

Newsletter of Bangkok-based projects by GIZ and PARTNERS

Issue 36 January – March 2016

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Dear Readers,

Happy New Year!

GIZ Thailand would like to thank you all for your interest in the progress of projects run by GIZ and its partners in Thailand and ASEAN. You can find information in this newsletter, the website (www.thai-german-cooperation.info) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/gizthailand).

Besides project news we also would like to introduce the new country director of GIZ Thailand and Malaysia. During the last quarter of 2015, the projects “**Sustainable Port Development in the ASEAN Region**” and “**Strengthening Cooperatives and SMEs in Central Vietnam**” came to an end.

An article on the training services includes the list of the trainings in 2016. Last year, over 80 training and workshops were organised for almost 1,000 staff members of public and private sectors. In the next edition we will introduce upcoming new projects in 2016.

Your feedback and suggestions are welcome

Best regards,
The newsletter team

Features & News

Mr. Stefan Helming Named Country Director of GIZ Thailand	2
GIZ's Academy for International Cooperation in Bangkok	3
Mainstreaming Gender Issue into NAP process	6
Training on Integration of Climate Change Aspects for Provincial and Municipal Development Planning	7
Stocktaking of National Adaptation Planning (SNAP) workshop in Bangkok	8
Launch of Thai-German Renewable Energy Community Project	9
ASEAN – German Technical Cooperation ‘Sustainable Port Development in the ASEAN Region’ project	10
Last project port of call: Sustainability	11
Full Speed Ahead Toward Effective In-Company Training in ASEAN	12
New project: Implementing the Greater Mekong Subregion Human Resource Development Strategic Framework and Action Plan	14
Yielding the fruits of quality and integrity	15
Sustainable agrifood systems a must, experts say	16
Farm Mechanisation to Improve Rice Production in Ubon Ratchathani	17
Regional Knowledge Sharing to Promote Best Rice Cultivation Practices	18
Strengthening Cooperatives and SMEs in Central Vietnam Project	19
Workshop on “Effective PR and Communication for Projects”	20
Development of Online National GAP database	21
Assessment of the Certification Body for Good Agricultural Practices in Lao PDR in Compliance with ISO17065: 2012	22
Fourth National – Subnational Dialogue in the Philippines	23
2 nd Vacuum Sewer Technical Training in Manila	24
Ecosystem-based Adaptation Training in Hua Hin	25
Field Visit to Huay Sai Bat Sub River Basin, Khon Kaen Province	26
On-Site Learning Experience: Water Management through Ecosystem-based Adaptation Measures	27
Launch of the Good Practice Review 9 – Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia	28
Pilot of the Mini Fire Brigade Kicks-off in Bangladesh	29

Mr. Stefan Helming

Named Country Director of GIZ Thailand



With his educational background in economics and international development, Mr. Helming brings more than 30 years of development cooperation and leadership experiences. He first joined the then GTZ in 1982 as a Project Assistant in Somalia and later held various leading positions for partnership with Africa, Middle East and Asia. This includes Director of Corporate Policy Department and Department of North Africa and Middle East in GTZ head office in Eschborn. His career was equally divided between the field and head office. From 2003 to 2006, he was Deputy Director General of Planning and Development before heading the GTZ International Services in Ethiopia, which was the largest Programme for GTZ IS.

Prior to joining GIZ Thailand, Mr. Helming was GIZ Programme Director of Innovation Centers for Agriculture and Food in 2015 and Country Director of GIZ India during 2010-2014.

"It is my pleasure to be in Thailand, where we have a long-term collaboration. This year we celebrate the 60 years anniversary of Thai-German technical cooperation," said Mr. Helming. "Being a regional leader in many fields, Thailand is a major partner country of Germany in the region. Thailand is the base for over 20 Thai-German and ASEAN-German projects mainly on climate change, energy, green growth, agriculture, urban development and other regional integration and global topics. Bangkok is now also home to our regional hub for training services for sustainable development. It serves all our activities in Asia. I really look forward to joining this strong partnership with Thailand for the joint interest and benefits of both Thailand and Germany as well as of our partner countries in this region."

GIZ's Academy for International Cooperation in Bangkok

By Jarukan Rassiri [GIZ's Academy for International Cooperation in Bangkok](#)



In 2016, GIZ's Academy for International Cooperation will launch its unit in Bangkok to provide access to high quality training for GIZ's personnel and stakeholders in Asia. GIZ's Academy Bangkok offers training courses, study visit and seminars in various areas contributing to successful international cooperation activities. Besides being an in-house training centre for GIZ, by mid 2016, it is also planned that the Academy will accept external paying participants as well.

At a glance

Our portfolio in 2015 as GIZ's in-house training centre:

Total number of training courses	61
Number of participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 965 participants in total• 609 participants are GIZ colleague across Asia• 356 participants are from GIZ's partner institutes and stakeholders
Top 5 training areas:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Management and Consulting2. Technical Competencies in Environment, Energy and Climate Change3. Communication Skills4. Cooperation Competencies5. Technical Competencies in Agricultural and Food



What participants shared with us on their
"unlearning experiences":



"As some said, if I hear, I forget, I see, I remember, but if I do, I will understand...that's why I enjoy the learning by doing approach here and I found it to be very effective"



"Surprisingly, the most difficult thing is to think in the shoes of our stakeholders and partners...we tend to view the problem from our own perspective and from what we know, and that will prevent us from finding the right cooperation strategy."



"This Managing for Development Results training is absolutely a must for any development and international cooperation practitioner. It gives you orientation and makes you aware of different concepts and tools necessary for managing any development project in today's changing environment."



"In the past, we see project monitoring as putting the train on the right track and the train will find its way... BUT in today's complex reality, project management and monitoring is more like "sailing" where we need to navigate the progress and think on corridor."

In 2016, we have planned for more interesting and variety of training courses to support GLZ's and partner achievement in their development cooperation.

Learning Calendar 2016*

Training Course	Start Date (M/D/Y)	End Date (M/D/Y)
Negotiation Techniques for Successful Cooperation	2/24/2016	2/26/2016
Land Policy and Land Management	2/29/2016	3/4/2016
Bankability for Renewable Energy Project	2/29/2016	3/2/2016
Challenges and Opportunities of the ASEAN Economic Community 2025	3/10/2016	3/11/2016
Effective Communication and PR for Development Cooperation: How to increase project visibility and outreach	3/29/2016	4/1/2016
Training of Trainers	3/14/2016	3/18/2016
AEC Information for Agriculture Business	3/14/2016	3/15/2016
Leadership Foundation: Managing International Teams	3/15/2016	3/18/2016
Myanmar: Intercultural Seminar	3/21/2016	3/21/2016
Myanmar: Business Seminar	3/22/2016	3/22/2016
Contract Farming	4/18/2016	4/22/2016
Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues	4/20/2016	4/22/2016
Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues	4/25/2016	4/27/2016
Sustainable Procurement & Event Management	4/28/2016	4/29/2016
Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation: Advance Training (RBME)	5/9/2016	5/13/2016
Managing for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	5/16/2016	5/18/2016
Project Cycle Management with LogFrame Tools	5/23/2016	5/27/2016
Integrating Eco System Services into Development Planning (IES)	5/31/2016	6/3/2015
Advanced Training of Trainers	6/8/2016	6/10/2016
Change Management "Understanding Organisation and Supporting Change Process"	6/13/2016	6/17/2016
Results-Based Management (Thai language)	6/21/2016	6/24/2016
Effective Communication and PR for Development Cooperation: How to utilise media and increase project visibility and outreach (Thai language)	7/4/2016	7/7/2016
Effective Workshop Design and Moderation Technique	7/11/2016	7/15/2016
Effective Workshop Design and Moderation Technique	7/18/2016	7/22/2016
Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Systems in International Cooperation	7/27/2016	7/29/2016
Project Acquisition and Proposal Writing Workshop	8/8/2016	8/11/2016
Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation: Basic Training (RBME)	8/8/2016	8/11/2016
Results-Based Project Management - Advanced Level (MfDR)	8/15/2016	8/19/2016
Roles and Competencies in Consulting	8/22/2016	8/26/2016
Roles and Competencies in Consulting	8/29/2016	9/2/2016
Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) to Climate Change	8/23/2016	8/26/2016
Integrating Climate Change into Development Planning	9/13/2016	9/15/2016
Effective Communication and PR for Development Cooperation: How to increase project visibility and outreach	9/19/2016	9/22/2016
Putting Human Rights to Work in Development Cooperation	10/5/2016	10/7/2016
Tackling Climate Change in Agriculture	10/10/2016	10/14/2016
Managing Urban Development and Climate Change. Strategies and Collaborative Action for Resilient Cities	10/18/2016	10/21/2016
Results-Based Management (Thai language)	10/25/2016	10/28/2016
Value Links	11/7/2016	11/11/2016
Effective Workshop Design and Moderation Technique	11/14/2016	11/18/2016
Effective Workshop Design and Moderation Technique	11/21/2016	11/25/2016
Negotiation Techniques for Successful Cooperation	11/16/2016	11/18/2016

