



Issue No. 5 | October 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,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your continued interest and enthusiastic support of the project over the past three months. We are honored to present to you the latest edition of our newsletter, showcasing outstanding and attractive activities from the countries participating in the two projects: 3RProMar and AMUSE.

As solid waste pollution, particularly plastic waste, continues to have a severe impact on ecosystems and human health, no country is immune. From our homes to public places and tourist destinations, plastic bags, water bottles, and disposable cups, though seemingly harmless, are a



Dr. Nguyen My Hang  
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contributor to the global pollution situation.

A crucial measure aiming to reduce river and marine environmental pollution is to prevent land-based waste leakage at source. In Viet Nam, we have been making continuous efforts to protect the ecosystem and towards a greener environment. It is worth noting that the regulation requiring waste segregation at source will come into effect on 1 January 2025, as stipulated in the Law on Environmental Protection (LEP). To provide practical guidance on waste segregation at source in compliance with the EPL, the Viet Nam Agency of Seas and Islands (VASI), in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE) of Soc Trang province and the GIZ, collaborated to organize a training workshop on waste segregation at source and gender equality in Soc Trang province on 11-12 September 2024, as part of the 3RproMar and AMUSE projects.

This workshop attracted many participants, which not only demonstrates Viet Nam's commitment to waste reduction but also emphasized the vital role of engaging local communities to achieve shared goals and solutions. You can learn more about the training through our article in this newsletter.

We believe that this newsletter not only provides valuable information about our projects but also through inspiring stories and best practices, motivating us to cooperate for a clean and green environment. Enjoy your reading!

**Best regards,**

**Dr. Nguyen My Hang**  
**Head of Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation**  
**Vietnam Agency of Seas and Islands, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam**

### **REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- » Facilitating Regional Knowledge Transfer on Sustainable Plastic Management
- » Supporting Just Transition in ASEAN
- » Exploring Waste Management and Sustainable Tourism through Engaging Online Learning Experience
- » Implementing Global and Regional Framework on Waste Management and Sustainable Tourism through Local Action

### **CAMBODIA**

- » Advancing Circular Economy Practices in Cambodia

### **INDONESIA**

- » Collaborative Steps Towards Zero Waste Zero Emission in Indonesia
- » Strengthening Waste Banks for Sustainable Waste Management

### **LAO PDR**

- » South-South Knowledge Exchange Program

### **PHILIPPINES**

- » Solidifying Partnerships for the Philippines' Marine Environment and Coral Reefs
- » Empowering the Future: Circular Economy Landscape in Higher Education Institutions
- » Bringing Informal Waste Workers Stories to Fora
- » Showcasing Future Innovators at TUEWAS-SNRD Regional Conference 2024 in Bangkok

### **VIET NAM**

- » From Knowledge to Action: Waste Segregation Training in Soc Trang
- » Towards Gender-Inclusive Waste Management Solutions in Viet Nam

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **USEFUL LINKS**

# Facilitating Regional Knowledge Transfer on Sustainable Plastic Management

A Recap on 3RproMar Webinar Series

In line with our commitment to continue supporting regional knowledge transfer, 3RproMar and World Bank organised a webinar in August 2024. The webinar was intended to enhance the knowledge of policy and decision makers in the region involved in the sustainable management of plastic waste and the negotiations on the International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) to end plastic pollution. The webinar focused on two main topics: products and chemicals of concern (problematic and avoidable plastics, and microplastics); and product design for recyclability and reusability.

**DEFINITION OF PROBLEMATIC, UNNECESSARY, AND AVOIDABLE SUPS**

**INC-2 to INC-3 Definitions**

Category	Description
Most Littered	Prevalence in the environment.
Circularity Issues	Impedes reusability and recyclability.
Harmful to Health	Causes health issues to humans and the environment.
Unnecessary or Redundant	Extraneous, avoidable, and excessive in their use.

**Proposed Criteria by Nordic Council of Ministries (2024)**

Category	Description
Problematic SUPs	Negative effects throughout their life cycle. Impact both environmental and human health.
Avoidable SUPs	Essential functionality but can be replaced by non-plastic substitutes, alternative designs, and different practices.
Unnecessary SUPs	Lack essential functionality and do not contribute significant value to society.

