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# Thailand IKI Cooperation Workshop 2023

## Summary Report



## Background

Since 2008 the Federal German Government supports international climate and biodiversity action through funding by the **International Climate Initiative (IKI)**.

Thai-German IKI cooperation was initiated 15 years ago and has continuously evolved into a broad range of projects advancing climate change and biodiversity protection in Thailand. To facilitate knowledge exchange and synergies among the numerous IKI implementing organisations and political stakeholders, IKI assigns so-called interface projects to operate the IKI Interface and host annual IKI cooperation meetings. For Thailand, this mandate currently lies with the Climate, Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Project, implemented by GIZ. This year's meeting is co-hosted by the Department of Climate Change and Environment (DCCE) and the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy & Planning (ONEP) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

## Thailand IKI Workshop 2023 Summary

This year's IKI Cooperation Workshop was held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 aiming to bring together IKI stakeholders from the partner and the implementing side to connect, learn from each other and strengthen cooperation. The panel discussion, by representatives of Thai and German governmental agencies, in the morning addressed the overview on key policy directions, opportunities and challenges in Thailand's green transition and to reflect on the contributions that IKI has already made and can make to this endeavor. In the afternoon, the IKI projects were invited to present their work in a two-minute pitch talk, share best-practices and exchange on common challenges and solutions. Building on these, the opportunity to showcase the project was provided during the Marketplace that ends the day in an exhibition-style networking format.



## Welcome and Warm-up

In this session, the moderators allowed all participants to introduce themselves, their projects, and organizations allowing all participants to familiarize themselves with other projects and stakeholders under the support of IKI. In addition, this session allowed participants to share their perspectives on how IKI projects contribute to a low carbon society and a sustainable future in Thailand.



## Opening and Setting the Scene

The session started with *Dr. Bernd Christiansen*, Food and Agriculture Counsellor of the Germany Embassy welcomed the participants to the Workshop, congratulated Thailand on the success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thailand Climate Action Conference (TCAC) and reaffirmed Germany's commitment to support Thailand to implement 2050/2065 pledge. Dr. Christiansen encouraged the Thai partners to continue the effort in translating the international commitments into strong national actions and emphasized that this workshop should provide a great opportunity for all participants to exchange and learn from each other.



Following the welcoming remark, keynote speeches from *Dr. Philipp Behrens*, Head of IKI Division of BMWK, *Dr. Phirun Saiyasitpanich*, Secretary-General of ONEP, and *Mr. Pavich Kesavawong*, Deputy Director-General of DCCE were delivered respectively.



Dr. Behrens expressed his appreciation to be part of the workshop. He stressed the importance of the first Global Stocktake results and urged all to be prepared for the assessment. Mr. Behrens reaffirmed Germany's commitment to become net zero GHG emission by 2045 while emphasizing the need to find a balance between environmental sustainability, energy security, reliability, and affordability.



Dr. Saiyasitpanich, expressed his gratitude to German representatives and all participants. He shared that with the shift of climate change mandate to DCCE, ONEP remains the national focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and committed on its role in leading biodiversity policy development for Thailand. Dr. Saisasitpanich shared key policy milestones on biodiversity including the formulation of the 5th National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP), driving the drafting of the first Biodiversity Act. He emphasized the readiness and commitment of ONEP and Thailand to continue working with Germany, through the IKI, in advancing biodiversity agenda and ended his remarks by underling that the collaboration with all stakeholders is the key to ensure effective implementation.



Mr. Kesavawong welcomed all participants to the 2023 IKI Workshop. He shared the official establishment of DCCE and that DCCE will be the forefront of Thailand's effort to combat climate change with its mandate covering mitigation and adaptation policy development, design of policy instruments, coordination for implementation of climate actions, and international cooperation. Mr. Kesavawong reaffirmed DCCE's commitment to strengthening Thailand's NDC and NAP process as well as supporting the sectoral agencies in delivering Thailand's climate pledge. His remarks ended by thanking Germany, the IKI implementers, and the governmental agencies for their continuous support.

## **Panel Discussion: “From policy to action and scale – challenges and best-practices for driving transformative change in Thailand”**

The panel discussion was moderated by Mr. Reinhold Elges, GIZ country director for Thailand with two rounds of questions. *Dr. Philipp Behrens*, Head of IKI Division of BMWK, *Dr. Ulf Jaeckel*, Head of European and International Adaptation to Climate Change Division of BMUV, *Dr. Phirun Saiyasitpanich*, Secretary-General of ONEP, and *Mr. Pavich Kesavawong*, Deputy Director-General of DCCE, and *Mr. Sarat Prakobchat*, Deputy Director-General of Energy Policy and Planning Office (EPPO) joined as the panelists.



In the first round, the Thai panelists were asked to share their perspectives on priorities and major challenges to move Thailand towards net zero, climate resilience, and nature-positive, as well as the push that is needed for the transformation. Mr. Prakobchat (EPPO) shared that under the new National Energy Plan (NEP), Thailand will shift its focus from energy security and affordability to energy efficiency and energy transition. The advanced energy storage technology and system designed for smart grid, and grid modernization are the key for energy transformation. Alternative sources of energy such as hydrogen will also be included in the new NEP. Appropriate investing scheme would be the key for the achievement. From DCCE, Mr. Kesavawong shared the common

perspective that the energy sector has always been the focus for GHG reduction. He shared that another sector that is important is the agriculture sector and that the national agenda like the Bio-, Circulate, and Green economic (BCG) model is the part of the solutions in driving Thailand's commitment. Apart from the mitigation part, Thailand is also working on increasing the total green areas to 55% by 2037 and exploring the carbon capture technologies to offset its inevitable GHG emissions. Mr. Kesavawong also shared that DCCE will continue to work on the Climate Change Act, addressing the Emission Trading Scheme and carbon credits instruments, and will intensify its engagement with all partners in all sectors both at international, national, and subnational level, particularly with the provincial data center on climate and biodiversity. Dr. Saiyasitpanich (ONEP) complimented that the key to driving the transformation towards a low carbon society is to set up clear targets for all stakeholders with reasonable indicators, design appropriate instruments to drive the implementation, and establish the online tracking system such as GHG stocktaking system, NDC tracking system, to adjust the planning. He also shared his perspective on biodiversity conservation that biodiversity finance would be the key for restoration while fair and equitable benefit sharing from biodiversity conservation needs to be clarified with stakeholders and local communities. ONEP is keen on working with Bank of Thailand and Securities Exchange Commission to incorporate biodiversity aspect into the green taxonomy development.

