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**Newsletter of Bangkok-based projects  
by GIZ and partners  
Issue # 26 July –September 2013**

Dear Readers,

Thailand once again marked World Environment Day 2013 on June 5 and this year. GIZ also joined the efforts by several government agencies in promoting and raising public awareness about the need for environmental conservation and for slowing the continuing decline of ecosystems. GIZ Thailand has long recognised the importance of environmental issues and is implementing several environment-related projects through both bilateral and regional cooperation.



The main feature in this issue is the detailed progress of ECO-BEST project (Enhancing the Economics of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Thailand / Southeast Asia), which started in March 2011. Over the past two years, the project has carried out many activities including trainings of concerned personnel, the design of approaches to regulate and facilitate the use of economic measures for ecosystems and biodiversity conservation, the establishment and strengthening of working groups in pilot areas and the building of mutual understanding on the concept of TEEB (The Economic of Ecosystems and Biodiversity – all of these in order to develop economic tools for environmental conservation.

This issue also includes introductions to the “Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: the Urban Nexus” Project which focuses on water, food and energy resources and the “Effective In-Company Vocational Training in the Mekong Region” Project, which is currently in the conception phase.

We hope the information will be useful to you. Your suggestions to the newsletter team are always welcome.

Best regards,  
The newsletter team

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# SPECIAL FEATURE

## Progress after 2 Years of ECO-BEST

After the official project launch in August 2011, Thailand experienced massive floods at the end of the year. The project's key partner, the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department (DNP), was entirely affected by the floods. DNP had to mobilize its officials and staff to assist affected individuals both in Bangkok and other provinces. The incidence temporary halted project implementation resulting in 4 months delay of project activities. The project was back on track almost at the end of year one.



At the beginning of the second year, ECO-BEST had to accelerate project implementation both at the national level and at the pilot sites, particularly in the Tha Dee Sub-river Basin in Nakhon Si Thammarat and Pang-Ma-O village in Chiang Mai. The two key local partners: Protected Areas Regional Office 5 and Highland Research and Development Institute (HRDI) were ready to join the mobilization effort. Moreover, the selection of ecosystem services and target site in Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai World Heritage was more complicated than the other two sites.

*“Economics is not about money, but it concerns managing of limited resources by considering production, consumption and distribution of goods and services.”*

A factor that hinder mobilization of ECO-BEST both at the national and at the pilot sites, impeding understanding of the project concept, is the gap of economic knowledge and its application in the management of ecosystem and biodiversity protection among officials and staff of project partners including the project team members. Moreover, integrative thinking of ecology and economics does not have a clear process, although TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) is used as the core concept for economic instruments development. TEEB is a philosophical concept that does not have clear implementation steps, but it requires active participation of stakeholders in every discussion issue to gain their acceptance and true opinions.

*“If the ecosystem manager starts to think about who are the consumers of nature's goods and services, and who should stabilize nature's provisional functions; then, the manager has applied economics in conservation.”*

In the middle of the second year, ECO-BEST hastened the development and conduction of the “Basic Economics” training curricula for personnel, focusing knowledge adjustment of project personnel, Thai and international project consultants and personnel of key project partners, including DNP, governmental agencies. It involves also agencies and academic institutions that are related to the formulation of ecosystem and natural resource management policy, including the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Agricultural Land Reform Office (ALRO), Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, etc. Another component of capacity development was the training on local economic instrument development held in October 2012. The training was developed by the project's technical partner, Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research and Ms. Lucy Emerton, an environmental economist and ECO-BEST project consultant.

*“Just the thought is not sufficient to create the change that everyone is looking for – that is to have efficient ecosystem protection. We must jointly consider how producers and consumers of goods and services should behave to ensure that the goods and services can be utilized and maintained. What measures can promote such behaviors? What are the management and monitoring mechanisms for such behaviors? Who should participate in the effort and gain mutual benefits?”*

*The above are the core messages and challenges of applying TEEB in the project. We have not accomplished all those targets yet. However, we will be successful in the next 20 months of the project”*

**Piyathip Eawpanich, Co-Director of ECO-BEST, GIZ**

Another joint training between ECO-BEST and ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB) on “Integrating Ecosystem Services into Development Planning” was held in February in Chiang Mai this year. ECO-BEST invited a technical expert from GIZ Headquarters to run the training program, which was developed by GIZ Headquarters during 2010-2011. The course was previously conducted in other countries. While accelerating personnel capacity development in several areas, ECO-BEST also commissioned Thailand Research Development Institute (TDRI) to conduct a study on the financial system of protected areas in Thailand.

The focus of the study is the Natural World Heritage of Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex. The institute investigates the budget allocation structure, dispersed sources of funds for ecosystem protection in the area and the potential benefits that private and local administrative offices gain from protected areas’ ecosystem services, particularly in the areas of flood prevention and tourism. Moreover, the School of Development Economics the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) is reviewing the organizational structure, regulations and legislations

and recommend amendments of relevant laws and institutional structures at the national level to create legislations or organizational structures that facilitate economic instruments for ecosystem and biodiversity protection.

Previously, ECO-BEST has consulted with partners, whose focuses are in the management of protected areas in Thailand, including the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and DNP, in the development of the scope of the macroeconomic value assessment of protected areas in Thailand. This will serve as an input for Ms. Lucy Emerson to design data collection tools and data analysis.

Key questions derived from the consultations are: How do Thailand’s protected areas (including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, forest parks, non-hunting areas and buffer zones) contribute to the country’s economic development? What are their economic values? The 7 key ecosystems to be included in the study are deciduous forest, evergreen forest, mangrove forest, beach forest, wetland, river-reservoir-sea and coral reef. The outcomes of the study will be available in November 2013.

*“I support the ECO-BEST concept. We now need other measures to support law enforcement in Thai national parks, especially, Thap Lan, to increase the efficiency and effectiveness in forest and wildlife protection. The Bu-Phram-Thung Poh section is currently the gateway to the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai World Heritage. We should jointly develop win-win management and development approaches for every stakeholder, including the ecosystems, wildlife and community members, to live with confidence and security here. I am willing to give full support and assistance the ECO-BEST project.”*

**Mr. Manoch Weerakul, Chairperson of Thap Lan National Park Steering Committee 2013**

*"I would like to thank the European Union, the German government and the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department for choosing Na Dee District as the project site. Villagers in Tambon Bu Phram and Tambon Thung Poh have long history of conflict with Thap Lan National Park. To identify economic instrument for natural resources protection, particularly, the wildlife ecological corridor is the government's priority which we have to make it successful. Today ECO-BEST should be the suitable mediator of the discussion between the villagers and the officials of Thap Lan National Park. Conservation has been my priority for a long time. However, I do have limitations to solve this conflict. In my role as the member of the Thap Lan National Park Steering Committee, I will give my full support to ECO-BEST. Again, thank you."*

**Mr. Banchong Sinthop, Na Dee District Chief**

To enhance understanding and share information, the mobilization of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in Thailand is another joint mission of ECO-BEST and other government agencies including the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) and international agencies, especially those with ecosystem and biodiversity conservation projects, including WWW, USAID and UNDP.

These agencies are determined to support practical PES development and application in Thailand. The meetings in May 2012 and April 2013 shifted from principle and technical discussions to local implementation steps. Every stakeholder agreed that meetings to share project progress and limitations should be held again at the end of 2013. ECO-BEST has volunteered to coordinate the meeting and one of the UNDP projects has agreed to sponsor the meeting.

The official agreement between GIZ and DNP was jointly signed on 27 February 2013, due to several amendments. The Office of the Attorney General

finally concurred and recommended DNP to sign the agreement in late 2012. Despite the problem, implementation of ECO-BEST continued during the past 2 years, with close consultation with DNP both in Bangkok and in regional offices.

Moreover, ECO-BEST has received technical, management and facilitation support from DNP, including office spaces in Bangkok, Nakhon Si Thammarat and Prachinburi. Besides DNP, ECO-BEST received support and close cooperation from HRDI, a public organization under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, School of Development Economics, NIDA and the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University.

