

## Newsletter of Bangkok-based projects by GIZ and PARTNERS

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Dear Readers,

We hope you had some nice holidays and had a good start into the new year. We like to thank you all for your kind cooperation and contributions to a successful 2014 with some remarkable results of our joint projects and activities. In 2015, besides the project works, we plan to increase the sharing of know-how, skills and experiences among Thai and international experts through the training hub activities.

In addition to this newsletter, you can visit [www.thai-german-cooperation.info](http://www.thai-german-cooperation.info) and [www.facebook.com/gizthailand](https://www.facebook.com/gizthailand) for further information.

Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome.

Best regards,  
The newsletter team

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# The Last Mile of Tsunami: Thailand is well prepared after 10 years

By Vorathep Songpanya **GIZ Office Bangkok**



The Tsunami of 26 December 2004 has changed the lives of millions of people in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. In Thailand, although the impact and death toll was far less, it was also the birth of a new chapter of disaster prevention. The Thai Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation or DDPM was then only 2 years old, when the Tsunami hit. Today, it belongs to one of the best equipped and well-organized disaster prevention unit in the region.

“When it comes to Tsunami, Thailand is well connected into the global early warning system, but very crucial is the so-called last mile, if not the most”, says Stephan Huppertz of the on-going Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) by GIZ and UN ESCAP, in which DDPM is one of the partners. The “Last Mile” is about how people responds to the incoming warnings, how they organize themselves to prevent loss and damages to their lives and belongings.

“Two years ago, when a warning came in, we managed to empty the whole village. Over 2000 people have moved to higher grounds, in our school, at the temple and to the escape tower.” Mr. Prayun proudly told a group of German journalists in last December. He is the main coordinator of around 70 volunteers in Ban Nam Khem, which also include migrant workers from Myanmar.

The volunteers are basically equipped and trained for various types of disasters, both natural and accidents, and are key for DDPM to ensure that the “Last Mile” is well functioning, when a region is hit by a Tsunami or floods.

Besides the rather small provincial centers with around 10-15 people, today DDPM has established also 18 well-equipped and larger regional centers nationwide. These centers helps to ensure that the concept of the Last Mile are carried out in an effective and cooperative manner. “We cover 5 provinces here in the South. If a hit area has not enough people to help or no equipment, we help to ensure supports from us or nearby provinces”, says Mr. Trakul Totham, head of the DDPM regional center no. 18 in Phuket. “If today a Tsunami comes, we are much better prepared than 10 years ago”, he concludes.

For about one a half year after the Tsunami GTZ and DDPM have developed together curricula on community-based disaster risk management. Thai advisors and trainers were trained along three pilot communities, how to prepare them better for disaster situations. Today the concept has been outreached throughout the country.

“An early warning is essential,  
but it is how people responds to it,  
which really makes the difference.”

# Deutsche Welle German TV Films Documentary on Natural Flood Control in Thailand

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



A Deutsche Welle team from Germany and GIZ-ECOSWat have produced a documentary about the natural dam known as the “Living Weir” to cope with floods and droughts through ecosystem-based adaptation in Tha Di sub-river basin, Nakhon Si Thammarat.

The core structure of the Living Weir uses organic materials such as bamboo and sand. The roots of newly planted trees alongside the riverbanks will grow and develop into the weir to stabilize the construction. The weir itself should decrease the velocity of water during the rainy season and act as a natural dam to keep the water during dry season.



Local farmer Mr. Wanchart Samdeang presents his simple, close-to-nature way of life in the documentary and also shares his experiences of multi-crop orchards featuring naturally grown durian, mangosteen and longkong.



Another example of harmonious living with nature is the so-called “Guardian of Khao Mhen Forest”. Affected by severe deforestation that caused floods and scarcity of water downstream, Mr. Rawat Preechawai introduced the Khao Mhen forest conservation campaign, which demonstrates the benefits of biodiversity of forests and is now recognised as a best practice in sustainable forest management.

The documentary has been available at  
<http://www.dw.de/natural-flood-control-in-thailand/a-17980092>

# Thailand Shares Best Practices and Lessons Learnt in International Environment Forum

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



Mr. Roland Treitler, Director of the Thai-German project on 'Improved Management of Extreme Events through Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Watersheds' together with Mr. Chaiporn Siripornpibul, Inspector General, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources were invited to be the guest speakers at the international forum "1<sup>st</sup> International Environment Forum for Basin Organizations" organized by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) during 26 - 28 November 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr. Chaiporn Siripornpibul highlighted the application of integrated water resource management (IWRM) in river basins, and encouraged "strong cooperation" to achieve sustainable governance of freshwater. Whilst Mr. Roland Treitler discussed lessons from GIZ's experience of working with local communities on water resource management in southern Thailand, noting that their construction of "Living Weirs" based on tree roots is in keeping with the King of Thailand's "Sufficiency Economy" concept.





