ADB Regional Workshop
Strategies for Plastic Waste Data Collection and Management: Foundations for National and City Action Plans

CONCEPT NOTE

Date: 10 October
Time: 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Format: In Person and Online
Venue: Holiday Inn Bangkok Sukhumvit

Background
Robust monitoring of marine litter in the environment over time, assessments of waste leakage, and identifying sources of plastic pollution are key for evidence-based mitigation efforts and for tracking effectiveness of interventions to reduce plastic pollution and marine litter over time. However, while national monitoring efforts and programs exist in countries in Southeast Asia, data collection efforts are often fragmented and conducted on an ad hoc basis linked to one-off initiatives or development cooperation projects. It is currently almost impossible to compare plastic pollution project data within or across countries, as there is no coherence of methods and indicators used and findings are not collected and managed in a systematic way at national level. As plastic pollution is a transboundary issue, data comparability is important to address sources and track effective action at local, national, regional and global level.

Workshop Objectives
Recognizing these challenges, the Asian Development Bank, in collaboration with the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), is hosting a regional capacity building workshop: Strategies for Plastic Waste Data Collection and Management: Foundations for National and City Action Plans, on 10 October 2023, in Bangkok, Thailand. This one-day workshop is for government officials from Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam as part of the knowledge program of ADB’s Technical Assistance: Promoting Action on Plastic Pollution from Source to Sea in Asia and the Pacific and all COBSEA countries. Through a series of expert led presentations, case studies and group discussions the workshop aims to:

1. Provide an overview by experts of the tools and approaches available for monitoring and assessment of plastic pollution and marine litter for evidence-based action for countries to apply to their specific contexts.
2. Share examples by experts of how methods, tools and approaches have been applied in specific country contexts for participants to learn about best practices and challenges.
3. Share the perspectives of stakeholders at different levels, from governments to communities, to understand successes and capacity needs for data management, monitoring and evaluation of initiatives, and evidence-based policy making, as well as understand how development partners can support countries further.

Establishing national baselines and frameworks for regular monitoring and data management are a precursor to evaluation of policy effectiveness. Any intervention, whether a single-use plastic ban, extended producer responsibility scheme, or other initiative, should be underpinned by baseline data to prioritize effective action and inform continuous improvement.
**PROGRAM AGENDA** (as of 21 September 2023)

*Strategies for Plastic Waste Data Collection and Management: Foundations for National and City Action Plans*

Date: 10 October  
Venue: Holiday Inn Bangkok Sukhumvit

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<td>8:00–8:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00–9:20</td>
<td>Welcome Remarks and Preliminaries</td>
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|          | Introduction                                                            | Erin Sinogba  
Project and Knowledge Management Lead  
TA on Promoting Action on Plastic Pollution from Source to Sea in Asia and the Pacific  
ADB |
|          | Opening Remarks                                                          | Jay Roop  
Deputy Country Director  
Thailand Resident Mission  
ADB |
|          | Opening Remarks                                                          | Mahesh Pradhan  
Coordinator  
Secretariat of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)  
United Nations Environment Programme, Thailand |
|          | Training Overview                                                       | Erin Sinogba, ADB |
| 9:20–9:30| GROUP PHOTO                                                             |                                                                          |
| 9:30–10:30| SESSION 1: Overview of Approaches: Collecting Data Along the Plastic Value Chain | |
|          | Harmonizing monitoring of plastic pollution in the environment – key takeaways from 9 October workshop | Natalie Harms  
Lead, Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter Secretariat of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)  
United Nations Environment Programme, Thailand |
|          | Plastic Waste Data Collecting Approaches and Experiences                | Marie Gouttebroze  
Project Manager  
Waste and Energy Recovery Department  
SEURECA- Veolia |
|          | Facilitated Discussion                                                  |                                                                          |
| 10:30–10:45| COFFEE BREAK                                                          |                                                                          |
| 10:45–12:15| SESSION 2: Formal and Informal Waste Management: Working on the Ground and Overcoming Challenges | |
|          | Plastic Waste Data Collection: Current Practices, Key Challenges and Strategies | Prof. Visvanathan Chettiyappan  
Professor  
Mahidol University, Thailand |
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<td>12:15–13:15</td>
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<td>13:15–15:00</td>
<td>SESSION 3: National Plastic Data Management: Approaches to Action Plans</td>
<td>Heidi Savelli-Soderberg&lt;br&gt;Chief, a.i., Source to Sea Pollution Unit, Ecosystems Division UNEP&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Focus:</strong> National Source Inventories &amp; GPML Global Digital Platform and Data Hub&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Siddharth Hande&lt;br&gt;Founder and CEO Kabadiwalla Connect, India&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Focus:</strong> Scaling Up Plastic Waste Collection with Better Informal Sector Data: Case Study &amp; Lessons Learned&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Nguyen Thi Thu Trang&lt;br&gt;Co-Founder and Deputy Director Centre for Supporting Green Development (GreenHub), Hanoi, Viet Nam&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Focus:</strong> Developing a National Waste Data Platform: Experience and Recommendations</td>
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<td>15:00–15:30</td>
<td>COFFEE BREAK</td>
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<td>15:30–16:30</td>
<td>SESSION 4: Moving Forward: Addressing Needs, Building Opportunities, and Working with Partners</td>
<td>Rocky Guzman&lt;br&gt;International Governance, Policy, and Legal Consultant TA on Promoting Action on Plastic Pollution from Source to Sea in Asia and the Pacific ADB</td>
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TIME | ACTIVITY | SPEAKERS
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16:30–16:40 | Closing Remarks | James Baker  
Senior Circular Economy Specialist  
(Plastic Wastes)  
Climate Change and Sustainable  
Development Department  
ADB

17:00 | NETWORKING RECEPTION |

**Expert Informed Discussions**

This event also brings together leading experts who will participate in facilitated session discussions. They will provide insights and answer questions relevant to their areas of expertise. They include:

1. Yumi Nishikawa, WWF Plastic Smart Cities Lead (Asia)
2. Marilyn Mercado, WWF Plastic Policy Asia Coordinator
3. Raja Asvanon, Research Associate, Stockholm Environment Institute
5. Panate Manomaivibool, Assistant Professor, Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand

**Knowledge Partner: COBSEA**

The Twenty-fifth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM 25) of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) adopted *Regional Guidance on Harmonized National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes* to strengthen monitoring efforts based on individual country capacities in line with global best practice and international guidelines. COBSEA has also held a series of training sessions on marine litter monitoring methods at national and regional level and conducted baseline surveys in five countries in South-East Asia. *Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter: Methods for Comparable Data Collection to Prioritize and Evaluate Interventions*, is part of COBSEA’s ongoing efforts to build country capacity on data analysis to evaluate effectiveness of interventions, and to further harmonize monitoring efforts at regional level.

**Event Organizer: Seureca in consortium with DT Global**

Seureca is the Consulting Engineering and Strategic and Operational Assistance division of the Veolia Group. Striving for Ecological Transformation, they assist clients in a transition towards a more sustainable economy and a positive footprint. Seureca designs solutions adapted to today’s environmental challenges in the fields of Water, Energy, Waste Recovery and Recycling for industries, public authorities, as well as the tertiary sector.

DT Global is an international development consultancy based in the UK with 10 offices across the world. DT Global has partnered with communities, governments, aid organizations, and the private sector to develop engineered infrastructure projects, as well as the associated management and institutional arrangements to deliver public services and attract investment.