Source: UNEP INC-2 Additional information linked to potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument  
UNEP: Synthesis report on the submissions received on elements not discussed at the second session, such as principles and scope of the instrument

6 GEMEINSAM ZUKUNFT GESTALTEN - GEMEINSAM MEHR ERREICHEN

3RproMar’s Webinar on Sustainable Plastic Management © GIZ

The session on problematic and avoidable plastics aimed to present findings from a World Bank study on Single-Use Plastics (SUPs), including Problematic, Unnecessary, and Avoidable (PUA) plastics. This session emphasised the need for ASEAN Member States to establish clear definitions and criteria for PUA plastics to guide policy making effectively. It also offered recommendations for ASEAN Member States (AMS) considering the ILBI and INC 5.

The session on microplastics aimed to present the Regional Baseline Study on Microplastics. This session offered recommendations for AMS, including mapping microplastic pollution in the region to aid in implementing policies and developing mitigation measures. It also emphasised the need to mitigate microplastics at the source by having better waste management that brings together policy, technology, infrastructure, economics and community participation.

The session on product design for recyclability and reusability was presented based on a study ‘Achieving More Circularity in the Future Global Plastics Agreement’ published by Prevent Waste Alliance. This session recommended AMS to decide the most appropriate packaging design by considering product protection and other general functions of packaging, waste hierarchy / 3R principle, and national waste management infrastructure. Several instruments such as bans and phase-outs, design regulations, taxes, EPR are also needed to strengthen the impact.

In the upcoming months, 3RproMar will be organising a series of webinars on topics related to waste data, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and Behavioural Change. Follow our [social media](#) to get future updates on the Webinar Series!

# Supporting Just Transition in ASEAN

3RproMar: A Study on Just Transition in Waste Management and Circular Economy in ASEAN



The profound environmental impact of plastic pollution highlights the need to transition to a circular economy. However, while current circular models excel in environmental sustainability, social aspects are still often overlooked. Therefore, it is crucial to embed just transition principles into new circular models. A just transition to a circular economy supports an inclusive shift to regenerative business, creating a holistic impact on society and the environment, and making sure no one is left behind in a circular transition.

In collaboration with Yunus Environment Hub, 3RproMar conducted a study to assess the inclusivity of waste management practices and circular economy principles within the ASEAN region. This study focuses on integrating

just transition principles throughout the plastic value chain, fostering a more equitable and sustainable framework, and providing key recommendations for stakeholders to implement.

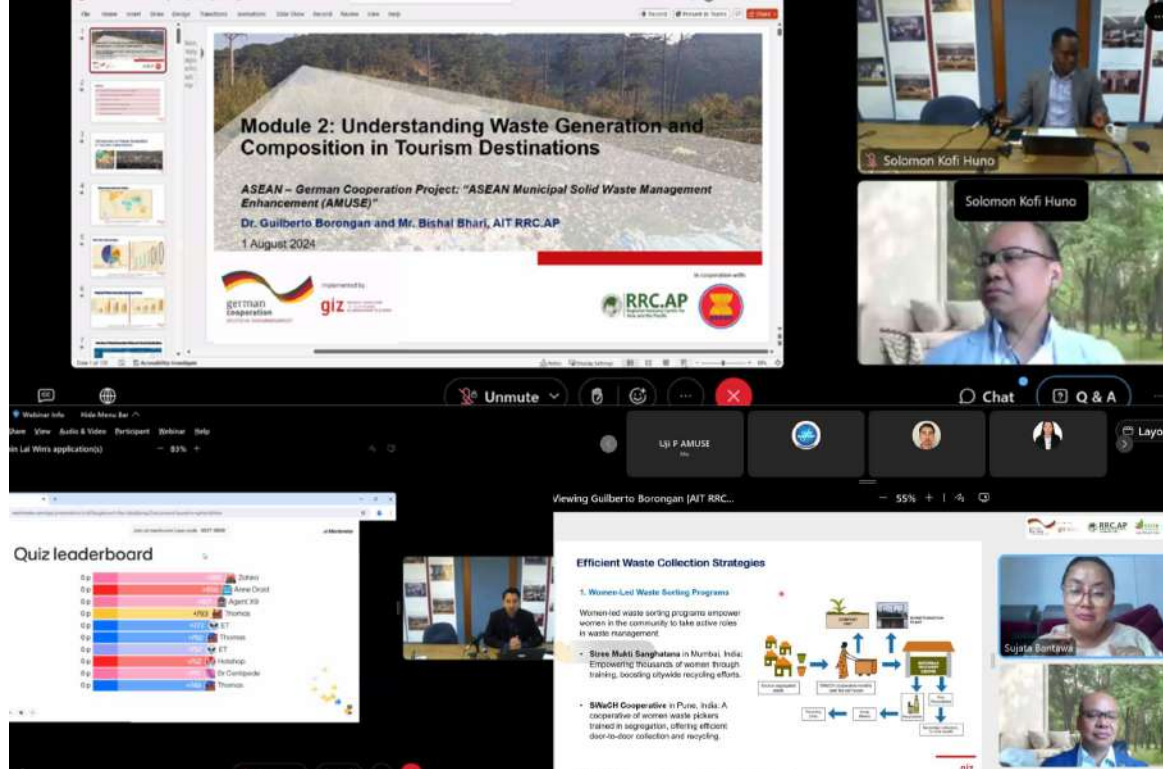
Click [here](#) and find the report under "Downloads" to read and learn more about the recommendations on just transition in waste management and circular economy in ASEAN!

