAP, the Emission Inventory for Iloilo City was also handed over, which identified three main areas of emissions, namely mobile, area and point sources. The objectives of the Public Forum were to present the proposed air pollution mitigation measures of the CAP for Iloilo City and to obtain community perspectives on the proposed measures through focused group discussions,

therefore making policy or decision makers in the city adhere to and agree to support implementation of air pollution mitigation measures. The forum involved presentations by representatives from CAA, local universities, CASC and Iloilo City Government, and subsequent group discussions by the participants.

CASC is part of the regional programme 'Cities, Environment and Transport' and is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ in cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat. The project empowers smaller and medium-sized cities (200,000 to 1,500,000 inhabitants) in the ASEAN region to develop and implement CAPs, in order to improve air quality and move forward in sustainable urban development. The implementation of CAPs also generates important co-benefits, such as climate change mitigation, improved health for local citizens and overall improvement of quality of life. CASC works in 12 cities in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. In Thailand, CAPs are already being implemented in Nakhon Ratchasima and Chiang Mai.



During the Public Forum in Iloilo City, which was attended by approximately 70 participants from the government, public and private sector, opening remarks were made by representatives from Iloilo City, CAA and CASC. Following this the CAP was handed over to Mr. Dominador Co, a representative of the city mayor, by CASC team member Ms Julia Nagel, and CAA Head of Programs Ms Kaye Patdu. The rest of the Forum was divided into different sessions and, to encourage public participation, focused group discussions. The first presentation by a representative from the Ateneo de Davao University was on **“Understanding Air Pollution and its Health Impacts,”** which was followed by an overview of the **“Sources of Air Pollution in Iloilo City”** by the Department Head of Iloilo City Environment and Natural Resources Office. To encourage public participation, a focused group discussion was conducted, where participants were asked to think about **“what can be done about air pollution?”** The participants were split into three groups, representing Mobile, Point and Area emission sources in the City. This encouraged a diverse range of discussions from different viewpoints, resulting in general agreement on the fact that regular maintenance of equipment, replacement of pre-Euro IV Jeepney engines, increasing fuel efficiency, reducing traffic congestion and greening the city are some of the most important issues to tackle in order to reduce air pollution in the city.

In the next session, more specific topics were addressed, such as how the proposed measures in the CAP can be implemented and sustained in the city in the long term. This was followed by a second focused group discussion titled **“how can the proposed measures be operationalised?”** The participants were encouraged to discuss their views, and some fruitful outcomes were shared in summary discussions, which mostly matched with the concepts and measures proposed in the CAP. These were summarised at the end and focused mainly on reducing emissions from mobile sources, for example by enacting the Anti- smoke belching ordinance, roadside vehicle inspections, modernising jeepney engines by shifting to Euro IV standards, developing a public transport plan, or Support implementation of the Motor Vehicle Inspection System (MVIS) project of the Land Transport Ordinance. Reducing emissions from area sources by developing a communication strategy to convey PM10 health effects and promoting clean cook stoves, as well as reducing emissions from point sources by monitoring power plant emissions, were also named as important measures recommended in the CAP.

Closing remarks were made by City Councillor R. Leone Gerochi, Chair of the Committee on Environmental Protection and Ecology, who urged everyone to take air pollution seriously, and believes that the people must work together to reduce transport emissions, and to achieve long term sustainable urban development in Iloilo City.

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or visit our website www.CitiesForCleanAir.org

Capacity Building Workshop on Development and Integration of Climate Protection Criteria in Green Public Procurement (GPP)

By Kanchanatetee Vasuvat Sustainable Consumption and Production
for Low Carbon Economy – Low-Emission Public Procurement and Eco-Labeling (SCP4LCE)



Pollution Control Department (PCD) and GIZ is implementing SCP4LCE project which works closely with Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) as the consultant of the project for development and integration of climate protection criteria of 13 products groups in Thai Green Label (TGL) scheme.