Dr. Behrens (BMWK) and Dr. Jaeckel (BMUV) shared their perspectives on how the IKI strategy follow in Thailand and the sectors that Germany would like to strengthen cooperation. Dr. Behrens emphasized that energy transition and decarbonization is the key to success of transformation. Germany has set the coal phase out target by 2030, is going through challenging processes, and can share experience with Thailand. He reaffirmed that the IKI will continue to support Thailand in mitigation, adaptation, and the protection of biodiversity as well as work with the private sector to support the transformation. The first round of the panel discussion ended with Dr. Jaeckel (BMUV) sharing his perspective that climate change is also an opportunity to promote sustainable consumption and production. He also shared his gratitude to see the IKI as the instrument to strengthen Thai - German cooperation and that Germany is willing to share experience and practices on adaptation frameworks with Thailand.



In the second round of the panel discussion, the Thai panelists were asked to share their perception on the effective instruments and support for national implementation as well as the practices that should evolve from the Thai – German cooperation. Dr. Saiyasitpanich (ONEP) started the discussion by sharing his appreciation to the setting up of the bilateral projects as this model allows Thailand to discuss closely with Germany and shape the support needs aligning international goals with domestic

policy processes. For biodiversity focused projects, a component on integrated pilot implementation is appreciated to ensure vertical integration and policy feedback. Dr. Saiyasitpanich also expressed gratitude on a support modality that allow for strengthening of national funding instruments, such as the ThaiCI, and allow for the engagement with subnational entities, while strengthening our national funding instruments to align with international standards



and technical criteria. For DCCE, Mr. Kesavawong (DCCE) shared that effective support for the transformation could include, for example, the coupling of policy design with pilot demonstration, engagement with the right partners with official mandates, enhancement of public-private partnership through a flagship project and strengthening the alignment of core climate policies and sectoral policies. He further shared that predictability of support and flexibility to adjust the support in accordance with the developments,

as well as accessing international expertise will enhance the country's capacities to correspond proactively. Good practices include, for example, the Thai Rice NAMA Project as it allows the country to designing financial instruments to promote the technical initiatives, and the Interface project that works closely with the focal points and strengthen inter-agency collaboration to promote integrated work models among government agencies. Mr. Prakobchat (EPPO) further added his admire to the reliable cooperation between Thailand and Germany through technical assistance, bringing in international expertise and hands-on experience, the approach to promote stakeholder inclusiveness which is the key for the transformation. He also shared that for the energy transition topic continuous policy dialogues and peer learning from different countries will allow



Thailand to exchange insights and challenges to fast-track policy implementation. One of the good examples was the Regional Energy Transition Dialogue organised by the Clean, Affordable and Secure Energy for Southeast Asia (CASE) project bringing together stakeholders with a similar role like EPPO to exchange insights. He added that for innovative technologies in the energy transformation, a pilot project with innovative business models and suitable design of financial instruments such as subsidies, loans, or public-private partnerships will showcase the success and allow for replication. Lastly, he mentioned that a cross-collaboration project like the Thai – German Cooperation on Energy, Mobility and Climate (TGC-EMC) will help ensuring that the policies are designed by considering a broader spectrum of implications and opportunities.

The panel discussion ended by Dr. Behrens (BMWK) sharing learning experience from the IKI cooperation worldwide that there is no need to re-invent the wheel but rather to focus on upscaling potential projects to create the momentum at the national level. He concluded that today's workshop is a platform to explore the potential and learn from other projects.



## IKI in a nutshell & IKI Interface Thailand

In this session, Ms. Juliane Reiber from Z-U-G presented a background, core elements, as well as different support modalities of the IKI which include the thematic call, country call, IKI small and medium grant. She also shared insights on IKI portfolio of 15 years cooperation with Thailand and deep dive into the IKI gender strategy, safeguard policy and independent complaint mechanism.

The session followed by the IKI Interface project Thailand shared by Ms. Lisa Hunsinger and Ms. Dararat Weerapong. The information on the Interface function which includes the facilitate bilateral exchanges between the two governments, technical inputs and analysis, key updates on Thailand development, the outreach to other IKI implementers, as well as the development of quarterly IKI Thailand Newsletter were given.



## IKI Project on Stage

In this session, the IKI projects were invited to present their work in a two-minute pitch talk, share best-practices and exchange on common challenges and solutions. The invitation was organized in a cluster basis as following:

- Net-zero and Energy Transition: 9 Projects
- Adaptation and Urban Settlement: 2 Projects
- Sustainable Production and Consumption & Circular Economy: 4 Projects
- Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation: 3 Projects

**Total: 18 Projects**

The presentation of the IKI projects can be found in GIZ Thailand website.



## IKI Marketplace

Building on the information from the previous session, the day ended with the invitation to all participants to join the exhibition-style networking to continue the exchange on project implementation. The session also provided the opportunity to showcase the project in the Marketplace format.