# Thailand and EU Draw the Conclusion from 3 Years' Cooperation on Green Consumption and Production

By Niels Busch Sustainable Consumption and Production, SCP Policy



On 26-27 November 2014, the EU supported project, "Sustainable Consumption and Production - Policy Support Component - Thailand", organized a workshop on the lessons learned from 3 years' cooperation and suggest the way forward on sustainable consumption and production (SCP). Governmental agencies, municipalities and the private sector gathered to give valuable inputs to this workshop. "Sustainable Consumption and Production - Policy Support Component - Thailand" has since October 2011 served as framework for dialogue among Thai governmental agencies to strengthen policies for sustainable consumption and production.

The project is part of the EU funded SWITCH Asia programme, which assist 19 countries in Asia and South East Asia in order to promote SCP in both the public and the private sectors and to share experiences among the countries.

The Project has been implemented by Department of Industrial Works within the Ministry of Industry, the Pollution Control Department, the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, the Office of Natural Resources and Environment Policy and Planning within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as well as by Office of National Economic and Social Development Board. Technical expertise has been provided by German International Cooperation (GIZ), the Thailand Environment Institute and the Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production in Wuppertal, Germany.

Dr. Somchai Harnhirun, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Industry said "It has been a pleasure to co-host the project. It has given us valuable support to promote the Green Industry Mark and thereby further strengthen greening the industry. The SCP project has also served as a platform for a dialogue between the consumption and production side, so that they can support each other in creating a Green Market. With this effort, it creates partnership in Green Public Procurement and Green Industry. Via the project we have opportunity to share our experience to other Asian countries and to exchange experiences on how to support the industry in their efforts to make the production more resource efficient, to reduce pollution and to develop more green products clean technology practice in SWITCH Asia Networking Forum."

Mr. Stefan Schleuning, Head of Operations, the Delegation of the European Union to Thailand, said "We are happy that the project has managed to bring so many governmental agencies and other stakeholders from the public and private sectors together to discuss SCP policies. We can see that the Thai government has committed itself to bring SCP policies further, which already has brought Thailand in front in the region. There seems also to be a strong move in the general public to make SCP as part of their daily life. All this together has paved Thailand's way to a Low Carbon Green Economy, which all countries in the world need to work for, if we want to be sure that the coming generation can have a decent living standard and can enjoy a clean environment."

**“ The project has managed to bring so many governmental agencies and other stakeholders from the public and private sectors together to discuss SCP policies.**

Mr. Stefan Schleuning, Head of Operations,  
the Delegation of the European Union to Thailand



# BRIA Signs MoU with Rice Department

By Kamol Taukitphaisarn Better Rice Initiative Asia



On 29 October 2014, the Better Rice Initiative Asia (BRIA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Rice Department (RD) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC) on “Promoting Sustainable Production of Rice and Ecosystem Resilience in Thailand - PROSPECT.”

Areas of collaboration include enhancement of rice-based farming systems and rice technologies, documentation of best agricultural practices, improvement of the capacity of community rice centres and lead farmers, strengthening networks of multi-stakeholders in the rice value chain, as well as promotion of market transparency and market guarantee.

GIZ has been commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to implement the project. The objective is to foster development partnerships with the private and public sectors to support the enhancement of supply chains under the “ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Project” as part of the German - ASEAN Programme on Climate Change.

Mr. Chanpithya Shimphalee, Director General of the Rice Department, praised the signing of the MoU, saying it was a timely response to the current challenges of poverty reduction, food security and economic development. Such an alliance will help to better address both these critical issues.

“BRIA seeks to develop the capabilities of Thai farmers and focuses on sustainable rice production, standards and business models based on market integration. I therefore believe that the platform being created fits perfectly with our objectives,” he explained.

Mr. Olan Pituck, Director General of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DoAE), congratulated BRIA on joining with the Rice Department, noting that the DoAE and the RD are core MoAC agencies and directly responsible for agricultural development to raise the quality of life of farmers who make up the majority of the Thai population.

“The goal of the partnership through this MoU is to further advance our long-standing cooperation in the agricultural sector. It is especially important for GIZ to successfully implement the BRIA project to the benefit of Thai farmers and to contribute towards their enhanced livelihoods in a sustainable way,” added Mr. Matthias Bickel, GIZ’s Project Director.

The BRIA project, which comes under the umbrella of the German Food Partnership (GFP), is also being implemented in Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. Its regional secretariat is located in Bangkok and led by Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, the Regional Project Director.

“ The goal of the partnership through this MoU is to further advance our long-standing cooperation in the agricultural sector. ”

Mr. Matthias Bickel, GIZ’s Project Director.

# Ubon Ratchathani Selected as BRIA Project's First Site for Implementation in Thailand

By Project Team of Better Rice Initiative Asia



Following a recent field visit with responsible government agencies to Ubon Ratchathani Province, the Better Rice Initiatives Asia (BRIA) selected 8 Community Rice Centres (CRC) to implement its project for the north-eastern region,

Dr. Apichart Pongsrihadulchai, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), explained that in accordance with the selection criteria, the sites chosen should have active farmer participation with existing 'smart farmers', convenient transportation, sufficient water resources, Tambon (Sub-District) Administrative Organization support, and strong Community Seed Centres (CSC).