On 1 April 2015, the project organised the capacity building workshop for PCD on development and integration of climate protection criteria for GPP at the Sukhothai Thammathirat University, with the following objectives:

- To provide capacity building for PCD staffs concerning development and integration of climate protection criteria of pilot products in TGL scheme and they are able to apply the obtained knowledge and experiences to benefit the integration of climate protection criteria in GPP scheme; and
- To share the lesson learned and exchange experiences on development and integration of climate protection criteria in TGL and GPP scheme.

With 22 participants from PCD and TEI, they gained knowledge in the Green procurement policy of Thailand and also international perspective from Mr. Sirithan Pairoj-Boriboon, advisor from TEI. Nevertheless there was experiences' exchange in the preparation of specifications on Green Label and application for TGL certification.

Da Nang City of Viet Nam Winner of FT/IFC Special Award 2015: Excellence in City Transformation

By Project team of Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: The Urban Nexus



“ The initiatives nominated for this year’s awards included a number of projects that have the potential for large-scale adoption across the developing world. The judges were delighted with the level of innovation and the focus on commercial viability, and the overall progress we have seen in sustainability solutions since our awards were launched 10 years ago. ”

Mr. John Thornhill, Deputy Editor of the Financial Times and co-chair of the awards judging panel

Da Nang City has been recently announced as the Winner for the FT/IFC Special Award: **Excellence in City Transformation**. This is the annual award organized by the Financial Times (FT) in cooperation with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) (a member of World Bank Group). The award seeks nominations for cities that have, since 2010, demonstrated tangible progress towards city-wide, integrated reforms, covering one or more of the following parameters: environmental; social; governance; economic; and services. The Da Nang representatives were granted the award as the Award Announcement Gala Dinner at the InterContinental London Park Lane Hotel on 11 June 2015 (London local time) which also concluded the 2nd annual FT/IFC Transformational Business Conference.

The award organisers requested assistance from the GLZ Nexus project to identify cities who are the best suited candidates for the award and actively encouraged and supported them to apply. GLZ Nexus project in particular promoted Da Nang city of Viet Nam being one of the most advanced Nexus cities among 10 partner Asian cities. Now it has indeed been proven that Da Nang City has overpassed 191 application entries from 167 organisations in a total of 140 countries to be in the shortlist together with other six cities from Brazil, India, Liberia, Senegal, South Africa and Spain and honoured to be the Winner of the FT/IFC Special Award: **Excellence in City Transformation** at the Award Announcement Gala Dinner in London, UK.

Fifth Regional Workshop on Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities

By Ruth Erlbeck *Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: The Urban Nexus*



The Fifth Regional Workshop on **“Integrated Resource Management in Asian cities: the Urban Nexus”**, took place from 17 - 19 June 2015 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and was organised by ESCAP in partnership with GIZ, the Municipality of Chiang Mai and ICLEI. The workshop was organized in the context of the project **“Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: The Urban Nexus”** (thereafter called **“Urban Nexus Project”**), financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ in partnership with ESCAP, ICLEI and the Nexus partner cities.

The workshop was attended by more than 120 participants from China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Participants included representatives from city governments, including nine mayors and vice-mayors, representatives from national ministries of participating countries, private sector enterprises, academic experts, and representatives of international organisations, multilateral development banks and foundations.

Partner cities highlighted the relevance of the urban nexus approach and expressed their strong commitment to adopt and mainstream its principles by signing the Nexus Partnership Declaration on **“Developing Integrated, Resource-efficient and Inclusive Cities for a Better Future”**. The Nexus Partnership Declaration outlines key principles that cities can follow to promote a nexus approach and highlights five areas of commitment, including in terms of strengthening local governance by promoting work across departments and institutions and enhancing public participation.



