

## 3RproMar and AMUSE Newsletter



### Updates on combatting marine debris within ASEAN

A service by GIZ project 3RproMar – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – protect marine environment and coral reefs and GIZ project AMUSE – ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement

Dear Readers,

I'm delighted to welcome all readers to this edition of our newsletter. This period marks an important milestone: the fifth session of the International Negotiating Committee (INC-5) to develop an internationally legal binding instrument to address plastic pollution, including its impact on the marine environment. The INC-5 convened from November 21 to December 1, 2024, at Busan, Republic of Korea, aims to establish a global agreement to reduce plastic pollution at every stage – production, design, use, and disposal – supported by financial mechanisms and technical assistance to ensure successful implementation worldwide.



Danh Serey  
Director General, General Directorate of  
Environmental Protection  
Ministry of Environment, Cambodia

Although INC-5 did not achieve the final global agreement, the negotiations marked significant progress by addressing critical issues such as production control, including capping volumes and promoting sustainable alternatives; plastic composition and the push for globally safer standards; waste management and recycling; microplastics; and extended producer responsibility. The fight against plastic pollution continues, with future negotiations planned to build on these efforts.

As a member of ASEAN, Cambodia demonstrated its unwavering commitment to ending plastic pollution globally. Several national initiatives are already in place to address solid waste and plastic pollution. The Policy on Municipal Solid Waste Management 2020-2030 and Cambodia's Circular Strategy for the Environment 2023-2028 prioritize "Clean" as one of the fundamental pillars that direct regulation, enforcement, and sustainable waste reduction.

The Ministry of Environment has launched vigorous campaigns including "Today I don't use a plastic bag"; and "Clean Cambodia! Khmer can do" is being cleaning solid and plastic waste along certain national roads, and will be fully upscale countrywide from January 2025. The goal is to have the entire country's national roads completely clean by 2025. The next stage of action will be the introduction of waste segregation system.

We hope this newsletter serves as a platform to share our journey, highlights best practices, and inspire you to take part in creating a cleaner and greener world for building a more sustainable future. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to environmental stewardship. We invite you to join us and I believe that if we work together, we can create a vibrant environment and peaceful community.

Let's work together to leave a lasting, positive impact on our planet!

**Warm regards,**

**Danh Serey**  
**Director General, General Directorate of Environmental Protection**  
**Ministry of Environment, Cambodia**

**Dear Readers,**

Welcome to the sixth 3RproMar and AMUSE Newsletter, which is also the last edition for this year. This edition of 3RproMar and AMUSE Newsletter is very prompt as the recent meeting of the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution including in the Marine Environment in Busan, South Korea has just concluded. As nations came together to finish the groundbreaking global plastic treaty, this meeting reinforced the urgent need for coordinated international action to tackle one of the most pressing environmental crises of our time. This month, countries negotiating an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, adjourned their fifth session with



Vinda Damayanti Ansjar  
Director of Solid Waste Reduction  
Ministry of Environment of the Republic  
Indonesia

agreement on a 'Chair's Text' that will serve as the starting point for negotiations at a resumed session in 2025, it is called as INC 5.2.

Indonesia's active participation in the meeting underscored the nation's crucial role in shaping the future of global efforts to combat plastic pollution. Indonesia has long been a key player in the fight against plastic pollution, a problem that severely affects to our daily lives, including tourism industries, small to medium fishery industries, and local communities as well as our ecosystems both terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

During the meeting, Indonesia called for an inclusive approach to the treaty, advocating for stronger support mechanisms to help developing nations, particularly in Southeast Asia, which face unique challenges in addressing plastic pollution. The country emphasized the importance of shared responsibility and highlighted the need for enhanced cooperation between nations to create a circular economy for plastics, ensuring that plastic pollution is lesser since we can easily reuse and recycle to the greatest extent possible.

Although we have not yet reached a desired outcome at this year's INC 5, it is essential that we send a clear message to the world that we are unwavering in our commitment to tackling this issue. We are eager to establishing safe zones and creating a strong convention that not only safeguards the environment and human health but also promotes eco-social benefits for sustainable development, ensuring a brighter future for generations to come. We are optimistic that an expecting agreement will be exist soon. Together with other ASEAN Member States, we aim to unite in agreeing on a globally binding plastic treaty that will protect our health, environment, and future from the growing threat of plastic pollution.

In this edition, you will be able to read more about updates and events by two GIZ projects: 3RproMar and AMUSE, in the topic of waste management. We hope this newsletter serves as a platform to share our journey, best practices, and inspire you for building a more sustainable future. Happy reading!

**Warm regards,**

**Vinda Damayanti Ansjar**  
**Director of Solid Waste Reduction**  
**Ministry of Environment of the Republic Indonesia**

#### **REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- » Leveraging Data and Insights for Waste Management in ASEAN
- » Advancing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in ASEAN: Regional Collaboration and Commitment
- » AMUSE Concludes the Regional Training Program

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- » Engaging Youth at the Third Lao National Urban Forum

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#### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### USEFUL LINKS

## Regional Activities

### Leveraging Data and Insights for Waste Management in ASEAN

Highlights from the 4th 3RproMar Webinar Series

The fourth webinar series of the 3RproMar project took place on 6 November 2024, focusing on Leveraging Data and Insights for Waste Management in ASEAN: The Role of Knowledge Platforms and Waste Databases. The event drew over 120 participants and aimed to enhance the capacity of national and local governments in ASEAN in developing and implementing data-driven waste management policies, aligning with sustainable development goals.

Suppajit Sukkunta from Thailand's Pollution Control Department (PCD) discussed their webpage, [thaimsw.pcd.go.th](http://thaimsw.pcd.go.th), launched in 2017. This platform provides critical data on waste generation, utilization, disposal, and facility information, aiding national and local stakeholders in waste management practices and progress tracking. Thailand's approach exemplifies the advantages of centralized data access for improving transparency, accountability, and sustainability.

Dome Boonyanurak, Co-Founder of GEPP SA-ARD Co., shared insights on their Digital Waste Platform, which assists companies in transitioning from waste disposal to waste management. He highlighted pilot projects that address logistical and behavioral challenges, such as deploying small electric vehicles for waste collection in Bangkok and partnering with communities to improve storage and collection efficiency. Trust-building through transparent data sharing was emphasized as a key element in these systems.



