



Issue No. 4 | July 2024

## 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

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we present to you the latest edition of this newsletter, which coincides with a celebration of World Environment Day and World Ocean Day. These days are poignant reminders of our collective responsibility to safeguard our planet against environmental threats, particularly waste pollution.

Indonesia, as a pivotal biodiversity hub within the ASEAN region, has demonstrated remarkable commitment to environmental preservation. The President Regulation Number 83 of 2018 exemplifies Indonesia's ambitious goal to reduce solid waste by 70% by 2025. This regulation has



Ir. Sigit Reliantoro, M.Sc.  
Director General of Pollution and  
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paved the way for strategic initiatives such as the Coastal Clean Up (CCU), a collaborative effort engaging diverse stakeholders, including local communities in Manado City, a key pilot site of the 3RproMar project.

The CCU not only embodies Indonesia's dedication to marine litter reduction but also underscores the importance of grassroots involvement and multi-stakeholder cooperation in achieving sustainable environmental outcomes. In this edition, you will be able to read more about our Coastal Clean Up event, which takes place in Manado.

We hope this newsletter serves as a platform to share our journey, best practices, and ignite your passion for building a more sustainable future. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to environmental stewardship.

**Warm regards,**

**Ir. Sigit Reliantoro, M.Sc.**

**Director General of Pollution and Environmental Damage Control  
Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia**

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- » Supporting the Accomplishment of ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris
- » The 2nd AMUSE Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting
- » Synergizing Efforts to Improve Regional Knowledge Platform in ASEAN
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- » ASEAN Workshop on Circular Economy (CE)

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## **Regional Activities**

### Facilitating Knowledge-Sharing on Just Transition and Extended

# Producer Responsibility in ASEAN

A Recap on 3RproMar Webinar Series

As part of our commitment to regional knowledge transfer, 3RproMar arranged a series of regional exchanges through a webinar series. The series kickstarted along with our 3rd Regional Workshop back in March 2024, taking on the topic of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, which was then followed by a webinar on Just Transition in May 2024 conducted with the PREVENT Waste Alliance and in collaboration with Yunus Environment Hub (YEH). The webinar was intended to enrich 3RproMar's ongoing study "Recommendations for a Just Transition in Waste Management and Circular Economy in the ASEAN Region," aimed at integrating just transition principles along the plastic value chain, fostering a more equitable and sustainable framework, and providing key recommendations for stakeholders for implementation.



3RproMar's Webinar on Just Transition © GIZ

In June 2024, we held a webinar on Brunei Darussalam's journey to plastic sustainability. Through collaborating with Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), this forum provided a platform for actors in circular economy, academe, and government representatives to share their best practices. Participants underlined the importance of an efficient ecosystem of waste recycling for Extended Producer Responsibility.

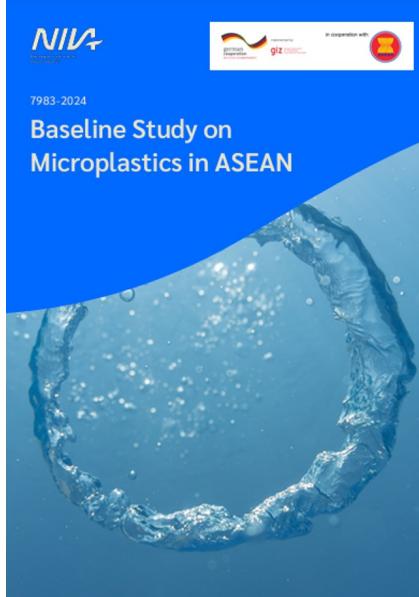
In August, 3RproMar will be organising a webinar with the World Bank, supported by Cyclos, designed to prepare ASEAN Member States for the INC Intersessional Expert Groups Meeting in August (Pre INC 5). One of these groups will focus on plastic products and their design for recyclability and reusability, and to provide policymakers with essential background information relevant to most AMS and their national circular economy agendas. On this occasion, the World Bank will present the findings of their single-use plastic policy study (topics relevant for INC 5) and topics of plastic circularity (in line with expert group 2's topics for INC 5), with 3RproMar to present on microplastics and our newly published Regional Baseline Study on Microplastics.

Follow our [social](#) to get future updates on the Webinar Series!