“ The “Excellence in City Transformation” award won by the partner city of Da Nang, Viet Nam, showed increased international recognition for cities that adopt a progressive and holistic approach to urban development. ”



The workshop highlighted the importance of the nexus approach for the sustainable development of the Asia-Pacific region, as energy, water and food security are increasingly under threat as a result of population growth, urbanisation, changing consumption patterns of a growing middle class, as well as the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. The workshop also emphasised the relevance of the nexus approach for the implementation of key internationally agreed development goals, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals to be adopted in September 2015, the New Urban Agenda to be adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016, as well as existing and perspective commitments related to climate change to emerge of the 21st conference of the parties of the UNFCCC.

It was noted that the nexus approach can act as a guiding principle for the development of sustainable cities and nexus thinking can support the development of smart cities through a systems approach. The “**Excellence in City Transformation**” award won by the partner city of Da Nang, Viet Nam, showed increased international recognition for cities that adopt a progressive and holistic approach to urban development. Nexus thinking can also help guide emerging concepts, such as urban mining, as a way to recover valuable resource from waste and address shortage of key resources. In this connection, it was noted that the nexus approach was also being taken up by the private sector to promote holistic thinking and circular value chains as success factors for transformation, replacing a linear economic model with a circular one.

The Sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, to be convened by ESCAP on 19-21 October 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia, back-to-back with the High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting for Habitat III for Asia-Pacific on 22-23 October, will provide a key platform for mainstreaming nexus into the regional urban development agenda.

The sixth regional workshop would take place in Santa Rosa, Philippines, in November 2015.

Integrated Crop and Pest Management Training to Strengthen LAO GAP Inspection and Certification Capacity for Inspectors

By Pimpilas Nuntiphon Khoeiram Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation Programme

“ In addition to understanding the National Lao GAP Scheme inspection framework, risk assessment knowledge and techniques for specific crops are other key areas for inspector capacity building ”

Mr. Tom Tiaphet, Agricultural Technical Officer (Senior Professional Level)
Director, Technology Transfer Division
Office of Agricultural Research and Development Region 5 (OADR 5)



The Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and GIZ under Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation held a workshop at the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR from 18 - 22 May, 2015 on Integrated Crop and Pest Management (ICM/IPM). A team of experts from the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives served as the trainers for the workshop, which was conducted in sequence in line with “**Basic Inspector**” training. The course focused on reviewing the National Good Agricultural Practices inspection techniques and providing recent knowledge on risk assessment techniques for specific crops to strengthen inspectors’ capacity in Lao GAP inspection and certification for fruits and vegetables. The training comprised lectures, field training and the presentation of inspection results to the expert team. The information provided was used in the formulation of recommendations for future capacity building.

“ The inspection techniques must meet the standards or requirements – availability of a good inspection plan, a qualified inspector, comprehensive documentation, the use of relevant inspection results and preparation of an inspection report ”

Mr. Wacharin Upanisakorn, Agricultural Technical Officer (Senior Professional Level)
Acting Director, Plant Standard and Certification Division

“ I urge participating inspectors to apply the knowledge and techniques they have acquired to upgrading the LAO GAP ”

Mr. Kham Sanatem, Deputy Director General
Department of Agriculture, Lao PDR

During the field training, trainers divided inspectors into groups to inspect 2 pilot farms based on the planned inspection standards, namely Tulakom Sweet Corn Farmer Group, which was formed to grow and supply sweet corn to a canning plant, and Phong Hong Vegetable Farmer group, a group of vegetable smallholders that was formed to apply for food safety certification.

Experts agreed at the completion of the training that the inspectors were more confident in conducting inspections based on the Lao GAP Framework. They were also able to adequately apply the techniques passed on by the experts during the training. Additional recommendations from the experts included documentation review, revision of the inspection forms and improvement of the inspection and certification process to ensure maximum efficiency.



Workshop on “Effective and Results-Based Communication & Visibility Strategy and Plan” for Thailand International Cooperation Agency

By Warisa Sungkaprom Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation Programme



The Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation Programme and the GIZ Training Service jointly held a workshop on **“Effective and Results-Based Communication & Visibility Strategy and Plan”** for the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) from 8 to 10 May 2015 at Maikaew Damnern Hotel, Ratchaburi. This workshop is part of the Human Resource Capacity Building Programme of TICA, which aims to enhance the understanding of TICA’s staff on the new organisational structure, visions and missions, as well as to review and design a communication strategy and communication.