*Remarks: All training courses are conducted in English language, except indicated otherwise

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 Email: training-bangkok@giz.de

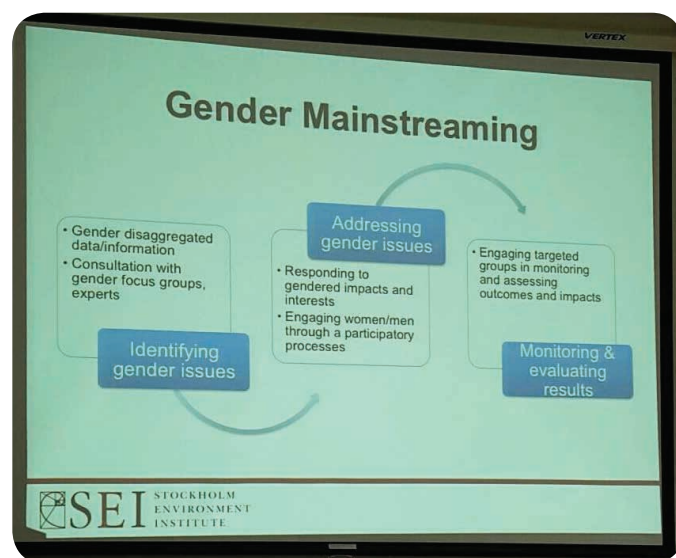
Mainstreaming Gender Issue into NAP Process

By Pimkarn Kattiyavong Connecting Climate Action (CCA) team

On 26 November 2015, the **“Risk-based National Adaptation Plan”** (Risk-NAP) Project’s core team including representatives from GIZ, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, and Department of Public Works & Town and Country Planning brainstormed on how to mainstream gender aspects into Thailand’s NAP process.

Based on several studies, climate change affects men and women differently, both also responding differently to experienced impacts. In order to capture these differentiated impacts and responses, it is important to mainstream gender considerations into the NAP process. Indeed, mainstreaming such a topic into the NAP process could ensure equal participation in decision making and implementation, prevent further exacerbation of gender inequality, as well as contribute to more resilient communities.

This half-day workshop led to the recognition of the necessity to first undertake a stakeholder mapping analysis of people working on both, gender and climate change, as well as to incorporate gender into the scope of the Climate Change Risk Analysis and to identify the most vulnerable groups considering gender differences. These undertakings would in turn lay the groundwork for identifying specific adaptation measures that are also gender sensitive.

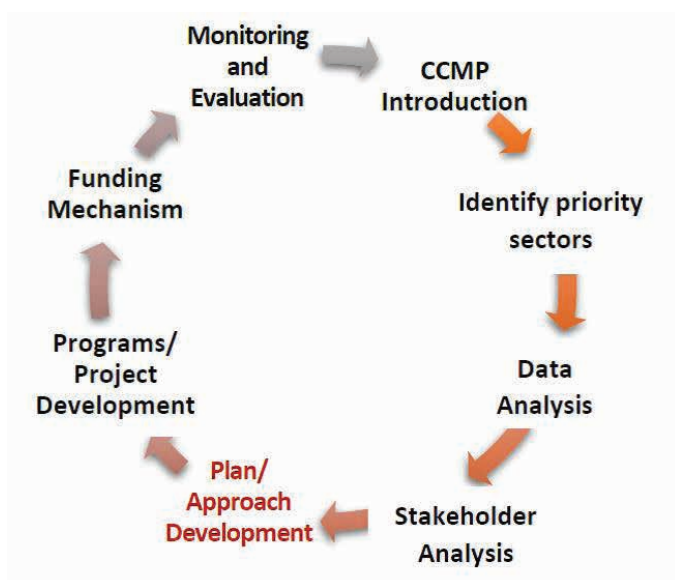


WHAT IS NAP?

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process was established in 2010 as part of the Cancun Adaptation Framework to complement the existing short-term orientation of National Adaptation Program of Actions (NAPAs). The NAP process is designed to support all developing countries in satisfying their medium- and long-term adaptation needs. It is meant to reduce vulnerability, build adaptive capacity and mainstream adaptation into all sector-specific and general development planning.

Training on Integration of Climate Change Aspects for Provincial and Municipal Development Planning: Step 3 – Development of Approach/Plan

By Pimkarn Kattiyavong Connecting Climate Action (CCA) team



Since February 2015, “Support to the Development of the Thai Climate Change Policy” Project has been organising a series of training for its pilot areas, 17 provinces and 32 municipalities, in order to strengthen the capacity of governmental officials in integrating climate change into a planning system. The first two training modules focused on the understanding of the Climate Change Master Plan, area-based priority identification, data analysis, stakeholder analysis, and goal setting.

In November 2015, the Project proceeded with the third training module aiming to support pilot regions to select appropriate approaches for their area – based development planning. The third training was separated into 3 sub-trainings on inter-related topics with more than 100 participants from Regional Environmental Office, Provincial Environmental Office, Municipality and provincial climate change committee.

- Training 3.1: Water management, forestry, natural resources, agriculture, and coastal erosion was held during 4-6 November 2015 at Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok
- Training 3.2: Urban management, waste management, human settlement and security, and transport was held during 16-18 November 2015 at Windsor Suits and Hotel, Bangkok

- Training 3.3: Electricity generation (renewable energy), energy efficiency in building, and industry was held during 30 November - 2 December 2015 at Maenam Riverside Hotel, Bangkok

On the first day participants received technical inputs on different approaches and best practices from both national and international experts. Day one was closed with an exercise on how to apply those approaches to participants’ respective areas. On the second day, attention was drawn away from participants’ own area as they were encouraged to think coherently between the needs, baseline, goals, and approaches through a case study. With the assistance of experts, participants have learned how to develop coherent goals and approaches taking into account changing climate conditions. On the last day, participants were, once again, allowed to work on their own case using sector specific technical inputs from day one and planning inputs from day two. Most of the participants were positively surprised on how much they had improved their understanding on climate change, realising the progress made when comparing the outputs from the first and the last workshop day.

Stocktaking of National Adaptation Planning (SNAP) Workshop in Bangkok

By Marie Rossetti Connecting Climate Action (CCA) team



During 23 - 24 November 2015, the GIZ Connecting Climate Action (CCA) team and the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy Planning (ONPEP) organised the Stocktaking of National Adaptation Planning (SNAP) workshop. Building on the inputs and provisional roadmap developed during the NAP training that took place in October 2015, the workshop aimed at assessing and arriving at a consensus on Thailand's needs and capacities for climate change adaptation, while also informing the preparation and implementation of the country's National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

On the first workshop day, participants coming from over 15 different government agencies were asked to fill in a questionnaire containing 21 questions on the level of access and availability of climate change adaptation information, data and implementation in Thailand. A preliminary analysis of the questionnaire's results showed that while the long term vision and mandate for the NAP process are perceived to be quite strong, the access to climate information and the set-up of a monitoring and evaluation system for climate change adaptation are considered to be difficult or sensitive points within the NAP planning process.

The second day was devoted to the development of the NAP process roadmap. Divided in small break-out groups, participants identified which actions should be taken in the next five years to reach the NAP goal of 'a climate resilient sustainable development', while also defining which stakeholders should lead on implementation. Three priority actions emerged out of this roadmap exercise, partly reflecting the shortcomings that came out of the questionnaire, such as the issue of access and availability of climate data.

Overall, the workshop provided another opportunity for ONPEP to disseminate information and knowledge on climate change adaptation as well as on the current state of the NAP process. It also laid the groundwork for defining goals and priority actions under the NAP in a multi-stakeholder approach. Next steps include the strengthening of inter-ministerial collaboration in the field of climate change as well as further efforts for aligning the NAP process with Thailand's overall policies and development planning- two important conditions for successful climate change adaptation mainstreaming.

The **SNAP** tool has been developed by GIZ to accompany the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) NAP Technical Guidelines. Primarily developed to support the 'stocktaking and assessment' component of the NAP process, the tool uses as the basis for the assessment, seven success factors considered necessary for the successful development and implementation of a NAP process. These include climate information, human and institutional capacities, long term vision and mandate, implementation, mainstreaming, participation, monitoring and evaluation.

Ministry of Energy and GIZ Kick-off Thai-German Renewable Energy Community Project

By Thomas Chrometzka Renewable Energy Project Development Programme in South-East Asia



Thailand is aiming to maintain its position as a front-runner when it comes to renewable energy deployment in South-East Asia. In order to bring about even more renewable energy installations with a special focus on creating local value in Thai communities, the Thai Ministry of Energy (MoEN) and GIZ GmbH have signed an Implementation Agreement in late September to carry out joint activities that promote community-based renewable energy projects. *"We aim to utilise the full potential for local renewable energy projects in Thailand by cooperating and sharing experiences with German companies and experts in the field"*, said Director of Office of Public Participatory Promotion Kanapong Tepakorn.