Leveraging Data and Insights for Waste Management in ASEAN: The Role of Knowledge Platforms and Waste Databases © GIZ

The next speaker, Adi Fajar Ramly, Junior Environmental Counselor at the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Indonesia, presented Indonesia's National Waste Management Information



System (SIPSN). He explained how the system operates and its role in assisting the Indonesian government in utilizing data for effective waste management.

From the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA), Francois Clayer presented the INCA-modeling tool for predicting plastic leakage, incorporating variables like population density and local socio-economic conditions. He demonstrated the tool's application in simulating plastic flows in catchments and rivers and estimating plastic residence times in land and aquatic ecosystems. Challenges in integrating global and local data sources and involving informal waste management sectors in model calibration were also discussed.

Steffen Blume, Project Manager for GIZ's Reducing Plastic Leakage into the Oceans project, explained the Waste Flow Diagram (WFD) system. This system analyzes waste streams, infrastructure, and leakage potential, and integrates with modelling tools to enhance municipal waste management systems. Successful applications in ASEAN countries were showcased, highlighting measurable reductions in waste leakage through interventions like improved collection systems and increased recycling.

Key outcomes of the webinar underscored the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing for effective waste management in ASEAN. Participants agreed on the need to prioritize data integrity, trust, and accessibility to establish sustainable waste management systems. The involvement of informal sectors and local authorities was recognized as crucial for addressing data collection gaps. Advanced tools such as GIZ's Waste Flow Diagram and NIVA's INCA-tool model were highlighted as transformative for predicting plastic leakage and improving waste management interventions.

## Advancing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in ASEAN: Regional Collaboration and Commitment

3RproMar and ERIA in support of EPR promotion in ASEAN

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy framework that assigns producers substantial responsibility—financial and/or physical—for managing the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products. Implemented in over 60 countries, including the Asia-Pacific region, EPR has been a cornerstone of waste management for two decades. ASEAN has recognised its significance in the ASEAN Regional Action Plan (RAP) for Combating Marine Debris, emphasising the need for knowledge sharing and implementation support to advance EPR among AMS. Globally, EPR has emerged as a key point in the discussions on the upcoming International-legally Binding Instrument on plastic pollution (ILBI), through the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) sessions. Following the recent INC-5 in Busan, Republic of Korea, INC-5.2, likely to convene in 2025, will be critical in defining actionable pathways within the ILBI framework. The ILBI is a promising framework for addressing the plastic waste crises including marine litter in the region, and it is essential that AMS are well-prepared to engage with it effectively.

Recognising the importance of EPR in the region, under the “3RproMar Regional Knowledge Partnership for Marine Litter Prevention in ASEAN,” the 3RproMar project has been partnering with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to install a dedicated EPR webpage as a knowledge source for lessons learnt across the ASEAN region and beyond. Additionally, both teams will get together to co-organise a series of activities focusing on EPR in 2025.

## Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Plastics and Packaging

On 4 February 2025, a webinar on Advancing EPR in ASEAN: Aligning National Efforts and Readiness with Global Commitments will be held, bringing a regional perspective from ERIA's work on EPR in the ASEAN region; as well as the Global Action Partnership for EPR (GAP for EPR) to offer a wider global outlook. The webinar aims to share insights and experiences from EPR initiatives in ASEAN and beyond, showcasing practical examples, successes, and challenges to inform and inspire regional action. It will emphasise the importance of knowledge sharing and collaboration on EPR in enhancing readiness for the implementation of the ILBI.

This webinar will be followed up by an in-person Extended Producer Responsibility Workshop for ASEAN Member States on 13 February 2025. The objectives of this webinar are to exchange updates regarding the development and implementation of EPR policies across the ASEAN region; share practices, insights, and resources that can support the effective implementation of EPR tailored to the socioeconomic conditions of the region; and explore how EPR policies, both established or emerging, can be translated into actions.

For more information and updates on our activities on EPR, please visit our jointly established webpage on EPR with ERIA on their Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris:

[Extended Producer Responsibility | RKC-MPD](#)

## AMUSE Concludes the Regional Training Program

A Learning Journey in Strengthening Waste Management and Sustainable Tourism in ASEAN and Beyond

The AMUSE project officially concluded the nine-module Training Program on Waste Management and Sustainable Tourism, marking a significant milestone in efforts to enhance waste management practices within the tourism sector across ASEAN and worldwide, from 5 July to 4 December 2024. The comprehensive nine-module sessions successfully brought together over 2,500 participants from diverse backgrounds, with a gender distribution of 44% male and 54% female. Twenty five learners completed all nine modules and were awarded a certificate of training completion, showcasing their commitment in strengthening the waste management and sustainable tourism practices.

## PEOPLE ENGAGED

2.561

PARTICIPANTS



## GENDER

54%

FEMALE

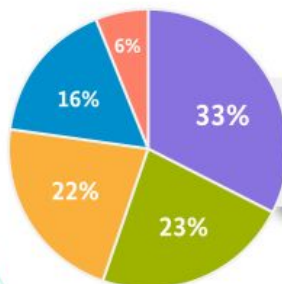
44%

MALE

## COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

45+

ASEAN, South Asia, East Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Europe, Oceania, the Middle East.