During the workshop, TICA’s staff actively discussed the core elements of working concept as well as the communication methods with general public. Furthermore, they analysed problems and challenges that might arise from their new missions together in order to understand the causes and find the best solution. They also jointly developed the effective communication strategy plan for each key target groups and reviewed existing communication tools e.g. brochures, newsletters, posters and online tools, to improve their effectiveness.

In addition to the enhanced skills and lessons-learned from the workshop, which can be applied to improving the organisation’s operation, training curriculum and methods can be adopted in developing the TICA’s Capacity Building Programme’s curricula for disseminating knowledge and improving the skills of other staffs.

Thailand International Cooperation Agency and the Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation Programme jointly held a workshop to identify approaches to strengthen the capacity of TICA’s staff. Four jointly drafted capacity-building curricula are as follows:

- Effective and Results-Based Communication & Visibility Strategy and Plan
- Results-based Management: Concepts and Tools for Successful Development Cooperation
- Moderation and Training Techniques for Technical Cooperation Project
- Effective PR and Communication for Projects

Strengthening Cooperatives and SMEs in Central Vietnam Project Developing a Business Plan and Marketing Strategy – a Key Component of Cooperative Work

By Jiraluck Inwong Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation Programme

From 30 March - 3 April 2015, the Strengthening Cooperatives and SMEs in Central Vietnam Project under the Vietnam-Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation Programme held a training course on **“Business Plan and Marketing Strategy Development”** for cooperative promotion officers from VCA central (Vietnam Cooperative Alliance in Central and Western Highlands, a regional cooperative promotion agency), PCA (Provincial Cooperative Alliance) from 8 provinces and representatives of 6 cooperatives. More than 30 participants took part in the training, which is designed to build cooperative personnel capacity, empower them to provide consultancy services and assist cooperatives in their catchment areas to develop business and marketing plans. The training aims to eventually lead to cooperative promotion and effective cooperative business development. A set of draft cooperative business plans, one of the outputs of this training session, is currently being revised and finalised to get the complete business plan. It is also being used as a case study for advisory services on business plan development for other cooperatives. VCA central will be the focal point for monitoring, motivating and disseminating lessons-learned to other nearby cooperatives. The agency will share the principles and steps of business plan development, the concepts in formulating business and marketing plan and mode of service on business plan promotion with other cooperative-related agencies, based on the theories and processes learned from a team of Thai experts who has diverse and extensive experience in cooperative promotion and cooperative business in Thailand.