Additional information on ECO-BEST's progress and TEEB can be found in the GIZ newsletter and the DNP quarterly pamphlet from Yr. 8 Vol. 1 onward (the current issue is Yr. 9 Vol. 3) or download from [www.dnp.go.th](http://www.dnp.go.th)

*"I'm a native of Nakhon Si Thammarat, so I'm keen to learn about anything that deals with Nakhon Si Thammarat. I'm not a knowledge source, but when other people mention about Nakhon Si Thammarat related issues, I can recall, then listen empathetically and know from which book can I search for more information. I lead a self-sufficient life; that is one of the reasons for joining the meeting the social mobilization workshop for the Tha Dee Sub-river Basin Conservation at Likor Hotel on 26 February 2013, kindly invited by Khun Jongkol Chinnawonse."*

*"I believe that to have an in-depth understanding of any issue or task, one must work continuously. That's why I participate in every activity arranged by the Facilitator Working Team to learn about problems, comments and recommendations given by technical experts on forests, water, soil and plants. It might be difficult to restore Khlong Tha Dee to its original conditions. However, to remediate Khlong Tha Dee to the state which it can support people in Muang and Pak Nakorn, so that they don't have to suffer severe floods or draughts, there's some ray of hope. If there is a design that enables water users to contribute for the remediation of the watershed from upstream to downstream, similar to the scheme that ECO-BEST brought up in the discussion and asked us to share ideas, the ray of hope will shine bright. It is not easy to conduct a discussion, because the concept is so new. It is very difficult for the general public. Even myself, it takes a long time to understand the concept. I have to listen several times from several meetings."*

**Mrs. Pasinee Thinnam**



## ECO-BEST Fully On Board in Dong Phrayayen-KhaoYai World Heritage

Since the second half of 2012, ECO-BEST has been actively identifying models and partners for project implementation in the Dong Phrayayen-KhaoYai World Heritage site. We have introduced the project to community members and finalized the focus of the project.

Due to the immense size of Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai World Heritage site, which covers more than 600,000 hectares of rich forest and stretches through 6 provinces starting from Saraburi, Nakhon Nayok, Prachinburi and Nakhon Ratchasima to the Cambodian border in Buriram and Sa Kaeo, ECO-BEST has required a lengthy period to brainstorm on ideas from the forest complex's stakeholders. Their views and comments

were compiled to jointly analyze the possibility of and interests in the mobilization and development of economic instruments for strengthening the protection of this forest complex.

UNESCO declared this forest complex the natural world heritage site because of its outstanding universal value (OUV) in 3 areas: 1) it is the habitats of globally threatened and endangered species 2) it is the only continuous forest in the region that has 6 ecotones of terrestrial forest types and 3) it represents an escarpment plateau which raises on the Southern side and runs from East to West for 230 kilometres.

Expansion of the highway will permanently cause wildlife habitat fragmentation, affecting wildlife populations and species and pushing already endangered species towards inbreeding and hence higher risk for extinction.

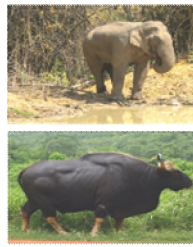
The 304 highway serves as the country main gateway that links the East, where the deep-sea port, major industrial areas and tourist destinations locate, with the Northeast, where highest population size and vast agricultural lands. The 304 highway is therefore heavily used by private vehicles, large trucks hauling goods and raw materials and passenger buses, but it divides the forest complex into two parts. To accommodate national fast economic growth and increase highway safety, the government through the Department of Highways has expanded the 304 from two to four lanes except at the two sections between km 27-29 and km 42-44 where Khao Yai and Thap Lan forest matches. Expansion of the highway will permanently cause wildlife habitat fragmentation, affecting wildlife populations and species in Khao Yai and Thap Lan National Parks and pushing already endangered species towards inbreeding and hence higher risk for extinction.

To mitigate forest fragmentation and allow wildlife to cross in the forest complex, the government is ready to allocate an additional budget for highway expansion that least effect to wildlife and forest fragmentation. A design and feasibility study is underway for the first section between km 27-29. Nearby is a village settlement and farmland on the Southern edge of Tambon Bu Phram and the Northern part of Tambon Thung Poh, both are in Na Dee District, Prachinburi Province.

Although it is not yet clear whether the design of the additional lanes will be in the form of an overpass, an underpass tunnel, or "green roof", the Thai government's sincerity and dedication to maintaining wildlife habitats has been recognized by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. They have requested the environmental impact assessment report, work plan and mitigation approaches that Thailand will ensure the least impacts on forest ecosystems and wildlife during construction.



**MAP** Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai World Heritage site and bottleneck point of Highway 304, between km 27-29, Tambon Bu Phram, Tambon Thung Poh, Na Dee District, Prachinburi Province.



Ecological surroundings along highway 304 and some examples of wild animals in the bottleneck (Porcupine, Civet, Elephant and Guar)

The concern at the national level, which is no less than maintaining the world heritage status, is the effectiveness of this huge additional budget. This issue was raised with the ECO-BEST project, which is cooperating with the stakeholders in the “development of economic instruments” to ensure that the additional investment will successfully retains forest linkages between KhaoYai and ThapLan National Parks. Besides allowing wildlife to cross safely, the corridor must not create negative impacts on local communities and, better still, could improve their livelihoods.

Developing safe and trustworthy crossing points for wildlife requires knowledge from technical experts, wildlife ecologists and the wisdom of local communities. To attract wildlife, it might be necessary to create saltlicks, ponds and foraging areas for the dry-season and ensure enough shelters for small and large animals of no harm and disturbance from human activities, regardless of the intention. There are many questions that require joint solutions from stakeholders, such as what type of ecosystems matches the needs of wildlife and where the most suitable areas with lowest construction cost are. Moreover, discussion on public administration and property management is needed to decide who should

be involved in setting up conditions and rules. Who must comply with these conditions/rules? What are the conditions and rules? Who should be involved in the assessment of these conditions? These questions must be answered to ensure that every stakeholder is comfortable with, willing to cooperate and have trust and confidence that this highway expansion can be developed and served as a real practical ecological wildlife corridor.

ECO-BEST regularly publicizes the project objectives and approaches to enhance understanding, trust and familiarity with stakeholders and members of the steering committees of Khao Yai and Thap Lan National Parks. An example was the participation of the project team in the first annual meeting of Thap Lan National Park Steering Committee on April 9, 2013 to introduce the project and to present project progress. In that meeting Mr. Taywin Meesap, ThapLan National Park Chief, served as secretary of the meeting, and chaired by Mr. Manoch Weerakul, an active businessman keen to develop the area as a world heritage gateway. Mr. Manoch is dedicating his time and has vowed to jointly solve local conflicts during his term as the Chairperson of Thap Lan National Park Steering Committee.

*Although it is not yet clear whether the design of the additional lanes will be in the form of an overpass, an underpass tunnel, or “green roof”, the Thai government’s sincerity and dedication to maintaining wildlife habitats has been recognized by the UNESCO World Heritage*

In May and June, ECO-BEST hosted stakeholder workshops to brief and compile recommendations from individuals and key groups in Tambon Bu Phram and TambonThungPoh and in particular, the Chief Executives and Chief Administrators of both Subdistrict Administrative Organizations (SAO) and members of professional networks in these 2 tambons. In addition, ECO-BEST joined Thung Poh training for kids and students to learn about and being proud of their neighboring world heritage site and wildlife resources.

Of particular note was the meeting with Na Dee District administrators chaired by the District Chief (Mr. Banchong Sinthop) and sub-district and village headmen as part of a monthly administrator meeting held at Na Dee District Office, Prachinburi Province on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting was attended by about 200 sub-district and village headmen and officials. The Na Dee District Chief stressed the importance of ecosystem protection and mentioned that his support to ECO-BEST project did not stem from his role as a member of Thap Lan National Park Steering Committee, but from his personal interest.

Economic instrument development for wildlife ecological corridor is a new approach and thus developing common understanding among stakeholders is time consuming. Starting from the perception that the area's best service is a wildlife ecological corridor, all stakeholders have to identify and develop common understandings on market-based mechanisms.

He thanked the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), GIZ and the European Union for the priority given to the bottleneck between km 27-29 in Na Dee District and expressed appreciation for the ECO-BEST project concept that will apply economic instruments to create financial incentives and moral support for people who participate in forest and wildlife protection. The scheme may include compensation for opportunity loss from conservation activities, which was previously nonexistent. In addition, he entrusted ECO-BEST staff to Nadee sub-district and village headmen and officials, to facilitate data compilation, interviews and non-formal meetings with stakeholders.

Economic instrument development for wildlife ecological corridor is a new approach and thus developing common understanding among stakeholders is time consuming. Starting from the perception that the area's best service is a wildlife ecological corridor, they have to identify and develop common understandings on market-based mechanisms.