## ORGANISATIONS COVERED



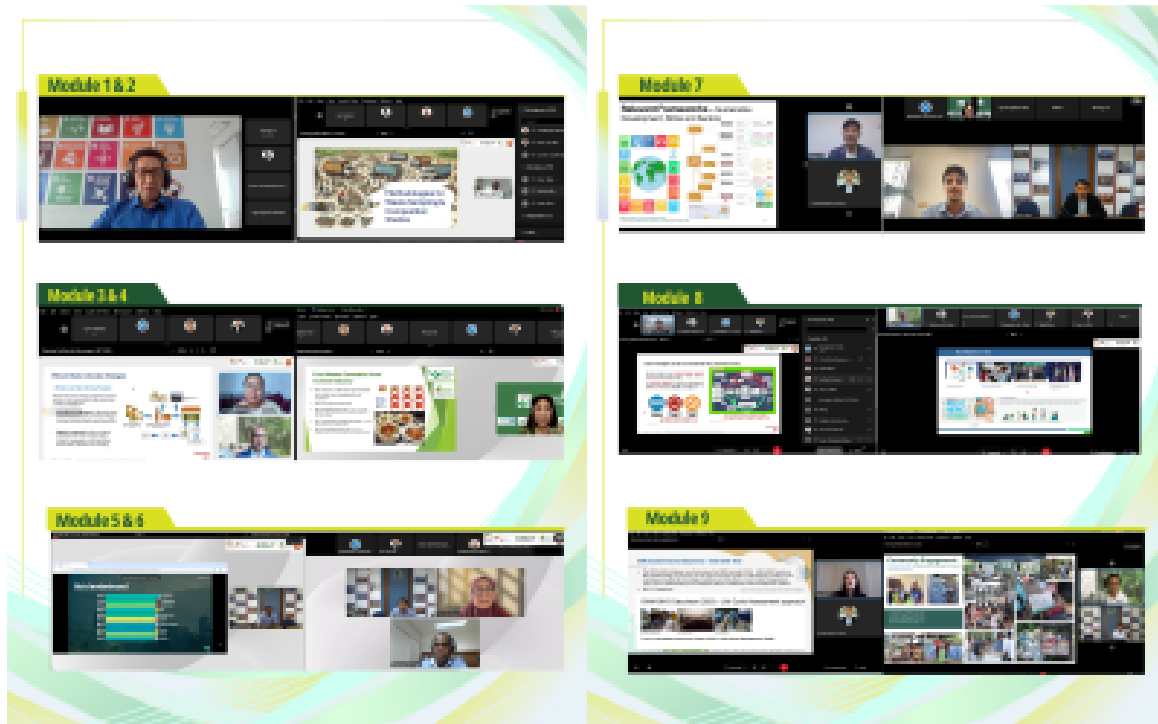
Key highlights of AMUSE Training Program © GIZ

The nine-module were highly relevant to bridge theory and practice, offering practical and actionable solutions to address pressing waste management challenges. The sessions were highly relevant to wide audience, benefiting policy makers, municipal/local authorities, private sector in tourism and hospitality industry, academia and research, practitioners, international development organisation, NGOs, and the general public. This inclusivity ensured a robust exchange of knowledge and practices among speakers and participants. Key topics included circular economy, waste management supply chains including sustainable packaging, plastic reduction and food waste management, private sector engagement & business model, as well as cross-cutting topics such as community engagement, awareness & behavioral change, and monitoring & evaluation.

“The course was insightful, providing both foundational principles and practical examples of what to measure and consider in real-life practice. I especially appreciated the focus on the hospitality and tourism industry, with ASEAN-specific examples and best practices,” said one of the academia participants from Indonesia.

“The training was successful, with real case scenarios. I can now follow up on the case studies

mentioned during the presentation and focus on raising public awareness and attracting investments,” said one of the representatives of a company from Tanzania.



Nine-module sessions of AMUSE Online Training Program © GIZ

The AMUSE Training Program has been a remarkable and enriching journey that provided the opportunity to learn and connect with experts from across Asia. This will foster collaboration, enhance skills, and inspire action toward more sustainable waste management practices in ASEAN and across the region.

“Learning from experts across Asia has been truly remarkable. The consistent number of participants from start to finish shows how useful the sessions were. Thank you for such rich and informative modules!” one of the participants from NGO in Cambodia said.

“Modules 1 to 9 were interesting and provided valuable knowledge. Moving forward, we can apply this to protect the environment and minimize harm. I suggest offering advanced programs in the future,” said one of participants from Tourism Federation in Myanmar.

“...I enjoyed the learning sessions and plan to apply this knowledge by sharing it on social media, with colleagues, and through training sessions for different stakeholders. Deep gratitude to the organizing team for providing such a great learning opportunity beyond the ASEAN region,” said the Government of Maharashtra, India.

This journey will undoubtedly inspire meaningful action, advancing waste management practices within the sustainable tourism sector. The German – ASEAN cooperation project, AMUSE, in collaboration with AIT RRC.AP, looks forward to seeing how these shared learnings will continue to positively impact communities and drive progress within ASEAN and beyond.

## Cambodia

Turning Tides: How Kratie Tackled Plastic Waste in the Mekong  
3RproMar's community-driven solutions for a cleaner marine environment



The 3RproMar Kratie Pilot, a cornerstone of our efforts to combat marine plastic pollution, has demonstrated significant results in Cambodia's Kratie Municipality. Between 2022 and 2024, this pilot project, implemented by The Asia Foundation with GIZ support, addressed critical waste management challenges to safeguard the Mekong River's ecosystem.

Through a comprehensive approach, the pilot introduced sustainable waste management systems. Key achievements include the development of a Solid Waste Management Plan (2023-2030), the establishment of school-based waste banks, and the launch of a community-managed recycling initiative on Koh Trung island. These efforts not just expanded waste collection coverage to underserved areas and encouraged source separation, but also in raised awareness among students, teachers, administrators and communities, ensuring plastics stay within the recycling loop.



3RproMar – Kratie Pilot / Credits: The Asia Foundation – Cambodia

A standout success is the Koh Trung waste management system. This island, once a significant source of plastic leakage into the Mekong, now boasts a locally operated system involving home composting and waste banks. The initiative directly engaged residents and local businesses, ensuring that solutions met the community's needs. Over 3.5 tons of recyclables have been diverted, generating revenue for community development. Additionally, innovative behavior change campaigns (No More Waste, it starts with you!) engaged over 2,000 households, fostering a culture of sustainability.

The pilot's impact is undeniable: annual plastic leakage into the Mekong was reduced by 82%, preventing an estimated 0.34 tons of plastic from reaching the marine environment each day, or 124 tons avoided in a year. These results underscore the power of collaboration between GIZ, local authorities, and communities to drive circular economy solutions.

Looking forward, the lessons from Kratie will inspire replication across ASEAN, amplifying our collective impact on reducing marine plastic pollution.

