

**Summary of
ASEM Meeting on Sustainable Marine Environment: Marine Debris
3 August 2018, Bangkok, Thailand**

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the ASEM Meeting on Sustainable Marine Environment: Marine Debris on 3 August 2018 in Bangkok.

2. The meeting was building upon the ASEM Symposium on Inter-Regional Partnership for Sustainable Development, hosted by Thailand on 25-26 May 2017 in Bangkok. Approximately more than 180 participants, representing the ASEM members, international organizations, government agencies, private sector, academia, local communities and youths, attended the meeting.

3. The meeting aimed to serve as a platform for sharing experiences and best practices between Asia and Europe on marine debris management and to promote ocean governance and marine conservation to achieve the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

4. The meeting was comprised of three sessions: (1) High-level Session on "Global and Regional Status and Impacts of Marine Debris" was to present the current status and impacts of marine debris at regional and global levels and the role of global, regional and national organizations in addressing marine debris; (2) Session II on "Workshop and Discussion on Marine Debris Reduction Management Plan for Asia and Europe" was to discuss and obtain recommendations on effective ways to counter marine debris problem; (3) Session III on "Sustainable Marine Environment, Innovative Technologies and Solution to Prevent, Clean, and Reduce Marine Debris for Asia and Europe" brought together representatives from various sectors in Asia and Europe to share examples of best practices and innovations for marine debris management.

5. In the meeting's opening statement, H.E. Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, highlighted that Thailand attached great importance to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 14: Life below Water. Thailand's tremendous efforts evidently showed in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and in reforming the country's fisheries related industries to be sustainable. Thailand also promoted the protection and restoration of coastal and marine environment and, in particular, addressed marine debris issue as the country viewed that marine debris could pose serious threats to human lives, marine lives and food chain.

He added that marine debris was a transnational problem by nature. Therefore, collaborations to integrate the international commitments and cooperation among nations at all levels were needed. Asia and Europe could also play more roles in promoting cooperation in addressing marine pollution problems and finding out the innovative solutions and measures to cope with the problem. He also underlined Thailand's commitment to sustainable development including sustainable marine conservation and promotion of marine debris management during the country's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2019.

6. The meeting discussed and concluded with the following points:

6.1 The meeting acknowledged that marine debris, plastic waste, and micro plastics were increasingly becoming serious threats to marine environment, ecology system, human and animal lives. The collective works, collaborations and actions from every stakeholder were needed and all measures including changes in lifestyle, and sustainable consumption and production should be promoted.

6.2 The meeting agreed that, to effectively tackle and mitigate marine debris problem, the prevention measures should be promoted. Those included the promotion of public awareness, effective land-based waste management, reduction of plastic use and plastic waste management, introduction and support of innovations and technology and implementation of law and regulation for sustainable marine environment.

6.3 The meeting acknowledged good examples of policies implemented to combat with marine debris and waste management at the national, regional and global levels, as well as best practices and initiatives of individual, communities and industries to tackle with marine debris and waste problems, shared by the participants. Those included Germany's Dual System, China's research on marine debris and litters control, as well as initiatives and innovations related to waste management from the private sector and civil societies namely Siam Cement Group Public Company Limited (SCG), PTT Global Chemical Public Company Limited (GC), Singha Estate Public Company Limited, the Phi Phi Island Community, KIMO international's Fishing for litter initiative, and Trash Hero Thailand in raising awareness of the public on marine debris.

6.4 The meeting recognized the importance of partnership and collaboration among ASEM members and the promotion of ASEM's roles as a platform in exchanging experiences and addressing marine debris management.

7. In addition, the panel discussion also obtained the recommendations on marine debris management to draft "the Proposal for Management Plan for Marine Debris Reduction in Asia and Europe". The draft proposal would comprise of (1) Policies and measures on marine debris reduction at source such as raising awareness campaign, incentive scheme and ban of plastic use; (2) Measures to prevent, reduce and manage plastic waste such as waste management project at local, national and regional levels, scientific research on status and impact of marine debris, and promotion of circular economy concept and (3) Measures to involve all stakeholders, in particular public and private sectors, in capacity building in research and marine technology and creating public awareness.