Who are the consumers/buyers?	Is there a demand? Where are they? What do they want? What makes them satisfy and willing to pay? How much do they want to pay for the goods/services?
Who are the sellers?	Who are they? What is the trading unit? Where will the trading negotiation occur? How to set selling/buying price? How to deliver goods/services? For how long?
Who are the producers?	Are they out there? Who are they? Where are they? Do they have to produce anything extra? What are the benefits or incentives needed?

To discuss these 3 issues, ECO-BEST invited representatives of communities, governmental offices and NGOs in Tambon Bu Phram, Tambon Thung Poh to join a meeting on June 27. They were asked to identify existing ecosystems, ecological services, their importance and the degree of ecological service dependency among local people. They concluded that the forest (in the National Park), farmland, urban communities, streams and reservoirs are important ecosystems in the 2 tambons. Their livelihoods and occupations are highly dependent upon the ecosystem services. Their other concerns include alteration of land and land use by external investors through and purchasing and changing of land ownership and injustice caused by authorities who oversee land use, land sale and land rights.

Although it was not possible to identify or understand the roles of buyers, sellers and producers of wildlife ecological corridor on that day, ECO-BEST met key leaders who were keen to mobilize future discussions. ECO-BEST held another meeting on July 17 to explain about TEEB concept, project's goal, joint implementation objectives (to develop economic instruments), answer questions, jointly share

limitations, models, expected outcomes and thoroughly explain the implementation approaches. In addition, ECO-BEST arranged a capacity building programme for key leaders by organizing a field trip and an introduction on economics and ecosystem protection at Tha Dee Sub- River Basin in Nakhon Si Thammarat from July 24-27, followed on July 28 by a field trip to study a park and community joint management for wildlife tourism in Kui Buri National Park in Prachuab Khiri Khan province.

An expected outcome of the mobilization of economic instruments for the wildlife ecological corridor at the bottleneck of highway 304 in Tambon Bu Phram and Tambon Thung Poh is the first bottom-up and participatory approach for economic instrument development in Thailand. If successful, the approach can be replicated elsewhere, in areas where physical and ecological surroundings can be managed for wildlife ecological corridor construction, including km 42-44 on highway 304 and other sites where communities are located adjacent to forest ecosystems nationwide.



## ECO-BEST Strengthens Basic Economics Knowledge for Ecologists and Environmental Managers



The competency assessment conducted in 2011 revealed that ecologists and environmental managers in charge of natural resources and environmental policy, planning and management had limited knowledge and understanding of the principles of economics. Most notably, their understanding and beliefs in relation to several economic concepts including the definition and derivation of economic value assessment were misperceived and commonly gaped. Examples include the term “consumer surplus” and the differences between the Thai words for price (rakha) and value (munkha and khunkha). Also the project staff was suffering from similar limitations.

To reduce these gaps, ECO-BEST has focused its 2<sup>nd</sup> year inputs and activities on enhancing the understanding of team members and partners. With the support of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Udomsak Silprachawong of the School of Development Economics, National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), ECO-BEST conducted 3 initial trainings between October and December 2012 to also adapt the curriculum to be appropriate to the backgrounds of an ecosystem and national park manager and planner.

This training curriculum is now called “Fundamental Economics for Ecosystem and Environment Management” and is found to be comprehensive, with fun and interactive process.

To ensure comprehensiveness of the curriculum and synchronization with the concept of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), Dr. Udomsak participated also in the training and discussions with international economists from ECO-BEST partners and GIZ headquarters. He then improved the curriculum further to be TEEB based and being more interactive and practical. He also had integrated the assessment of potential ecosystem services for identification of economic measures that fit to the local political, economic and social environment. Examples include group activities to identify and prioritize ecosystem services or stakeholder identification and mapping.

This training curriculum is now called “Fundamental Economics for Ecosystem and Environment Management”. So far it was conducted 3 times in April and May, 2013. Feedbacks found to be very positive, for example “to be comprehensive content with fun and interactive process”. Participants were encouraged to equally share ideas and contribute during the 2.5

day training programme. In addition to the clarification on what and how the economic concept and perceptions is, participants also explored and learned how to use formats and basic tools for group facilitating process that can be readily applied in their works.

This training also has gained attentions by officers beyond ECO-BEST target groups. In late June, the Regional Environmental Office 5 (REO Nakhon Pathom), who is implementing a project called in short CBFCM funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and administered by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) asked ECO-BEST to conduct this training workshop for REO 5 staff, Tha Chin River Basin Watershed Conservation Network and key parties. This is because under the CBFCM, they aim to develop a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in the Lower Tha Chin River Basin Watershed, scoped at Sunak Hon Canal.



Mr. Sakda Noppasit, Minister's Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment



Mr. Worapon Channgam  
Director of Regional Environmental



work in the CBFCM project too. The training with 35 participants was chaired by Mr. Sakda Noppasit, Secretary to the Natural Resources and Environmental Minister. Mr. Worapol Channangarm, Director of Regional Environmental Office 5 gave a brief background on the importance of the training workshop.

During the last quarter, ECO-BEST has conducted training workshops for 115 representatives of government agencies, NGOs and leaders of

conservation networks, including the DNP, ONEP, NESDB, the First Royal Factory (Fang) Museum, the Highland Research and Development Institute, the Agricultural Land Reform Office, the Public Works and Town & Country Planning (Nakhon Pathom) Office, the Marine Regional Office (Nakhon Pathom), Regional Environmental Office 5 (Nakhon Pathom), the Regional Environmental Office 13 (Chonburi), Saen Suk Municipal Office, Tha Chin River Basin Conservation Network, Nan Province Conservation Group and staff of other GIZ projects.

## ECO-BEST Identifies Core Team Members at Khlong Tha Dee Sub-River Basin



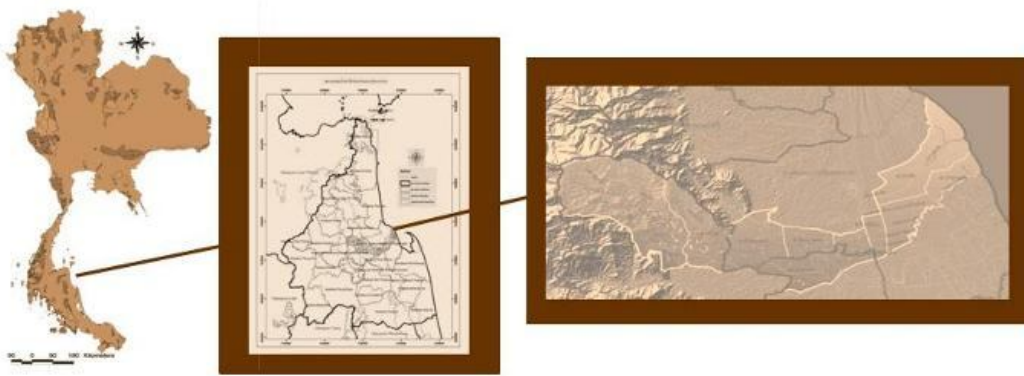
The Working group members agreed that regardless of ECO-BEST, the function of the Tha-Dee Sub-River Basin Protection Committee shall continue. Funding sources will be derived from economic instruments that are developed through consensual agreement with stakeholders according to ECO-BEST's objectives.

Two social mobilization workshops for Khlong Tha Dee (KTD) conservation were held in February and March 2013. Main outputs are the recommendation to establish the 2 non-formal, voluntary working groups prior to the mobilization and design of economic instruments for the conservation of KTD Sub-River Basin. The first is the technical working group, who shall compile and select data for the campaign to increase public awareness about the value of KTD.

The second is a facilitating working group, whose role is to identify civil members of the future KTD river basin committee. These 2 working groups will take a lead in content discussion, while ECO-BEST is

coordinating and organizing forums at every local administrative area in KTD region, from upstream to middle and downstream. These comprises of 10 administrative areas (7 tambons and 3 municipalities): Tambon Kam-Loan, Tambon Tha Dee, Tambon Kampanzao, Tambon Chai-montri, Tambon Ma-Mmaung Song Ton, Tambon Tha Sak, Tambon Pak Nakorn, Poh Sadej Municipality, Nakhon Si Thammarat Municipality, and Pak Nakorn Municipality.

The technical working group, led by Isra Hassadintr MD, chairperson of NST Rotary Club, is made up of several distinguished individuals, including Dr. Pakorn Dittakij, *Ajarn* Kanapat Thongkam, *Ajarn* Passanee Thinnanam and technical experts from key government offices (Irrigation Operation and Maintenance Project, Nakhon Si Thammarat (NST); Water Resources Regional Office 8; NST Provincial Natural Resources and Environment Office; and Regional Protected Area Office 5) and Lanska and Muang District Chiefs.