According to Mr. Kanapong, the focus on community-based renewable energy projects will not only advance the renewable energy sector in Thailand as a whole, it will also create more awareness for clean energy solutions and bring considerable added value to local communities. *"In Germany, more than 40% of all installed renewable energy capacity is in the hand of citizens, so the communities play a crucial role in the energy sector. We want to cooperate with the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and GIZ to advance this sector in Thailand as well and create local jobs and income."*

In Germany many thousand renewable energy systems are operated locally in communities by a variety of actors. Since 2006, almost 800 energy cooperatives have been established, currently owning a total of 933 MW installed capacity. Sharing German experiences with Thai communities will create more awareness for the benefits of local energy production. *"The prevalent scenario for*

future energy generation will likely be decentralised renewable energy generation close to local demand", stated Thomas Chrometzka, Director of Renewable Energy for GIZ Thailand. *"Community-based renewable energy projects are picking up speed in many countries in the world and have the potential to form a central piece of that energy network of the future."*

To make this vision come true MoEN and GIZ kicked off their joint project with the Thai-German Renewable Energy Community Conference that took place October 20-21 in Bangkok with approximately 280 representatives from Thai and German communities, government agencies and the private sector. Experts from Germany and Thailand discussed challenges and drafted ideas for concrete projects in 8 communities within the Kingdom of Thailand. Several Thai and German enterprises gave feedback to the interested communities about technical solutions available. In the following two years, GIZ and MoEN will support the communities further with technical advice and especially with designing suitable community-based business models that necessary to trigger investments in projects on the ground.

The **"Thai-German Renewable Energy Community Conference and Solution Workshop"** follows up on a first event which took place in October 2013 and marks the start of an annual series of conferences to support renewable energy project development in Thai communities. The conference has been organised in the framework of the Project Development Programme which is implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi).

Last Project Port of Call: Sustainability

By Franca Sprong and Yosthana Siphomsay Sustainable Port Development in the ASEAN Region



Photo : Port Authority of Thailand

The 9th regional meeting presented jointly with the partners the overview of successful cooperation over the past six years. In addition, a continuation strategy and plan was developed beyond the project lifetime to ensure the sustainability of achievements. Each port was handed over their individual summary report of achievements and progress throughout the project's lifetime. The ports had an exchange on needs and opportunities for learning between them and identified future south - south cooperation (or port to port learning). The experience exchange and the network building under the project will be continued through cooperation with the regional organisation Partnerships on Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) that developed a networking and exchange platform for the region. The SPD Training Network has been established and formalised to ensure that courses developed in the project and capacity developed during the project period will remain available and continued across ASEAN countries. Northport International Center of Excellence

(NICE) in Malaysia and Philippine Ports Authority Training Institute (PPATI) will take over the projects tasks developing and managing quality of training as well as train future course instructors. Five other national training centers will support in training delivery in their respective countries.

The 9th Regional Project Progress Review and Planning Meeting in Bangkok was organised together with the Port Authority of Thailand (PAT) on 4 - 5 November 2015. The meeting aimed to wrap up project activities and handover jointly developed materials, and specifically reflect on what has been achieved and remaining items to be completed. The meeting was attended by 55 participants from partner ports in ASEAN, national level agencies and project (and GIZ) staff.

*Sustainable Port Development in the ASEAN Region (SPD)

ASEAN – German Technical Cooperation ‘Sustainable Port Development in the ASEAN Region’ (SPD) Project

By Franca Sprong and Yosthana Siphomsay Sustainable Port Development in the ASEAN Region

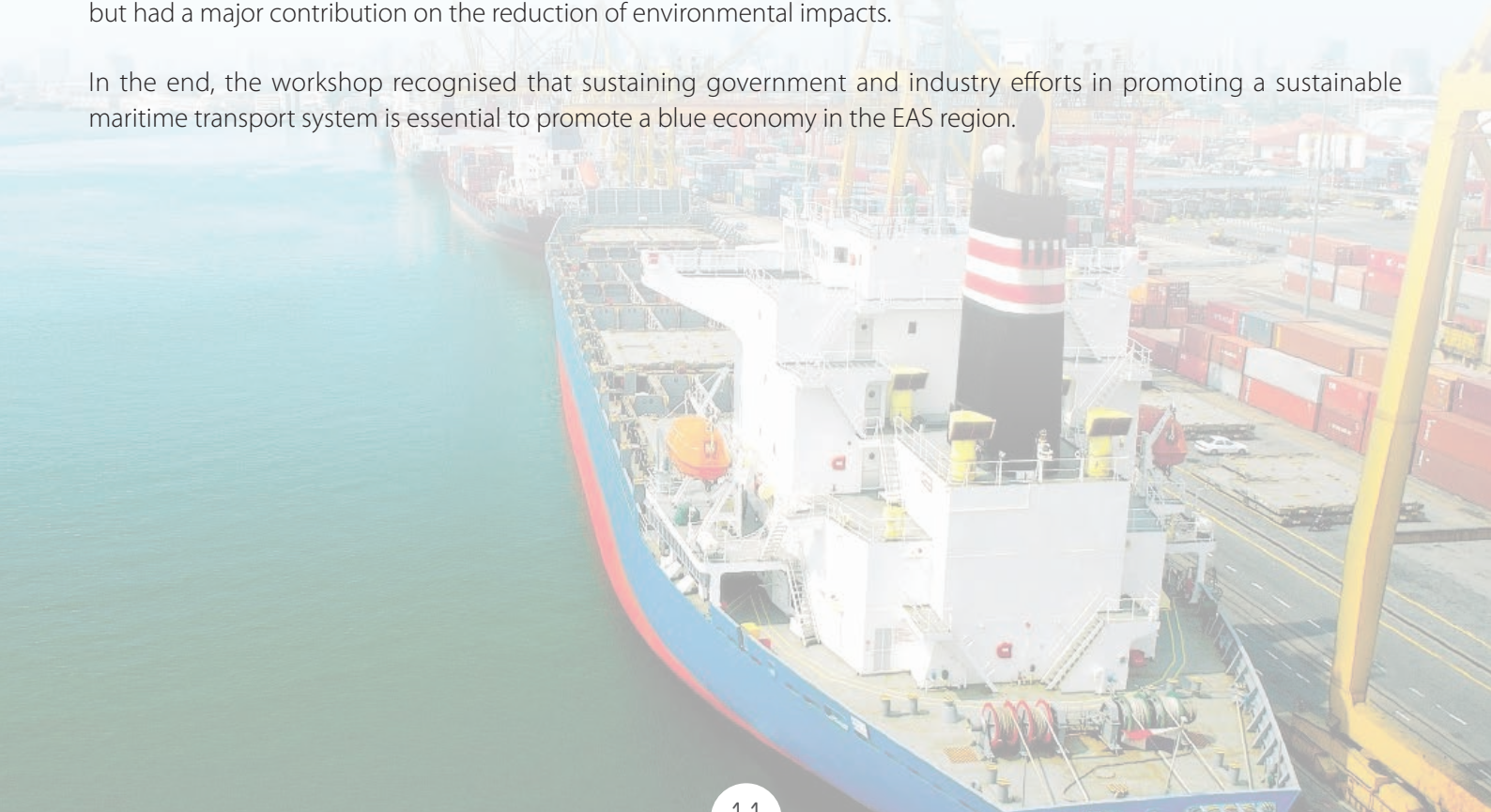
**‘Global Targets – Local Benefits:
Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Seas of East Asia Beyond 2015’**
East Asian Seas Congress 2015

During 16 – 21 November, the SPD project participated in the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2015 in Da Nang, Vietnam. The congress was hosted by the Partnerships on Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and carries the theme **‘Global Targets – Local Benefits: Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Seas of East Asia Beyond 2015’**. The EAS Congress served as a venue for assessing lessons learned and progress made, scaling up of good practices and initiatives towards building an ocean-based blue economy and mapping new targets and schedules for the seas of East Asia in accordance with the United Nations Sustainable Development goals.

The SPD project co-convened a workshop on 18 November together with the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) on **‘Maritime Sector Contributions to a Blue Economy for the Seas of East Asia’**.

The project showcased the major achievements of the ports in their proactive approaches in reducing and mitigating environmental impacts from their operations. The session focused on measures that were implemented by the ports, but had a major contribution on the reduction of environmental impacts.

In the end, the workshop recognised that sustaining government and industry efforts in promoting a sustainable maritime transport system is essential to promote a blue economy in the EAS region.