## Supporting ASEAN in the Accomplishment of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan (RAP) for Combating Marine Debris

3RproMar: A Regional Baseline Study on Microplastics

Microplastics threaten marine ecosystems and human health by persisting in the environment, especially harmful in



Southeast Asia with the marine environment being an essential lifeline in the region. As such, combatting microplastics continues to be a key component of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan (RAP) 2021-2025 for Combating Marine Debris.

As an extension of the existing GIZ 3RproMar-NIVA Partnership, we conducted a regional baseline study on microplastics, supporting the Action 9 of RAP to Conduct a Regional Study on Microplastics, including an investigation into its links to human health.

The study provides a concise report on existing sources, status, flows, monitoring methods, and policies that pertain to microplastics in the ASEAN region. Click [here](#) to read the

report and learn more about the potential mitigation measures against microplastic!

## The 2nd AMUSE Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

Consultations with ASEAN on AMUSE Progress Updates and Priorities



AMUSE PSC members at the 2nd PSC Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand © DCCE Thailand

The 2nd PSC Meeting of AMUSE was held on 28 May 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand, back-to-back with the 22nd Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC) and related meetings. The Meeting noted the progress of AMUSE implementation at both regional level (Output 1) and national level (Outputs 2 and 3) in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam. The PSC also agreed to synergize efforts among partners to integrate into one regional knowledge platform on Waste Management in the region.

## Synergizing Efforts to Improve Regional Knowledge Platform in ASEAN

AMUSE Consultations with ASEAN Member States on Regional Knowledge Platform for Waste Management Topic

On the sidelines of the 2nd PSC meetings, AMUSE also organised a workshop on Development of Regional Knowledge Platform on Waste Management in Tourism Sector on 30 May 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Workshop featured a panel discussion with key experts and gathered feedback from AWGSC on the draft concept of the knowledge platform, the knowledge management strategy for waste management in the tourism sector and AMUSE regional training program.

In this event, GIZ further introduced the AMUSE regional training program focus on waste management, circular economy, and sustainable tourism practices. This initiative is part of AMUSE

project's broader objective to enhance capacity in waste management and promote a circular economy in touristic cities of ASEAN.



Group discussion with AWGESG representatives on regional knowledge platform © GIZ

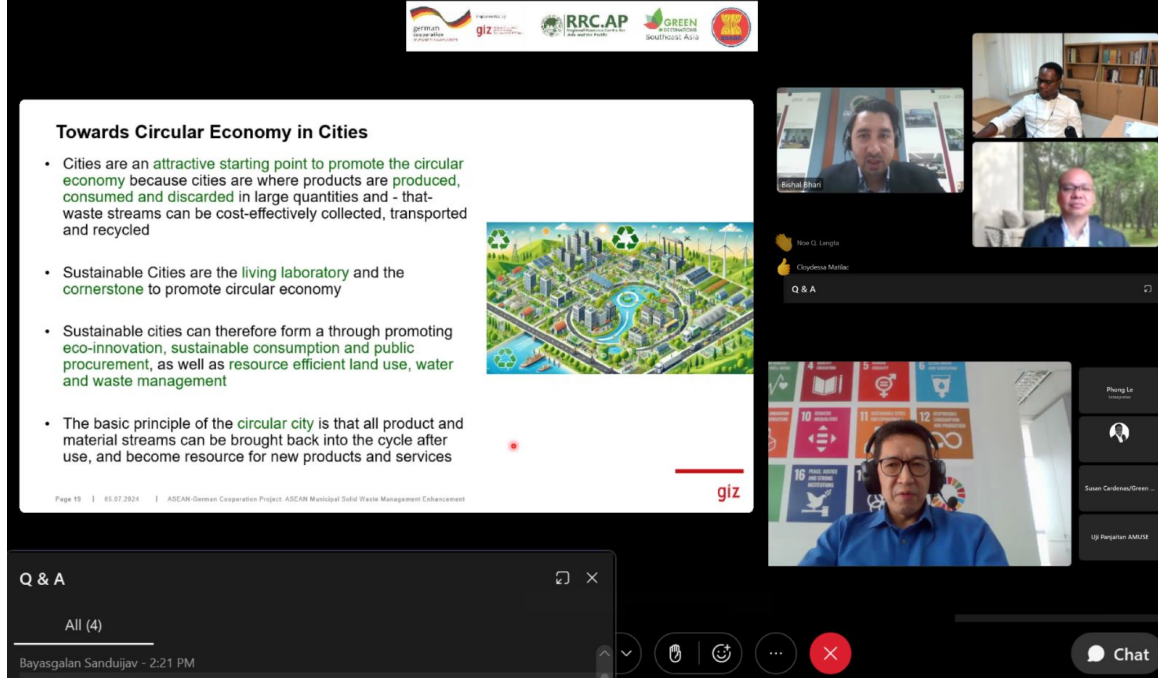
The Workshop was attended by 40 participants, including representatives of AWGESG representatives from seven ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Secretariat, and GIZ AMUSE team. Also in attendance were representatives of NGOs and experts from various organizations across the region, including the DESMA Center, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and Pimclick.