On June 5, GIZ, as coordinator of the Technical Working Group, organized a forum to share KTD research data. The Working Group suggested acceleration of research data compilation, selection and synthesis related to the 3 key issues: ecosystems, socioeconomics and legislation related to water, stream, embankment and water catchment management. The data will be used for public campaigns through mass media (local cable TV, radio channels and newspapers) and other communication channels (exhibitions, banners and brochures) to enhance public awareness of the significance of the KTD. Besides technical experts, this working group comprises several media representatives from publishing houses, radio and television stations.

The aim of the facilitating working group is to identify civic sector representatives, led by Dr. Damrong Yotaraks, *Ajarn* Sakdipongse Nilpairach and the team, shared experiences on ecosystem protection and remediation to target community members. Presentations on the concept and sample of the “Bio-based Weir” by Mr. Somdetch Kongua, the “Tree Banking” concept to increase commercial timber tree planting on private land by Mr. Sumit Srivisuth and “Knowledge Incubation in Communities” by *Ajarn* Passanee Thinnanam were discussed. Ms. Jongkol Chinvong, GIZ ECO-BEST’s NST coordinator organized 11 forums in target tambons and municipalities between April and June. As a result, 47 individuals from 10 administrative areas are willing to dedicate their time to protect KTD and have been nominated to represent the civic sector.

The two working groups shared their implementation progress on a meeting held on June 5. They shared their view how to formulate the next steps for the KTD protection and restoration. The meeting, which was chaired by Dr. Isra, suggested 6 implementation areas: core team development; strategic plan formulation; mobilization of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES); capacity building of personnel; advocacy of local policy, legislation and regulation and documentation of lessons-learned from Tha-Dee Sub-River Basin management model.



The timeline of the first action plan is 1.5 years, which matches the remaining period of the ECO-BEST project. However, working group members agreed that regardless of ECO-BEST, the function of the Tha-Dee Sub-River Basin Protection Committee would continue, they will advocate for formal recognition of the committee by the Government to ensure full support and continuous implementation. Funding sources will be derived from economic instruments that are developed through consensual agreement with stakeholders according to ECO-BEST’s objectives. Other sources are government funds, proceeds from fund-raising events/activities (e.g. festivals, lucky draws) and individual and corporate donations.

**Bio-based weir concept:** a manmade construction using only bio-degradable material and water-like tree in the fertile soil bags to leverage water in the creek, and withhold the bank by tree root system.

**Tree-banking concept:** a timber tree must have its financial value even it not yet been logged. This will incentivize farmers and land-owners planting the tree for securing biodiversity in the farm and securing wood stock in the future.

Photo: *Champaka* (Magnoliaceae) mix in rubber plantation, NST-Mr. Sumitr.



## TEEB: A Solution for Green Growth in the Greater Mekong Subregion



Green growth is a dilemma to which both the public and private sectors are keen to find a satisfactory solution, particularly in regional development forums that depend on the cooperation and corresponding policies of more than one country. Member countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) are in a similar situation. One solution, which several parties have already tested and appears to pave the way for practical implementation of green growth, is the application of “The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity (TEEB)” concept.

Besides promoting valuation of natural capital for the green growth public policy formulation, the TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity) approach is a solution for private companies to achieve maximum profit while having the best record in CSR.

ECO-BEST was invited to join the Public Private Dialogue on Green Growth in the GMS jointly organized by several organizations including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, the Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI) of UNDP and UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on June 17-20.

Of particular interest was the presentation by Ms. Lucy Emerton, Environment Management Group Director and ECO-BEST consultant, which outlined the ecosystem service assessment, valuing ecosystem services in monetary terms - to create incentives for ecosystem protection and remediation by investors.

Ms. Emerton also elaborated on alternatives to demonstrate benefits and drawbacks of developments with potential impacts on the ecosystems, as well as the derivation and development of legislative framework for PES (Payment for Ecosystem Services) in Vietnam. Updated Information from other experts, e.g. information technologies and biodiversity researches that are relevant to investment and risk assessment for the development of the ASEAN economic corridor were also presented.

PUMA Corporation presented its successful adaptation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities to not only reduce environmental impacts in production process but also secure ecosystem services in the supply chain.

In summary, the dialogue indicated that besides promoting valuation of natural capital for the green growth public policy formulation, the TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity) approach is a solution for private companies to achieve maximum profit while having the best record in CSR.

This dialogue reiterates the message to both the public and private sectors that TEEB is the key solution to the dilemma that everyone is searching for. That is to ensure sustainable development or “green growth”. This is also the common goal of member countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion, a dynamic part of the ASEAN Economic Community.



## ECO-BEST Joins with ASEAN Center for Biodiversity to Promote TEEB

Enhancing knowledge and understanding of applying “The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity – TEEB” approach is an important mission that ECO-BEST, a project jointly supported by the European Union and the Thai and German governments, shares with other countries throughout the world. For the same mission, in addition to ECO-BEST, the German government provides support to the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB) in the Biodiversity and Climate Change Project (BCCP).

The German government is confident that with sufficient knowledge plus the understanding and skills to integrate ecosystems with knowledge of economics based on TEEB concept, personnel of ASEAN member countries will collaborate and create win-win situations for every party. This will in turn contribute to improved

ecosystem protection and climate change mitigation. Although TEEB is a new term in the international conservation and sustainable development discussion, the economic incentive mechanisms and various types of revenue collection are not new and already exist in several countries, including ASEAN member countries.

However, these mechanisms do not reflect or capture every individual who benefits from ecosystem services. Moreover, several conservation measures omit opportunity cost for certain individuals, particularly those living near the resources and ecosystems. ECO-BEST and ACB-BCCP have thus agreed to accelerate capacity-building on TEEB for personnel in ASEAN member countries over the next 2 years.



Opening remarks at the IES into Development Planning Training Workshop: Left to right: Mr. Phutadol (HRDI, Planning and Strategic Office, Director), Dr. Songtam ( Director of DNP-Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation and NPPI-National Parks and Protected Area Innovation Institute), Ms. Brissonneau (EU-Commission) and Dr. Seibert (BCCP project manager).

The collaboration started with the training workshop on “Integrating Ecosystem Service into Development Planning” in Chiang Mai on February 18-22, 2013. Forty delegates from 6 ASEAN member countries — Cambodia, Laos PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, Philippines and Thailand — plus 2 delegates from Timor Leste participated. The key trainers were 2 experts from GIZ Head Office and the Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research (UFZ). This training workshop was co-funded by the Highland Research and Development Institute (HRDI).

In addition to allowing its staff to actively participate in the workshop, HRDI supported training materials and also facilitated and took workshop trainers and participants on a field trip to a community forest at

Pang-Ma-O Village, Tambon Mae Na, Chiang Dao District and to the Royal Park Ratchaphruek in Tambon Mae Hia, Muang District.

The participants were impressed with the curriculum, which was very comprehensive, as well as with the learning process, which was fun, informal and interactive. Participants were involved in the group works and had equal opportunities to think and express their ideas, search and prepare data for presentations, discussions and also document the lessons-learned daily. Of particular interest was the role-play of a meeting to formulate economic development policy of the imaginary city of “Bakul”.





Participants share ideas and opinions in the role-play of a meeting to formulate economic development policy of the imaginary city of "Bakul"



Participants from various countries work in small groups with fun and unity.

The collaboration between ECO-BEST and ASEAN Center for Biodiversity stems from the determination of the governments and every partner, all of whom believe that security of the ecosystem and biodiversity is the only solution and means for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The training workshop served as a small starting point for the mutual challenge for ECO-BEST and ACB-BCCP, which is to widely promote TEEB concept among ASEAN member countries in a limited time. Later, during the ACB implementation plan workshop in the Philippines on May 29-30, executives from several regional agencies and programmes agreed to set priorities for target areas.

Protected areas on the ASEAN Heritage Park list were awarded the highest priority. Moreover, ECO-BEST and ACB-BCCP invited other partners; among them the Economy and Environment Programme for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA), to join the effort in promoting collaborative learning about key relationships between biodiversity and economic systems. The emphasis of the joint effort is to conduct a feasibility study of the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), REDD+ mechanisms under the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) according to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The collaboration between ECO-BEST and ACB-BCCP stems from the determination of the governments and every partner, all of whom believe that security of the ecosystem and biodiversity is the only solution and means for climate change mitigation and adaptation.