The 8 selected CRCs are in Mueang District and the districts of Khueang Nai, Det Udom, Trakan Phuet Phon, Mueang Sam Sip, Warin Chamrap, Loa Suea Kok and Buntharik.

Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, BRIA Regional Project Director, said BRIA will support the eight CRCs through training in capacity building with the aim of increasing production. One of the CRCs will be selected as the nucleus and serve as a role model for plot management while the other seven will form a centralized network and benefit from knowledge transfer from the nucleus. Each CRC will share knowledge with farmers in nearby communities.

Based on the Participatory Impact Pathways Analysis (PIPA), the training materials for capacity building will be designed to match the requirements of local farmers and other involved parties for sustainable agricultural development.

Mr. Udorn Chamalerk, Director of Ubon Ratchathani Provincial Agricultural Extension Office, said the province has 24 districts, 295,393 agricultural families, and rice cultivation areas of 4.29 million rai. These could be divided into 3.06 million rai for round-shaped rice with an average yield of 437 kg/rai, and 1.23 million rai for glutinous rice with an average yield of 447 kg/rai. There are 177 CRCs in Ubon Ratchathani.

Mr. Chanpithya Shimphelee, Director General of the Rice Department (RD), commented that rice production in the Northeast is inefficient, adding that labour shortages meant that rice farmers preferred a direct seeding technique over transplanting. However, direct seeding usually generates lower yield because of weeds. The RD will support and push the concept of large field management by combining small fields with farm machinery support.

Mr. Olan Pituck, Director General of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DoAE), noted that the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has a zoning policy that classifies farming areas into suitable and unsuitable. The zoning concept and characteristics of each zone should be communicated in a clear and easy manner to farmers.

“The project will expand to Srisaket, Surin and Roi-et”  
to eventually form a Northeastern cooperation network.



# “Ayutthaya Team” Named Winner of “Farmers Love Safety” TV Reality Show

By Project Team of Better Rice Initiative Asia



The team of farmers from Ayutthaya Province finally emerged as the winner in the “Farmers Love Safety” edutainment TV reality show during the show’s finale staged recently at the Farmer School in the Rice Department compound. The final episode was aired on the SMILE Farmers program on Farm Channel on 18 December 2014. This TV contest was put on by Better Rice Initiative Asia (BRIA) under the German Food Partnership (GFP), BASF (Thai) Limited, and the Rice Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

The Ayutthaya team was picked as the winner by votes cast by the participants in the closing and award presentation ceremony, who had been invited from supporting government agencies and private companies, including Mr. Chanpithya Shimpalee, Director General of the Rice Department, who chaired this exciting event,

and Dr. Apichart Pongsrihadulchai, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The Suphanburi team came second.

Both teams thought the TV show was a useful medium to bring knowledge to farmers. As trainers, they also learned new knowledge from the experts. They shared the acquired knowledge combined with their own experience to make farmers in their communities easily understand how to use crop protection products properly and safely.

“The knowledge the participating farmers have, personally, gained is more important as it will help raise yield, protect health and benefit the country. The prizes received should be regarded as a by-product,” Dr. Apichart Pongsrihadulchai told the two teams.

“ One of the main challenges in the Thai rice production still lies in the wrong use and over-use of crop protection products by farmers. The improper application of these inputs causes health and environmental risks. ”



The show has been initiated to raise awareness on this issue. As part of the show concept, participating farmers conducted trainings within their communities. They managed to convince and reach out to many colleagues, including those who were initially hesitant to join the trainings. In this way, information first gathered during the TV show could be further deepened.

"Crop protection is one solution, apart from seed, fertilizer, cultivation, harvest and post-harvest technologies. 'Farmers Love Safety' is the first campaign focusing on elementary knowledge, safe and responsible use of crop protection products. We are satisfied farmers are willing to adopt and further share the information imparted by their fellow farmers," said Dr. Pakorn Suchare, Head of Crop Protection, BASF (Thai) Limited.

Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, BRIA Regional Project Director, explained, "The TV series is one part of BRIA in Thailand, which emphasizes awareness raising for sustainable production. It is designed to entertain while educating farmers about responsible and judicious use of crop protection products. We will offer more in-depth and advanced knowledge essential to rice farmers in the following years with a variety of initiatives."

The edutainment show "Farmers Love Safety" follows two teams of five key farmers from Suphanburi and Ayutthaya provinces competing to create awareness of safe and effective use of crop protection products in their communities. It was aired on the SMILE Farmers program on Farm Channel, which is popular among farmers, every Thursday, from 17:30 - 18:00 pm, from 2 October to 18 December 2014.