## First Module of the AMUSE Training Program

AMUSE Explores Circular Economy and Sustainability through Engaging Online Learning Experience

The first training module on "Introduction to Circular Economy and Sustainability" was successfully held on July 5, 2024, via the Webex platform. The high level of enthusiasm and interest from both public and private sectors was reflected in the impressive of over 350 participants, joining this online session from not only the 10 ASEAN countries but also from various parts of Asia, the EU, and Africa.

Before the training session, related reading materials were provided to help participants understand the topic and context of the training. During the 2-hour online session, participants explored the foundational principles of the circular economy, discussed significant challenges in waste management within the ASEAN region, and examined sustainable tourism practices. Competent speakers, Dr. Guilberto Borongan and Mr. Solomon K.M. Huno from the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT RRC.AP) provided valuable insights and shared successful case studies, highlighting innovative strategies to address waste management challenges.



Module 1 online training session of AMUSE Training Program © GIZ

The appeal of this training includes 9 key areas in a comprehensive and interactive modular structure to enhance the knowledge, skills, and capacities of public, private officials, as well as practitioners, in addressing waste management challenges, sustainable tourism practices, and promoting circular economy. The online delivery mode allows participants to join easily from anywhere, with engaging learning experiences such as quizzes, discussions, good practices with ASEAN focus, and certificates will be provided to participants who completed the nine-modules. This training program is free of charge and scheduled from July – November 2024. Don't miss the second module on “Understanding Waste Generation and Composition in Tourism Destinations” scheduled for 1 August 2024, from 2:00 PM – 04:30 PM. Register using the following link: [Webex Registration Link](#)

## ASEAN Workshop on Circular Economy (CE)

Advancing Sustainable Cooperation in the Region

The ASEAN Workshop on Circular Economy (CE) took place on 16 April 2024, in conjunction with the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2024 held in Brussels, Belgium. Hosted by GIZ-ASEAN Projects - ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement (AMUSE) and Reduce, Reuse, Recycle to Protect the Marine Environment (3RproMar) - the two-hour session was attended by 42 delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, and distinguished guests from European Union Countries. The workshop shed light on the current Circular Economy policies in ASEAN and EU.

The workshop highlighted progress in ASEAN's Circular Economy initiatives and specific efforts by Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam in establishing policies to encourage environmentally friendly goods and services. The discussion once again confirmed the importance of cooperation among AMS. Representatives were confident that through cooperation and support e.g. from European Union the implementation of innovative Circular Economy solutions and policies in the ASEAN region can be further enhanced.



The delegates at the ASEAN Workshop on Circular Economy (CE) in Brussels, Belgium © GIZ

## Cambodia

### Youth Engagement: The Foundation for a Greener and Sustainable Cambodia

3RproMar Cambodia Supports the Sustainathon 2024 to Inspire Young Innovators

The GIZ-implemented 3RproMar project recently supported the Sustainathon 2024 hosted by Heineken Cambodia. This landmark event brought together innovative minds to tackle pressing environmental challenges through a series of dynamic workshops, mentoring sessions, and competitions.