Participants from various organizations attended the meeting for ACB-BCCP Planning on 29-30 May 2013, at Tagaytay City Philippines

## CASE STUDIES

### Sibuyan Island, Philippines



Since 1976, In Sibuyan Island, the second largest island in the center of the Philippine Archipelago, 5,500 hectare forest has shrunk by 16%. With forest loss, two of the vital watersheds, and their services – Cantigas and Palangcalan - could disappear.

Moreover, degradation would mean higher costs of \$152 per year to each of the 696 domestic consumer households. However, if the high conservation scenarios took place, some 60 indigenous households upstream would lose \$260 a year because of the income loss from resource depleting activities.

Therefore, Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) was introduced and applied. In this case, 866 lowland water users would need to make monthly transfers of USD 2.50 (or 100 Pesos) to benefit the 60 indigenous households.

Consequently, a watershed co-management agreement was signed in 2005 and incomes from PES made up 81% of the indigenous household's total gross incomes.

As a result, the indigenous people are willing to participate in patrolling and reforestation efforts.

### Toyooka City, Japan



Toyooka City, located along the Japan Sea coastline, was the last area inhabited by **wild oriental white storks** before they became extinct in Japan in 1971 due to modernization of rice farming, concrete irrigation, drainage systems and the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

In order to re-create oriental white stork habitat, since 2003, rice farmers have to reduce either 75% or 100% pesticides, to flood their paddies deeper, to retain the water in the paddies for a longer time, and to keep a diary of living creatures.

Moreover, from 2003-2007, the prefecture shared half of the costs with Toyooka City and paid the

participating farmers for 40,000 JYen3 per 1,000m2 of rice paddies to compensate for increased labor and reduced income. As a result, the wild population of oriental white storks has now increased to 44.

In addition, the reintroduction of the Oriental White Stork has also raised municipal income by 1.4 percent or about 8 billion JYen because the farmers can develop organic rice product "Konotori no Mai (flying Oriental White Stork). Its price is 23 % higher than normal rice.

Moreover, approximately 1 billion JYen annually was earned from oriental white storks related tourism.

### Xingguo County, China



Xingguo County is part of the Jiangxi province which is situated on the south bank of the Yangtze River in Eastern China. Around 420,000 hectares of freshwater are used for aquaculture and there are 155 species found in the area.

However, the area has suffered from severe environmental degradation. By 1980, water and soil erosion had become serious problems, which resulted in frequent droughts, floods, loss of biological resources and further deterioration of soil quality and desertification.

Therefore, the Xinggou County created a public payment scheme to give households financial incentives to plant trees and manage forest ecosystems for soil conservation forest activities. The major focus was on regulating ecosystem

services (soil conservation) as well as provisioning services like the production of water with good quality and sufficient quantity of wood.

The County imposed a watershed protection fee to related local industries. Following, the metallurgic industry pays 0.5 per cent of sales revenue, the chemical industry 3 per cent of sales, coal enterprises US\$0.01/t output and hydropower companies US\$0.0001/kilowatt output. The result of this policy and the investments in forest activities has been dramatic.

By 1999 the area affected by serious soil erosion had dropped by almost 80 per cent to 41,000 hectares

Source: <http://www.teebweb.org/resources/teeb-case-studies-list/>

## Project: “Effective In-Company Vocational Training in the Mekong Region”

### Project Conception Phase – A Milestone for the Coming Implementation



As the coming August 2013 marks the end of the “**Conception Phase**” of the project “**Effective In-Company Vocational Training in the Mekong Region**”, this article takes the opportunity to recap the project as well as activities conducted in the past 10 months to publicize our progress and to signal the coming implementation phase.

Signposting the interest of the Federal Republic of Germany in assisting the countries in the Mekong Region, in solving the skilled-labour deprivation situation, a project named “**Effective In-Company Vocational Training in the Mekong Region**” was set into operation since October 2012, initially in form of the “Conception Phase” to conduct researches and assess the possibility of the project implementation in the region, namely in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand.

The project is based on the hypothesis that in the framework of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) enhancing in-company training (i.e. encouraging companies to conduct in-house trainings for staffs with no or mismatched skills by themselves) could have potential to meet the demand for skilled-labour of the private sector more effectively. The conducted project activities, thus, focused on research and preparation for the project implementation.

#### Research on Situation of each targeted country



As there are both qualitatively and quantitatively evidences suggesting that the problem of skilled-labour deprivation has been continuously intensified in the Mekong Region due to the industrialization and the increase of technology-intensive industries, the situation in each country were analysed through the documentary analysis and semi-structured interviews with the related stakeholders. The objective was to identify entry points for project implementation, as well as to seek for the similarities and differences between each target country to assess whether a regional approach would be applicable. The study was conducted in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos.



In each country, potential or accessible stakeholders, namely the selected companies, training providers and multipliers, were interviewed, after the documentary analysis to verify the data gathered as well as to obtain further information not recorded on paper. After the analysis, **4 Country Reports** are produced as outputs of the studies, containing not only the situation of each country, but also critical recommendations and possibilities of project implementation. Additionally, an **Overall Report** is also created, providing a summary of the 4 country reports.





### Establishment of Contacts and Identification of Future Partners

During the research in each target country, contact with the local GIZ staffs as well as other stakeholders, namely the related Governmental agencies and companies were established in preparation for the coming implementation phase.

Given that Thailand is the most advanced country in the region in terms of its degree of industrialization and its familiarity with the German “Dual Vocational Training System”, the country is selected to be the project hub, in which pilot and experiment projects are to be tested to set an applicable, context-oriented model for other target countries.

Subsequently, a **study visit to Germany** was organized for related Thai stakeholders to introduce them to the in-company training concept and give them the overall view of the whole German Dual Vocational Training system as an input to develop the context-oriented approach for Thailand, and later the Mekong Region.

As a first result of the study visit, **the Office of Vocational Education Commission** was identified to be the implementation partner of the project in Thailand, while in other countries definite partners are yet to be pinpointed.

### Pre-implementation Cooperation

Following the study visit **the Bureau of Personnel Competency Development (BPCD)** under OVEC has initiated a project with the assistance of **the Thai-German Institute** to develop the existing in-company trainers in the Thai Dual Vocational system, which has already been running for decades.

The objective is not only to create systematically trained in-company trainers, but also to develop a training curriculum for the future standardized development of trainers both nationally and regionally.

**BPCD**, thus, requested the project’s assistance in providing technical advice for the project implementation as well as an Expert, specializing in in-company training development, to give an input in the mentioned process. With the support of the expert, in-company trainer curriculum is developed and used to train a pilot group of in-company trainers, who will be monitored and assessed for further modification of the curriculum.

All activities conducted during the Conception Phase aim for the future cooperation and development in the implementation phase, which is expected to be carried out in the coming months. Thus, with such preparation, both in terms of connection and research, it is foreseeable that once the project’s implementation phase is authorized, the operation would be able to proceed straight off.



## Thai Delegates Join a Sustainable Consumption and Production Study Trip to Denmark and Sweden



*The participants having a close look at the motor room of one of the wind turbines together with one of the founders of the Lynetten's wind farm, Jens Anker Hansen*

The European Union (EU)-sponsored Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Project - Policy Support Component recently invited delegates from its Thai project partners to join a study trip to Denmark and Sweden. The objectives of the trip, which took place from June 8 to 15, 2013, were to broaden the participants' knowledge of monitoring and evaluation of SCP in Europe, green innovation, green procurement as well as allow them to share work experiences with representatives of the European Union, government authorities, academic institutes, communities and private companies.

The Thai delegates were made up of 17 executives and officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Ministry of Industry. The executives from the two ministries included Mr. Wichien Jungrungruang, Director-General of the Pollution Control Department, Mr. Chumpol Chiwaprapanun, Deputy Director General of the Department of Industrial Works, Mr. Sakol Thinagul, Deputy Director General of the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion and Mr. Pongboon Pongtong, Deputy Secretary-General of the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning.

The SCP trend in Europe today has shifted towards harmonizing economic systems with environmental conservation based on the concept of maximum efficiency throughout the product life cycle. Priority is given to green purchasing, eco-innovation, waste recycling and environmental tax reforms.

The Danish Ministry of Environment has been supporting green procurement for more than 15 years. The Ministry is currently focusing on its key strategy of promoting the necessity for green procurement awareness in the transportation, construction and food sectors, which are the largest industrial GHG emitters.