# Four Regional Meetings to Agree Step Forward in Addressing Food Security

By Pouchamarn Wongsanga, Duangruetai Surasakjinda **ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems**



During 2-4 December 2014, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), GIZ together with the Department of Agriculture of Myanmar's Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation organized the 5<sup>th</sup> Project Partner Meeting (PPM) of the "ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems (SAS)". The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN BCA Expert Groups on Application and Regulation, the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Soil and Nutrient Management Expert Group, and the Dialogue on ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework at in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Attended by over 60 participants from nine ASEAN Member States, with the exception of Brunei Darussalam, the meetings highlighted progress of activities and discussed strategies and project activities as step forward for activities implementation at regional and national levels from 2015-2017.

## Overview of the implementation strategies of the ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems

The 5<sup>th</sup> PPM agreed with the overall implementation strategies of SAS project outlining key activities and their linkages across the three intervention areas, namely policy framework, production technologies (i.e. biocontrol agents, soil and nutrient management), and market linkages. Project implementation strategies appear below.

The 5<sup>th</sup> PPM recognized that other GIZ partner projects could provide complementary support in the implementation of SAS Project. These projects include:

- Forestry and Climate Change (FOR-CC) (Climate Smart Agriculture Component)
- Better Rice Initiative Asia (BRIA)
- ASEAN Food Standard
- Remote sensing-based Information and Insurance for Crops in Emerging Economies (RIICE)

## Outcomes and Recommendations of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN BCA Expert Groups on Application and Regulation

The proposed activities and interventions namely, policy frameworks, implementation of production technologies, and market linkages were discussed and agreed. Complementing the interventions at national level for achieving the project goals of SAS, there are some regionally integrative elements that support the implementation of the AIFS and also relate to ASEAN standards like ASEAN Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Organic.



### Outcomes and Recommendations of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Soil and Nutrient Management (SNM) Expert Group

The Meeting agreed on the following :

- Draft definition of the term “soil and nutrient management” for ASEAN Guidelines as “Soil and nutrient management is an integrated measure to manage soils, nutrients, water and crops in a sustainable manner to optimize crop production”;
- The tentative scope of ASEAN Guidelines on SNM; and
- To include general role concerning the bio-input database after the scope is defined.

### Outcomes and Recommendations of the Dialogue on ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework

The Dialogue discussed on what and how “ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems (SAS)” can support ASEAN and ASEAN Member States. The recommendations for activities have been provided in relation to the two topics discussed i.e. a) Synergizing food security policy (national and regional) as well as develop and promote Sustainable Agrifood Systems; and b) Developing/promoting market linkages.

### Challenges and Way Forward for the ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems

1. SAS project should give focus in the promotion of sustainable agrifood systems and how it will contribute to food security in ASEAN;
2. Sustainable agrifood systems should target on GAP products by improving integrated pest management (through the use of bio-inputs), better soil and nutrient management, and market linkages. Organic products could be considered if they are considered high priority in the country(s);
3. Policy dialogue on food and nutrition security at both regional and national levels are important to raise awareness on the AIFS Framework, linkages and contribution of sustainable agrifood systems to food security and other issues of importance (i.e. food trade, nutrition, etc.);
4. Planning and implementation of SAS activities across intervention areas at both regional and national levels should be coordinated to ensure interlinkages, synergies and greater impacts; and
5. Capacity development is considered a cross-cutting issue across intervention areas and should be designed and developed to suit the target groups and context.

### Launching and handing over of the translation AIFS Framework and ASEAN BCA Guidelines

In conjunction with four meetings, the translation the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the ASEAN Guidelines on the Regulation, Use and Trade of Biological Control Agent (BCA) was launched and handed over to Head delegations from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand for the implementation by the ASEAN Member States at national level.





## ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN region (SPA-FS)

The translation of AIFS Framework and SPA-FS has been accomplished for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand with a view to facilitating the implementation at the national level and promoting awareness and understanding among concerned stakeholders, which need multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder approaches and collaboration.

It is hoped that AIFS Framework provides a useful basis for mutual understanding on food security and the development of policies and strategies to improve food security situation at national level and contributes to ASEAN integration and community-building process.

## ASEAN BCA Guidelines

The ASEAN Guidelines on the Regulation, Use and Trade of Biological Control Agent (BCA) describes ways to improve sustainable crop protection through more extended use of BCA in concert with the principles of “integrated pest management”. A working definition, focusing on BCA within the context of internationally-recognized IPM narratives. BCA encompass a wide range of products. It is acknowledged that they are not applicable to all pest management situations, so specific case studies, where application appears effective and feasible; regulations and how they might develop in future, with necessary improvements, rationalization and harmonization; and suggestions for improvement that integrate aspects of regulation and use of BCA in details are described in the Guidelines.

It is hope that the Guidelines provides an agreed framework for future development of BCA: specifically creating a regional blueprint for national regulation and implementation strategies. In addition, harmonization of registration requirements would make regulation of BCA easier, less costly and promote their trade between ASEAN Member States.





# Learning from Success Sustainable Production Cases to Strengthen Competitiveness of Automotive Industry

By Eknarin Ariyavongvivat    Greening Supply Chains in the Thai Auto and Automotive Parts



“ The factory visit has been an inspiration ”  
to participating automotive entrepreneurs in social  
and environmental responsibility.