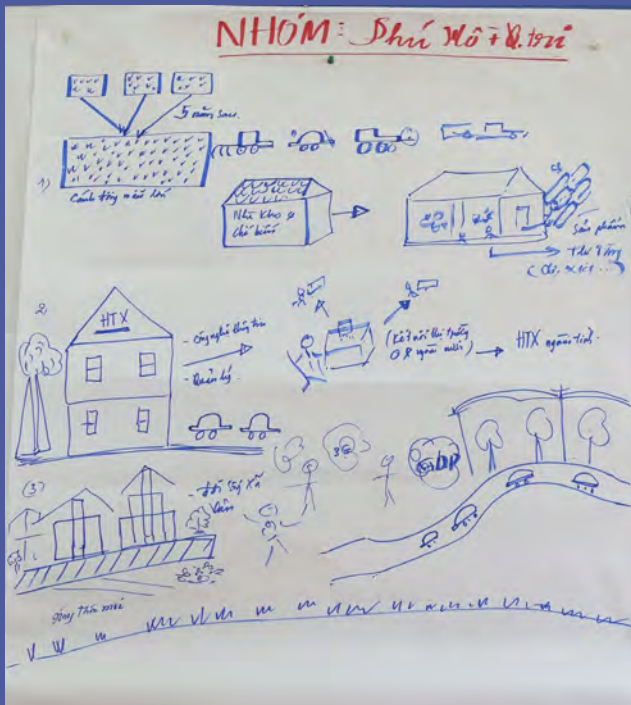


“ Cooperative stakeholders, as well as VCA and PCA, both executives and cooperative officers, must have comprehensive or world views, visions and tangible future goals. They must have strategy in developing a business and marketing plan by analyzing similarities, differences, weaknesses, strengths and local contexts. Available resources that can be used directly and indirectly should be identified and gathered to create uniqueness through processing and adding value ”

Asst. Prof. Opas Panya, former lecturer at the Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies, Mahidol University (a Thai expert)

“ A cooperative must choose a business that responds mainly to the problems and needs of its members. To identify cooperative business, it depends on cooperative members' occupations, as well as other influencing conditions and factors of each cooperative ”

Mr. Narongsak Jukrkorn, Director of Research and Development Institute, Phanakhon Rajaphat University (a Thai expert)



Tips:

- A business plan is a document with business planning details outlining effectiveness or ability to deliver a successful business. It contains detailed business activities starting from identification of cooperative products and services, the production processes and procedures, the production yield/results, the budget and manpower required to produce the products and services for its clients and how to successfully manage the business.
- Normally market mechanisms, supply and demand, dictate the price of an agricultural commodity. Paddy (unprocessed agricultural product) market price often fluctuates, while the milled rice price is usually constant. The milled rice price has an upward trend depending on the production cost. It is clear that farmers have the least bargaining power. Therefore, marketing is the area in which cooperatives can assist farmers the most by gathering agricultural products and processing them to create value-added products. Members will have higher incomes, while cooperatives earn income from membership services. Cooperatives' businesses will also grow. An example is Pimai Agricultural Cooperative. Members of the cooperative earn money by selling a portion of paddy to the cooperative (at a price higher than the market price) and earn additional income from processing the paddy into milled rice. Therefore, gathering and processing agricultural products are areas to which cooperatives should pay attention.

Training for Master Trainers: Action-Oriented Approach for Effective Training

By Wanwadee Erawan *Effective In-Company Vocational Training in the Mekong Region*



I hear and I forget; I see and I remember; I do and I understand”, these words of wisdom from a great Eastern philosopher, Confucius, does live through time as the practice has until today been commonly reflected in theory of education worldwide. The project **“Effective In-Company Vocational Training in the Mekong Region”**, with an aim to organise master trainers training courses most effective as possible, also adheres to this action-oriented approach. With this approach, the master trainers will then be capable of training the in-company trainers in most efficient and effective ways as well.

After a long arduous work of 13 experts from project countries, the Curriculum Development Workshop held in Feldafing, Germany during 20th April - 1st May 2015 was successful with the curriculum for in-company trainers based on the Standard for In-Company Trainers in ASEAN Countries as a tangible output. Recently, another milestone was reached as the project has entered into the implementation phase with the 1st Pilot Training for Master Trainers.

The 1st Pilot Training for Master Trainers Course was organised during 18 May - 5 June 2015 at Entrepreneurship Training Center in Vientiane, Lao PDR with participants from Lao PDR and Thailand. The highlight of this event was that it exhibited utmost adherence to the so-called **“learning by doing”** or **“action-oriented approach”** with facilitation from, Dr. Winfried Heusinger, an expert from Germany. During the course, participants were enabled to demonstrate their teaching techniques and perform several exercises.

As a result of the training, participants were not only trained from theoretical perspectives, but also equipped with skills and knowledge which capacitated them to develop their own teaching materials for in-company trainers. This approach allowed them to gain profound understanding about pedagogical aspect of teaching as well as hand-on experience crucial for the actual scenario.