On the same occasion, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, in collaboration with Kasetsart University, Siam Cement Group Public Company Limited (SCG), PTT Global Chemical Public Company Limited (GC), Singha Estate Public Company Limited, Central Group, Tlejourn and Scrap Shop, co-organized the exhibition called "#INSEA – The Day the Ocean Is Without Plastic!" during 3-4 August 2019 at the Ground Floor, Central Plaza Lardprao, Bangkok. The exhibition aimed to be a showcase of potential innovations, technologies and initiatives related to marine debris management and to raise awareness among the public on the threats of marine debris and plastic waste as well as to inspire innovative thinking of young generation in developing solutions to marine debris for present and in the future.

Summary of Speakers' Remarks and Summary of the Sessions

1. Opening Ceremony

H.E. Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, addressed in his opening remarks that Thailand attached great importance to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 14: Life below Water. Thailand's tremendous efforts evidently showed in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and in overhauling the country's fisheries industries to be more sustainable. Thailand also promoted the protection and restoration of coastal and marine environment and, in particular, addressed the marine debris issue as the country viewed that marine debris could pose serious threats to human lives, marine lives and food chain. He added that marine debris was a transnational problem by nature. Therefore, collaborations to integrate the international commitments and cooperation among nations at all levels were needed. Asia and Europe could also play more roles in promoting cooperation in addressing marine pollution problems and finding out the innovative solutions and measures to cope with the problem.

2. Session 1: High-Level Session on "Global and Regional Status and Impacts of Marine Debris"

2.1 Ms. Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director, UN Environment Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, reviewed the status and impact of marine debris and highlighted that marine debris pollution was increasingly becoming serious threats to global environment and people lives. In her view, to solve the problem of marine debris, collective works, collaborations and actions from every stakeholder and every single person could change the situation. All measures including changes in lifestyle, and sustainable consumption and production should be promoted. The applications of research and innovation for sustainable solutions should also be supported. Ms. Louis noted that the Asia-Europe Meeting could be the platform in addressing marine debris and encouraging all partners to solve the problem of marine debris and plastics pollution.

2.2 H.E. Mr. Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, highlighted the importance of the application of research and innovations and urged all parties to work closely in tackling with marine debris problem and in promoting the Blue Economy. He pointed out the constructive roles of ASEAN in addressing marine debris and developing the regional action plan. Those included the role of ASEAN in supporting the organization of the ASEAN Conference on Reducing

Marine Debris in ASEAN Region hosted by Thailand in November 2017 in Phuket.

2.3 Dr. Wijarn Simachaya, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand, reviewed the status of marine debris pollution and its effect to marine ecology system and marine lives and habitats. He emphasized the action plan and measures Thailand has implemented in solving marine debris problem. Those included the implementation of laws and regulations on controlling of pollution and waste management, roles of Thailand in organizing international conferences and seminars to discuss on how to achieve sustainable management of marine environment and in responding to marine debris issue at national and regional levels and activities to raise public awareness on the issue.

3. Session 2: “Workshop and Discussion on Marine Debris Reduction Management Plan for Asia and Europe”

The session was moderated by **Asst. Prof. Thon Thamrongnawasawat, Kasetsart University, Thailand**, and the summary of the panelist discussion was as followed:

3.1 Mr. Petch Manopawitr, Deputy Head of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Southeast Asia Group, emphasized the harmful impact of marine debris and plastic to ecology system and marine lives. He commented that marine debris was the consequences of dumping the garbage into water by the people and now its harmful threats could impact to the ones who threw them down.

3.2 Dr. Naporn Popattanachai, Faculty of Law, Thammasat University, briefed the meeting on laws and law enforcement related to marine debris management in Thailand and shared his legal perspective and recommendation on how to improve laws and regulations in order to cope with marine debris and waste management more effectively.

3.3 Ms. Maria Chiara Femiano, Foreign Policy Instruments-Asia/Pacific, Delegation of the European Union to Thailand, emphasized the importance of the prevention measures. She suggested that controlling of waste and production of specific sources or items of marine litters harmful to marine resources should be encouraged. This would help prevent litters entering into water system and marine environment since the beginning.

3.4 Mr. Nattawut Kasem, Campaign Assistant, Environment Justice Foundation (EJF), shared his experience on the role of his organization and other non-governmental organizations in addressing marine debris. He pointed out that cooperation among all stakeholders in promoting public awareness and management of marine environment for sustainability should be strengthened.