Greening Supply Chains in the Thai Auto and Automotive Parts Industries Project and Thailand Automotive Institute held a factory visit to major auto and automotive part factories including Ford Thailand Manufacturing Co., Ltd., BMW Manufacturing (Thailand) Co., Ltd. and Daido Sittipol Co., Ltd. on 13-14 November 2014. The objectives of the visit are to gain information on production technology, business operation, supply chain management and to promote sharing of knowledge and experiences on green automotive parts manufacturing. The visit is also to inspire automotive entrepreneurs with new concepts for technology development and factory improvement, enhancing their companies' production efficiency. More than 20 Thai business entrepreneurs joined the event.

Ford Thailand Manufacturing Co., Ltd. plays a key role in the Thai automotive industry, promoting Thailand as the main automotive production base in Asia. The company plans to increase its production capacity to promote business growth and highest customers' satisfaction. Meanwhile, BMW Manufacturing (Thailand) Co., Ltd. presented its business principles. Sustainability has been one of BMW Group's core business principles. The company has developed innovations based on sustainability, safety quality and maximum environmental impact reduction in its production processes, particularly energy management, e-mobility and new material development, e.g. carbon fiber and bio-plastic. Daido Sittipol Co., Ltd., a smaller factory when comparing with Ford Thailand Manufacturing Co., Ltd. and BMW Manufacturing (Thailand) Co., gives high priority to environmental governance, its business practices corresponds with its intention to properly manage pollution in compliance with the law.

# Training of Trainers Enhances Technical Knowledge and Training Skills of Procurement Officials

By Thomas Lehmann Sustainable Consumption and Production for  
Low Carbon Economy-Low-Emission Public Procurement and Eco-Labeling Project



From 20 to 24 October 2014, The Pollution Control Department (PCD) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in cooperation with GIZ organized a 5-day training programme titled “Training of the Trainers (ToT) in developing climate-friendly criteria for public tendering”. The training, which was held in Chiang Mai, was supported by experts from GIZ Thailand and the Oeko-Institute in Germany.

The workshop provided technical knowledge on developing climate-friendly criteria for public tendering, Green Public Procurement (GPP), and the application of the Life Cycle Costing (LCC) concept and Cost Utility Analysis (CUA) in evaluating tender documents. In addition, participants learned the basic concepts of effective design of the moderation and training plan and practised becoming good trainers in the subject via hands-on training and group work. Of note is that each country worked on the design of the training/workshop that they plan to conduct later. It is thus clear that the draft moderation/training plan produced by each group during the workshop will benefit the participants in organizing upcoming training events at home.

The workshop was very successful and participants showed strong interest in future cooperation on implementation of GPP. Sixteen participants, mainly procurement officials from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, attended the workshop and acquired both technical knowledge on the topics as well as skills in training and facilitation techniques that can be applied to the planning and organization of any training session or workshop on GPP.

# Experts on Green Procurement and Eco-Labelling Meet to Strengthen Cooperation in the Region

By Thomas Lehmann Sustainable Consumption and Production for  
Low Carbon Economy-Low-Emission Public Procurement and Eco-Labelling Project

On 2-3 December 2014, Mr. Thomas Lehmann, Project Director and Dr. Lunchakorn Prathumratana, Technical Expert of the Sustainable Consumption and Production for Low Carbon Economy – Low-Emission Public Procurement and Eco-Labelling Project were invited to be guest speakers at the International Conference on “Green Procurement and eco-labelling – Driving the Green Economy” held in Kuala Lumpur. The event was organized by Green Technology Malaysia, the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water Malaysia and Green Purchasing Network Malaysia and aimed to enhance understanding of green procurement and share best practices related to green procurement in the region. Participants included manufacturers/suppliers from Malaysia, their peers from Indonesia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Korea, Japan and members of the Global Eco-labelling Network.

Mr. Lehmann addressed the significance of the EU trade impact on the world and ASEAN and how to promote eco-labelling regionally. Dr. Prathumratana, meanwhile, gave a presentation on “Mechanism for Monitoring and Validation of Eco-labels”.



# ASEAN-German Technical Cooperation Programme Contributes to Regional Conference on Air Quality and Sustainable Transport

By Sören Kirstein, Stefan Bakker, Julia Nagel

ASEAN – German Technical Cooperation Programme 'Cities, Environment and Transport'



**The Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ)** is the leading event on air quality in Asia and for the first time held back to back with the Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum (EST). More than 1,000 delegates from 50 countries attended the integrated conference from 19-21 November 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka which was organized by UNCRD and Clean Air Asia, in partnership with GIZ, Asian Development Bank and World Bank. GIZ's transport & mobility experts from Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, India and Germany contributed to more than 20 sessions at EST and BAQ. In addition to colleagues of the Sustainable Urban Transport Project and the Poverty-oriented Basic Energy Services, the three projects under the ASEAN – German Technical Cooperation Programme 'Cities, Environment and Transport' co-organized a wide range of pre-events, break-out sessions and expert group meetings as follows.