Full Speed Ahead Toward Effective In-Company Training in ASEAN

By Siriporn Parvikam & Nalina Hiranprueck

Effective In-Company Vocational Training in the Mekong Region project

Project “Effective In-Company Vocational Training in the Mekong Region” With the eyes on enhancement of training quality in companies in ASEAN countries, the project “Effective In-Company Vocational Training in the Mekong Region” is aspired to lay a solid foundation and has been preparing for the application of the developed Standard for In-Company Trainers in ASEAN Countries.

More Master Trainer Training Course: After 2 batches of regional training courses for Master Trainers (in Lao PDR and the Philippines), the support to organise Thai National Master Trainer Course was requested by the Office of Vocational Education Commission (OVEC) with the intention to multiply the number of Thai Master Trainers to train In-Company Trainers in the companies, cooperating in the Dual System. Utilising the 8 Thai Master Trainers developed before in the first 2 batches and expertise of Dr. Winfried Heusinger, German Expert, 48 OVEC Teachers (4 batches) were trained to be Master Trainers. Similar requests from participating countries, namely Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia and Indonesia were also received. Hence, another Master Trainer Training Course will be conducted early next year in Vietnam.

First Batches of In-Company Trainers to Improve Quality of Training: Once a sufficient number of Master Trainers are in place, it is time to start training In-Company Trainers. Two In-Company Trainer Training Courses were conducted in the Philippines in construction and hospitality sector. 40 qualified In-Company Trainers are now in operation there, while a number of courses are expected to follow. Another training course was organised in Lao PDR in December 2015, in which companies from various sectors, including automotive, power plant and food production, sent their trainers for the training. The fact that these companies even paid for the course fee for their trainers could already indicate the demand for quality training in the region.

Gearing toward Sustainability with the ASEAN In-Company Training Standard Steering Committee: As it is a project’s nature to exist only for a period of time, it is imperative to ensure the acceptance and sustainability of its intervention. Therefore, the “**ASEAN In-Company Training Standard Steering Committee**” was initiated from the results of the participation of 8 ASEAN Countries in the development and promotion of “**Standard for In-Company Trainers in ASEAN Countries**”. To cherish the forthcoming development and its sustainability in the region, representatives from public and private sector side of each country have been nominated to brainstorm ideas for setting structure and responsibilities, moving the standard implementation in the countries and promote it to ASEAN level in the 1st Steering Committee Meeting held in GMI, Malaysia. The results agreed during the meeting are Country Action Plan in 2016, Mutual support and request for assistance among the countries, tangible Regional Strategies for moving the regional standard to ASEAN.

More Activities to Come in Early 2016:

Regional Level:

- The next meeting of “**The ASEAN In-Company Training Standard Steering Committee**” will be during the 7th Workshop tentatively during 29 February - 3 March 2016.
- The Steering Committee will gradually play an important role on the development of agenda and topics of the 7th workshop, which will put main emphasis on the training of In-Company Trainers and acceptance of the regional standard in all ASEAN countries.
- Regional Master Trainer Training in Vietnam with participants from Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar and Cambodia

Special Scoop – Regional TVET Conferences

The 3rd Regional Conference in Vientiane, Lao PDR, during 14 –15 December 2015 with the focus on “Supporting AEC – Integration through Inclusive and Labour Market-oriented TVET

The approaching ASEAN Integration in 2015 has brought about the common awareness on the importance of knowledge and the need for a skilled workforce among countries in the region. Vocational education is, hence, highlighted to be one of the most substantial pillars in the pursuit of sustained economic and social development. Based on the belief that knowledge sharing, alignment of educational system through negotiation and a more open labour market would prepare ASEAN countries for the upcoming common market, **the 1st Regional TVET Conference on “TVET Quality Breakthrough” was organised in Vietnam** in October 2012 with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Vietnamese Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA) as hosts. As a result of the first conference, 300 decision makers from 14 countries emphasised the needs to continue the exchange of experience and networking between decision makers and actors in TVET in ASEAN as well as the experiences of international cooperation with Germany.

The 2nd TVET Conference “Ensuring TVET Quality – Preparing for the AEC 2015”, therefore, took place during 1 - 2 April 2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia. 350 experts from 18 countries exchanged intensive discussions on cooperation with private sector, harmonising standards and certification and measuring TVET quality.

In this year, **the 3rd Regional TVET Conference was recently held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, during 14 - 15 December 2015 with the focus on “Supporting AEC – Integration through Inclusive and Labour Market-oriented TVET”.** 450 experts from TVET and Labour sector in 14 countries recognised the increasing linkage of TVET system and Labour Market for supporting AEC – Integration. To improve TVET system more labour market oriented, 4 topics have been divided for sharing experiences and discussion on challenges and opportunities, namely TVET Governance, Inclusive Vocational Education, Work-process and employment oriented TVET and TVET personnel.

At the end of the conference, an official Joint Statement has been agreed upon for supporting the importance of TVET sector development for the growth of the ASEAN Economic Community.

Introducing Newly Acquired Project Financed by Asian Development Bank (ADB) Implementing the Greater Mekong Subregion Human Resource Development Strategic Framework and Action Plan (TVET HR GMS)

By Nalina Hiranprueck Effective In-Company Vocational Training in the Mekong Region project

Since 1 August 2015 a new GIZ International Services project financed by the Asian Development Bank has begun its implementation phase under the name of Implementing the Greater Mekong Subregion Human Resource Development Strategic Framework and Action Plan (TVET HR GMS).

The overarching idea of the project is to facilitate the mobilisation of workforce in the Greater Mekong Subregion area (GMS), which is a part of ASEAN, consisting of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. To achieve this, the project is going to develop **Mutual Recognition Frameworks for 3 occupations (MRF GMS)**. In general MRF is an agreement for workers qualifications to be recognised in all participating countries, be it for educational or professional purposes. Under the MRF GMS each Nation is able to retain its own unique qualification system, while utilising the framework to recognise the qualifications acquired in other countries. To illustrate, a Lao welder trained and gained his qualification in Lao PDR, will be recognised of his qualifications, when applying for a position at a university or a firm in Thailand and other GMS countries. This expands not only the individual's opportunity for employment and further education, but also mobilise the regional labour market.

Since the beginning of the project, desk research as well as in-depth interviews have been conducted in each project country to understand the current socio-economic situation. Once the data gathering and analysing phase is completed, 1st stakeholder workshop will take place during 14 - 15 January 2016 to have public and private stakeholders from 5 countries select the 3 skill areas or occupations to be addressed by the MRF GMS. Afterwards another 2 workshops will be organised in March and June for the stakeholders to comment and modify the drafts of MRF GMS in the selected skill areas. By the end of the last workshop the drafts MRF GMS shall be finalised and agreed by the stakeholders.

The participation of stakeholders in the process of the development and drafting of MRF GMS plays a particularly important role in the concept since we believe that their involvement enhances acceptance and sustainability of the project's intervention. More engagement of local stakeholders, especially from the private sector side, also has the benefit that the process and outputs are aligned with the demand in the region. Thereby increasing the likelihood of adoption and local ownership, which eventually leads to sustainability.

FACTS ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project Duration:

1 August 2015 – 31 July 2016

Donor Organisation: Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Team Leader:

Mr. Christian Stüer, E-mail: christian.stueer@giz.de

Yielding the Fruits of Quality and Integrity

In an interview with ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems, Dole Thailand's managing director Simon Denye names the key elements to success in the competitive fruit juice business

Story and photos by Rojana Manowalailao ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems



How do you apply the “quality does matter” concept in the fruit juice industry?

“Thailand generally has a very good reputation when it comes to fruit quality and juice quality. There are about 30 pineapple canneries and several more companies that handle processing and other aspect of juice business here in Thailand. It's a very competitive industry. Everybody is fighting for a share of the market and a share of the customers. We have to be competitive on costs, we must produce the volumes that the customers want, and more than anything we have to ensure quality, both in terms of safety and in fit for purpose and taste. Customers have a safety expectation, meaning the product must not be unhealthy in any way and free from all contamination.”

ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems (ASEAN SAS) partnered with German's Sure-Global-Fair (SGF) in the public-private partnership project “**Improvement of product safety and quality for the Thai fruit juice industry**” to increase safety and quality of Thai fruit juice products in accordance with nationally and internationally recognised market standards. The project ended in April 2015. SGF monitors the fruit juice industry and products in the market and carries out both market observations and plant audits at the member production plants. Dole Food Company is a member of SGF.

How do you ensure quality in fruit juice?

“We are concerned with and involved in the quality throughout the supply chain. We talk to farmers about the way they prepare the land and the way they till before planting the first pineapple. We want to know that the ground is safe to use, that the tilling has been properly done and the planting is done correctly. We make sure they do not use any chemicals that are not approved. We apply the strictest standards commensurate with those of our buyers in every country. We are very strict with our suppliers and our farmers and make sure that they comply. But we do not take that on good faith. We do not just test the raw material. We test all the way through the process as well as the finished products. We work with associations like SGF that are well known around the world for their involvement in the juice industry and they also test for authenticity.”