## Exploring Waste Management and Sustainable Tourism through Engaging Online Learning Experience

Key Insights from AMUSE Training Program

In a recent series of training sessions on waste management and sustainable tourism, conducted in collaboration with experts from the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT RRCAP), participants from ASEAN and beyond explored key topics covered in Modules 2 to 5. These sessions provided comprehensive insights into waste generation, collection, segregation, food waste management, and sustainable packaging, with a strong focus on plastic reduction strategies.

Over 1.000 participants from ten ASEAN countries, as well as regions such as South Asia, East Asia, Oceania, Africa, Europe, Middle East & Central Asia, Australia, attended the training sessions. They not only gained valuable knowledge but also engaged in discussions to share their initiatives and experiences with both experts and fellow attendees.



Online Training Session on Module 2: Understanding Waste Generation and Composition in Tourism Destinations © GIZ AMUSE

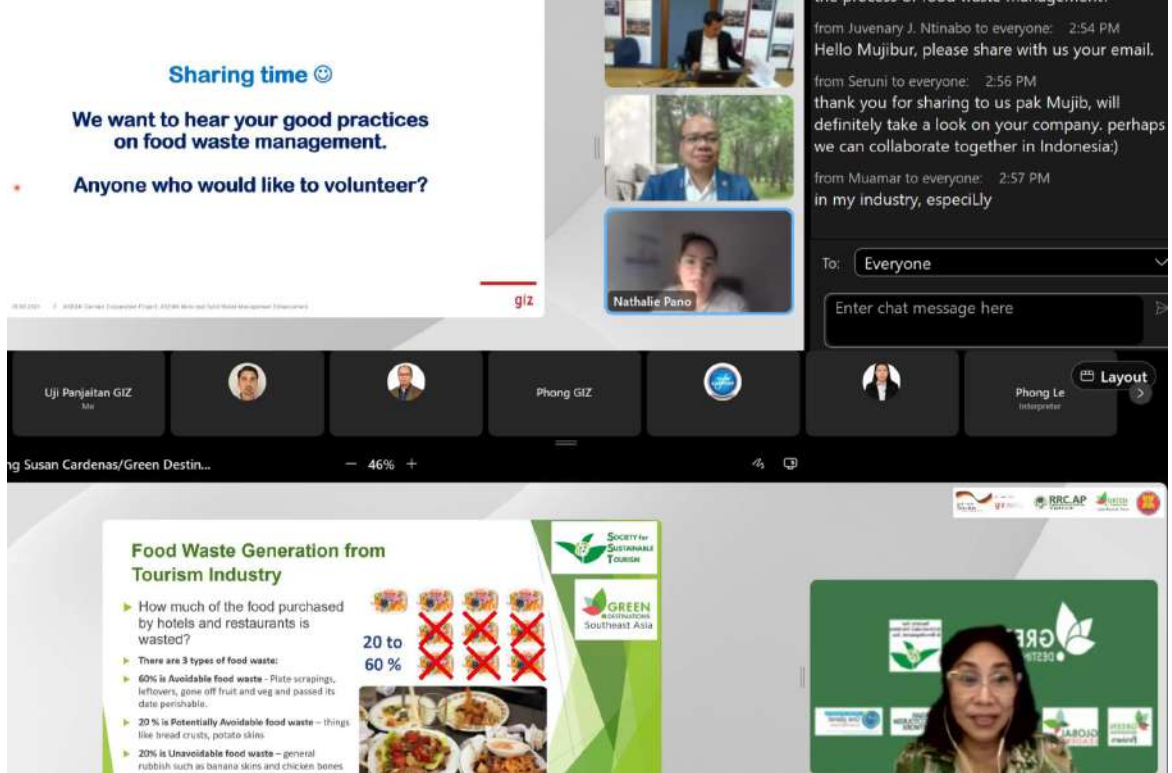
Key takeaways from Modules 2 and 3 included an exploration of the waste management chain in tourism destinations across the ASEAN region. Highlights covered the importance of data collection and analysis, methodologies and challenges in waste sampling, the tool, digital data management systems (DDMS), and ensuring gender equity in waste sampling. Besides, innovative approaches to waste collection and segregation were discussed, along with various campaigns and good practices currently being implemented throughout ASEAN.

