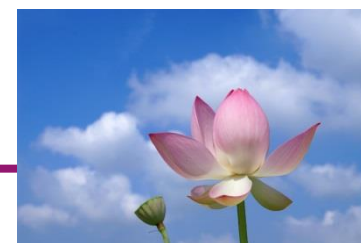


Towards Better Governance of Marine Plastic Pollution and Circular Economy in East and Southeast Asia



Dr. Yasuhiko Hotta, Director/Principal Policy Analyst
Sustainable Consumption and Production Area

Ms. Chochoe Devaporihartakula, Programme Manager
Bangkok Regional Centre

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

IGES's international contribution to this emerging policy agenda

- ◆ IGES: Regional Policy Think Tank on Sustainability Issues in Asia and the Pacific Region.
On Circular Economy and Marine Plastic Issues
- Supported G20 Environment and Energy Ministers Meeting Processes (2018–June 2019)
 1. Supported preparation of background papers
 2. Supported preparation of outcome documents
- G20 Resource Efficiency
 1. Supported finalization of G20 Resource Efficiency Roadmap and Chair's Summary
 2. Lead editor for G20 Report on Actions Against Marine Plastic Litter
- Contribution to G20 Summit-related processes
 - S20 for providing background on marine plastic litter issues
 - T20: Six Proposals for Future Policies for Circular Economy and Society
 - OECD Working Party on Resource Productivity (WPRPW)
- Lead author and editor of EU–ASEAN collaborative report *Circular Economy and Plastics: A Gap-Analysis in ASEAN Member States—Analysis conducted under the Enhanced Regional EU–ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI)* (October 2019)
- Marine Plastic Reduction Policy Support in ASEAN
 - **IGES Bangkok Regional Centre** is supporting National Action Plan development process



IGES's international contribution to this emerging policy agenda

❑ IGES Center Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET)

- Assist national and local governments in developing strategies/ action plans and their pilot implementation to reduce marine plastic from land-based sources
 - India – Holistic plastic waste management strategy and action plan for Hyderabad
 - Indonesia – National action plan for plastic waste reduction
 - Sri Lanka – National action plan for plastic waste reduction
- Regional dialogue, policy interventions and knowledge sharing
 - South Asia – development of a Roadmap for Sustainable Waste Management and Resource Circulation in South Asia, 2019–2030 with the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)
 - Asia Pacific – a policy report on Reducing Marine Plastic Pollution in Low and Middle Income Countries Adopting Land Based Plastic Waste Management Strategies and Policy Interventions (CCET/UNEP)

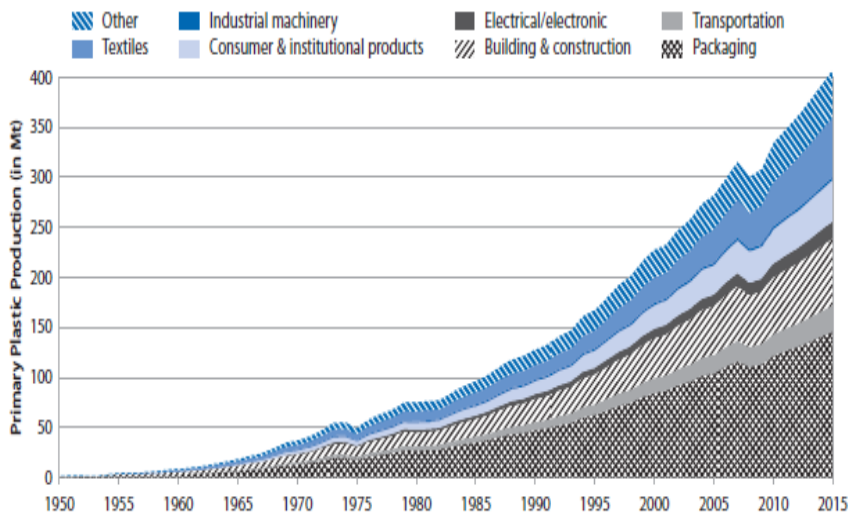
❑ Kitakyushu Urban Center (KUC)

- Supporting the government of Bangladesh to develop a strategy/action plan to reduce land based and marine pollution with a special focus on marine plastics as a consultant of the World Bank
- Supporting the government of Vietnam on the development of national and local action plans on marine plastic reduction through JAIF SDGs Frontrunner Cities Programme

Marine plastic pollution as an opportunity for promoting a circular economy and society

- ◆ Plastic pollution is caused by **lifestyles dependent on mass consumption and production**. Marine plastic pollution is mainly coming from **land-based sources**.
- ◆ Thus, **establishment of a circular economy and society** is a key approach for tackling plastic waste pollution. It is vital to have **stakeholder collaboration and science-based target setting and its follow-up**.

Figure 2.2. Global primary plastics production by sector, 1950 to 2015 (million tonnes)



Maldives

Photo by Premakumara Jagath Dickella GAMARALALAGE, IGES

Source: OECD (2018), Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics

Circular Economy and Plastics: A Gap-Analysis in ASEAN Member States-Analysis conducted under the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI)

1. Information and Knowledge Gap

- Absence of good quality data and knowledge both in upstream and downstream of plastic lifecycles/value-chains.