“ Local impacts from ships and ports emissions need a global solution with local implementation. ”

The project Sustainable Port Development in the ASEAN Region organised together with the United States Environmental Protection Agency a session with the title Triple Green: Sustainable Cities, Ports and Marine where Project Director Ms Franca Sprong welcomed over 50 participants and invited them to discuss how economic benefits, environmental protection and human health can be integrated into the business of goods movement and sustainable cities. The speakers agreed that local impacts from ships and ports emissions need a global solution with local implementation. In marine transport there is a huge potential for emission reduction; voluntary initiatives of the industry coupled with better enforcement and stricter legislation could start tapping that potential. The government in Hong Kong, for instance, is drafting legislation to turn the industry-led, voluntary initiative for fuel switching at berth – the Fair Winds Charter – into regulations for all ocean-going vessels since the last BAQ 2012 as updated by Simon Ng, Chief Research Officer, Civic Exchange, a Hong Kong based NGO.

Further information: [www.sustainableport.org](http://www.sustainableport.org)





**‘Clean Air for Smaller Cities’** held a workshop as a pre-event to the BAQ and co-organised together with Clean Air Asia two sessions at the BAQ Conference.

In the workshop on **‘From the Low-Hanging to the High-Hanging Fruits: Capitalizing on Project’s Achievements’** more than 40 representatives from 12 partner cities participated. The workshop was designed to update all counterparts on project achievements in the last two years, to set momentum toward Clean Air Plan development and implementation in 2015 and to highlight Clean Air Asia’s role as the leading partner for anchoring the project results in Asia. The BAQ-session on **‘Science-based Clean Air Plans of Cities’** had the objectives to provide the broad picture of clean air planning with emphasis for scientific and consultative process, share the experience of cities in clean air planning and to encourage partnerships with stakeholders on development and implementation of clean air planning. These were successfully discussed by the panelists and more than 90 participants. In the session **‘Partnerships in Building Capacity towards Better Air Quality and Co-Benefits in Smaller Cities’**, around 50 representatives from national governments and cities, training institutes, universities, as well as from development agencies and the private sector had fruitful discussions on the impact of capacity building initiatives undertaken in key cities with strategic partners. Further, the event provided an opportunity for training partners to outline successful institutionalization and to invite new stakeholders and potential partners for cooperation.

Further information: [www.citiesforcleanair.org](http://www.citiesforcleanair.org)

“ The event provided an opportunity for training partners to outline successful institutionalization and to invite new stakeholders and potential partners for cooperation. ”

“ In the interest of sustainable transport,  
Asian cities should  
subsidise public transportation’.



The third project in the regional programme, **Transport and Climate Change** contributed to three events related to Green Freight and Logistics. In the pre-event, co-organised by Clean Air Asia, governments, private sector and international organisations noted progress in the attention for the topic in Asia, and GIZ presented the development of trainings. At the BAQ session our consultant Damantoro outlined the current challenges facing Indonesia and the initial steps towards improving the freight transport system. In the EST Plenary on Intelligent Freight Systems, Roland Haas, Programme Director presented the outcome of a recent Regional Green Freight Conference co-organised by ADB and GIZ, and the project's approach towards developing national action plans on green freight in ASEAN countries. At the first Fuel Economy Expert Group meeting and the corresponding BAQ session, organized in collaboration with Clean Air Asia and the Global Fuel Economy Initiative, countries discussed the progress towards fuel economy standards and other policies, with India moving towards 20 km/L in 2021, and Vietnam starting in 2015 with mandatory labeling for new vehicles. The benefits of an ASEAN regional approach for fuel efficiency policies were discussed and initial steps identified.

Further information:

[www.transportandclimatechange.org](http://www.transportandclimatechange.org)

For more information on the integrated conference please visit <http://www.baq2014est.org/index.html>

# The Urban Nexus's Fourth Regional Workshop in Ulaanbaatar

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



UN-ESCAP joined with GIZ, the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar and Local Government for Sustainability (ICLEI) in organizing the Fourth Regional Workshop on “Integrated Resource Management in Asian cities: the Urban Nexus”. Held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 5 to 7 November 2014, the workshop was attended by more than 130 participants from China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Participants included representatives from the city governments of the partner cities, including four mayors and one vice-mayor, representatives from national ministries of participating countries, private sector enterprises, academic experts, and representatives of international financial institutions and international organizations. Vice-Mayors from 15 different cities in Mongolia also participated along with a number of other representatives from the country’s various ministries.

The workshop focused on reviewing and learning from the Mongolian experience, and in particular Ulaanbaatar, in promoting urban nexus initiatives. Particular attention was given to Mongolia’s adoption in June 2014 of a Green Development Strategy, which is regarded as a milestone in its efforts to promote a developmental shift from brown to green growth. The concept of green buildings and their relevance in the promotion of the urban nexus and for the development of smart cities was also reviewed.