The Sustainathon attracted 28 diverse teams from various universities with a strong representation of female participants (66%) and featured several key activities designed to enhance participants' skills and knowledge in circular economy and sustainable practices:

1. **Workshops and Training Sessions:** Participants engaged in sessions on Circular Economy Principles, Digital Economy, Design Thinking, Business Model Development, and Presentation Skills. These sessions were led by industry experts and aimed at equipping teams with the necessary tools to develop and pitch their sustainable solutions effectively
2. **Mentorship and Team Building:** Through intensive mentoring sessions of personalized guidance from experienced mentors, the teams were able to refine their ideas and prepare for the final pitch.
3. **Final Pitch Competition:** The highlight of the event was the final pitch competition, where passionate students showcased their innovative projects aimed at reducing waste, promoting recycling, and fostering a circular economy in Cambodia. The atmosphere was vibrant and collaborative, with each team enthusiastically presenting their solutions to a panel of judges.



28 diverse student groups participated in the Sustainathon / Credits: Heineken Cambodia

The Sustainathon 2024 not only emphasizes the importance of collaboration between private companies and development projects but also demonstrated the potential of young innovators to drive change. Through this event, 3RproMar and Heineken Cambodia have set a benchmark for future initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable development in Cambodia.

## GIZ and Apsara Cut Down Plastic Waste in Angkor Archaeological Park

AMUSE: Inauguration of Water Purification System and Distribution of Reusable Water Bottles to Combat Plastic Waste

In a significant move towards environmental sustainability, the Apsara National Authority (ANA) in collaboration with the GIZ-implemented AMUSE project has launched an initiative to reduce plastic waste at the historic Banteay Srei Temple. On 24 May 2024, ANA and GIZ inaugurated a new water purification system at the temple, marking the beginning of a concerted effort to minimize plastic pollution in the Angkor area.

As part of this initiative, 50 reusable water bottles were distributed to tourism agents, staffs, and workers at Banteay Srei Temple. This effort aims to reduce the dependency on single-use plastic bottles by encouraging the use of refillable bottles with water from the newly installed purification stations. Mr. Chan Samnang, Manager of Tourism at ANA, emphasized the importance of this distribution, highlighting that it sets a precedent for officials at Banteay Srei to be role models in environmental stewardship.

Ms. Chhim Ratana, Head of Tourism at Banteay Srei, expressed her gratitude towards ANA and GIZ for their support in providing the reusable water bottles, reinforcing the shared vision of a plastic-free Cambodia. Tourists visiting Banteay Srei can refill their water bottles free of charge at the new purification stations, making sustainable tourism more accessible and practical.





Inauguration of water purification system at Banteay Srei Temple © GIZ

The initiative aligns with the broader goals of the Ministry of Environment's Circular Strategy on Environment (2023-2028), which seeks to reduce plastic consumption across the country. Environment Ministry spokesman Khvay Atitya praised the initiative, noting that it not only cuts down on plastic waste but also promotes healthier lifestyles and community hygiene.

By providing free water refills to tourists and locals alike, ANA and GIZ are setting a best practice for sustainable tourism and community-led environmental action. Through this collaboration, ANA and GIZ are demonstrating that with collective effort and strategic planning, it is possible to preserve the natural beauty of Cambodia's treasured sites while fostering a culture of environmental responsibility.

## Study Exchange between APSARA and InJourney Destination Management (IDM) on Sustainable Tourism Development and Environment Management

AMUSE Organizes Study Exchange in UNESCO World Heritage Site, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

From 24-28 June 2024, GIZ-AMUSE and IDM collaborated to organize a successful study exchange between APSARA, Angkor Enterprise, and IDM in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The focus of the study was on sustainable tourism development and environmental management, with a specific emphasis on waste management.

During the study exchange, participants shared knowledge and updated each other on best practices in waste management, sustainable tourism, and environmental protection. The topics covered various aspects such as solid waste management (including composting), water waste management, eco-friendly packaging, private sector engagement, community empowerment, and

other related sustainable tourism issues.

Seeing the importance of cooperation between the two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, APSARA and IDM have agreed to explore potential future collaborations aimed at promoting environmental practices in these tourist sites. Together, they are committed to making a positive impact on the environment while ensuring sustainable tourism practices.