2. Policy and Governance Gap

- Unclear or overlapping mandates, roles and responsibilities at different levels of agencies of government
- Less equipped in policy packages and instruments to turn national strategies and plans into action
- Less experience in engagement with diverse stakeholders for policy making and implementation

3. Technical Capacity Gap

- Limited technical training
- Lack of infrastructure for preventing environmental leakage of plastics
- Limited capacity for R&D and innovation

4. Markets and Finance Gap

- Needs shared and accepted standards for recyclables
- Better access to market for recyclables
- Uncertainty in transition from market-driven recycling system to more formalized systems

Regional Initiatives for Addressing Plastic Pollution in ASEAN (+X) region (E-READI report)

1. Harmonized technical standards for plastics, recycled plastics and plastic products

- Quality standards for recycled polymers
- Performance standards for products made of recycled plastics.
- Definition of biodegradability, biomass-based plastics

2. Guidelines on circularity in plastics use

- Avoidance of plastics and selection of alternatives;
- Plastics choice optimization;
- Disposal, collection and sorting systems; and reuse or recycling systems;
- Based on understanding of the life-cycle of different types of plastics, more sustainable alternatives to plastics, technologies suitable for processing different types of plastics, requirements concerning sorting and cleaning, etc.

Regional Initiatives for Addressing Plastic Pollution in ASEAN (+X) region (E-READI report)

3. Phasing out of harmful additives

- Need to develop a regional approach to identify and substitute problematic plastic additives.

4. An ASEAN-wide network for research and innovation on plastics

- This would nurture the regional pool of expertise and stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Business models that reduce or eliminate single-use plastics or enable the use of reusable plastic items, as well as new ways of recycling plastics into products with high quality and use value.

5. ASEAN framework agreement on plastic pollution

- An ASEAN framework agreement on plastic pollution could be negotiated to create a common regional approach to a global issue on which the region serves as a hotspot. It could be made for ASEAN, ASEAN+3, or COBSEA member countries.

Regional stakeholder mapping (international initiatives)

Actors	Projects	Donors	Potential Activities	Engagement Strategy			
				Policy	Knowledge & Innovation	Capacity	Business
ADB	Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies (2019-2024)	ADB and other donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create inclusive livelihoods and business opportunities in sustainable tourism and fisheries; protect and restore coastal and marine ecosystems and key rivers; reduce land-based sources of marine pollution; and improve sustainability in port and coastal infrastructure development. (Target: Indonesia and Pacific Countries) 	✓	✓	✓	✓
GIZ	Rethinking plastics – circular economy solutions to marine litter (2019-2022)	EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports a transition towards sustainable consumption and production of plastic in East and Southeast Asia to contribute to a significant reduction of marine litter. (Target: China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) 	✓ (NAP)	✓	✓	✓
IDEA Consulting, IGES	Strengthening Capacity for Marine Debris Reduction in AMS (2019-2020)	JAIF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist formulation of National Action Plans. Develop tools for integrated land to sea policy approach and marine debris monitoring. Provide capacity building for SWM Activities. (Target: ASEAN Countries) 	✓ (NAP)	✓	✓	✓
IUCN	MARPLASTICCs (2017 – 3 Years)	SIDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote, enact and enforce legislation and other effective measures that contain and reduce marine plastic pollution. (Target: South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Thailand and Viet Nam) 	✓ (NAP)	✓	✓	✓
IUCN	Plastic Waste-Free Island (2019 – 3 Years)	NORAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce plastic leakage to the ocean to and repurpose waste into commercially viable products. (Target: Six Small Island Developing States (SIDS)) 	✓	✓	✓	✓
IUCN	Tackling marine plastics in Thailand (2018-2019)	Coca-Cola Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness and change behaviour towards SWM; and reduce marine plastic pollution and catalyse changes in local and national plastic waste management policies. (Target: Thailand) 	✓	✓	✓	✓
UN Environment, COBSEA	SEA Circular (2018-2022)	SIDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solve plastic pollution at source to reduce marine plastic litter and involve stakeholders throughout plastic value chain. (Target: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) 	✓ (RAP)	✓	✓	✓
World Bank	ProBLUE (2018-2022)	Canada, EU, France, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved Fisheries Governance; marine litter and pollution; sustainable development of key oceanic sectors such as tourism, maritime transport and off-shore renewable energy; and building government capacity to manage marine resources. (Target: Africa, East Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the South Asia) 	✓ (RAP)	✓	✓	✓
ERIA	Marine Plastic Litter Knowledge Centre	Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and data gathering and sharing. Capacity development for policy makers for the 3Rs. 	✓	✓	✓	

Recommendations

G20 Report on Actions Against Marine Plastic Litter (official report of G20 resource efficiency dialogue process compiled and edited by IGES) showed that **Approx. 2/3 of** bilateral or multilateral initiatives (**23 out of 35**) by G20 countries **concentrated in Southeast Asia.**

- Utilize these emerging opportunities not only about marine plastics but as a step for policy collaboration and coordination for circular economy in the region.
- OECD-style policy analysis and coordination function is necessary to mainstream circular economy in the region (ASEAN+3)
- ASEAN member states should take a lead and donors should collaborate to coordinate international efforts in the region.
- Build on existing efforts and regional initiatives/platforms to respond to country needs as well as explore synergies among stakeholders (ADB, GIZ, IDEA/IGES, IUCN, SWITCH Asia, UN Environment, COBSEA, WORLD Bank etc.) to avoid duplication of work.
- Identify issues and priorities to be translated into national/regional action plans that can be implementable among ASEAN countries given their different institutional settings and level of interests.
- Establish mechanisms to engage stakeholders across different sectors in the process with special emphasis on youth and their environmental curriculums.
- Identify entry point and champion to promote good examples as well as introduce Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) schemes for ASEAN countries.