After the 120-hour intensive training, participants have been qualified as master trainers taking the role of multiplier who will deliver master-trainer training courses themselves in order to expand the number of in-country master trainers. At the end these master trainers will themselves train in-company trainers in order to ensure effective in-company training in their own countries.

For the next step, the project will organise the 2nd Pilot Training for Master Trainers in Manila, the Philippines and the 3rd Pilot Training in Thailand. For the 3rd Pilot Training, the first batch of Thai master trainers will be utilising the gained skills and knowledge to conduct this training course themselves with the support of a German expert. Later, the In-company Trainer Training Course will, then, be organised in Thailand under the conduct of the developed master trainers.



Germany supports Entrepreneurship Training Centre in Vientiane

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 26th May 2015 - The Entrepreneurship Training Centre has been opened with an official ceremony. The centre is going to improve vocational education and training programmes, thus contributing to economic competitiveness and sustainable development in Lao PDR. The Entrepreneurship Training Centre is an initiative between the Lao Ministry of Education and Sports and the German Development Cooperation. It is envisaged that more training courses will be offered in the near future and that local stakeholders will be invited to make use of the training centre.

Regional Forum on Climate Change Enhances Cooperation at International and Regional Level

By Milou Rietjens and Imporn Ardbutra

Support to The Development and Implementation of the Thai Climate Change Policy



From 1-3 July 2015, international climate change experts, policy makers of the ASEAN nations as well as representatives of the scientific community and development cooperation agencies attended the Regional Forum on Climate Change (RFCC) - Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Societies: Bridging Science, Practice, and Policy. The forum, which was hosted by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Pathum Thani and organised by AIT in collaboration with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, ASEAN, and the European Union, sought to propose interventions that would influence climate policy in the region, and inspire the ASEAN position for climate change negotiations at the global scale.

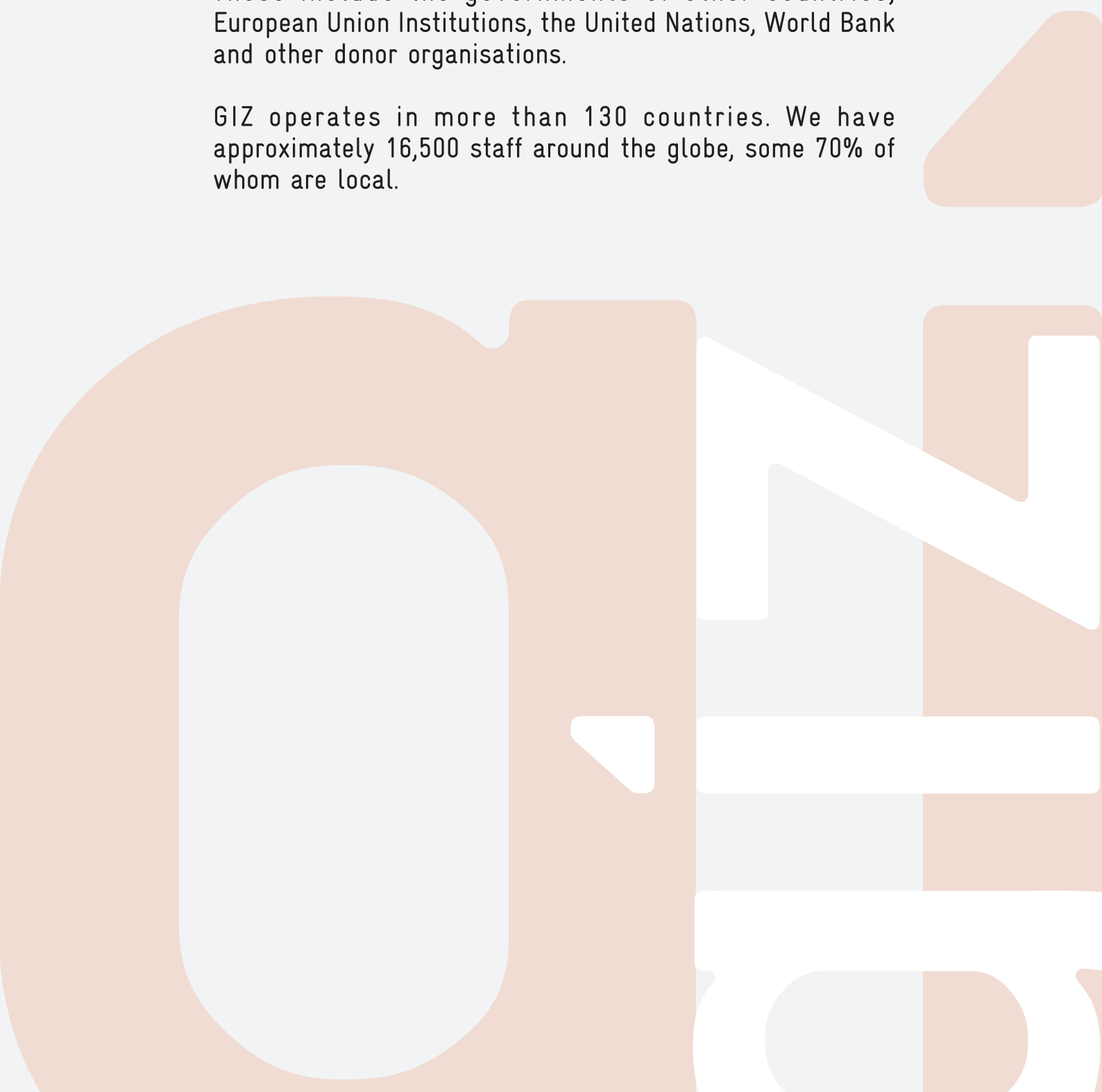
"ASEAN has long been concerned with the region's vulnerability to and the impacts of climate change on our communities and economies. The growing frequency and severity of natural disasters has exacted a tremendous toll on the ASEAN people and communities over the years. With climate change as one of the defining global challenges of our time, it has become a critical imperative for ASEAN to address climate change collectively as part of the international and regional response." said H.E Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN

As one of the 12 partners of the RFCC, GIZ participated in the RFCC's exhibition and presented German cooperation on climate change in ASEAN countries. GIZ currently implements more than 50 projects, which are funded by Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Effective In - Company Vocational Training in the Mekong Region (Funded by Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development - BMZ)
- The German - Thai Dual Excellence Education (Funded by the German Federal Foreign Office)
- Sustainable Consumption and Production: Policy Support Component Thailand (EU-SCP Policy)
- Sustainable Consumption and Production for Low Carbon Economy - Low Emissions Public Procurement and Eco - Labeling (Funded by Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety - BMUB)
- Greening Supply Chain in the Thai Auto and Automotive Parts Industries (EU/BMUB)

Environmental and Climate Protection

- Support to The Development and Implementation of the Thai Climate Change Policy (BMUB)
- Improved Management of Extreme Events through Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Watersheds (BMUB)
- The Enhancing the Economics of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Thailand/ South East Asia (ECO - BEST) (EU)
- Carbon Neutral Water Utility and Waste Water Project (BMUB)
- Global Initiative Disaster Risk Management (BMZ)

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

- Thai - German Programme on Energy Efficiency Development Plan: TGP - EEDP (BMUB)
- Renewable Energy Project Development Programme in South - East Asia (Funded by Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy - BMWi)

Agriculture and Food Security

- ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems (ASEAN Biocontrol - BMZ)

Sustainable Urban Development and Transport

- Clean Air for Smaller Cities in the ASEAN Region (BMZ)
- Sustainable Port Development in the ASEAN Region (BMZ)
- Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Mitigation in the Land Transport Sector in the ASEAN Region (BMZ)
- Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: The Urban Nexus (BMZ)

Regional Integration and South-South-Cooperation

- Trilateral Cooperation Programme with Thailand and Malaysia (BMZ, TICA, MFA, Malaysia)
- Alliance for Financial Inclusion (Funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)