Participants of the exchange visit © GIZ

## Indonesia

### Contributing to Cleaner Marine Ecosystem through the Coastal Clean Up in Manado

3RproMar: Cleaning the Beach as Part of World Environment Day Celebrations

On 12 July 2024, GIZ supported the Directorate of Coastal and Marine Pollution and Damage Control, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia to organize the Indonesia Coastal Clean-Up in Manado City. Indonesia Coastal Clean Up embodies the spirit to raise awareness of all stakeholders, supporting the implementation effort of Presidential Regulation 83/2018 concerning Marine Debris Management.

The Indonesia Coastal Clean Up stands as a commemoration of the World Environment Day, as a part of activity chain started on 5 June. The event successfully cleaned 610.75 kg of waste from the Karang Ria Beach through the collective efforts of over 200 participants.



Left: Sigit Reliantoro and Micler Lakat weighed the waste collected by participants © GIZ  
Right: Piyush Dhawan delivered opening remarks next to the "Opa Can" figure © GIZ

“We hope this activity will catalyze behavioral change among the community to reduce waste, eliminating local waste problems, prevent sea pollution, as well as preserving and ensuring sustainability of nature,” Director General of Pollution and Environmental Damage Control, Sigit Reliantoro said.

In the event, Piyush Dhawan, commission manager of the GIZ 3RproMar project, also handed over the COMPACTS “Community Behaviour and Plastic Action Strategy” document, which aimed to provide a framework and multi-stakeholder working plan to reduce land-based plastic waste leakage, to the Manado City Government.

Following that, the event introduced the newly launched mascot, Opa Can. Opa Can is depicted as a wise grandpa in the form of Coelacanth fish from Manado. With Opa Can, the community is expected to become more aware of the waste reduction campaign and increase the reduce, reuse, recycle (3R) practices.

Through the comprehensive approach, Manado is striving to create a better living for the future. May this event foster our passion to preserve our only ocean!

Check the media coverage by TVRI North Sulawesi [here](#).



Participants of Coastal Clean Up Manado © GIZ

# The Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry Share Challenges and Opportunities in EPR Implementation

3RproMar Co-organized the WCEF Accelerator Session

As global leaders gather for the annual World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF), the Global Action Partnership for EPR organised a WCEF Accelerator Session: Accelerating Extended Producers Responsibility Systems Worldwide. The activity is possible through an international partnership between GIZ, WWF and OECD and hosted by the PREVENT Waste Alliance.

Ana Suryana represented the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) to share the nation's perspective on EPR, focusing on the MoEF Regulation No. P.75/2019 (P75) on Roadmap Plan for Waste Reduction by Producers.

She highlighted the urgency for stronger regulation as the first challenge. As a ministerial regulation, P75 lacks the authority to coordinate cross-institutional cooperation in monitoring waste producers. Secondly, there is no threshold for product packaging waste, resulting in an extensive number of producers to be monitored.



Ana Suryana represented the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) to share the nation's perspective on EPR © GIZ

One unique opportunity for Indonesia is the flourishing informal sector where 80% of the value chain of plastic waste belongs to. Despite some negative stigma on waste collectors, waste pickers and waste banks reflect a strong social capital. With proper regulatory framework to capacitate these activities, Indonesia could seize the benefit of an at-source waste separation system that aligns with the characteristics of local people.

Moreover, the rapid growth of waste-management startups can capture and involve the younger generation in the waste management loop. Overall, Indonesia developed a comprehensive approach, combining top-down and bottom-up approach to engage with all the stakeholders, connecting the upstream and downstream of waste management chain.

Interested to dive deeper into the discussion? Click [here](#) to watch the full event.

# Waste-to-resource Program in Vang Vieng

## AMUSE: Waste Recycling Bin Handover and Awareness Campaign on Waste Sorting

In a significant stride towards supporting Vang Vieng's transformation into a greener, cleaner city, the AMUSE project has achieved a noteworthy milestone as 75 waste recycling bins were handed over and distributed to 75 tourist business entities such as restaurants, hotels, schools, and temples in the district. Through Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), waste recycling bins were designed, customized, delivered, and handed over in two batches to the district leaders in Vang Vieng. These events included training on source separation of waste and how to operate the bins for the beneficiaries and tourists.

