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SEA circular Solving Plastic Pollution at Source

SEA circular is an initiative of the UN Environment Program and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) to inspire market-based solutions and encourage enabling policies to prevent marine plastic pollution and less plastic wasted in South-East Asia

Newsletter - October 2022

The poster for 'SEA of Solutions' is split vertically. The left side shows a dark sea with floating plastic waste, while the right side shows a bright blue sea with a school of fish. A white boat is visible on the surface. The text 'SEA of Solutions' is at the top left. Below it, the main title 'A Spotlight on Solutions to end plastic pollution in South-East Asia' is written in large, bold letters. The dates '23-24 November 2022 | Virtual Event' and a 'Save the Date' button are also present. Logos for UN Environment Programme, COBSEA, SEA circular, Sweden/Sverige, and EB IMPACT are at the bottom. A QR code is on the right side.

SEA of Solutions

A Spotlight on Solutions

to end plastic pollution in South-East Asia

23-24 November 2022 | Virtual Event

Save the Date

Coordinated by

UN environment programme

COBSEA COORDINATING BODY ON THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA

SEA circular

Supported by

Sweden Sverige

Event Partner

EB IMPACT

Key Highlights

- **SAVE THE DATE: SEA of Solutions 2022**
- **Achieving a Circular Plastics Economy through Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**
- **Plastic Credits: Understanding the Risks and Opportunities in Addressing Plastic Pollution**
- **Realizing the Right to a Healthy Environment through Responsible Business Conduct in the plastic value chain**

- [SEA circular Project Featured at the 7th International Marine Debris Conference](#)
- [COBSEA Countries Come Together to Strengthen Regional Coordination for Tackling Marine Pollution](#)
- [Cambodia Learns from Viet Nam's Extended Producer Responsibility Initiatives](#)

Regional Dialogue Series by SEA circular



[Achieving a Circular Plastics Economy through Human Rights Based Approach \(HRBA\) and Extended Producer Responsibility \(EPR\)](#)

In this dialogue, experts on HRBA and EPR discussed about the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), recognized that businesses have a duty to uphold human rights, the significance of right to clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the importance of the plastic life span circular model, EPR approaches and practices that have been operationalized thus far in different countries, gaps that needed to be addressed to enhance EPR practices in businesses, catalysts that help strengthen partnerships amongst key stakeholders to adopt EPR, challenges to overcome, and the capacity issues to address.

[Learn more...](#)

[Plastic Credits: Understanding the Risks and Opportunities in addressing plastic Pollution](#)

In this dialogue, researchers, experts and professionals of circular economy and plastic credits addressed that the mandatory measures in place to promote comprehensive plastic waste management should be distinguished from the voluntary mechanism of plastic credits, and it might generate employment prospects at the local level. Experts emphasized that the plastic industry needs to accept Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). The panelists also highlighted that the plastic credits will eventually find a place as a voluntary tool for businesses that choose to focus more on a human rights-based approach. Thus, the government should develop a uniform standard for how policy makers declare footprint and how stakeholders calculate credits to account for social implications.

[Learn more..](#)

SEA circular Project Featured at the 7th International Marine Debris Conference

18-23 September 2022

Hybrid Format



SEA circular project organised a technical session at the 7th International Marine Debris Conference under **track 4 – Education, Awareness and Communication**. This session aimed to share trends, learnings, benefits and the successes in addressing plastic pollution crisis through products of different initiatives within and outside of SEA circular project, and to orient the audience on the importance and impact of coordinated communication around both problems and solutions in areas related to plastic pollution. Through knowledge sharing, participants gained insights on the multipronged nature of the plastic pollution challenge that needs multifaceted solutions with awareness and communication at the center of it. It is believed that the learnings from the communication, knowledge sharing and research initiatives will inspire others to develop meaningful interventions and partnerships contributing to reduction in plastic pollution.



SEA circular project organised another technical session at the 7th International Marine Debris Conference under **track 7 – Economics, Financing & Private Sector Engagement**. This session aimed to share learnings, knowledge and the successes in addressing the plastic pollution crisis through initiatives involving private sector engagement and market-based solutions in South-East Asia. The speakers showcased how various projects through SEA circular encouraged collaboration between the private sector, producer responsibility organizations and government agencies to support the enablement of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) with the right policies towards private sector meeting their EPR responsibilities. It also highlighted the evolving business solutions that can play a role in achieving circularity, their potential risks, and opportunities.



21 September 2022
Session 4
10:45 to 12:00 ICT

Plastic Circularity through Responsible Business Conduct: Realizing the Right to a Healthy Environment



Georgina Lloyd
UN Environment Programme



Nat Atichartakarn
CEO Trash Lucky



Sara Seck
Dalhousie University



Vivekanand Sista
Beauty & Wellbeing
R&D Head of SEA
Unilever



Dominic Thomson
Environmental
Justice Foundation



Naporn
Popattanachai
Faculty of Law,
Thammasat University



Orathai (Nok)
Pongruktham
Thailand Environment
Institute Foundation
(TEI)

The SEA circular project arranged a session on **Plastic Circularity through Responsible Business Conduct: Realizing the Right to a Healthy Environment** in the United Nations Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum, Asia-Pacific. The session aimed to provide a glimpse into the HRBA training material produced through the collaboration of the SEA circular Project with Dalhousie University, and to obtain perspectives from OECD, ILO, UNDP, the private sector (represented by a speaker from a relevant Business Membership Organization) and the informal waste sector on how the topics of responsible business conduct, EPR and rights are connected and how a rights based approach can deliver a healthy environment to all stakeholders, including to those that are most vulnerable.



COBSEA Countries Come Together to Strengthen Regional Coordination for Tackling Marine Pollution

The resumed 25th Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM 25) of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) accelerated regional knowledge sharing and networking on marine litter by establishing the East Asian Seas Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) at COBSEA. The Regional Node web platform will be launched in the coming weeks, providing access to policies, guidelines, a map of good practices, a Regional Research Database and Network, a network of experts, and a learning centre, which is linked to the Global Digital Platform of the GPML.



Cambodia Learns from Viet Nam's Extended Producer Responsibility and Circular Economy Initiatives

UNDP Vietnam and Cambodia jointly through SEA circular project organised a study tour in Viet Nam from 27 Sep - 2 Oct 2022 to understand Viet Nam's experiences in Circular Economy, Extended Producer Responsibility and plastic recycling as well as to discuss future opportunities for regional cooperation between the two countries. The Cambodia delegation team consisted of representatives from Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation, UNDP, while the team has interacted

with Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) - Viet Nam, private sector, and UNDP Vietnam.

About SEA circular Project

The SEA circular project – Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in Southeast Asia is implemented by the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), with funding support from the Government of Sweden. SEA circular aims to reduce and prevent plastic pollution and its impact by working with governments, businesses, civil society, academia, and international partners. The initiative promotes market-based solutions and enabling policies to transform plastic value-chain management, strengthens the science base for informed decision making, creates outreach and awareness. The project leverages COBSEA's regional mechanism to tackle the transboundary challenge of marine litter in a harmonized manner.

Contact Us

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