“The depth of knowledge shared on waste generation and composition is crucial for advancing sustainable tourism practices. The collaborative efforts and practical solutions discussed will undoubtedly drive positive change in managing waste more effectively. Thank you for your commitment to enhancing our understanding and fostering a more sustainable approach to tourism,” as quoted from Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, Philippines.

The module 4 and 5 focused on both the global and regional issue of food waste, highlighting the significant environmental impacts in ASEAN region. Participants explored treatment options, including composting, anaerobic digestion, and innovative solutions like Black Soldier Fly larvae. The modules demonstrated good practices that emphasized effective food waste management strategies, sustainable practices and waste reduction plans.

Another key topic was the challenges of plastic waste, particularly single-use plastics (SUPs), along with practical steps for adopting eco-friendly alternatives to SUPs, encouraging behavior change, and fostering sustainable business practices.

"Course was really insightful and practically very relevant. Loved the knowledge of presenter with lucid examples. Plastic packaging is huge concern through Asia, and it must be dealt with clear strategies. Deeply appreciate the teams' efforts to bring this kind of sound knowledge for learners to learn, understand and implement," said representative from Government of Maharashtra, India.



Online Training Session on Module 4: Food Waste Management © GIZ AMUSE

Join us for this engaging learning experiences. Four remaining modules are scheduled from October to November 2024. Secure your spot by registering through the following link: [Register Program - Webex](#).

## Implementing Global and Regional Framework on Waste Management and Sustainable Tourism through Local Action

3RproMar and AMUSE Training Workshop on Waste Management in ASEAN Cities

Jointly organized by 3RproMar and AMUSE projects, in collaboration with AIT RRCAP, the Training Workshop on Waste Management in ASEAN Cities was held on 23-25 September 2025 in Pathum Thani, Thailand and aimed to enhance the knowledge, skills, and capacity of partner organisations and waste management stakeholders in the management of municipal solid waste for evidence-based decision-making in waste management.



This 3-day training was designed for officials and practitioners of environmental/public health/waste management officers in the solid waste management sector and the relevant stakeholders in selected cities/municipalities across the ASEAN region. The training was attended by 41 participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, representing project partners at municipal, provincial and national level as well as from environment and tourism sector, including representatives from the Environment Division and Tourism Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat.

Through engaging discussions and interactive group exercise, Day 1 covered good practices in municipal solid waste management (MSW) and circular economy in ASEAN, including circular case studies, waste management chain (i.e., generation, composition, segregation, collection, transport, and treatment) and strategies for MSW Monitoring (i.e. Data Collection, Analysis, Interpretation, and Reporting), as well as waste monitoring institutionalisation for policy design.

Meanwhile, Day 2 focused on cross-cutting issues such sustainable tourism (i.e. Green Destinations and Good Travel Seal standards), gender in waste management, community engagement, awareness, and behavioral change and circular economy and waste management models tourism. This session also explored perspectives from both government and business when it comes to implementing relevant policy at local and national level for the tourism and hospitality sector.

On Day 3, a field trip is conducted in 2 location sites, including **Si Mum Muang Market** and **Bangkok Rooftop Farming Co., Ltd.** which showcase practical examples of circular economy and waste management at community and business level in Thailand.



Field visits to Bangkok Rooftop Farming (above) and Si Mum Muang Market (below) © GIZ

## Cambodia

### Advancing Circular Economy Practices in Cambodia

3RproMar and AMUSE: Key Outcomes from the Cambodia Circular Economy Forum 2024

From 9-13 September 2024, the Cambodia Circular Economy Forum 2024 brought together stakeholders from the Royal Government of Cambodia, the private sector, civil society, and development partners to explore innovative solutions for waste management and the transition to a

circular economy. The event, jointly organized by 3RproMar, AMUSE, and other GIZ implemented projects from Cambodia, Thailand and Indonesia, was a significant step towards a clean, green, and sustainable Cambodia.

The forum covered key topics, including business and industry solutions, where German and Cambodian companies presented innovative waste management practices, highlighting the importance of public-private partnerships in driving sustainable change. The forum also delved into circularity in the garment industry, featuring discussions on upcycling and sustainable practices. Additionally, tourism and municipal waste management were discussed with experts from various cities emphasizing the need for collaboration and awareness in promoting sustainable tourism.