In the first ceremony, 35 bins were distributed to 51 participants present, including representatives from the Lao PDR Government, GGGI, and various businesses. The event was co-chaired by Mr. Bounchanh Malavong, Mayor of Vang Vieng district, and Ms. Eva Diaz Ugena, Deputy Country Representative of GGGI Lao PDR. Ms. Ugena further highlighted the collective effort needed to foster sustainable practices for a sustainable future, envisioning a future where waste becomes a resource, and the environment thrives.



The Waste recycling bins handover ceremony in Vang Vieng District © GGGI

The second ceremony distributed the remaining 40 bins, attended by 25 participants. This event was co-chaired by Mr. Souviengthong Vongchampa, Deputy Mayor of Vang Vieng district, and Mr. George Asimwe, Head of the Waste Unit of GGGI Lao PDR.

Participating business entities expressed gratitude for the waste recycling bins, weigh scales, and other resources provided by the AMUSE project. They pledged their commitment to responsible waste management practices to contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable Vang Vieng. The operationalization and maintenance manual of the Waste Recycling Bank is detailed highlighting the benefits for businesses, necessary resources, materials, and steps involved in the collection, handling, selling, and reporting of recyclable materials.

The following training sessions emphasized the importance of waste segregation for environmental protection, energy conservation, and economic benefits. Participants learned about the impacts of improper waste disposal and a hands-on demonstration and practice waste sorting, including separating paper, plastic, glass, and cans for effective recycling. The events also introduced participants with off takers who showcased their businesses, and the prices range for the different

recyclable materials. In total, 76 participants attended the handover events, whereas about 514 tourists and community members indirectly participated in these outdoors events.

## A Door-to-door Monitoring and Training on Waste Recycling Bin

AMUSE: Assessing the progress of the Waste Recycling Bin (WRB) initiative in Vang Vieng

The WRB operational door-to-door training and monitoring event took place on 20-24 May 2024 in Vang Vieng District, Vientiane Province, Lao PDR conducted by GGGI and project partners. The monitoring was the first step in assessing the efficiency and performance of the 75 waste bins which were deployed in Vang Vieng in March 2024.

The exercise conducted comprehensive door-to-door observations to assess the operation of the waste bins, how the sorting was being conducted, along with training for 95 entities, including hotels, guesthouses, restaurants, markets, schools, and temples. The training emphasized the importance of recycling, proper waste segregation, and effective WRB operation. The activity demonstrated a high engagement and strong commitment from women towards sustainable waste management practices, with 67 out of the 95 individuals being female.

The monitoring results indicated that over 85% of the beneficiary hotels and restaurants have implemented waste separation practices, with aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and cardboard being the most collected materials. The businesses reported 100% staff involvement, with most of the staff correctly operating the bins, the waste bags, weighing scales, and record books. Effective segregation and recycling practices by businesses have reduced waste collection costs and provided additional income for staff from the sale of recyclable materials. However, challenges included a lack of market for glass, damaged bins, and misuse of bins near night markets, leading to increased collection fees. The project recommends ongoing training and coordination among cleaners to address high turnover and ensure proper bin operation.



Women's participation in the door-to-door monitoring of the waste Recycling Bin (WRB) in Vang Vieng © GGGI

## Philippines

### The Journey to Circularity and Sustainable Packaging

3RproMar: Working Together towards Circular Economy

The 3RproMar team in the Philippines organized a focus group discussion (FGD) on plastics value chain on May 22, 2024, at the Seda Hotel in Quezon City. The FGD was attended by representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), industry and non-government organizations (NGOs).

The activity aimed to gather the relevant stakeholders and gain their insights and recommendations towards improving the linkages in the plastics value chain. The discussion focused on plastic packaging and identifying the gaps and barriers in sustainable packaging to aid in developing interventions that would improve the value chain, and to assess the impact of the Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) law on the plastics value chain.

The participants dissected the stages in the value chain from resource extraction/production, consumer behaviour, and waste collection and management. Prior to the group discussion, updates on the 3RproMar project activities and an overview of the relevant policies and regulations relating to the Philippine plastics value chain were presented.



National stakeholders share their insights on improving the plastics value chain © GIZ

The same activity was conducted in Iloilo City on May 29 to also hear the recommendations and insights of the relevant stakeholders at the local level.