Drawing on lessons learned in the promotion of green buildings and integrated water resource management, the workshop emphasized the key role of economic and fiscal incentives and called for a review of energy and water tariffs.

“While technical solutions exist, the construction industry has not changed much in the past century and must therefore accelerate innovation to meet changing needs.”



The workshop also noted a general institutional fragmentation and disconnect of competencies and financing between national and local governments. It called for increased autonomy for local governments, including in terms of financing. Clustering of local governments was also suggested as a possible option to deal with fragmented governance and lack of economies of scale in order to develop shared infrastructure.

The key role of cross-sectoral and planning ministries as “natural” partners supporting cities in their nexus approaches was emphasised.

The workshop called for new formats of communication and problem solving. The dialogue between national and local governments based on concrete case studies initiated in the Philippines was highlighted as a useful example. The importance of South-South cooperation, on par-partnerships and peer-to-peer learning, building on the successful format initiated by the project with the visit to the Bantam sanitary landfill near Chiang Mai, Thailand will be vigorously continued.

Another subject covered by the workshop was the gender dimension of the urban nexus. It was noted that women play a critical role in the management of resources at the household level, especially water, energy and food, and they are also more affected by the lack of access to clean energy, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.

The Fifth Regional Workshop is tentatively scheduled to take place in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in April 2015.



# ECO-BEST Organizes Training on “Payment for Ecosystem Services: Concept and Steps for PES Development”

By Project team of The Enhancing the Economics of Biodiversity  
and Ecosystem Services in Thailand/South East Asia Project



The Enhancing the Economics of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Thailand/South East Asia Project (ECO-BEST) organized a training session on “Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES): Concept and Steps for PES Development” in Petchaburi from 28-30 October 2014. The training was attended by representatives from the public sector (the Department of Water Resources and Department of National Parks, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation) and related agencies from the private sector and led by an experienced environmental economist. The aim of the training was to provide participants with information on the concept for developing PES as well as outline 20 steps for going forward. Recommendations, considered essential for improving the training courses to meet participants’ needs, were also sought. PES is an approach that incentivizes those who benefit from ecosystem services (e.g. consumers of clean water) – “the beneficiaries” – to contribute to ecosystem service providers who should be rewarded or compensated for a waived opportunity.

After the training, the participants learned about the concept and main components of PES, which is closely related to the ‘Willingness to Accept’ and ‘Willingness to Pay’ approach. They also gained knowledge about how the market works in terms of public goods, which helped them familiarize themselves with market efficiency and define the value that the “beneficiaries” should contribute to ecosystem service providers. During the training, participants had the opportunity to raise questions on various topics, thus leading to a fruitful exchange of information between representatives from different organizations. The participants were later divided into groups to brainstorm and discuss such topics of interest as forests, mangroves and coral reefs. They then analyzed case studies in the group discussion, helping them to understand the basic steps for PES project development.

# Extension of the Trilateral Cooperation Project in Lao PDR

By Jiraluck Inwong Strengthening National Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in Lao PDR



After the completion of the “Strengthening National Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in Lao PDR Project”, under the Lao-Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation in mid 2014, the collaboration among the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR, Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand and GIZ has continued. Project stakeholders recognize the significance of Lao GAP development in Lao PDR in upgrading agricultural product standards, resulting in better product quality and safety both at the national and regional levels. They agree to further strengthen the agricultural product standards to ensure sustainability of the scheme. Consequently, the agreement among project partners to implement the second phase of the project, covering the period of October 2014-September 2015 was conceived.

During phase 2, the project aims to strengthen competitiveness of fruit and vegetable farmers and small scaled business operators and to respond to market needs through the establishment of the good agricultural practices (GAP) standards. To prepare Lao PDR for the full operation of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), the project aims to develop effective management of

auditing units and the Lao GAP Certification Body, complete documentation and manuals that are consistent with international standards, skilled personnel with sufficient capacity for the management of Lao GAP auditing and certification systems and mechanisms to assist farmers and small scaled business operators to access the auditing and certification systems, to supplement the success of the first phase of the project. The Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR will be the main project implementing agency, while the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS), Thailand will provide technical support. The Sustainable Agri-food System Project (GIZ) will provide both technical and project administration support.

Extension of the Lao-Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation is a good indication. Besides successful technical outcomes, the project marks the effectiveness and recognition of the trilateral cooperation - a new form of development cooperation. This can be considered as another cooperative mechanism that creates appropriate sharing of strengths and resources among project partners that contributes to successful cooperation.

“ Lao PDR is strengthening its capacity, preparing to become a part of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). By joining AFTA, Lao PDR has made several legislative preparations to align itself with other ASEAN countries, one of which is developing the National GAP in accordance with the Strategic Action Plan for ASEAN GAP. Lao PDR has strengthened its capacity in many areas, particularly, the development of auditing and certification standards that correspond and are consistent with other countries.

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Dr. Monthathip Chanpengxay, Director General of Department of Agriculture, Lao PDR

“ Towards the AEC, Thailand plans to provide support to CMLV countries as part of its South-South cooperation contributing to Initiative for ASEAN Integration.