Representatives of the Royal Government of Cambodia © GIZ

Moreover, the forum focused on local waste management plans and behavioral change. Representatives from various provinces shared experiences on the challenges in municipal waste management and the role of behavioral change campaigns in reducing plastic pollution, emphasizing community empowerment and targeted awareness. The forum concluded with a two-day training on behavioral change campaigns for government officials, equipping them with tools to address plastic pollution and enhance solid waste management.

In conclusion, the forum emphasized the critical role of collaboration across ASEAN to transition from a linear economy to a more sustainable circular economy that values resource efficiency and waste reduction. This collaborative approach is essential to tackle the global environmental challenges, ensuring a future where economic growth and environmental sustainability go hand in hand.





Panel Discussion on Behavioural Change Campaigns © GIZ

## Indonesia

### Collaborative Steps Towards Zero Waste Zero Emission in Indonesia

3RproMar Organises the Third National Stakeholder Forum

The Waste Handling Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) of the Republic of Indonesia, is hosting the third National Stakeholder Forum, supported by the German Government (BMZ) through the GIZ 3RProMar project. This forum gathered over 280 offline and online participants and 400 views on YouTube, creating a platform for stakeholders to exchange innovative strategies for sustainable waste management as Indonesia aims for zero waste zero emission by 2050.

Under the theme "Collaboration Towards Zero Waste Zero Emission," the forum focused on two main agendas, which are to discuss the transition towards zero waste and zero emissions by 2050 and to formulate recommendations to enhance the implementation of national strategies for waste management, particularly plastic waste.

Oliver Hoppe, German Embassy's Counsellor of Development Cooperation, said that "the transition from linear to circular economy, is a necessary shift. This isn't just Germany's aspiration, but a shared aspiration with ASEAN and its member states. As we open today's forum, I encourage you all to engage fully in this dialogue. The forum serves as a platform to exchange our strategies, to achieve the national targets towards zero waste zero emissions."



Oliver Hoppe, Vinda Damayanti Ansjar, and Piyush Dhawan © GIZ

Echoing the same sentiment, Vinda Damayanti Ansjar, Director Waste Reduction, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Republic Indonesia, said “I hope the National Stakeholder Forum can become a persuasive bridge to build mutual understanding, with straightforward and efficient communication between various elements regarding the most effective policies and efforts to manage waste and litter.”

The event showcased a range of thought-provoking topics, including “How to Zero Waste Zero Emission”, the role of the younger generation in this critical movement, and strategies to move forward toward zero waste zero emission target. The forum featured 11 booths from innovative startups dedicated to waste management, including Divers Clean Action, Kibumi, Duitin, Parongpong Raw Lab, Dulang, Sirsak, Waste4change, and Bumbi, each sharing insights and initiatives aligned with the forum’s goals. Additionally, an e-waste drop box was set up by Dulang in the booth, encouraged participants to responsibly dispose of electronic waste.



Booths at the 3rd National Stakeholder Forum © GIZ

“The journey towards zero waste and zero emissions is ambitious but crucial,” Piyush Dhawan, Principal Advisor of 3RproMar said in his closing remarks. “I would like to invite all of you to continue supporting and initiating collaborative efforts to work together with GIZ and the Government of Indonesia in achieving the zero waste and zero emissions targets by 2050. This collective endeavor is not just for us, but for the better future of Indonesia’s next generations.”

Watch the full video of the 3rd National Stakeholder Forum [here](#).



Participants of 3rd National Stakeholder Forum © GIZ

## Strengthening Waste Banks for Sustainable Waste Management

3RproMar Organises Basic Business and Empowerment Skills Training for Waste Bank Leaders

The ASEAN-German cooperation project 3RproMar, in partnership with the Waste Reduction Directorate-Sub Directorate Economy Circular, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia, has successfully organised Basic Business and Empowerment Skills Training (BBEST).

This training, designed specifically for waste bank leaders, is crucial as waste banks are facing so many difficulties in maintaining its activities to be sustainable due to lack of access to business training or capital needed to effectively run the waste banks as profitable organisation. Several key areas are covered in this training, including leadership, negotiation, risk management, and even gender-based violence awareness, empowering participants to strengthen and sustain their operations.

BBEST was held in Bandung from 21 to 23 August 2024 and in Bali from 2 to 6 September 2024. In Bandung, the training marked a pivotal step in supporting waste bank operators. It aimed to enhance their knowledge in Solid Waste Management (SWM) and recycling, focusing on business training, mentoring, financing, empowerment skills, and business opportunities.