## Plastic Waste to Cash Program in Negros Occidental Province, Western Visayas

3RproMar and Friends of Hope Promotes the Aling Tindera (AT) Program

Through the grant from 3RproMar, Friends of Hope (HOPE) partnered with Bago City and Talisay City to support their Solid Waste Management efforts through the Aling Tindera (AT) program. The AT program is the first waste management program in the Philippines to assign a financial value to plastics, especially soft plastics, which can be collected and sold into the circular economy.

The program empowers women micro-entrepreneurs, including “sari-sari” store owners and street sweepers, to manage 20-foot container vans that serve as collection points for plastic waste and balers that will compress collected plastic. Community members can then bring and sell their plastic waste to the closest AT stores, creating a unique community-based waste-to-cash system that will eventually lead to a long-term behavioural change around the treatment of plastics. Upon collection,

HOPE then processes the plastics through their pre-vetted processing partners such as the Plastic Credit Exchange. The AT model is financially supported through plastic credits, where one metric ton of plastic is equal to one plastic credit that businesses can purchase to offset the plastics they cannot eliminate from their value chains.

Bago City launched two AT sites last June 18 as part of their community-based waste program for the observance of Environment Month this June. The two AT stations are in Sitio Pandan in Barangay Ma-ao and at the Bantayan Park in Barangay Poblacion along Bago River.



Formal turn-over of Aling Tindera station in Bago City © GIZ

The event was graced by Vice Mayor Ramon Torres and attended by representatives of DENR, the Provincial Environment Management Office, and as well as GIZ partners from La Consolacion College Bacolod and the University of St. La Salle Bacolod were also present.

Another AT station was launched on the same day in Talisay City, present were Barangay Chair Edwin Lester Iledan and Engr. Warren Paduano of Talisay CENRO. There are two AT stations in Talisay City located in Barangay Concepcion and Barangay Zone 12A. 3RproMar and HOPE plans to expand more site in both cities in the coming months especially in Metro Bacolod areas. These "Aling Tinderas" aimed to create additional green jobs especially to the informal sectors who will manage the waste collection stations, and the community members who will sell their plastic waste to the collection stations.

## Localizing the National Plan of Action in the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML)

3RproMar: Capacity Enhancement for Local Government Units





Certificate of Recognition from DENR-EMB VI © GIZ

In celebration of the Philippine Environment Month this June, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental management Bureau Region VI (DENR-EMB VI) has conducted a Solid Waste Management Summit on June 27, 2024 in Iloilo City with the theme: "Loopforward: Circular Economy Solution to address Plastic Pollution". The event aims to put together private and public organizations alike to raise awareness and prompt people to contribute to finding solutions to the global problem on plastic pollution.

DENR-EMB VI gave recognition to the 3RproMar project together with selected Local Government Units (LGUs) and partner organizations for their role and contribution in the implementation of the NPOA-ML and the Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) Law.

The last session of the summit was the Circular Walk where selected LGUs and private organizations displayed and presented their own programs and initiatives in addressing the challenges on solid waste management. The 3RproMar team shared the key progress and achievements of the project on both the national and the local level.

## AMUSE Thailand PMU Take-off Cooperation with Yasothon Municipality

Promoting Effective Waste Management at the Yasothon's Rocket Festival

From 10-14 May 2024, the AMUSE Thailand Project Management Unit (PMU) visited Yasothon Municipality to attend the "Rocket Festival" and conduct a site visit. The PMU included representatives from the Pollution Control Department, the Department of Climate Change and Environment, the Department of Tourism, AMUSE Thailand Team members, and local experts from the Environmental Research Institute at Chulalongkorn University. The visit sought to observe waste management practices during the festival and examine the waste management systems implemented by Yasothon Municipality.



Thailand Director, Mr. Alvaro Zurita attending the opening ceremony of the Yasothorn Municipality "Rocket Festival" © Yasothorn Municipality

During the visit, the AMUSE Thailand PMU met with the Mayor of Yasothon Municipality to discuss their objectives and how their work can enhance municipal solid waste management in the tourism sector. The PMU invited Yasothon Municipality to become a model city for the project, which will contribute to the creation of a Good Practice Guideline on Solid Waste Management in the Tourism Sector. This guideline will be shared not only within Thailand, through relevant public and private sector stakeholders, but also across the ASEAN region via a regional digital platform.