You can also visit YouTube to learn more about Kratie's success story: [No More Waste, it starts with you! គ្មានសំរាម ផ្ដើមចេញពីអ្នក! - YouTube](#)

## Wat Bo Village: A Model for Sustainable Tourism

AMUSE: Enhancing Cleanliness and Waste Management for Sustainable Tourism

The Wat Bo Village initiative, part of the AMUSE Project, is a collaboration between the business community and the Siem Reap Provincial Administration. Its goal is to create a sustainable, clean, and green community that celebrates cultural diversity and fosters a strong sense of belonging.

A shared vision has emerged: “Siem Reap Beyond the Temples – Wat Bo Village as a Top 3 Attraction in Siem Reap” (alongside Angkor Archaeological Park and Pub Street). To achieve this vision, efforts will focus on expanding green spaces, improving waste management, promoting sustainable practices among businesses and tourism operators, and cultivating a sense of community in this sustainable destination.



Street furniture made from recycled plastic in Wat Bo Village © GIZ

This initiative was officially launched on 20 September 2024, alongside the community's first event, the "Wat Bo Festival," which ran from 1 PM to 8 PM on 21-22 September. The festival transformed Street 26 in the Wat Bo Village into a vibrant space filled with activities, all without single-use plastic packaging. Attendees enjoyed a variety of food stalls featuring local delicacies, art performances by Khmer and international artists, live music, and even yoga sessions.



Wat Bo Festival on 21-22 September 2024 © GIZ

## Wat Bo Village: A Model for Sustainable Tourism

Enhancing sense of community, responsible tourism

The Water Festival is a significant cultural celebration in Cambodia, occurring from 14-16 November 2024. This year, Wat Bo Village proudly participated in the boat race for the first time, marking a



momentous occasion in our community's history. In the weeks leading up to the festival, spirited training sessions fostered unity and excitement among participants.

On race day, the riverside buzzed with joy as hundreds gathered to cheer for our Wat Bo boat, creating an electrifying atmosphere. This unforgettable experience not only strengthened community bonds but also deepened our sense of belonging.

Additionally, we embraced sustainable practices at the Wat Bo food booth, implementing measures to reduce single-use plastics.

This commitment to responsible tourism underscores our dedication to preserving our environment while celebrating our rich culture. By coming together for the festival, we enhanced our sense of community and promoted a shared responsibility for our beautiful surroundings.



Wat Bo Village at Siem Reap Water Festival © GIZ

## Wat Bo Village: A Model for Sustainable Tourism

### Building a Greener Future Together

The Wat Bo community is proud to announce its collaboration with the Siem Reap Provincial Administration and AMUSE to promote sustainable tourism in Siem Reap. This partnership highlights the importance of community-driven initiatives in transforming urban spaces into vibrant and sustainable tourist destinations.

At the heart of this collaboration is the desire to showcase Wat Bo Village as a model for sustainable tourism. Together with AMUSE, which focuses on advancing sustainable urban environments, and the Siem Reap Administration's dedicated support, the project has introduced innovative solutions that balance tourism growth with environmental responsibility.



Wat Bo Bamboo Street © GIZ

Initiatives in Wat Bo Village include the use of bamboo as a sustainable material for urban infrastructure and street furniture, emphasizing its eco-friendliness and aesthetic appeal. Local businesses have united to create eco-conscious products, offer plastic-free packaging, and participate in community events that promote zero-waste principles and local craftsmanship.

These efforts are part of a larger vision to make Wat Bo Village a vibrant hub of cultural exchange, featuring events that celebrate Cambodian traditions, arts, and culinary excellence. By working hand in hand, the Wat Bo community, local government, and AMUSE are shaping a future where tourism thrives sustainably, preserving the beauty and authenticity of Siem Reap for generations to come.

## Indonesia

### BMZ Visits 3RproMar Pilot Site in Manado City

Highlights from the “Plastic Waste Value Chain” pilot visit

Dr. David Tantow, Deputy Head of Southeast Asia at the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of the Federal Republic of Germany visited the pilot site of ASEAN-German cooperation project 3RproMar (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle to Protect Marine Environment and Coral Reefs) in Manado City on 13-15 November 2024.

The objective of the visit is to exchange knowledge and lesson learned between GIZ projects under solid waste management topic to actual condition of pilot project in coastal area with medium city; report the progress, opportunity, and challenges of pilot project in coastal - medium city in the focus of integrated solid waste management; and to engage and get feedback from local government of Manado City and Sulawesi Utara Province to increase the commitment in promoting the sustainability of GIZ 3RproMar activities in Manado City post pilot project.

During his visit, Mr. Tantow met Chairperson of Working Group on Integrated Waste Management and Circular Economy, the head of environmental agency Mr. Pontowisang Kakauhe, in the Office of Environmental Agency in Manado City. The implementation team presented the progress of pilot project to get feedback from Manado government.





Visit to school to learn about the awareness raising campaign to promote the use of tumblers to reduce plastic bottles  
© GIZ

Mr. Tantow also had the opportunity to visit and observe some activities that have been implemented by GIZ in Manado, such as the river trap—two outstretched booms with nets attached, which catch trash floating just below the water's surface; visit to school to learn about the awareness raising campaign to promote the use of tumblers to reduce plastic bottles, and enhance segregated waste collection in schools by Mrs. Amelia Tungka, private sector representative Daur Sinar Gemilang (DSG) and environment enthusiast; visit to Warehouse Recycle Center of DSG to learn about the efforts of the DSG's waste sorting site and the challenges of waste businesses; site visit to TPS3R Cempaka to support underserved communities and women empowerment, implemented by Manengkel Solidaritas; and also field visit to landfill to learn about landfill operation and management in Sumompo landfill.

Other initiatives that were presented including river trap program and No-Trash Triangle Initiative (NTTI) sorting areas and the challenges in remote areas and the funding opportunities of plastic credits, Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Program by Satu Tamba to learn how RVM works and attract the community, and introduction to the Mascot "Opa Can" as the promotor of behavior change campaign.