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Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, former Head of Agriculture Industries and Natural Resources Division, ASEAN Secretariat and current Regional Project Director of BRIA Project, GIZ

# Thailand Hosted a Meeting to Strengthen International Cooperation

By Warisa Sungkaprom Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation Programme

On 10-11 November 2014, Thailand hosted “Global Dialogue of Agencies and Ministries for International Cooperation and Development”, an event to exchange views among international agencies and relevant ministries to further develop international cooperation programs. Partners included Mexican Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AMEXCID), Peruvian Agency for International Development Cooperation (APCI), Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) and The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

This year, GIZ, supported by BMZ, and Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, jointly hosted the meeting in Bangkok on “Knowledge Sharing in International Cooperation”. The event focused on the significance of sharing of knowledge gained from international cooperation. In the past sharing of knowledge and lessons learned, compiled by each agency and organization, which can be beneficial to and applied by others, has been relatively inadequate.

The event has provided an opportunity for delegates of international agencies and development organizations worldwide, e.g. Chilean International Cooperation Agency (Chile), GIZ (Germany, Thailand, Malaysia, South Africa and Mexico), BAPPENAS (Indonesia), Malaysian Maritime Academy (ALAM) (Malaysia), AMEXCID (Mexico), APCI (Peru), TICA (Thailand) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to share experiences and challenges on knowledge management of case studies in various countries. They jointly recommended potential knowledge management and knowledge sharing approaches to enhance participants’ understanding on knowledge sharing principles, techniques and tools. In addition, they discussed about the significance of knowledge sharing which could contribute to more effective performances of international agencies.

“Knowledge is a key factor  
that enhances  
development effectiveness

Ms. Angsana Sihapitak, Deputy Director - General of TICA

“Knowledge Sharing is”  
aiming to create mutual benefits.  
Let's share best practices on How  
cooperation creates best values for all.

Mr. David Oberhuber, Country Director of GIZ Thailand



# Third Workshop in Munich, Germany

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



On 24 – 29 November 2014, GIZ Project “Effective In-Company Vocational Training in the Mekong Region” organized the 3rd workshop to develop Regional In-Company-Trainer Standard in Munich, Germany. Unlike the first two workshops, which explicitly aimed for the development of the standard, the 3rd workshop combines it with a study trip, offering participants a more thorough view in the German in-company-training system. During the workshop, participants visited companies, i.e. ALPMA GmbH, the world’s leading machinery producer for dairy and food industry, Schattdecor AG, producer of innovative Decor Paper, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Munich and Upper Bavaria, which represents the interests of their member companies and play an important

role in building up the young people according to the need of private sector.

The workshop belongs to a 4-workshop series, in which participants from 6 countries, namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam are invited to participate. In the workshops, participants are continuously encouraged to contribute in giving in ideas and comments to consensually develop standard, curriculum and quality assurance system for the In-Company-Trainer in the region, which is to be completed in early February 2015 and applied to participating countries at the end of 2015.

“ The idea of attaching the study trip with the 3rd development workshop was to offer participants an overview of how the German Dual System and In-Company-Training works in an actual scenario, while making them see the importance of the standard they are developing. Once they see that the system is really working, the standard becomes more practical, and they are more likely to adopt it to their own country.”

Mr. Christian Stüer, Regional Project Director

In terms of the content, the workshop focuses on using the analyzed information from the previous workshops to develop a strategy in order to gain acceptance from the respective stakeholders and utilize the developed standard in their countries. Participants were divided into groups according to countries so that they can identify relevant stakeholders and a roadmap for gaining acceptance of the common In-Company-Trainer standard in their own countries. Later participants worked on the process of institutionalization of the common standards, given the case-studies, concept and prevailing circumstances of common standards from the expert. In the workshops, participants are continuously encouraged to contribute in giving in ideas and comments to consensually develop standard, curriculum and quality assurance system for the In-Company-Trainer in the region, which is to be completed in early February 2015 and applied to participating countries at the end of 2015.

### **The Final Step for Train-the-Trainers Standards Development**

The project final workshop will take place during 4- 6 February 2015. The main objective is to revise results of all previous workshops and provide a chance for participants for final modifications. After all parties reach consensus and the experts finish all the processes of developing the standard, it would be presented to the public on 6 February 2015.

Afterwards, the first group of Master-Trainer will, then, be trained to train In-Company-Trainers in each country according to the standard. Additionally, pilot projects would be implemented in selected companies to monitor the trained In-Company-Trainers.



### **Thailand's Dual Vocational Education (27 – 28 November 2014)**

During 27-28 November, the Effective In-Company Vocational Training in the Mekong Region Project participated in the exhibition on Thailand's Dual Vocational Education. Organized by the Office of Vocational Education Commission, the event aimed at promoting dual vocational education and encouraging more young people to study in vocational school. In addition to the exhibition, there was a panel discussion for knowledge and research exchange.

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Pictures are taken by members of the programme

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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)