4. Session 3: “Sustainable Marine Environment, Innovative Technologies and Solution to Prevent, Clean, and Reduce Marine Debris for Asia and Europe”

4.1 Mr. Alexander Rendell, Thai actor and environmental activist, described the role of social enterprises such as the Environmental Education Centre Thailand (EEC), in enhancing youth’s inspiration and knowledge on nature conservation and in understanding harmful impacts of waste. The EEC’s activities were not only about organizing field trips for young generation to learn more about environmental sustainability, but also to promote public awareness on the impacts of waste and litter pollution. He also pointed out the importance of the participation of all stakeholders in environmental conservation.

4.2 Mr. Vegard Holmelid, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bangkok, described how Norway has worked on combating marine littering and micro plastic. Those included local waste management and reduction of plastic waste. He suggested that the key elements were to engage all stakeholders and to provide financial support to solve marine debris problems.

4.3 Mr. Werner Kossmann, Project Director of the Domestic Waste and Wastewater Management Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), described how Germany has worked for the solutions to waste problem and waste management. He emphasized the initiative of the German private sector in promoting “the Dual System Germany”, the industry-funded system that producers and distributors could jointly cooperate in collecting and recycling used packages.

4.4 Dr. Lihui An, research fellow from Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES), made a presentation in which he described China’s marine litter and solid waste management. He also provided the information on China’s marine litter monitoring, marine litter and beach litter components. He provided examples of the CRAES’s research project and initiatives to eliminate marine litter and plastic.

4.5 Mr. Kittsanon Kittamaytrapemadej, Chief Marketing Officer, Singha Estate Public Company Limited, underscored the need to promote cooperation among civil societies in waste management. He also highlighted the

Singha Estate's roles in enhancing people's concern in devastating impacts of marine debris and noted that the issue required the joint attention of many agencies.

4.6 Dr. Suracha Udomsak, R&D Director and Emerging Business Director, Chemicals Business, Siam Cement Group Public Company Limited (SCG), made a presentation in which he noted about SCG Chemicals' roles in waste management by applying the concept of circular economy which focused on material's reduce, reuse, and recycle. He suggested that private sector can play more leading roles in implementation of new technologies for solving marine debris problem.

4.7 Mr. Natthanun Sirirak, Vice President, Business Development, PTT Global Chemical Public Company Limited (PTTGC), presented the best practice of "Upcycling the Ocean Thailand" which was the project to raise awareness and concern on marine debris by sharing knowledge and work with local communities on prevention of waste disposal into the water. He noted that the project could be a change agent in increasing income of local household and communities by 'upcycling' marine debris in the area.

4.8 Mr. Kanakorn Wongna, leader of Phi Phi islands community, presented the initiative on waste management and marine litter collecting of the Phi Phi Islands Community. He emphasized the need of the collaborative works between community, academicians and tourists in coping with waste problem and removal of garbage to keep the pleasant environment for this small island and for all tourists.

4.9 Dr. Somkiat Khokiattiwong, Specialist on Marine Biodiversity Research, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand, made a presentation by noting best practice projects aiming to reduce use of plastic in Thai universities. He also emphasized on the implementation of "Zero Trash Campaign" with various sectors to collect waste and promote understandings on the issue as well as the cooperation and initiatives between Thailand and international organizations in marine debris management.

4.10 Mr. Mike Mannaart, Executive Secretary and National Coordinator of the Netherlands-Belgian KIMO Network, KIMO International, underscored the collaboration and roles of fishermen in addressing and solving marine debris problem. He provided information on the IMO International's missions, especially the "Fishing for Litter" project, which

convinced local fishers to collect ocean litter attached to the net while fishing and currently widened into many countries.

4.11 **Dr. Nattapong Nithi-Uthai, representative from the Trash Hero Pattani**, outlined the role of Trash Hero worldwide in the promotion of civil societies' awareness in marine debris problem. He also emphasized the role of Trash Hero in Thailand, especially the initiative to gather local people for collecting waste, and the role of Tlejourn, a non profit organization, in designing and recycling marine scrap and waste materials into valuable products to increase income. The recycled products were now exported to many countries.