Site visit to TPS3R Cempaka to support underserved communities and women empowerment © GIZ

## A Collaborative Approach to Effective Solid Waste Management in Coastal Cities

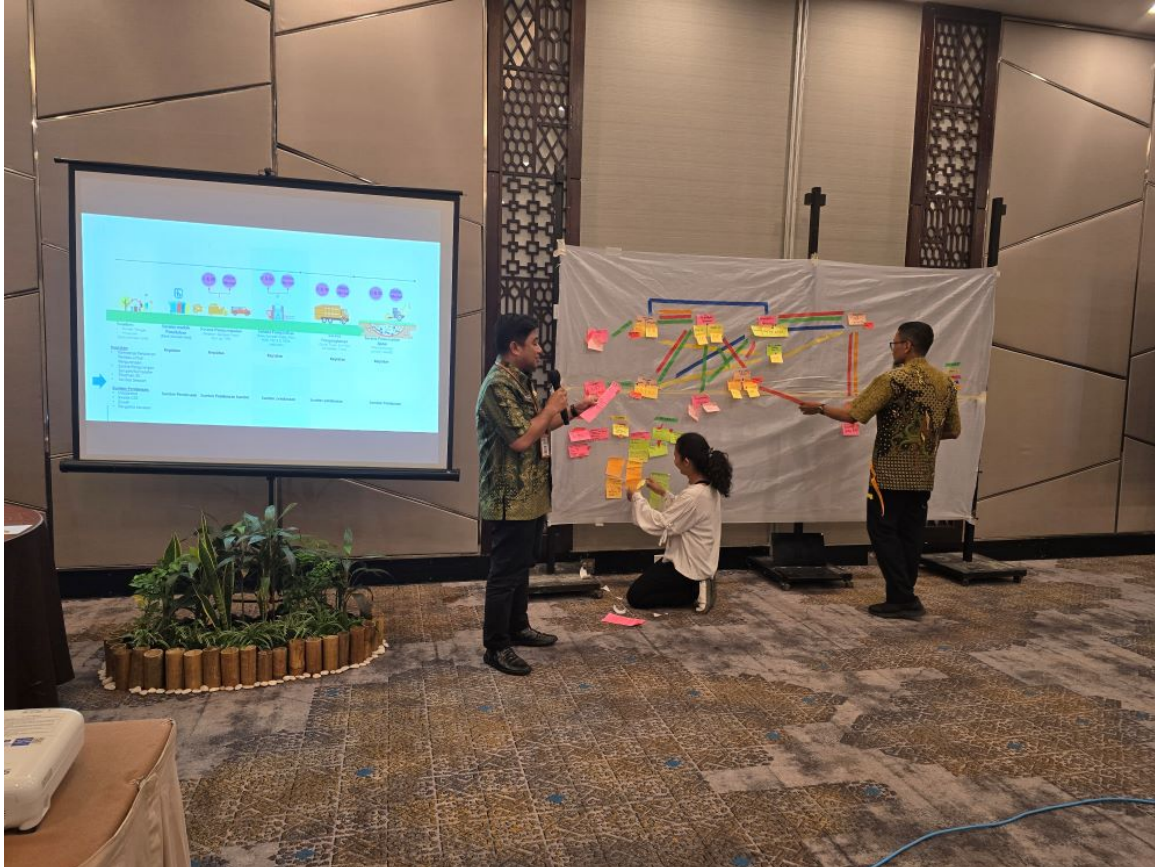
3RproMar supports the capacity development on the calculation for SWM handling cost in three coastal cities: Banjarmasin, Mataram, and Manado City

Plastic waste has become one of the most prevalent types of household waste, posing significant challenges to urban environments worldwide. While many plastics can be recycled and have value in the recycling market, the management of plastic waste often mirrors general waste handling processes, which are frequently inefficient. The value of recyclable plastics fluctuates, largely depending on the cost incurred by collectors and off-takers involved in retrieving and processing the materials. However, an even greater concern lies in the inadequate waste collection systems that fail to capture enough plastic waste for recycling.

This issue is compounded by limited financial contributions. Waste management is the responsibility of the local government. However, the provision of this service is not optimal due to limited allocation and availability of the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget, the capacity of local governments to provide services effectively, and community behavior that still needs to be improved. Resulting low collection rate to waste leakage and ultimately diminishing the available supply of materials for recycling. The inconsistency in waste supply impacts the price of recycled materials and hinders the overall effectiveness of the recycling industry.

To address these challenges and improve the collection of solid waste—particularly plastics—it is crucial for municipalities and city authorities to have the tools and knowledge necessary to assess the costs of waste management and establish appropriate waste retribution tariffs. A key step in this process was the introduction of Regulation No. 7/2021 (PERMENDAGRI 7/2021) by the Ministry of Home Affairs, which provides guidelines for calculating solid waste management (SWM) costs and establishing retribution fees.





Participants actively participate in the workshop in Mataram © GIZ

In line with this, a unique collaboration between APEKSI (Association of the Indonesia Municipalities), GIZ 3RproMar, and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry's Waste Handling Directorate and supported by SUPD I, Ministry of Home Affairs led to a series of data collection to capacity-building initiatives aimed at improving waste management practices in coastal cities. These efforts were part of a national program focused on reducing the leakage of plastic waste into the sea and ensuring more sustainable waste management practices in urban areas.

The program, sought to enhance the capabilities of local governments in calculating the proper fee for handling domestic waste from households and business sector. Prior to the FGD sessions, a rapid study was conducted to analyze the cities' waste management policies and map the waste flow. This study was then crosschecked during the FGD that was conducted in October 2024 for the three cities, to ensure accurate data from the field then it will be synthesized as module training. The training is planned to be conducted in February 2025 with sessions focused on the importance of properly managing plastic waste through investments in infrastructure and technology, which in turn informs the proper calculation of retribution fees that households and business sectors are required to pay.

The ultimate goal of this collaborative initiative is to strengthen waste management systems in cities and reduce plastic waste leakage into the environment. By empowering local governments with the tools to calculate handling costs and retribution tariffs, and fostering collaboration between various stakeholders, this project aims to create a more sustainable, circular economy for solid waste especially plastic waste in urban areas.

## Lao PDR

### Occupational Health and Safety Training for Informal Waste Pickers

AMUSE Empowers Waste Pickers in Vang Vieng

On 14 November 2024, an impactful Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Training was held at the

Vang Vieng landfill as part of the AMUSE project by GGGI Lao PDR in partnership with local authorities. The event aimed to provide informal waste pickers and landfill workers with important knowledge and practical skills to improve their safety and well-being.