Do you have any plans for producing fruit juice organically?

“Organic is the concept of being chemical free. For Dole, I think that it is the path we will follow. Indeed, we are experimenting with natural farming. Natural farming means focusing on the soil and taking care of the soil. You use compost and you analyse the microbes in the soil. When you take care of the soil from the start, the soil is healthy and the plants grow without any additions.”

What is the key to Dole's success?

“It starts with integrity – in terms of quality, the brand, a capable staff plus investment in good assets, being in the right locations in the world, in our case mainly Thailand, and selling into the best markets into the world like the USA and Europe.”

Read the full interview at www.asean-agrifood.org

Sustainable Agrifood Systems a Must, Experts Say

By Rojana Manowalailao ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems



Experts in sustainable agriculture gathered in Vientiane, Lao PDR recently to urge all those involved in the field of agriculture to change the agrifood system or face the consequences.

Speaking at the 6th Project Partner Meeting of the ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems (ASEAN SAS) of Lao PDR, which was held from 17 - 20 November and co-hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the experts stressed the need for governments to formulate and implement a cohesive policy based on real situations. Private companies and farmers should also agree to respect the land while consumers should place value on the food they eat.

"The government must do their job to understand the real situation. Once they know that situation, they will be able to use real experiences and real situations to formulate good policies and that will be very good for the farmers, indeed for everyone," said Mr. Gerald Cammagay, a Science Research specialist attached to the Organic Agriculture Division of the Philippines.

"We face problems like the overuse of agricultural land. We plant every season without considering giving back what is taken from the soil. The excessive use of chemical fertilizers and chemicals is a natural calamity," he added.

Responsible agriculture has to be seen as the sole option for a sustainable future and all parties in the value chain need to acknowledge and change their attitudes and practices, the experts from the ASEAN countries said.

"What is most important is not the quantity of the food produced but its quality. In short, the food we produce must be safe to consume," said Mr. Ismail Iberahim, Principal Assistant Director of Plant Biosecurity Division with Malaysia's Department of Agriculture. *"Farmers and consumers in developed countries want safe food and environmental conservation. Wherever possible, they do not want chemicals to be used in growing their food. But in developing countries, farmers want fast results and do not think about tomorrow."*

Mr. Noor Azri Bin Haji Mohamad Noor, Head of the Crop Protection unit from Brunei Darussalam held the same view. *"Agriculture these days focuses on high production and achieving higher yields, but we cannot forget these are our natural resources we are using,"* he said. *"I do hope that farmers and also the private sector can come to an agreement someday that sustainable agriculture is the way to go so we can continue to enjoy their supply without damaging the environment."*

People should learn from mistakes and take better care of the earth, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture from Indonesia, Dr. Syaiful Anwar added. *"If not, the earth will become much worse and one day the world will come to end."*

More than 70 experts from ten ASEAN Member States met in Lao PDR to mark the mid-term point of the ASEAN SAS project and discuss emerging issues and challenges to food security including the environment and climate change with the aim of developing strategies for project activities post 2015. ASEAN SAS, since the inception of the second phase in 2014, has implemented activities under three priority areas, namely policy framework, production technologies and market linkages to encourage regional cooperation in promoting sustainable food production at the national level as well as enhancing synergies and boosting greater impact in respective countries.

Read more at www.asean-agrifood.org/

Farm Mechanisation to Improve Rice Production in Ubon Ratchathani

By Kamol Taukitphaisarn and Isabell Piroth **Better Rice Initiative Asia**

In Ubon Ratchathani Province, farmers usually grow world-famous jasmine rice on rain-fed fields. Here, BRIA and Bua Ngarm Community Rice Centre (CRC) in Det Udom District operate a demo plot. To improve productivity, lower costs, ease labour shortage and enhance the quality of paddy rice, BRIA has introduced a manually operated paddy rice seeder and a combine harvester donated by John Deere to this community.

The seeding device is sourced locally and affordable to farmers, costing 6,500 baht or 180 US dollar. The implement can be attached to a hand-held tractor and its seeding capacity is 8 - 10 rai per day. It reduces seed rates from 25 - 30 kg/rai with hand broadcasting to 4 - 5 kg/rai (6.25 rai = 1 hectare). This helps farmers to save some 500-625 baht per rai as one kilogram of seeds costs 25 baht. The productivity is expected to rise from 350 kg/rai on average to more than 450 kg/rai. The maintenance cost is low as it operates mechanically with easy handling and no gasoline required. Apart from Bua Ngarm CRC, where the feedback was very positive, the implement has gained the acceptance of lead farmers in Muang Sam Sip and Buntharik Districts.

Farmers can use the seeding device from the end of May to early July or approximately 30 - 45 working days before the rainy season.

BRIA's effort to raise the efficiency of rice cultivation has been further strengthened with the combine harvester, which John Deere handed over to the CRC on 26 October 2015 for the 2015/2016 crop production. The machine combines the three harvesting operations of reaping, threshing and winnowing into one single process, thus significantly reducing harvesting costs and losses, and saving labour. The training to operate the machine is also supported by John Deere.



In combination with the harvester, BRIA promotes the concept of large field management currently implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC). According to this approach, 20 - 30 smallholder farmers will be brought together to consolidate their land to a total of 500 - 1,000 hectares. The farmers keep their ownership and intensify their farm practise. They will form farmers' organisation and set up an executive committee with a field manager. The overall objectives are to achieve economy of scale, to facilitate the integration of work among public agencies, and to improve smallholder farmers' access to the market and innovative technology.

Bua Ngarm CRC has some 64 members. Supervised by a committee of five members, headed by Mr. Wasana Abhaikrotra, the CRC leader, the machine will be offered to both members and non-members to boost the farmer network and create synergies. The cost efficiency analysis prepared by BRIA suggests charging a rental fee of 600 baht per rai. BRIA believes that the machine will help farmers to harvest in time, maximise grain yield and quality, and reduce post-harvest losses for a more sustainable rice production.

Regional Knowledge Sharing to Promote Best Rice Cultivation Practices

By Kamol Taukitphaisarn **Better Rice Initiative Asia**



BRIA organised a Regional Knowledge Sharing Workshop to emphasise **“Best Rice Cultivation Practices”** on 3 – 5 November 2015 in Bangkok. The objectives were to promote the exchange of sustainable rice cultivation practices and to incorporate knowledge shared by key players in the agricultural sector in the BRIA projects as well as to scale up best practices.

Dr. Christine Falken-Grosser, Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany for Bangkok, said in her welcoming remarks that agriculture in the Southeast Asia, especially rice cultivation, contributes significantly to the world food security. Countries in the region face such diverse challenges in the rice sector as topography, policies, and heterogeneous experiences. BRIA, founded under the initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ together with partners, shows the engagement of the German government in enhancing rice cultivation in this region.

Mr. Vicharn Teangtum, Deputy Director General of the Thai Rice Department, made an opening speech. He said that according to the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), although rice is a staple food for nearly half of the world population, 90% of the world rice is consumed in Asia. Rice farmers in Asia are mostly low-

income smallholder farmers. If the fundamentals of food security are availability, access and utilisation, food security is still a problem for rice farmers. Introducing **“Best Rice Cultivation Practices”** to develop rice production and maintain a healthy planet, people and profits should address the current situation. The Rice Department is tasked with improving rice varieties to satisfy global demand, rice production technology, farmers’ empowerment, cooperation with other stakeholders, value creation, and rice cultivation for sustainable production. He ended by saying that the goals of BRIA can be integrated into the Thai rice development strategy.

During the plenary session on **Prospects and Challenges of the Rice Sector in Southeast Asia**, Dr. Apichart Pongsrihadulchai presented the Thai National Rice Policy and Regional Cooperation in the Rice Sector in Southeast Asia. With regard to his recommendations for regional cooperation, he envisaged bilateral and multilateral cooperation with international organisations, in information sharing (establishing ASEAN Rice Information Platform and Forum), conducting joint research, joint pest and disease control, exchanging study visits, rice standard setting, food security cooperation (AFSIS or ASEAN Food Security Information System / APTERR or ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve) and last but not least trade agreement / trade forum (AFSRB or ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board).

The participants then joined the breakout working groups on **Best Rice Cultivation**. Six different topics were discussed, which included seeding, soil and nutrients, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and crop protection, farm mechanisation, climate smart rice farming and capacity development. The knowledge sharing activity ended with a panel discussion on **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Approach to Best Rice Cultivation**. This session reinforced the need for collaboration among different stakeholders along the rice value chain to work together to promote sustainable rice production.