In addition to supporting green procurement in municipalities, which accounts for two-thirds of public procurement, the Ministry has supported the private sector by disseminating practical knowledge and tools. In order to make the link between the public procurers and the supplies easier, the Ministry of Finance and the Association of Danish Municipalities has established a company, Procurement Ltd. Denmark, which systematically incorporate green criteria in procurement contracts. The Thai delegation visited this company to get inside information on how it promotes green

Through this commitment, the value of Danish green public procurement has risen to 42% of the total public procurement on 200 billion DKK per annum. Combined with higher total green procurement value by the private sector, the joint effort is having an important impact on domestic sustainable consumption and production in the country. Like the European Union, which launched measures for the promotion of environmental technologies in 2003, the Danish government has introduced measures to promote eco-innovation development in the areas of water, air and waste. The goal is to maximize the use of environmental technologies, leading to a better environment and economy and improved livelihoods.



Wind power are discussed by Mr Wichien Jungrungruang, Director General of PCD and Mr Decha Pimpisut, Director, DIW.

Besides government commitment, communities have a vital role to play in environmental conservation and sustainable resource consumption. To observe this role, the delegates visited Dyssekilde Ecovillage, about 60 kilometres north-west of Copenhagen. Dyssekilde's residents are sustainable and environmentally conscious, applying environmentally friendly concepts to their daily lives, both within their households and in the community's common areas. Examples include the use of wind power, solar power, garbage sorting and natural water treatment.

The Danish private sector regularly develops new innovations to meet market demand for green products. An example is the wind power, which corresponds to the country's development policy to increase the ratio of renewable energy to 35% by 2020,

and being totally quit fossil fuels in 2050. Moreover, the delegates learned that Danish private sector is aware of and keen to invest in environmentally friendly technologies that will contribute to sustainable long-term competitiveness. In terms of public awareness, the demand for environmentally friendly or organic products is high, with some department stores carrying more green or organic products than regular items, and a few supermarkets have been eco-labelled as shop. The price difference between both types of products is minimal.

Denmark is currently encouraging every product/service life cycle stakeholder to adopt the SCP concept through market mechanisms, negotiation, stakeholder partnership and widespread dissemination of information.

## SCP Policy project joins World Environment Day to introduce video clip contest



On June 5, 2013, the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP) organized a World Environment Day under the concept "Think. Eat. Save." at Siam Paragon in Bangkok. Exhibitions and activities related to environment were held in order to educate and raise public awareness about environment-friendly consumption. The Sustainable Consumption and Production Policy Project, which is supported by the European Union and implemented by 5 different Thai counterparts and GIZ, joined the event to launch a video clip contest together with DEQP.

Thai Citizen are invited to submit video clips of 5 minutes maximum on the theme "Save the World for the Next Generation". The contest aims to support sustainable consumption and production and to raise public awareness about environmentally friendly behaviour. The total prizes are valued at 150,000 baht and the winning pieces will be screened on the project's website as well as at selected occasions. The submission deadline is October 15, 2013.

For more information, please contact Khun Ratchanok Suwannabunpot at tel. 02 354 5105 or e-mail [Ratchanok.suwannabunpot@giz.de](mailto:Ratchanok.suwannabunpot@giz.de).

## The Urban Nexus Project is Launched with Good Cooperation from Partner Cities



During June 24-26, 2013 the “Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: the Urban Nexus” Project organised an International NEXUS Conference in Bangkok to kick off the Project.

More than 100 participants from the partner cities as well as from Ministries, Universities and the private sector participated in vivid discussions on water, energy and food Nexus after international state-of-the-art technology was presented by different institutes of the well-known Fraunhofer Gesellschaft and German consulting offices in the field of innovative technologies combined with business models and good governance.

To promote nexus-oriented changes in urban management, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has commissioned GIZ to implement the “Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: the Urban Nexus” project focusing on ten cities in six East Asian countries:

Thailand	Mongolia	China	Vietnam	Indonesia	Philippines
Nakhon Ratchasima Chiang Mai	Ulan-Bator	Banan Rizhao Weifang	Da Nang	Yogyakarta	Naga City Santa Rosa

The objective of this project is to develop institutional and personnel capacities for integrated urban resource management in selected Asian cities.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ([UNESCAP](#)) as the political partner will ensure linkages to the national policies of its member states providing a platform for the regional dissemination of the program’s approach. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has made available contributions totaling up to EUR 4,000,000 (about 160 million baht) for a three years’ period (2013-2015).



The project provides technical advice to municipal administrations/planning offices through international and national experts and by facilitating the establishment of Nexus Task Forces. The consulting process involves political stakeholders at the national, regional and local level.

The project oversees the design, planning and, where possible, implementation of practical nexus initiatives (with a focus on water, energy and/or food security) and at the same time seeks to feed the experiences gained at the local and national level into a regional dialogue and learning platform to achieve a regional pooling of knowledge; this will lay the foundation for a regional and national scaling-up process of the nexus approaches. In addition to mainstreaming nexus principles and know-how into the region’s institutions, stakeholders from municipal administrations, research institutes, networks and non governmental organisations will be supported with regard to human capacity development with a view to embedding new professional and management competences across these institutions.



Moreover, private companies’ technology solutions and their range of services will be used to plan, finance and implement nexus initiatives. As world market leaders in future technologies like environmental technology, energy supply and integrated supply and collection systems, German companies will contribute their experience in the context of this regional programme.





## GIZ Training activities in Bangkok for local and international clients

GIZ recently decided to make its regional, technical and methodological expertise available to a wider audience both in Thailand and the region, with the GIZ office in Bangkok organizing the first series of internal and outside training sessions for individual local and international customers in May and June.



The training is conducted in cooperation with GIZ's Academy for International Cooperation (AIZ), GIZ's training facility in Germany. Modules range from 1-day workshops to 1-year programmes and cover such topics as sectoral capacity development, on, for example, climate change, corporate social responsibility and agriculture, as well as methodology for international cooperation, sustainable development and soft skills.

### Sustainable Palm Oil Production according to RSPO-Standard



In the beginning of May, the GIZ Training facility, which offers capacity building training for sustainable development, organized two training courses in Krabi. The first on May 2-3 was an introductory course on Sustainable Palm Oil Production (in line with the Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil, RSPO) and targeted small-holders in palm oil industry who are interested in applying for RSPO certification. It focused on providing knowledge about the background and international standardization of sustainable palm oil production. Its objective was to ensure accurate understanding among palm oil smallholders and to later promote the information received to related organizations.

participants to implement it across South and Southeast Asia. The curriculum focused on exchanges of experience in the management of small-scale palm oil business as well as project planning and implementation.

In addition, the participants visited the Forest Industry Organization (FIO) to study the management of rubber plantations and also the palm oil mill of United Palm Oil Industry Public Co., Ltd. They also met and discussed with the group of independent palm oil smallholders who focus on sustainable palm oil production and were the first to receive certification from RSPO.

This group received the support of GIZ's Sustainable Production of Palm Oil for Bioenergy project. During the field trip, the participants from non-profit organizations and public sector institutions from India, Vietnam, Timor Leste and Laos were given the chance to exchange experiences with smallholder groups from the rubber and palm oil industries.

It is anticipated that the GIZ Krabi team will provide training services on a regular basis as part of the overall training calendar. Five different training modalities have been designed for smallholders in Thailand to facilitate their certification and farm management practices for palm oil mills as well as for international customers.



Mr. Max Baumann from GIZ Philippines and Mr. Thitinai Pongpiriyakit of GIZ Thailand jointly conducted the second training course on May 13-15, providing the English content of "The Future of Smallholder Farming in Agribusiness". It took the form of a capacity building event in Krabi and was designed for exchanges of information among those interested in improving smallholder farming in Asia.

The GIZ partnership farming approach successfully enabled the first independent smallholder farmers to be RSPO-certified globally, and Thitinai Pongpiriyakit has successfully continued instructing smallholders in the palm oil sector in the South of Thailand over the last 5 years. The 3-day seminar aimed to promote the approach and enable







In the area of methodology for international cooperation, two training sessions were offered between May 23 and 29 2013. A 3-day training course titled “Negotiation: The Harvard Method” facilitated by Ms. Susanne Willner, who has extensive experience with stakeholder communication and conflict management, and Julia Langendorf from GIZ Thailand, focused on negotiation scenarios in the field of international cooperation with a strong emphasis on intercultural pitfalls.



Susanne Willner certifies the successful completion of the Communication and Conflict Management Training

Ms. Willner's second two-day workshop focused on “Communication and Conflict Resolution”, with participants learning different conflict resolution methods and how to adapt speech and body language accordingly. Ms. Willner is scheduled to offer another series of workshops covering “Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues” as well as “The Harvard Method” in October in Bangkok.