Ms. Hatsady Khounsy, DG of UDAA Vang Vieng, welcomed 26 participants, mostly females, and delivered remarks. She underlined the necessity of safe workplace procedures and encouraged transition into formal employment at the upcoming Material Recovery Facility.

Ms. Thidalath Vongsayalath delivered interactive training on OHS fundamentals, personal protection equipment (PPE) usage, proper waste handling, and first aid. Group discussions indicated the crucial need for improved working conditions and more competitive recycling prices.

The attendees received PPE kits and committed to continue empowering this crucial community. This effort focuses on the common objective of developing safer, more sustainable waste management systems.



Occupational Health and Safety Training for Informal Waste Picker © GGGI Lao PDR

## The 4th PIU-PMU Meeting Convened This Month

Meeting Highlights Sustainable Waste Management Progress

On 4 December 2024, key stakeholders gathered at the Amari Vang Vieng Hotel for the 4th Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and Project Management Unit (PMU) meeting under the ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement (AMUSE) project. This event brought together 23 participants, including 12 women, representing local authorities, government agencies, and project partners.

The discussion investigated the project's accomplishments, problems, and impending milestones. Highlights included the successful deployment of waste-sorting programs, which resulted in 5,200 kg of recyclable materials and significant economic returns. Stakeholders also discussed organic waste management recommendations and planned next measures for improving this policy recommendation.

A situation analysis report on waste management in Vang Vieng offered important information about waste composition, gaps in current systems, and prospects for the circular economy. Organic waste, which accounts for 53% of total waste, has emerged as a top target for valorisation via composting



and biogas technology.

The session also included a proposed Solid Waste Management (SWM) strategy that encourages collaboration and aligns local efforts with national sustainability goals.



The 4th project implementation unit and project management unit meeting © GGGI Lao PDR

## Engaging Youth at the Third Lao National Urban Forum

The Third Lao National Urban Forum, organized by UN Habitat and Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT), commenced on Tuesday, 10 December at the National University of Laos. It brought together government officials, academia, development partners, civil society, private sector representatives, and youth to advance sustainable urban development in Lao PDR, under the theme “SDG Localization and Partnering with Youth for Achieving SDGs”. Ngampasong Muongmany, Minister of Public Works and Transport inaugurated the forum, emphasizing its significance in shaping Lao PDR’s urbanization trajectory. Keynote speakers included Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator for Lao PDR as well as Dr. Bjoern Surborg, GIZ Country Director for Lao PDR.

The Global Green Growth Institute in partnership with GIZ and other partners KOICA, World Bank and Vientiane City Office for Management and Services (VCOMS) also convened a session entitled Youth Empowerment and Waste to Resources at the Forum. Over 100 participants, mostly youths, joined the session. It focused on showcasing the role of youth in localizing SDGs and how youths can lead or participate in the waste to resource transition.

Featured presentations and testimonies highlighted the role of youth in mobilizing community and public participation in waste management programs, creating community awareness, and directly engaging in waste recycling initiatives through the waste recycling banks program, making it well aligned with this year’s theme, “SDG Localization: Partnering with Youth for Achieving SDGs.”

Moreover, lessons learned were shared and testimonies featured from participants mainly schools and youth volunteers who have been engaged in the waste to resource programs of GGGI in Vientiane and Vang Vieng through the two pioneer projects namely GIZ funded the ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement (AMUSE) and KOICA funded Wastewater and Solid Waste Treatment Capacity Building Project for City Environment Improvement in Lao PDR. They also highlighted some of the participation opportunities which will emerge from the upcoming



"Youth and Waste to Resource" at the Third Lao National Urban Forum © GGGI Lao PDR

## Philippines

### Promoting Circular Economy in Higher Education Institutions (HEI)

#### Pathways for CE Curriculum Integration

Following the Focus Group Discussions (FGD) held on August 2024, the Circular Connect Conference was organized on 5 November 2024 wherein the different pathways on how the HEIs can integrate Circular Economy (CE) in their curricula were presented.

The discussions with HEIs surfaced the need to formalize CE in the curriculum. As output, the participants came up with ways forward on what are the steps in achieving the CE integration in HEIs, how to do this in the most efficient way possible, who are the actors in this undertaking, and their respective roles in achieving this endeavour.

The event was graced by the Regional Director of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) - Western Visayas, Dr. Raul C. Alvarez, who expressed his support in the integration of Circular Economy in the curriculum and highlighted the important role of the HEIs in guiding the future leaders of the country. Dr. Alvarez encouraged the HEI representatives to use the event as a platform to work together on coming up with a workplan on how CE will be integrated in their curriculum. It was also expressed that the success of this integration would be most beneficial to the youth who will be change makers of the future.

The conference was also attended by Dr. Danebeth Narzoles, Supervising Education Program Specialist of CHED – Western Visayas, to guide the HEI representatives on the necessary guidelines to construct such workplan.



Participants at the Circular Connect Conference © GIZ

## Enabling Knowledge Transfer through Learning Exchange

3RproMar Organises a Knowledge Sharing Conference in Western Visayas

On 6 November 2024, the Knowledge Sharing Conference was conducted in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. Under the theme "Reducing Marine Litter: Waves of Learning and Sharing of Pilot Initiatives from the Western Visayas Region," the event highlighted the progress of 3RproMar's implementation and provided a platform for participants to share their experience and ideas to achieve a clean, zero-waste marine environment.

The conference included a Gallery Walk session wherein posters on 3RproMar activities and different initiatives relating to Circular Economy and Solid Waste Management were displayed. Initiatives in the 3RproMar pilot site of Guimaras Island, particularly the Plastik Anay 'Ta and Save the Marine Ecosystem (SaveME) campaigns were presented. The Plastik Anay 'Ta campaign included the use of blue bags and motorcycles for plastic waste collection, showcasing the 3RproMar efforts in the province to advance plastic waste management and marine litter prevention. Complimentary to the efforts of the province, Guimaras State University with the support of 3RproMar has launched the SaveME campaign which aims to implement a student-led community-based reduce, reuse, recycle (3R) approach to protect the marine environment.