BBEST Participants in Bandung © GIZ

In Bali, BBEST continued with a training-of-trainers event aimed to reach wider participants and enable trainers to accelerate BBEST implementation. The event was well-documented and will serve as a valuable resource for environmental educators and environmental local agencies from across Indonesia, aiding the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in developing its own e-learning materials.

Empowering informal sectors like waste banks boosts economic independence, strengthens community resilience, improves waste sorting, and supports environmental sustainability. Trained waste bank leaders will be better equipped to advocate for their needs, secure funding, and drive systemic change. This ripple effect transforms grassroots initiatives into key social and environmental progress drivers, showcasing the impact of targeted skills training and support.



Participants of BBEST in Bali © GIZ

## South-South Knowledge Exchange Program

AMUSE Supports Lao PDR Government Delegation's visit to Singapore for Advanced Waste Management Training

The Lao PDR high-level delegation concluded a weeklong study tour to learning about advanced waste management practices. The exchange program, organized as part of the ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement (AMUSE) project, focused on supporting the tourist city of Vang Vieng in developing a sustainable and circular waste management system

The delegation, consisting of 15 participants, including government officials, environmental authorities, and tourism representatives, explored Singapore's waste-to-resource and waste-to-energy initiatives. A key takeaway was Singapore's success in promoting sustainable waste disposal among tourists and businesses. Ms. Hatsady Khounsy, Director General of Vang Vieng's Urban Development Administration Authority, was particularly impressed by the environmental compliance observed in hotels, resorts, and shopping malls.



Site visit at Tuas South Incineration Plant © GGGI

Field visits were central to the knowledge exchange. The delegation toured the Tuas South Incineration Plant and E-waste Recycling Facilities, gaining insights into advanced waste management technologies. They also observed waste sorting and management practices within communities and tourism businesses, highlighting the importance of public and community engagement.

Mr. George Asiimwe, Senior Officer at GGGI Lao PDR, emphasized the value of the tour in demonstrating a comprehensive city-wide waste management system. The delegation learned about public engagement strategies and behavior change campaigns crucial for Vang Vieng's waste management infrastructure. The lessons learned in Singapore will be instrumental in developing and improving waste management regulations and policies in Lao PDR. Vang Vieng's Mayor, Mr. Bounchan Malavong, affirmed their commitment to implementing these learnings to enhance waste management practices in the city.

# Solidifying Partnerships for the Philippines' Marine Environment and Coral Reefs

## DENR and GIZ Signs the Implementation Agreement for the 3RproMar Project

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and GIZ signed the Implementation Agreement (IA) for the ASEAN GIZ's 3RproMar Project on 5 September 2024, which further solidified the partnership between the two agencies, especially in pursuing their objective in protecting and conserving the country's marine ecosystem. The 3RproMar project, which runs until June 2025, support AMS in enhancing capacities to reduce land-based waste leakage and protect the marine environment. In the Philippines, the pilot projects are implemented in Guimaras Province and in Bacolod, Negros Occidental.



DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga and GIZ Country Director Immanuel Gebhardt display the signed 3RproMar Implementation Agreement, and are joined by Undersecretary Jonas Leones (L) and Dr. Johannes Paul (R) © GIZ

The event was graced by the presence of the Honorable Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga who highlighted the significance of the signing of the IA in advancing and accelerating collaborative action towards the reduction of land-based waste leakage and protection of the country's marine environment. She expressed the hope that with the signing, further support could be extended to the pilot areas through the envisioned next phase of the Project.

She was joined by other DENR Officials, mainly, Atty. Jonas R. Leones, DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs, Director Al Orolfo of the DENR Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service, Director Jaqueline Caancan, and Assistant Director Esperanza Sajul of the DENR Environmental Management Bureau. GIZ's Country Director for the Philippines and the Pacific Islands, Immanuel Gebhardt, and 3RproMar Project Team Leader for the Philippines, Dr. Johannes Paul, also graced the event.

## Empowering the Future: Circular Economy Landscape in Higher Education Institutions

3RproMar's Focus on Circular Economy Curriculum Integration in the Philippines' Educational System

The Philippines recognizes the need to shift from the traditional linear consumption model toward

sustainability and circularity to tackle environmental and economic challenges from plastic waste pollution. Acknowledging education's crucial role in this transition, 3RproMar has led efforts to integrate circular economy concepts into higher education.

To start, 3RproMar organised focus group discussions (FGDs) with representatives from higher education institutions (HEIs) and relevant government agencies such as the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) at both the local and national levels, to explore the current state of circular economy education and chart a path forward. The local and national FGDs were held on 14 and 20 of August 2024 at Bacolod City, Negros Occidental and Quezon City in Metro Manila, respectively.