From June 17-18, six HR officers and GIZ programme directors from the region had the chance to learn how to “find the right person for the right job” from Ms. Irene Calmano, who is responsible for management position recruiting at GIZ GmbH worldwide. In the 2-day course on “Successful Recruitment and Selection for International Organizations and Companies”, participants practised their skills and techniques for conducting selection interviews, and discussed recruiting tips with the expert from Germany.



Lively debates on effective recruiting methods

Information on upcoming trainings is available at <http://thai-german-cooperation.info/training.html>.

## ASEAN Biocontrol Strengthens the Capacity of the National Trainer Pool for Food Security and Nutrition in Cambodia



The ASEAN Biocontrol Project and the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) jointly organized a three-day Refresher Training Course for the National Trainer Pool in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from April 23–25, 2013. The training is one of the project activities to support the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and its Strategic Plan of Action for Food Security (SPA-FS).

Aimed at strengthening the capacity of the National Trainer Pool for Food Security and Nutrition in Cambodia, the training introduced emerging topics in food security and nutrition such as climate change and social safety nets.

Additionally, the trainers were acquainted with the AIFS Framework, which is a joint approach for cooperation among the ASEAN member states in dealing with the food security issues in the region to ensure long-term food security and to improve the livelihoods of farmers. The AIFS Framework was adopted at the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in 2009.

The National Trainer Pool for Food Security and Nutrition, officially established in 2009, comprises members of

government, development partners, institutions, civil society and NGOs.

The Trainer Pool, which is managed by CARD, plays a vital role in strengthening human resource development in the field of food security and nutrition in Cambodia. Eighteen trainers from the Pool actively participated in the three-day training.

A representative from the Department of Agriculture, Lao PDR also attended to learn how the Trainer Pool functions and exchange experiences. The Trainer Pool plans to organize 12 training sessions at the national, sub-national and community levels before the end of 2013.

## Focal Points and Regional Biocontrol Experts Discuss Project Progress in Hanoi



On May 22, 2013, ASEAN Biocontrol organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Project Partner Meeting at Sofitel Plaza, Hanoi with support from the Plant Protection Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam. The purpose of the meeting, which was hosted by the Plant Protection Department, was to share an overview of project achievements and challenges, progress on the development of regional guidelines on BCA application, trade and use and the preliminary results of the Project Progress Review including the proposed project set-up of the second phase (2014–2017).

It also sought strategic guidance from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting, which followed the Project Partner Meeting. ASEAN Biocontrol also held back-to-back meetings of the two Regional BCA (biocontrol agents) Expert Groups at the same venue. The Regional BCA Expert Group on Application met from May 19-21 to discuss the development of the regional guideline on BCA application

and share country experiences and scientific evidence in plant protection with biological control.

Sequentially, the meeting of Regional BCA Expert Group on Regulation was organized from May 23-25. The experts held active discussions on botanical pest control products and the minimum requirements for the regional guideline on BCA regulation.

## Clean Air Project Supports Cities on Baseline and Roadside Data Monitoring

In the first phase of the project **“Clean Air for Smaller Cities in the ASEAN Region”**, which ran from 2009 to 2012, we found that smaller cities often lack air quality baseline data and roadside (hot spot) monitoring simply because they do not have monitoring equipment, laboratories, human resource capacity or an operational budget.



To tackle this problem, five portable fine dust (PM10, PM2.5, PM1) monitors have been purchased during the second phase of the project (2013 - 2015) to monitor baseline and hot spot data in the cities concerned. It is expected that the data will be used as a basis to develop the first draft Clean Air Plan for the cities.

To ensure a correct understanding of the equipment's use, the project organized regional training on the subject “How to use Portable Fine Dust Monitor for the Smaller Cities” at the Pollution Control Department in Bangkok from May 20 to 22.

The trainers provided instruction and demonstrated the functions of portable air quality monitoring devices to participants from Thailand, Laos, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

The project team created an online communication platform on a Yahoo! group named “grimm\_e107”. The participants will use this platform to share problems, questions and concerns regarding the use of the portable instrument in their respective cities with the expert providing input and advice accordingly.

## ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change (AFCC): Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security

Between May 2-3, 2013, Bangkok, The Regional Expert Forum on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security in ASEAN, jointly organized by the ASEAN Secretariat, FAO and GIZ, with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), was designed to support the “ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change (AFCC): Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security” in its future development.



The meeting was shaped by various interactive sessions that allowed for lively exchange among the 90 participating representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat and Member States and regional experts from FAO, GIZ, SDC and the ADB, among others.

Participants discussed such topics as ridge-river-reef approaches or Farmer Field Schools and the use of video as agricultural extension methods to promote climate resilient agriculture. The suggestions, jointly developed by the participating experts for the AFCC, have already been transmitted and adopted.



## SNRD Asia International Conference: “Production and Protection of Global Public Goods -Cooperation with the Private Sector”

Between May 6-9, 2013, Bangkok, the International Conference of the GIZ Sector Network Rural Development & Natural Resources (SNRD) Asia brought together some 140 GIZ experts from South, Southeast and East Asia and the Pacific Islands, partners from the Thai government, the ADB, NGOs as well as private sector collaborators BASF, Bayer CropScience, and the Thai Fruit and Vegetable Producer Association.



The participating experts discussed the inclusive production and protection of Global Public Goods (GPG) and the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Dr. Inge Kaul (Hertie School of Governance) joined the conference through video, giving the keynote speech and encouraging the audience to “walk the talk”. As an example of what public and private partnerships for the inclusive production of GPG can look like, Mr. Surasak Simtrakul (Managing Director of Farm Channel TV station) and Dr. Pakorn Suchare (BASF) presented a farm channel for small-scale farmers ([www.farmchannelthailand.com](http://www.farmchannelthailand.com)).



## RIICE in Thailand

RIICE – Remote Sensing-based Information and Insurance for Crops in Emerging Economies joined up with the Center for Advanced Studies in Agriculture and Food (CASAF) on May 20-21 to host a workshop titled ***“Crop Insurance in Thailand: Issues, Challenges and Future Research”***. Held at the Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, the workshop offered educational and research opportunities for researchers and students new to crop insurance issues, as well as other crop insurance stakeholders, general insurance companies and government representatives.



The workshop included a series of presentations from crop insurance experts. While Mr. Matthias Bickel, project director of the ASEAN Biocontrol Project, gave the opening remarks, Dr. Andy Nelson (IRRI) presented RIICE's topic of ***“How to Deliver Timely Rice Production and Damage Information: A Demonstration of Remote Sensing and Crop Modeling Technology”***.

The participants shared their knowledge on crop insurance and discussed issues and challenges for Thailand and resulting potential research topics. The workshop allowed for strengthening of the cooperative network and partnership among crop insurance key stakeholders, a prerequisite for the systematic management and development of crop insurance products.

RIICE is a public-private partnership which aims to reduce the vulnerability of rice smallholder farmers in low-income countries in Asia and beyond. The project provides risk management mechanisms for smallholder farmers through the use of remote sensing-based insurance mechanisms. It's funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the German Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ).

RIICE is a key component of the Strategic Alliance (DeveloPPP.de) between Allianz SE and GIZ. The parties making up the RIICE partnership are Allianz Reinsurance, an arm of the international insurance group; the German development organization GIZ; the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI); sarmap, a Swiss-based remote sensing company and SDC.





## Successful German Day hosted as part of “Renewable Energy Asia” trade show

On June 6, 2013, the German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC), the Project Development Programme (PDP) of GIZ and representatives of the German export initiatives for renewable energy and energy efficiency facilitated a “German Companies Presentation Day” at the Renewable Energy Asia 2013 in Bangkok. Companies such as Linuo Ritter International, Schletter, Reinert-Ritz and LEM Software successfully presented their products and services to participants in the fair.



**The audience at the German Pavilion shows great interest in German products and services**

The event took place at the German Pavilion, which was hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology (BMWi) and offered German companies the chance to present themselves under one roof, thus creating greater visibility for the “renewables – Made in Germany” and “Energy Efficiency made in Germany” initiatives. On this occasion, the Chargè d’Affaires of the German Embassy, Dr. Ingo Winkelmann, also hosted a reception and introduced the German companies present at the booth.