Student Leader from Guimaras State University during the Gallery Walk Session © GIZ

Additionally, a learning visit was conducted the following day which showcased the grassroots involvement in plastic waste diversion through the Aling Tindera program, plastic waste upcycling of Subay Marketing and organic waste processing with Black Soldier Flies (BSF).



Learning Visits to BSF Farm (left) and Subay Marketing (right) © GIZ

## Charting a Greener, More Sustainable Path through Stronger SWM Policy

3RproMar supports Guimaras with the first Policy and Legal Compliance Gap Analysis (PLCGA) Workshop

From 6-8 November 2024, the Province of Guimaras held its inaugural Policy and Legal Compliance Gap Analysis (PLCGA) Workshop at the Guimaras Mountain Resort, to assess the adherence and existing gaps of the province and its five municipalities to Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (RA 9003) and its Implementing Rules and regulations (IRR), and other related policies such as Memorandum Circulars 2018-112 and 2020-147 of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and potentially, the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) and 3R/EPR policies. The workshop is part of an initiative to create a model ordinance addressing compliance gaps in RA 9003, integrating EPR and the National Plan of Action on Marine Litter (NPOA-ML), while anticipating the environmental challenges from the forthcoming Panay-Guimaras-Negros Island Bridges Project.

Key findings indicated the need for dedicated Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officers (MENROs) in most municipalities, as solid waste management (SWM) are currently managed by



municipal agricultural offices. Although all LGUs have environmental ordinances, updates are needed to fully align with and implement the provisions of RA 9003.

The workshop presented several recommendations, including strengthening grassroots enforcement through the integration of DILG's KALINISAN Programme that also involve women and youth, alongside RA 9003 efforts. To allocate resources efficiently, SWM initiatives can be aligned with other government-funded programmes to address budget gaps. The Department of Education (DepEd) must be included in Solid Waste Management Boards to engage the future generation in environmental efforts.

Other recommendations are consolidating efforts at the provincial level to attract private sector participation under the EPR Law, using cost-service analysis as a basis for setting SWM fees and escalating fines, and ensuring the inclusion of the Department of Tourism (DOT) in implementation of environmental codes across all LGUs, to integrate tourists in the province's SWM initiatives.



The Guimaras Environment and Natural Resources Office (GENRO) officially opening the PLCGA workshop © GIZ

## Thailand

### Capacity Development for Government and Private Sectors: Connecting Policy and Operations

Collaboration Between Waste and Tourism Sectors to Enhance Municipal Solid Waste Management in the Tourism Sector

AMUSE Thailand, in collaboration with the Environmental Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University (ERIC), organized the “Municipal Solid Waste Management in Tourism Sectors” Training from 17-20 November 2024 in Nan Province—one of AMUSE's model cities in Thailand.

#### Promoting Waste Separation at Source through Low Carbon Initiatives

At the iconic Wat Phumin in Nan Province, the AMUSE Project, together with ERIC and Project Management Unit (PMU) representatives - including the Pollution Control Department (PCD), Department of Climate Change and Environment (DCCE), and Department of Tourism (DOT) - joined forces with Yasothon Town Municipality, another AMUSE model city, for a study visit on 17

The visit focused on the weekend street market, where participants observed waste separation at the source, an integral part of Nan Town Municipality's "Low Carbon City" initiatives. These efforts encourage domestic and international tourists to separate their waste responsibly after enjoying their meals at the bustling market in front of Phumin Temple.



PMU members, ERIC and Yasothon Town Municipality observe waste separation practices at Nan's weekend street market, part of the town's "Low Carbon City" initiative © GIZ Thailand

**Interactive Training on municipality Solid Waste Management for waste and tourism sectors**  
18-20 November 2024, AMUSE Project and ERIC organized the Training on "Municipal Solid Waste Management in the tourism sector" at Nan Boutique Hotel, Phuphiang District, Nan Province, one of AMUSE's model cities.

A total of 28 participants (F: 19, M: 9) attended the training, including 11 representatives from the waste sector and 17 from the tourism sector. Representatives from Nan and Yasothon Town Municipalities as the AMUSE project's model cities also participated, sharing examples of best practices in waste management at the national level and within the service sector. The Mayor of Nan Town Municipality chaired the training and delivered opening remarks, emphasizing the critical importance of effective waste management in supporting the tourism sector.

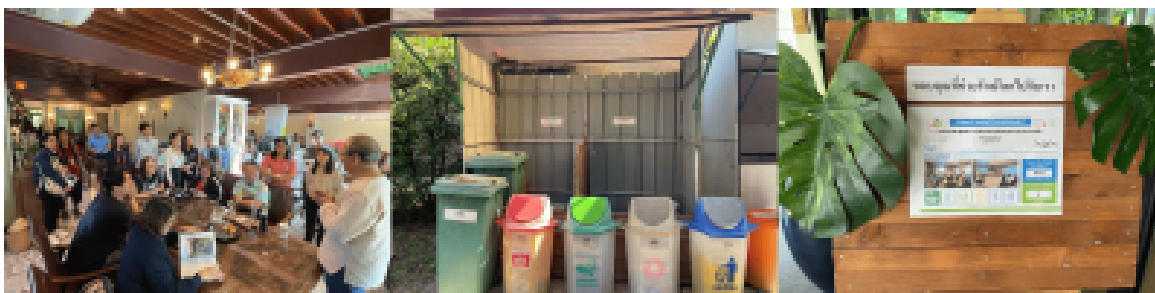


The Mayor of Nan Town Municipality chairs the opening ceremony of the workshop, while a representative from Yasothon Town Municipality presents examples of best practices in waste management within the tourism sector © Environmental Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University (ERIC), Thailand

Training activities designed by ERIC emphasized active participant engagement. The program fostered idea-sharing and collaboration among stakeholders in the waste and tourism sectors, spanning both public and private entities. As part of the training, participants conducted site visits to a Green Hotel, a low-carbon restaurant, and a café in Nan Province. These visits showcased best practices in managing domestic wastewater and waste within the tourism sector, as implemented by local entrepreneurs.