Participants of the local CE Landscape FGD in Bacolod © GIZ

The FGDs started with baseline mapping and understanding the presence—or absence—of circular economy content in current curricula, the existing efforts and barriers relevant to circularity in academic setting, as well as the future scenarios including what is needed to achieve a more desirable state. Both local and national FGDs highlighted CHED's support for officially including circular economy in course subjects, as well as the needed resources to support said integration, such as faculty trainings, partnership with private sector and incubators, and a clear framework for implementation. These discussions sparked a collaborative vision among HEIs, agreeing on the need to embed circular economy principles deeply into academic programs nationwide, to equip the youth with the knowledge and skills to drive circularity and sustainability.

Insights from the FGDs will inform an ongoing study mapping circular economy in HEI curricula. The study will also offer recommendations to help the academe create a clear framework for integrating circular economy principles in HEIs.

## Bringing Informal Waste Workers Stories to Fora

3RproMar: Informal Waste Workers Heard at Local Conference in Bacolod City



Informal waste workers share their insights and experiences at the forum © GIZ

On 16 August 2024, 3RproMar Philippines hosted a local conference for the informal waste workers aimed at giving the sector within the Western Visayas region a platform to share their stories and voice their challenges, needs, and aspirations for the future. The conference explored the successful grassroots plastic exchange programs and potential micro and small enterprises for both the workers and their communities. A key highlight of the event is the presentation of Senate Bill 2636, the Magna Carta of Waste Workers Act, which advocates for the protection of waste workers' rights, improved working conditions, and integration into formal waste management systems.

Prior to the conference, the participants joined a peer-to-peer study tour across Negros Occidental, exploring various successful solid waste management initiatives. They visited the Sanitary Landfill in Barangay Ma-ao, Bago City, and the Aling Tindera stations by Friends of Hope (HOPE) at the same landfill and Bantayan Park. This was followed by a Black Soldier Fly (BSF) lecture by Bioflyt at Barangay Felisa, Bacolod City, and a visit to community BSF modules. Participants also toured the IPM-BEST Trash to Cash station at Bacolod City's New Government Center.



Local Conference attendees visited the Aling Tindera site in Bago City © GIZ

The conference brought together LGU partners and personnel, and waste workers from the province of Guimaras and the cities of Iloilo, Bacolod, Silay, Talisay and Bago. Partners from HOPE's Aling Tindera, GOPA Infra, Subay Marketing, Bioflyt, La Consolacion College – Bacolod, and the Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation, Inc. (NWTF) also participated.

Through this event, 3RproMar reinforced its commitment to including the informal waste sector in discussions on circular economy and Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR). Aling Tindera and BSF were seen as potential additions to their livelihoods. Sharing of insights revealed replicable best practices among LGUs and potential partnerships, such as Aling Tindera's application across Negros Occidental.

## Showcasing Future Innovators at TUEWAS-SNRD Regional Conference 2024 in Bangkok

3RproMar Highlights Circular Connect Competition to TUEWAS and SNRD AP Sector Networks



The "Marketplace" at the SNRD TUEWAS Joint Conference 2024, held in Bangkok from 26-30 August, provided a space for member projects to showcase their knowledge products with replication/application potential. Among the highlights was 3RproMar's Circular Connect Competition initiative, which empowers young innovators to create circular economy solutions addressing plastic waste and marine litter. The competition was made possible through the support from the TUEWAS Innovation Fund.

The Circular Connect Competition, aimed at young innovators in higher education institutions in Western Visayas in the Philippines, present innovative yet community-grounded ideas for circular economy. Winning entries included Sustainify - a mobile app that promotes responsible and community-based waste segregation and disposal, the UPgrade system which helps local barangays institutionalize proper household waste segregation and facilitate effective waste diversion, and Clean Flow, which protects marine ecosystems by establishing trash barriers in rivers/river booms while enabling communities to turn waste into profit. The event also underscored the value of replicating successful practices. Three local government units (LGUs) in Negros Occidental have already adopted the river booms, one of which received funding from the SNRD Learning and Innovation Fund (LIF).



3RproMar Philippines discussing the role of youth and academe in the topics of circular economy © GIZ

The marketplace at the conference facilitated knowledge exchange on sustainable waste management and capacity building, particularly for women and informal waste sectors. These collaborations aim to enhance the exchange of experiences and replicate successful strategies. Potential linkages with other GIZ projects were explored, such as the AMUSE project's partnership with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), which offers a free circular economy course that could benefit academic partners in Western Visayas, especially Guimaras State University, which works with 3RproMar on pilot projects. Additionally, projects like "Preventing marine litter in Thailand by reducing, redesigning, and recycling plastic packaging (MA-RE-DESIGN)" may offer opportunities for shared learning and best practice replication, particularly in initiatives involving youth, academia, and research incubators.