## Exploring Waste Management Innovations

3RproMar: Insightful Exchange on Waste Management Models through a Series of Site Visit

From May 16-20 2024, GIZ and a team of consultants embarked on a study tour in Hai Phong City and Quang Ninh Province. This tour aims to explore and summarize key insights from the waste management plans and address related issues in these provinces to gather valuable knowledge that will inform the development and implementation of domestic solid waste management policies. A

significant focus will be placed on emphasizing waste segregation at the source, particularly in Tran De District, Soc Trang Province, which serves as the pilot site for this project.

In Hai Phong, the team gained valuable insights into URENCO's advanced waste management strategies and the positive impacts of community-driven waste segregation programs. Their visit to the Trang Cat waste treatment facility and local garbage reception points offered a deeper understanding of effective practices in waste segregation, collection at the source, transportation, and treatment processes. These experiences highlighted best practices and innovative approaches that could be adapted and implemented in other regions to improve overall waste management efficiency.



Participants of study tour © GIZ

From Hai Phong to Quang Ninh, the study tour delved into discussions with the Ha Long Bay Management Board, concentrating on strategies to reduce solid waste and plastic pollution in the bay's delicate ecosystem. At Green Life Co-op, participants observed cutting-edge recycling methods that transform by-products into sustainable alternatives, showcasing innovative approaches to waste reuse. A standout moment was the visit to Vung Vieng Fishing Village, where the implementation of eco-friendly floating landfills is revolutionizing waste management practices, providing a practical and sustainable solution for the community.

Throughout the study tour, engaging with stakeholders from the public, private, and community sectors enriched the participants' understanding and sparked collaborative efforts to apply these learnings in Tran De District. The diverse perspectives and expertise shared during the tour fostered a comprehensive approach to waste management. This initiative will heighten awareness of the importance of waste segregation at the source, encouraging residents to adopt eco-friendly practices and contribute to the well-being of their environment.

Let's anticipate a cleaner, more sustainable communities, as we integrated the insights into local initiatives!

## Green School Initiative

AMUSE: Green Walk for Agents of Change

The Green School Initiative is poised to serve as a pivotal platform for educational establishments in Da Lat, fostering enhanced knowledge, awareness, and capacity among students and relevant

stakeholders, thereby catalyzing the transition towards a sustainable future. Towards the culmination of the AMUSE project, exemplary green models instituted within schools will be documented and disseminated to foster wider acceptance and scalability. Concurrently, the initiative is trying to conduct an assessment of the prevailing school environment vis-à-vis engagement levels in waste management practices, conceptualizing stakeholder engagement strategies, and executing a series of pilot activities encompassing awareness-raising campaigns, waste management initiatives, and waste segregation training, inclusive of material development and facilitation.

In the period of April and June 2024, 10 training workshops on waste segregation at source for 200 teachers/students/educational staff in school establishments in Da Lat were conducted. It's highlighted that there were 6 distinguished awareness raising events with participation of around 800 students and teachers of public and private schools in the city. The key purpose of these activities is to enhance knowledge on waste management, source-based segregation, and the 3Rs for educational actors through creative and engaging activities such as Gift Exchange, Green Walk, and Art-driven recycling activity. The positive outcomes of the Green School Initiative are well recognized by Da Lat local partners. They are inspired to buy-in and scale up the initiative to adopt and apply in 27 schools in Da Lat in the next school year (2025-2026) which will be integrated in the Da Lat Action Plan on waste segregation at source.



A group of THT school students presenting the painting made from the recycling waste collected in the pine forest © GIZ

## Upcoming Events

### ■ August 2024

- 1 August: AMUSE 2nd Module Training on Understanding Waste Generation and Composition in Tourism Destinations
- 8 August: 3RproMar webinar series aligning with INC Intersessional Expert Groups Meeting
- August 2024: 3RproMar Indonesia National Stakeholder Forum
- August 2024: 3RproMar Informal Sector Conference in Philippines

### ■ September 2024

- 9-13 September: Cambodia Circular Economy Forum 2024
- 23-25 September 2024: AMUSE/3RproMar Training on Municipal Waste Management and Sustainable Tourism in Pathum Thani, Thailand

### ■ July – November 2024: Series of AMUSE Training Program on Waste Management and

## 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/>

### 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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