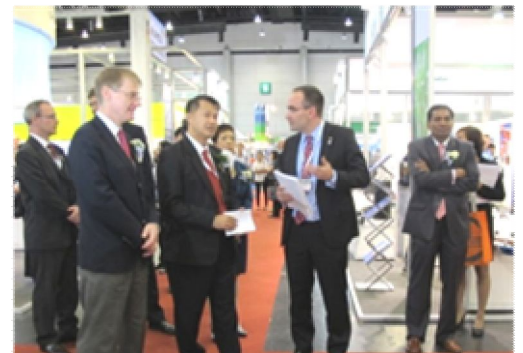
This year, 22 German companies represented themselves at the fair, adding up to one third of all exhibitors in the field of renewable energies at one of Asia’s largest showcases for renewable energy technologies. This illustrates the potential German companies see in South-East Asia for biogas, biomass, photovoltaic, wind and solar thermal energies and also demonstrates the significance of German technology in the region.

To support this opportunity for business cooperation, GTCC and GIZ are jointly implementing BMWi’s renewable energy and energy efficiency business support activities in the region. GTCC demonstrated its expertise and organized business meetings for the German companies at the fair. This year, products and services in the biogas sector were of particular interest to Thai investors, reflecting a recent decision by the National Energy Policy Council (NEPC) to promote biogas from energy crops. The NEPC is promoting a feed-in tariff (FiT) of 4.5 Baht (11.24 €Cent) per kWh for plants up to 1MW in size.

According to the NEPC, Napier Grass in particular will be used as single feedstock, thus creating a need for research and development since this energy crop has not been used without additional substrates before.

In parallel with the fair, the Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment (JGSEE) hosted the international conference “Renewable Energy Asia 2013 - New Opportunities in the ASEAN Community”. Thomas Chrometzka, Director, Renewable Energy of GIZ Thailand, presented the community-based biomass project currently supported by GIZ at the event.

In this project, the cooperation of German and Thai companies and stakeholders is being facilitated to implement a 1MW biomass project in a rural community using Napier Grass as feedstock, demonstrating the feasibility of a business model that integrates the community. The audience showed great interest in the project and critically evaluated the proposal presented.



**Dr. Twarath Sutabutr, Deputy Director General of the Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency (DEDE) visiting the German Pavilion**

## Energy Management Workshop raises awareness for energy efficiency solutions



The primary goal of the **“Efficiency from Germany”** campaign facilitated by GIZ and GTCC is to support the realization of projects that demonstrate successful business cooperation between Thai and German companies in the field of energy efficiency. The expert workshop **“Tapping of Energy and Cost Savings through Energy Data Management and Energy Monitoring: Low- and Medium-Invest Opportunities”** held on May 16-17 in Bangkok, focused on presenting a new contracting model to representatives of Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) in Thailand, as well as on creating interest in the cooperation with the German service provider Envidatec.

Today, ESCOs in Thailand invest in energy saving measures which pay off via generated savings. ESCOs usually provide financing for technical equipment for their customers with whom they generally have a long-term contract.

Through the cooperation with and the use of specialized software, Thai ESCOs will be enabled to develop an **“energy saving business model”** especially for hotels, commercial buildings and industrial objects. The workshop aimed to encourage ESCOs to implement energy management systems according to ISO 50001. This includes not just certification but also hardware and

software required for reliable data analyses. By integrating professional energy management systems, ESCOs are able to provide energy savings in the range of 1-5% with non-investment solutions and >10% with investment solutions.

Using the monitoring equipment that specialized German companies have to offer will enable ESCOs to prove that energy savings are achieved with greater accuracy, thus also demonstrating the amount of money the hotel, hospital or other customers have saved on energy costs.

**Documentation from the workshop is available at** [http://thai-german-cooperation.info/news/20130517\\_pdp\\_workshop.html](http://thai-german-cooperation.info/news/20130517_pdp_workshop.html).

## TGP-EEDP Supports the Standard Offer Programme to Provide Financial Incentives for SMEs



“Standard Offer Programme: SOP” is an approach under the financial provisions to encourage energy efficiency among SMEs with limited resources (both financial and in terms of manpower) in the building and industrial sectors. If implemented, SOP will encourage business operators to actively invest in energy efficiency, resulting in energy consumption reduction in small buildings and factories by 5,800 ktoe, based on the assumptions in the 20-year Energy Efficiency Development Plan.

More than 150 representatives of government agencies and private companies took part in the seminar.

On June 18, 2013, the Energy Policy and Planning Office (EPPO) and GIZ held a seminar titled “Standard Offer Programme”.

The seminar is an activity under the Thai-German Programme on Energy Efficiency Development Plan (TGP-EEDP) to support the implementation of the 20-year Energy Efficiency Development Plan, which aims to reduce energy intensity by 25% in 2030.

The Programme invited international experts to present guidelines, share experiences and lessons-learned on SOP implementation in other countries, including the United States, Denmark and South Africa.

The seminar to disseminate information on SOP benefited every party, particularly the EPPO. As the agency responsible for energy efficiency policy formulation, the EPPO has to review appropriate measures, implementation approaches, compensation rate, criteria for subsidy and energy savings measurement methods.

## Merck and GIZ Celebrate Successful Chemical Waste Management Program in Southeast Asia



On 3 May 2013, Merck and GIZ announced the conclusion of its three-year alliance for sustainable and environmentally friendly management of chemical waste in Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

The goal of the Alliance was to build capacities for safe and environmentally sound management of chemical waste, establish a system of retrologistics in which used containers are returned to the original provider, and decrease the health hazards associated with chemical waste. The event was also an opportunity to launch a washing station for cleaning empty bottles in Jakarta, Indonesia. At least 150 enterprises, located in the industrial district Jababeka, will have access to the new washing installation.

The three-year project started in 2009 when the Merck Group and GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) joined forces. During the

program, an average of four to five tons of new hazardous chemical waste was disposed of in Thailand, while 21 tons of waste was disposed of in the Philippines—all in compliance with local regulations and highest standards for environmental sustainability.

Also as a result of the collaboration, more than 1000 representatives of governmental authorities and over 2000 users of chemicals in each country were trained on the safe management of chemical products. Training materials and recommendations have been handed out to maintain the initiative for continued sustainable chemical waste management.

Due to the program, there are more qualified services in the waste sector in each of the involved countries; the enforcement, auditory and training capacities in each country have improved and more users manage and dispose their chemicals in an environmentally sound way.



## National Good Agricultural Practices Lao PDR (Lao GAP) Project



Between June 18 and 22, 2013, the Thailand International Development Agency (TICA), the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, Office of Agricultural Research and Development Area 5 and German International Cooperation (GIZ) jointly organized the first study trip to Thailand for auditor interns of the National Good Agricultural Practices of Lao PDR (Lao GAP) project.

Fifteen academics and officials from the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR took part in the study trip, which is part of the National Good Agricultural Practices (Lao GAP) project under Lao-Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation.

The trip was designed to enhance knowledge and understanding of GAP assessment and certification process among Laotian auditor interns through observing actual case studies as well as exchanging information with Thai auditors with considerable experience in auditing and assessment.

The participants also visited GAP certified farms in Suphanburi, Ayutthaya and Chainat provinces to talk with Thai farmers who focus on all stages of production to ensure food safety for consumers and thus earn international recognition.

In addition, participants were able to observe the processes at product distribution markets including the Talad Thai market and a Macro supermarket as well as fruits and vegetable packaging factories for the domestic and export markets. These visits enabled them to witness the entire cycle of GAP products from production to the consumer.

This group of Lao GAP auditor interns has thus acquired experience from both theoretical training and field trips in Thailand and will be able to adapt the theory into practice as they become professional auditors responsible for developing Lao GAP's assessment and certification system in preparation for membership of the AEC.

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Pictures are taken by members of the programme

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#### **Programme and projects funded by Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development**

Energy-Efficiency in Transport in ASEAN  
Sustainable Urban Transport Project in Asia  
Clean Air for Smaller Cities  
Sustainable Port Development  
ASEAN Biocontrol for Sustainable Agri-food Systems  
ASEAN Food Standards  
Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: the Urban Nexus  
Trilateral Cooperation Programme with Thailand and Malaysia  
Strengthening Capacity of Supreme Audit Institutions in ASEAN

#### **Programme and projects funded by Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety**

Climate Policy Project  
Mobilisation of national mitigation measures (NAMAs) to replace F-gases in refrigeration and insulation  
foam production  
Improved Flood and Drought Prevention through Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in Watershed  
Energy Efficiency Policy Master Plan  
Strategic Environmental Dialogue between Thailand and Germany

#### **Projects funded/ co-funded by the European Union**

Enhancing the Economics of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Thailand/ South-East Asia (ECO-BEST)  
Sustainable Consumption and Production Policy Project  
Greening Supply Chain in the Thai Auto and Automotive Parts Industries  
Green Public Procurement and Eco-Labeling Project

#### **Programme and projects funded by Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology**

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