## Viet Nam

### From Knowledge to Action: Waste Segregation Training in Soc Trang

From September 11-12, the Viet Nam Agency of Seas and Islands (VASI), the Department of Natural Resources and Environment of Soc Trang Province (DONRE), and GIZ collaborated to organize a training workshop titled "Training of Trainers on Waste Separation at Source" in Soc Trang city, as part of the 3RproMar & AMUSE projects.

The workshop attracted 68 representatives of local agencies from 11 districts and experts from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, including 24 males and 44 females.

The workshop aimed to provide practical guidance on waste segregation at source, in accordance with the provision under Viet Nam's Environmental Protection Law, which comes into effect on January 1, 2025. Additionally, the trainees were equipped with communication methods to effectively inspire and instruct local communities on waste segregation at source properly in their context.



ToT on Waste Segregation at Source participants and trainers, Soc Trang, Viet Nam © GIZ Vietnam

Through training sessions, participants and trainers addressed fundamental but crucial questions regarding the reasons and purposes for waste separation at the source, the responsibility of implementing levels and actors, the methods of segregation and how to engage local communities. Besides insightful lectures that deepened participants' understanding of waste segregation at source, interactive examples and games were applied, facilitating participatory practices of the learned knowledge and skills and enabling them to tailor developing communication plans for their localities.

This training is foundational in building a waste segregation practice community, with Soc Trang as the pioneering hub. It also contributes directly to the goals of the 3RproMar project, which aims to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle to prevent plastic waste leakage from land-based sources into the Bassac River of the Mekong Delta and eventually the ocean, bringing Viet Nam closer to its net-zero target and promoting a healthier ocean.



Participants with recycled fishing gear bags - promotional item from 3RproMar project © GIZ Viet Nam

## Towards Gender-Inclusive Waste Management Solutions in Viet Nam

AMUSE: Bridging the gender gap in waste management - Key instruments for Viet Nam's success

Viet Nam faces significant waste management challenges due to rapid urbanization and industrialization, with a pronounced gender gap in the sector. Women are primarily responsible for household waste management, while men occupy higher-income roles like truck driving and decision-making. A survey conducted for the AMUSE project in Da Lat City estimates that out of 220–250 waste collectors, 95% are women. This disparity reflects societal norms and often excludes women from formal waste management roles, leaving them without protections like social insurance and labor safety.

Despite their vital role, women in the informal sector remain largely unrecognized in waste management policies. To bridge this gender gap and promote sustainable waste management, Viet Nam can implement several key measures:

1. **Gender-Sensitive Instruments:** Develop legal agreements and technical guidelines that incorporate gender equality and recognize informal sectors. For instance, the Training of Trainers Manual for waste segregation at source with a gender-sensitive approach is being developed with a training course designed in Da Lat City this October, ensuring solutions that support a fair transition toward net-zero goals.
2. **Mainstreaming Gender in Policy:** Learn from international case studies to integrate gender considerations into policies. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) plans to include gender sensitivity in waste segregation, national action plans, and sustainable tourism.
3. **Capacity Building and Empowerment:** Offer targeted training to empower women and marginalized groups. Programs like the Women in Waste's Economic Empowerment (WWEE) initiative in the Philippines and Indonesia provide valuable insights for empowering women in Viet Nam.

Implementing these strategies can help bridge the gender gap, leading to more equitable and effective waste management in Viet Nam.



Female participants engaged actively in a Training of Trainers session on waste segregation at source with a gender-sensitive approach © GIZ Viet Nam

## Upcoming Events

### ■ October 2024

9 October: AMUSE 6th Module Training on Community Engagement, Awareness, and Behavioral Change

11 October: AMUSE Thailand Expert Team Meeting to synergize deliverables and workplan of different expert team

21-22 October: ASEAN SCP Conference

30 October: AMUSE 7th Module Training on Certification and Standards in Waste Management

October 2024: AMUSE TOT on Waste Segregation at source in Da Lat city, Lam Dong province, Vietnam

October 2024: 3RproMar Webinar Series

### ■ November 2024

13 November: AMUSE 8th Module Training on Private Sector Involvement and Circular Economy Business Models

27 November: AMUSE 9th Module Training on Monitoring and Evaluation of Waste Management Programs

November 2024: 3RproMar Webinar Series

November 2024: 3RproMar Viet Nam National Stakeholder Forum in Binh Duong province

## 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:**

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