Strengthening Cooperatives and SMEs in Central Vietnam Project

By Jiraluck Inwong Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation Programme

Outcomes and lessons learned from two and a half years of implementation:

The “Carry On Workshop - Adding Value to Community Enterprises: Future Business Services of Cooperative Alliances, Cooperatives & SMEs in Central Vietnam” was organised by the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance in the Central Region (VCA Central) in cooperation with GIZ and the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) on 16 October 2015 at VCA Central Auditorium in Tam Ky and Quang Nam province. The workshop aimed to provide the Vietnamese-Thai-German project working group the opportunity to share and exchange knowledge and experiences obtained throughout the implementation period of the Strengthening Cooperatives and SMEs in Central Vietnam Project under the Vietnamese-Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation. It was also intended to publicise information among the target groups about new services of VCA Central in regard to the promotion of effective cooperative systems. Members of the project working group participating in the workshop included representatives from VCA Central, Provincial Cooperative Alliance (PCA) in 19 provinces and 10 cooperatives in the central region. Also participating were representatives from the media and those interested from the general public. In summary, a total of more than 80 persons participated in the workshop.

The workshop received great attention from the participants due to its interesting content and programme design as follows:

- An eight-minute video presenting the summary of the project outcomes can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuZHTtErOWoJ>.
- The presentation on the principles and guidelines for developing cooperative systems was arranged by Thai experts.
- The exchange session of experiences from project implementation by the Vietnamese-Thai-German project working group was organised.
- The presentation on good practices in developing cooperatives and putting theory into practice for achieving concrete and abstract results was arranged by representatives from coop models.
- The PR session and the session requesting recommendations for improving services of VCA Central were arranged so that VCA Central can support the operations of cooperatives under its responsibility more effectively and in greater consistence with their needs.



- An exhibition summarising implementation results of cooperative models and booths for distribution of cooperative products were set up.

The workshop was the last activity under the support of the Project. It was part of the efforts to disseminate the project outcomes to the broader public, with a view to promoting the application of the lessons learned and knowledge, both in terms of the development and promotion of cooperative systems and in terms of international project management. As both the lessons learned and knowledge form part of the main outcomes of the Project, their continuous and sustainable application shall be pushed forward by the agencies responsible for the promotion of cooperative systems in Vietnam.

Last words from project key supporters:

Q: What make the project deliver the desired outcome?
What are the factors?

Mr. Le Duc Thang (Project Manager, VCA Central): Without good **cooperation** with organisations concerned, the project wouldn't reach its goal. This is due to the involvement of key stakeholders at the inception and planning phase, which help create mutual understanding on the project scope, strategy and plan, and also role and responsibilities of each party. Once the **participatory approaches** are applied at the beginning, it later makes our lives easier to get support (both technical and administrative) and **share responsibility** during the implementation phase as well. We have developed **joint mechanism and processes** to work together and regularly **share the lessons learned** for improving further solutions.

Workshop on “Effective PR and Communication for Projects”

By Warisa Sungkaprom Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation Programme



“Effective PR and Communication for Projects”

was the last workshop organised by the Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation Programme, in cooperation with GIZ Training Services Bangkok, for the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA). Taking place on 19-21 October 2015, the workshop was part of TICA’s Human Resource Capacity Building Programme, aiming at providing TICA’s PR officers and officers in charge of different projects with effective communication strategies and skills that serve the purposes of the development work.

PR and communication is a key element in the implementation of development projects. This workshop, therefore, focuses on communication strategies, effective writing and communication, production of PR products and organising of PR activities, knowledge management,







and promotion of corporate identity and corporate image. It was intended to create understanding about effective communication and enhance communication and knowledge management capacities of project officers in terms of coordination, dissemination of project lessons learned and outcomes, and promotion of further outreach.

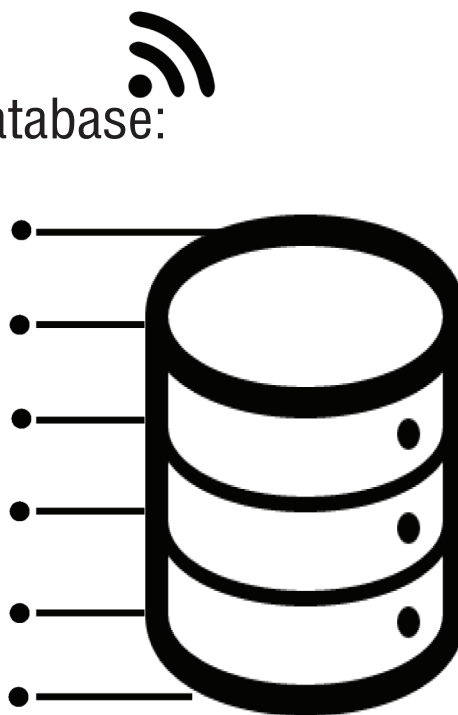
With four workshops organised in the past, participating officers from all sections of TICA were able to increase their knowledge and develop their working capacities in the field of development cooperation. This knowledge can also be built upon and further developed into TICA’s own personnel capacity development training courses in the future.

Development of Online National GAP Database

By Pimpilas Nuntiphon Khoeiram Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation Programme

Benefits of the Database:

-  Ability to access important information **quickly and easily**
-  Minimisation **problems of duplicated data storage** (redundancy)
-  Ability to control **information accuracy** through determining the format and coding of data
-  Ability to be accessed by **multiple users** and units
-  Support for **decision making through providing** executive summaries
-  Ability to **control and maintain data security** due to the availability of database administration



In the era of information society, information is considered a valuable resource of all organisations, whether small or large in size. Those organisations with the ability to better manage information therefore have a competitive advantage in all aspects. In this context, there have been efforts to use computers for managing information instead of paper records (hard copy) to make sure corporate information is correct and accurate and users can quickly and easily access information.

Development of an online National Lao GAP database is one of the activities of the Strengthening National Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) in Lao PDR Project under the Lao-Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation, implemented with the support of experts from the Department of Agriculture, Thailand incorporate with software

developers. Such a database was designed to collect information about farms and producers applying for the Lao GAP certification for fresh fruit and vegetable. The use of an online database will provide users with accurate and updated information and quick data access, which helps increase efficiency of certification service provision through certifying agencies in support the growing needs for Lao GAP certification in the future.

The online National Lao GAP database, which has been jointly developed by the Project, is now under prototype improvement. The test run and the training for database administration are scheduled for early 2016. A complete database will be launched in March 2016.

Assessment of the Certification Body for Good Agricultural Practices in Lao PDR in Compliance with ISO17065: 2012

By Pimpilas Nuntiphon Khoeiram Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation Programme



In July 2015, the Strengthening National Good Agriculture Practices in Lao PDR Project organised a workshop to review the existing structure, procedures and paperwork system for the certification of Good Agricultural Practices (Lao GAP). The Department of Agriculture (DOA) serves as the certification body (CB) for Lao GAP certification for fresh fruit and vegetable. The workshop helped prepare the certification body for an assessment by an international accreditation body (AB) in the next stage.

Before being assessed by the accreditation body (AB), the certification body (CB) can undergo a pre-audit by establishing an internal audit team. The Lao GAP certification scheme will be assessed against a relevant international standard-ISO17065. The results obtained from the pre-audit will help identify risk issues associated with the certification system and improve the chance of passing the assessment conducted by the accreditation body (AB).

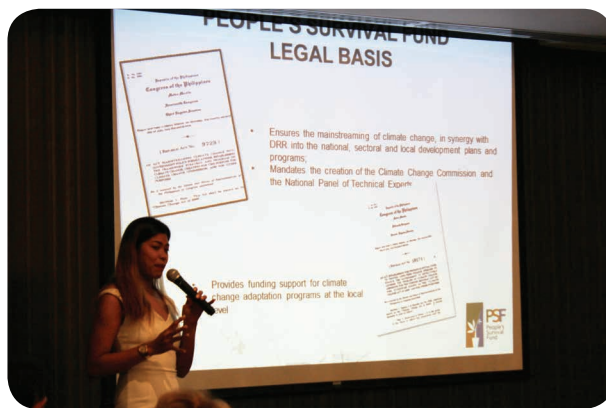
Therefore, a pre-audit was organised on 19 - 20 October 2015 by the internal audit team from Department of Agriculture (DOA) Thailand. The audit team conducted the pre-audit through a random check of quality control documents and on-site visit of the certified farmer groups at Ban Don Chiang Su, Sikhottabong District in Vientiane.

After completion of the pre-audit, the lead auditor summarised the pre-audit results especially, the major and minor nonconformities and gave recommendations to the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, QMR manager and working group for further review and improvement. In this way, the certification body (CB) of Lao PDR will be better prepared for an assessment by the accreditation body in the future.