Interactive training methods designed by ERIC ensure a high level of engagement and participation from attendees throughout the training © Environmental Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University (ERIC), Thailand



(Left) A site visit to Erabica Café in Nan Province to observe best practices in domestic wastewater and waste management within the tourism sector, as implemented by the entrepreneur. (Middle, Right) Nan Boutique Hotel was selected as the training venue for its certification under the ASEAN Green Hotel Standard (2024–2026) and its practices in waste separation and minimizing single-use packaging during the training. © GIZ Thailand

## Viet Nam

### 3RproMar Viet Nam National Stakeholder Forum 2024

#### Journey Towards a Green Circular Economy

Within the framework of the Vietnam Waste and Recycling Expo 2024 and in collaboration with Rx Tradex, 3RproMar project in Vietnam organized the third National Stakeholder Forum on October 4th. The Forum aims to foster public-private cooperation, encourage stakeholder participation in waste management and circular economy, and contribute to net-zero emissions and environmental protection.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Nguyễn Mỹ Hằng, Head of the Department of Science, Technology, and International Cooperation at the Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, emphasized: “Many businesses are now more interested in implementing EPR through recycling, achieving impressive results. This is a positive signal; however, finding rational, effective, and sustainable recycling solutions remains a long journey ahead. Waste management requires the joint efforts of all sectors, localities, and communities. Together, we aim for a future where development not only brings economic prosperity but also preserves the environment and marine ecosystems.”





Stakeholders gathered at National Stakeholder Forum 2024 © GIZ

The workshop brought together over 70 representatives from government agencies, businesses, development organizations, and domestic and international NGOs. Participants had the opportunity to exchange experiences and propose solutions for transitioning to a circular economy. With three presentations and an in-depth discussion session, the workshop covered topics such as EPR implementation challenges and experiences, recommendations and proposals, potential tools, and the involvement of the informal sector.

As part of the workshop, delegates visited the Đa Phước Integrated Waste Management Facility—one of Ho Chi Minh City's largest waste treatment sites, which receives and processes over 6,000 tons of waste daily. At the site, participants learned about hygienic landfill technology and waste treatment processes that meet international standards.



Panel Discussion on informal sector and waste management with representatives from Soc Trang province, expert, organization, and business © Rx Tradex

Mr. Markus Spitzbart, Vietnam Component Project Manager of 3RproMar concluded that effective EPR implementation requires the collaboration and commitment of all stakeholders. A robust legal framework approved by relevant ministries is essential to bringing the framework to local levels, ensuring synchronized waste management, and enhancing the role and benefits of the informal sector.

The event served as a platform for stakeholders to discuss, share, and learn from international experiences and exemplary practices, providing valuable insights to address challenges in implementing EPR and supporting Vietnam's transition to a circular economy.



Participants visited Da Phuoc General Waste Management Facility © GIZ

## Inspiring Sustainable Tourism – Insights from Hoi An to Da Lat's consideration

AMUSE Exploring Innovative Reuse Practices to Foster Sustainable Tourism

From 4-5 December 2024 in Hoi An city, the conference “Promoting Reuse Practices Towards the Circular Economy in the Tourism Sector in Vietnam” has taken place with participation from GIZ AMUSE Vietnam representatives. The event brought together key stakeholders, including tourism businesses, environmental experts, and development partners, to discuss sustainable solutions and emphasize the critical role of reuse in creating a greener tourism industry.

A key highlight of the event was the development of the Vietnam Reuse Hub, a pioneering platform designed to advance knowledge, collaboration, and innovation in reuse among relevant stakeholders. The hub aims to empower businesses with resources, knowledge exchanges, and tools while fostering partnerships to scale sustainable practices across Vietnam. During the session, GIZ AMUSE Vietnam contributed significant insights and recommendations, such as creating a centralized knowledge hub, leveraging shared resources, connecting experts, and exchanging best practices from ongoing projects.





GIZ AMUSE representatives shared ideas and recommendations for sustainable tourism and Vietnam Reuse Hub © Pacific Environment

The conference also hosted in-depth discussions on reuse models within the tourism sector. Experts explored how startups and enterprises could adopt reuse-focused strategies to promote growth while enhancing sustainability. Highlighting local efforts, the Division of Natural Resource and Environment (DONRE), Hoi An City, shared challenges and lessons learned from implementing the Deposit Refund Model in Hoi An Ancient Town. Meanwhile, the Quang Nam Tourism Association presented success stories and obstacles encountered in reducing single-use plastics in tourism businesses.

Attendees also participated in field visits to innovative models in Hoi An, including a packaging-free store and a zero-waste learning centre. These on-site experiences highlighted practical reuse applications and offered valuable insights to develop scalable solutions for sustainable tourism. More importantly, the visits provided inspiration and actionable ideas for integrating good practices into Da Lat, the pilot site of the AMUSE project in Vietnam, while fostering potential partnerships for activities' implementation and impacts.



Participants visited innovative models (left to right): Diamond Rain water-refill facility; Cam Phu Community Tourism Village - community-based tourism model applying a Zero Waste approach. © Pacific Environment

## Upcoming Events

### ■ December 2024

Training on waste in school establishments in Soc Trang, Viet Nam

### ■ February 2025

4 February: Webinar on Advancing EPR in ASEAN: Aligning National Efforts and Readiness with Global Commitments

13 February: Extended Producer Responsibility Workshop for ASEAN Member States

### ■ March 2025

20 March: 6th PMU Meeting of AMUSE TH in Bangkok



\* Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year 2025!

Thank you for your valuable cooperation throughout this year. We look forward to closer collaboration in the coming year. Here's to continued success and collaboration!

GIZ 3RproMar and AMUSE

## Useful Links

### 3RproMar Project Page:

» <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/129342.html>

### AMUSE Project Page:

» <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/114732.html>

### ASEAN Environmental Hub:

» <https://environment.asean.org/>

### kNOwWaste Knowledge Platform:

» <https://knowwaste.net/>

### Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris:

» <https://rkcmpd-eria.org/>

### International Knowledge Hub Against Plastic Pollution:

» <https://ikhapp.org/>

### ASEAN Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform:

» <https://ce.acsdsd.org/>

### AMUSE's Knowledge Products:

» <https://bit.ly/AMUSEKnowledgeProduct>

### AMUSE Regional Training Program Information:

» <https://www.knowwaste.net/MarineDebris/News/1057>

### AMUSE Regional Training Program Registration:

» [Webex Registration Link](#)

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