



**8TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR
ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES**

8-9 FEBRUARY 2017 • CHIANG RAI, THAILAND

**SUMMARY OF THEMAIC SESSIONS TRACK C (C1, C2, C3 & C4)
“THAILAND FEATURE SESSIONS”**

THEMATIC SESSION C1

“3R’S AND WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THAILAND: POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION”

Background

Solid waste management (SWM) is a huge problem in Thailand, where waste generation is rising at an alarming rate. This session introduced the Thai government’s long-term policy and roadmap for tackling the challenges of SWM as well the implementation progress and challenges. It also discussed linkages to the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) as well as the potential role of technologies.

List of Speakers

No.	Name	Title	Affiliation
Moderator			
1	Dr. Jakkaniit Kananurak	Director of Capacity Building and Outreach	TGO
Panellists			
2	Dr. Wijarn Simachaya	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand
3	Ms. Natalja Wehmer	Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, Sustainable Urban Development Section, Environment Development Division	UN-ESCAP
4	Mr. Gen Takahashi	General Manager, Global Business Development	JFE Engineering

Key Discussion Points

- Policy and implementation are two pillars of solid waste management. It is imperative that countries establish strategies at the national level. Nevertheless, empowering local authorities to take action is the key to address problems on the ground.
 - International platforms should showcase, replicate, and scale up good practices in a way that meets the development needs of local communities and encourages the engagement of local people. International development agencies should take the lead in piloting innovative approaches and integrate these approaches into local conditions and contexts.
 - High upfront investment cost is one of the major barriers to promoting waste-to-energy (WTE) technologies in developing countries. Furthermore, once WTE facilities are established, it is crucial to secure adequate funds for paying the WTE operators (for example, proper tipping fees and feed-in-tariffs for renewable energy) in order to ensure sustainable operations and maintenance. In this respect, public finance should play a catalytic role in attracting private finance in PPPs to improve both the accessibility and sustainability of mature and proven WTE technologies among the lower- to middle-income cities..
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THEMATIC SESSION C2

“3R’S AND WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THAILAND: BEST PRACTICES”

Background

This session highlighted several award-winning practices in Thai cities who are implementing the 3Rs with effective public participation. It also explored this issue from the perspective of different stakeholders – government, community leaders and schools.

List of Speakers

No.	Name	Title	Affiliation
Moderator			
1	Mr. Somchai Jariyajaroen	Independent Expert and former Mayor of Muangklaeng Municipality, Thailand	N/A
Panellists			
2	Mr. Somchai Korchaisirikul	Mayor	Nondindaeng Municipality (Winner of national ‘Zero Waste Communities’ Award)

3	Mr. Arif Dermawan	ESC Focal Point and Project Coordinator	City of Malang, Indonesia
4	Mr. Manop Chaibuakhum	Subdistrict Head	Rongchang Municipality, Thailand
5	Ms. Sutheera Ruewicha	Representative	Saint Joseph Thare School, Thailand

Key Discussion Points

- Environment-related indicators should be included as an essential element when measuring the performance of local authorities. Visionary leadership is vital to promote the 3Rs principles at the local level and encourage public participation.
- The viability of low-cost, low-tech waste management (e.g. composting and community-managed recyclables collection schemes) is crucial for enabling local communities to manage the increasing waste challenges. Educating students about low-tech waste management methods and enabling hands-on experience will inspire them to teach others and generate a snowball effect.
- Cost recovery and profit maximisation are the incentives for engaging the general public. Waste should be used as a valuable resource to produce goods, recover energy, and generate income. The zero-waste concept should be promoted among local people and drive local communities towards a pathway to circular economy.

THEMATIC SESSION C3

“THE POWER OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN GREEN CITY DEVELOPMENT: POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION”

Background

The support and participation of all city-based stakeholders is a critical ingredient for the smooth implementation of policies and projects. However, this is often easier said than done. This session shared the philosophy, mechanisms and lessons learnt from public participation in environmental protection and management in Thailand at different levels and from different stakeholders. The session also touched on international efforts to promote green cities through public participation and why such a movement is important to obtain a better quality of life and achieve sustainable development,

List of Speakers

No.	Name	Title	Affiliation
Moderator			
1	Ms. Tunnie Srisakulchairak	Programme Officer	UNEP

Panellists			
2	Mr. Sakol Thinagul	Director General, Department of Environmental Quality Promotion	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand
3	Ms. Vijai Ummaralikhit	Mayor	Panusnikhom Municipality, Thailand
4	Dr. Suwarat Laesanklang	Vice Dean	Lampang Rajabhat Municipality, Thailand
5	Ms. Mariko Sato	Bangkok Chief	UN-Habitat

Key Discussion Points

- Strong leadership and commitment with long-term vision is fundamental to green city development.
- Public participation is a continuous and long-term process, not a one-off activity. In many cases, it is successful because all stakeholders are strongly united by a deep sense of shared destiny. They are motivated by local benefits that cannot be framed and measured strictly in monetary terms ('beyond money').
- Sharing experiences and knowledge amongst cities, as well as between cities (bilateral city-to-city cooperation), is a learning process that strengthens capacities for developing new initiatives to achieve green city development..

THEMATIC SESSION C4

“THE POWER OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN GREEN CITY DEVELOPMENT: SCALING UP OF GOOD MODELS”

Background

This session showcased the city-wide strategy and achievements by Koh Samui city government to replicate promising an innovative model of public participation from pilot sites to a wider area.

List of Speakers

No.	Name	Title	Affiliation
Moderator			
1	Dr. Harin Sachdej	Professor	Mahidol University, Thailand
Panelists			
2	Ms. Supinya	Vice Mayor	Koh Samui Municipality,

			Thailand
3	Hon. Arnan C. Panaligan	Mayor	City of Calapan, Philippines
4	Ms. Jutamas Thongpeuk	General Manager	Koh Samui Green Hotel Network, Thailand
5	Ms. Supphatra Moonthisal	Community Leader	Pangkhon Municipality, Thailand

Key Discussion Points

- To make cities committed to green development, it is imperative to incentivise them with praises and awards, enforce policy and regulation implementation with sufficient funding support, and generate grassroots and peer pressure towards achieving SDGs.
- Green city development is a people's process. People should be placed at the centre of decision-making and be empowered to develop ownership of various green initiatives and projects undertaken on the ground.
- It is important to convince stakeholders that green development is a win-win solution in order to engage public participation. Global and national SDGs and policies should be localised and adapted to local conditions.