Fourth National – Subnational Dialogue in the Philippines

Three Philippine cities and selected National and Subnational Government Agencies discuss urban planning, affordable housing, basic infrastructure provision, and financing in nexus dialogue

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



The Fourth National – Subnational Dialogue was organised by International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives – Southeast Asia (ICLEI – SEA) in partnership with the GIZ Urban Nexus Project in Manila last 6 November as an attempt to bridge the gap between the local, regional and national government, particularly in the areas of water, wastewater, energy, and land use as well as cascading finance to the local level.

The recently-concluded event is a follow-up to the first nexus dialogue last October 2014 as well as city-specific dialogues held in Santa Rosa and Naga. The first dialogue affirmed the importance of creating platforms for knowledge exchange between the local and national government. The city-specific dialogues were conducted to further discuss each city's concerns including the provincial level as well as regional organisations. This fourth dialogue aimed at looking at how agreements from previous activities have progressed, identifying impediments, and further clarifying emerging issues and concerns in particular finance.

During the dialogue's onset, Commissioner Linda Malenab-Hornilla of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board highlighted the important role of local governments in achieving national development targets emphasising that the gap between national and local governments should be addressed through continuous dialogues.

Available financing options at the national government for nexus projects were among the issues tackled at the event. Three mechanisms namely

- 1) the National Sewerage and Septage Management Program (NSSMP) of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH),
- 2) the People's Survival Fund (PSF) and
- 3) the Unified Finance Framework (UFF) recently established at NEDA to promote infrastructure projects of local government units were discussed.

The President of Bicol State College of Applied Science and Technology (BISCAST) presented the college's current initiatives highlighting its nexus resilient housing project, currently being constructed. As the only academic partner of nexus, BISCAST's experience reiterated the huge potential of academic institutions in the areas of research and technology transfer.

The dialogue was attended by participants representing eight national government agencies, one state college, and three local governments. Baguio City, a HUC (Highly Urbanised City) located in Northern Philippines, also participated in the dialogue and shared how the City intends to apply nexus framework particularly in its wastewater programs.

GIZ Urban Nexus, Bilfinger, and ICLEI Southeast Asia hold 2nd Vacuum Sewer Technical Training in Manila

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



Ms. Ruth Erlbeck, GIZ Urban Nexus Project Director, moderates a roundtable discussion on the applicability of vacuum sewerage in the Philippines with selected training participants.

4 and 5 November – A total of 48 participants attended the 2nd Vacuum Sewer Technical Training held in Manila, Philippines. The two-day training provided participants with an understanding of how the vacuum sewer system works and the feasibility of using the technology in the Philippines.

GIZ Urban Nexus and ICLEI Southeast Asia in partnership with Bilfinger Water Technologies organised this two-day technical training under the **“Integrated Resource Management in Asian cities: The Urban Nexus project”** financed by the BMZ. Dr. Michael Guertler and Mr. Irineus Kubek represented Bilfinger and served as resource persons together with Ralph Trosse/Technical Director of the GIZ Nexus Project. During the discussion, it was highlighted that vacuum sewerage systems are considered to have the lowest carbon footprint in any municipal sewerage system. Since the system collects wastewater by vacuum, adverse environmental impacts are reduced in the process. Moreover, the link between waste water, energy generation and agriculture was elaborated. Innovative waste water systems, adapted to the requirements of the 21st century marked by growing scarcity of water, energy, food security and land have to consider a separation of energy and material cycles separating black, grey and storm water to produce energy, fertilizer, service & irrigation water **“closing the loop”** between water, energy, food and land-use.

During a roundtable discussion facilitated by Nexus Project Director Ms. Ruth Erlbeck, representatives of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) as well as of the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) expressed appreciation of the technology and explained, they are equipped with more knowledge on technology options in tackling wastewater concerns. It was also emphasised that **“local context is important when selecting the appropriateness of technologies.”** All panellists agreed that for settlements on sea (stilts) vacuum sewer is the only viable option to improve sanitation.

The two nexus pilot cities in the Philippines namely Santa Rosa and Naga reiterated their intention to apply the vacuum sewer technology in some of the infrastructure projects that they are currently working on in partnership with GIZ Urban Nexus. Laguna Water, a private concessionaire confirmed to assist Santa Rosa in this effort.

Ecosystem-based Adaptation Training in Hua Hin

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



The GIZ-ECOSWat project partnered with the GIZ Training Hub, Bangkok in organising a 4-day training session on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) to climate change with a focus on the water sector. The objective of the workshop, which ran from 10 - 23 November in Hua Hin, was to provide a clear conceptual and technical capacity to participants from the Department of Water Resources, the Royal Irrigation Department and the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning. Staff of ECOSWat and GIZ projects in Afghanistan and East Timor also joined the training.

The workshop used the Harvard Case Study Method, which provided for experiential-style learning on climate risk terminology, scoping for EbA, vulnerability and risk assessment, community-based adaptation, risk rating, the decision making process for selecting EbA measures as well as integration of EbA and developmental planning in the water sector.

The GIZ-ECOSWat Project will roll out further training sessions for the water sector in Thailand in the coming months as it works towards an enhanced resilience of the sector to climate change.



Field Visit to Huay Sai Bat Sub River Basin, Khon Kaen Province

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



As part of a feasibility analysis, representatives from the Bureau of Water Conservation and Rehabilitation and the Bureau of International Cooperation, Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Huay Sai Bat Working Group, in collaboration with Khon Kaen University, organised a meeting on 27 October to investigate possible Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Measures, which had been designed according to local vulnerabilities.

Stakeholder consultation and a field visit were organised in order to obtain first-hand experiences of the local conditions as well as create a common understanding with key stakeholders. Both are required for the specific design of EbA measures, which will tackle the local sedimentation problems at the Nong Yai Reservoir.

This and two more field visits in Nakhon Si Thammarat and Ratchaburi are part of DWR's budgeting process to construct the EbA measures in 2017.



On-Site Learning Experience: Water Management through Ecosystem-based Adaptation Measures

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



With the aim of exchanging knowledge at the local and international levels, the Department of Water Resources and GIZ-ECOSWat welcomed 19 Vietnamese delegates from 5 - 9 October at the GIZ-ECOSWat project pilot sites in Bangkok, Nakhon Si Thammarat and Ratchaburi.

The Department and GIZ-ECOSWat have jointly conducted various assessments at the project sites, involving relevant stakeholders and helping local communities to adapt in tackling increasing floods and periods of drought. The lessons learned from this experience were that a combination of local wisdom and international best practices are key to successful water management.

In Nakhon Si Thammarat, the delegation learned about the results of Vulnerability Assessments and proposed Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) measures, jointly conducted by German experts and Walailak University. GIZ-ECOSWat, also shared the project's initiative on Drone Integration in the Water Sector. The session was very well received and brought about in-depth discussions on Vietnamese environmental conditions.

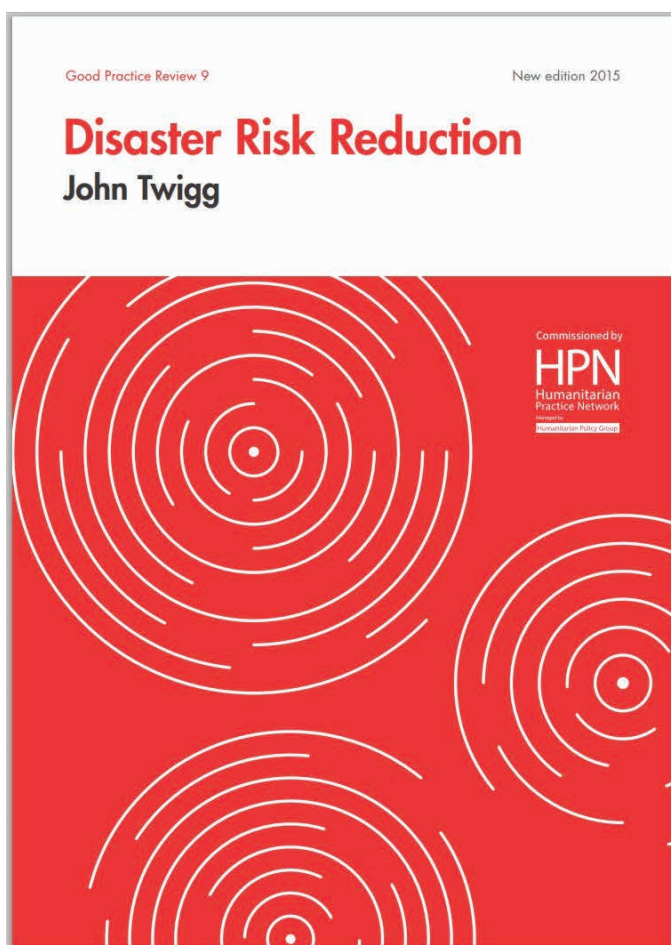
The delegation then proceeded to the Tha Di sub-river basin where they visited the living weir and observed its effects on river flows. The local community in the region shared insightful details on the water situation, conflicts among water users and water resources management in the sub-river basin. The delegation discussed and exchanged experiences of similar situations in Vietnam with floods and droughts, water scarcity and water quality.

The delegation later travelled to the western province of Ratchaburi where the Department of Water Resources, Regional Office 7 warmly welcomed all delegates and introduced them to the water situation in the Lum Pha Chi (LPC) sub-river basin. A Vulnerability Assessment has also been conducted here by the German expert team and its results have been transferred to the relevant public, private sector as well as relevant stakeholders.

Despite heavy rains, the visit was very well received, especially the lessons learned from the setting up of local green measures to tackle floods and droughts. The village head showed the delegation the weir and the EbA measure: the river bank stabilisation using bamboo. Not only does the bamboo stabilise the river banks, the local community also can generate some income by selling bamboo shoots. The fishery ecosystem has also been restored.

Launch of the Good Practice Review 9 – Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia

By Hanna Maier Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management



The Good Practice Review 9 (GPR9) – Disaster Risk Reduction was initially launched in London by Dr. John Twigg and the Humanitarian Practice Network¹ on 13 October coinciding with the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR2015)². Funding was provided by the governments of Australia, Great Britain and Germany.

Drawing on experiences from around the world and discussing the principles and practice of DRR, the GPR9 is intended primarily for practitioners. The book provides guidance when planning and carrying out projects and programmes. It also highlights experiences and lessons learned from recent events such as this year's earthquake in Nepal: Surviving the Nepal Earthquake (watch here <https://vimeo.com/142170423>).

The launch of GPR9 during the 8th Practitioner's Workshop on Risk Reduction & Resilience held from 23-25 November in Bangkok was one of the highlights. The GPR9 can make a valuable contribution to translate the commitments stated in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction³ into practice and implement the framework on the ground.

1 Humanitarian Practice Network <http://odihpn.org/>

2 International Day for Disaster Reduction
<http://www.unisdr.org/we/campaign/iddr>

3 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
http://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

Pilot of the Mini Fire Brigade Kicks-off in Bangladesh

By Hanna Maier Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management



Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed and the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Dr. Gerd Müller at the inauguration of the Mini Fire Brigade in Gazipur.
Photo © Dhaka Tribune

The German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Dr. Gerd Müller together with Bangladesh's Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmend has laid the foundation stone of the Mini Fire Brigade¹ at Jinnat Complex of the DBL Group in Gazipur on Wednesday, 7 October 2015. The DBL Group supports the pilot of the Mini Fire Brigade as a cooperation partner and provides land, facilities and volunteers. During the unveiling ceremony of the plaque, the fire fighting vehicle that was specifically designed for the Mini Fire Brigade was received in Bangladesh.

The Mini Fire Brigade is a joint initiative by the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and its partners, GIZ and the Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense (BFSCD). Its main purpose is to both increase fire prevention efficacy and to significantly improve reaction time in emergency response in the Kashimpur-Konabari industrial cluster in Gazipur. This approach will benefit 48 factories with around 65,000 employees in the industry cluster and the surrounding communities.

The Mini Fire Brigade is embedded in the programme **"Promotion of Social and Environmental Standards in the Industry (PSES)"**² that GIZ is implementing in Bangladesh on behalf of the BMZ.

Dr. Gerd Müller was accompanied by Hans-Joachim Fuchtel, Parliamentary State Secretary to the BMZ along with 17 other delegates from Germany to the plaque unveiling ceremony. Representatives from DBL Group, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry for Labour and Employment as well as Ali Ahmed Khan, the General Director of BFSCD and numerous companies were also present at the ceremony.

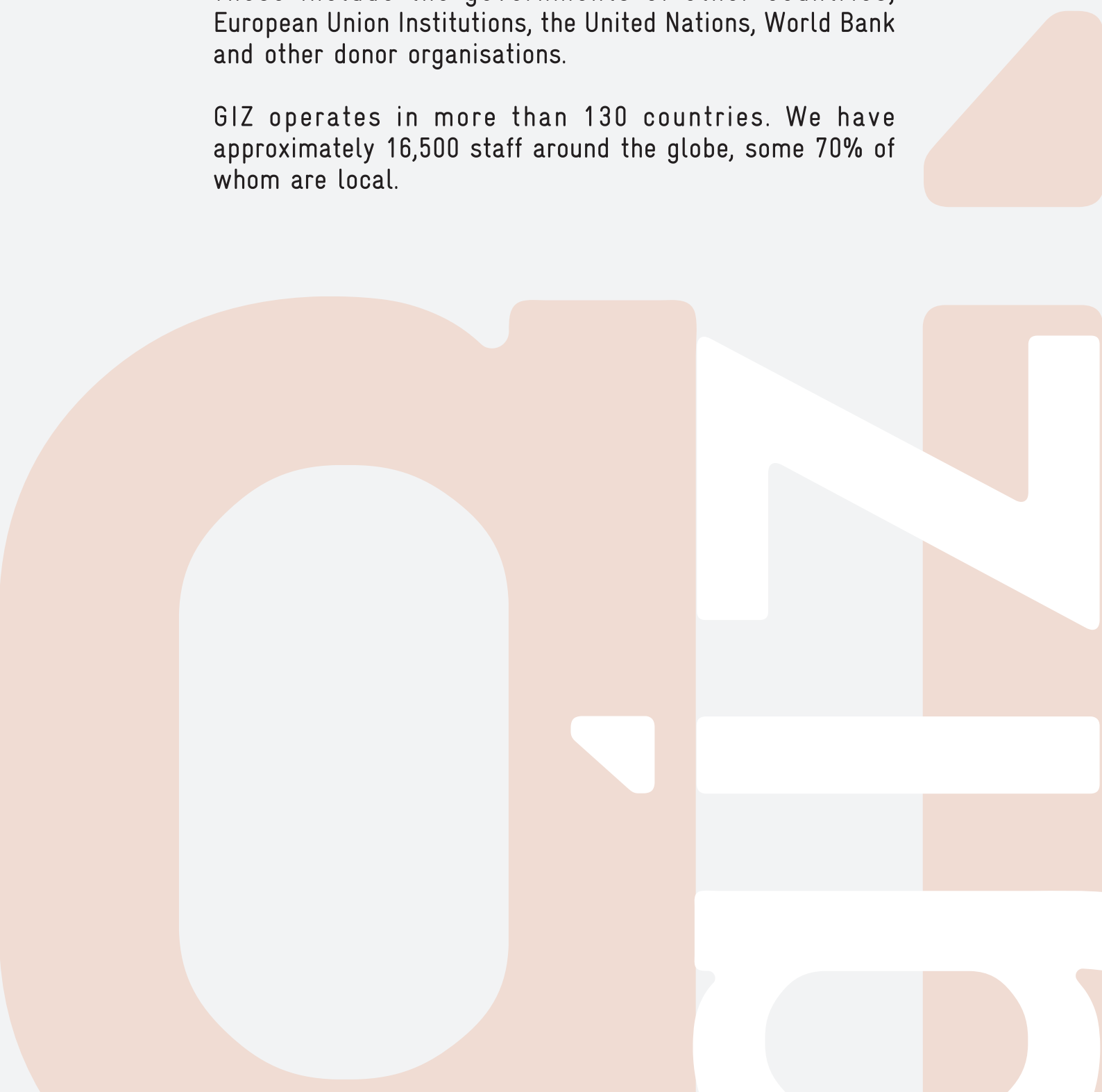
1 Mini Fire Brigade <https://www.gidrm.net/activities/integrated-fire-prevention/>

2 Promotion of Social and Environmental Standards in the Industry (PSES) <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/14900.html>

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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On-going GIZ projects based in Thailand



Agriculture & Food Safety

- ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems
- Better Rice Initiative Asia
- Remote Sensing - based Information and Insurance for Crops in Emerging Economies



Climate Change

- Advancing and Measuring Sustainable Consumption and Production for a Low - Carbon Economy in Middle - Income and Newly Industrialized Countries
- Global Support Project for the Preparation of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
- Risk - based National Adaptation Plan
- Support to the Development and Implementation of the Thai Climate Change Policy
- Water and Wastewater Companies for Climate Mitigation Thailand



Energy

- Renewable Energy Project Development Programme in South - East Asia
- Thai - German Programme on Energy Efficiency Development Plan



Economics & Employment

- Effective In - Company Vocational Training in the Mekong Region
- Thai – German Trilateral Cooperation Programme



Environment & Natural Resources

- Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management
- Improved Management of Extreme Events through Ecosystem - based Adaptation in Watersheds



Urban & Industrial Development

- Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Mitigation in the Land Transport Sector in the ASEAN Region
- Sustainable Port Development in the ASEAN Region
- Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: the Urban NEXUS



Good Governance

- Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development

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