

UNEP and AIT WEBINAR Series

COVID-19 & PLASTIC POLLUTION

WHAT DID THE REGION LEARN - A REFLECTION FROM ONE YEAR OF PANDEMIC

Regional Webinar Series #2: South-East Asia

02 April 2021, Friday, 14:00 - 15:30 hrs (Bangkok time) GMT+7



Background:

COVID-19, a global pandemic of recent times badly impacted both human and environmental health. One of the visible impacts in the environment is the increased plastic pollution due to a dramatic surge in consumption of single-use plastic packaging such as disposable plastic food containers and cutlery, grocery bags from online grocery and food delivery, and plastic-based personal protective equipment (mask and gloves).

Even in pre-COVID times, China and five SEA countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam) were responsible for around 60% of marine plastic debris entering the ocean. COVID-19 further aggravated the situation as health care and municipal waste management facilities were overwhelmed with the volume of waste more than its existing capacity, and plastic recycling businesses badly impacted by COVID-19. Nonetheless, the region attempted some innovations to address the challenges of plastic pollution during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Amidst more than a year of the COVID-19 outbreak, this Webinar discusses how the plastic and plastic packaging and recycling industry, governments and consumers reacted and responded to, and are planning to navigate through the 'plastic pandemic':

- 1. challenges** faced by the region to managed COVID-19 induced plastics and plastic packaging waste
- 2. innovations** adopted by the region (product, technology, financing and business model optimization etc.) for achieving a sustainable plastic and packaging waste management
- 3. lessons** drawn by the region for continued COVID-19 and/or future pandemics

Agenda

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 14:00 - 14:10 | Opening Remarks + Key note Circular Economy to address Plastic Pollution in South-East Asia
<i>Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon</i>
Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific |
| 14:10 - 14:20 | Overview on plastic waste management during COVID-19 pandemic in ASEAN
<i>Dr. Michikazu Kojima</i>
Regional Knowledge Centre on Marine Plastic Debris: ERIA, Indonesia |
| 14:20 - 14:30 | COVID-19 & reusable packaging in food E-commerce: A case of reusable food containers for online food delivery
<i>Iris Chang</i>
Regional Head of Marketing Strategy and Social Impacts, Grab Food Singapore |
| 14:30 - 14:40 | COVID-19 and health care plastic management – A case of Philippines
<i>Ramon San Pascual, MPH</i>
Executive Director, Health Care without Harm SE Asia |
| 14:40 - 14:50 | COVID-19 and Plastic Health Care Waste – challenges and solutions
<i>Terrence Thompson</i>
Consultant, Environment and Health |
| 14:50 - 15:00 | Sustainability in plastic packaging in post-pandemic: What is the industry doing?
<i>Dr. Pattra Maneesin</i>
Deputy Governor, Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR) |
| 15:00 - 15:10 | Impact of COVID-19 on single-use plastic ban policy delays/reversals
<i>Josephine Tan (Jo)</i>
General Manager, Penang Green Council, Malaysia |
| 15:10 - 15:25 | Q&A session |
| 15:25 - 15:30 | Wrap Up & Closing remarks
<i>Prof. Chettiyappan Visvanathan</i>
School of Environment, Resources and Development, AIT |



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CONTACT

Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon

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Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon

Regional coordinator for Resource Efficiency in Asia Pacific, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Dr. Memon is working with United Nations Environment Programme as a Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency in Asia Pacific Office located in Bangkok. He is supporting resource efficiency, sustainable

consumption and production, green economy, green financing, sustainable public procurement, sustainable tourism, sustainable industries and various areas for Asia and the Pacific. Dr. Memon is also implementing EU funded SWITCH-Asia Phase 2 component by UN Environment to support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production in the region.

Dr. Memon got his Masters in Project Management and National Development from University of Bradford in UK, and Doctorate in Environmental and Resource Economics and Management at Hiroshima University in Japan.


Iris Chang

Regional Head of Marketing Strategy and Social Impacts, Grab Food Singapore

Iris Chang started at Grab 5 years ago as Head of Marketing (Malaysia) and has helped build the brand across multiple businesses - GrabPay, GrabFood, GrabMart.

In the past 1.5 years, she has been leading the Regional Social Impact team and championed environmental sustainability for Grab. At this point, Iris has accumulated 12 years of experience in marketing and supply chain in the tech, telecommunications and automotive industry (notably Celcom and Toyota).


Terrence Thompson

Consultant, Environment and Health

Terrence Thompson is a highly experienced international expert on environmental health with more than 20-years of experience in the Asia-Pacific region. He was, for many years, the WHO Regional Advisor on Environmental Health in WHO's South-East Asia Region and

Western Pacific Region – a role in which he provided technical, policy and program support to a broad range of WHO environmental health programmes. His recent work, as a consultant to WHO and to UNEP, has focused on chemical safety and waste management in the health sector, environmental sustainability of health care facilities, and land-based sources of marine plastics. Mr. Thompson is a member of the International Solid Waste Association's Working Group on Health Care Waste and he is a past vice-president of the Institution of Public Health Engineers (India).


Josephine Tan (Jo)

General Manager, Penang Green Council, Malaysia

Josephine Tan Mei Ling is the General Manager for Penang Green Council. She reported to office as PGC's new General Manager in April 2019. She has been appointed as the Co-Lead for the Circular

Economy Club – Penang Chapter in March 2020. For the past 6 years, she has been serving as the Special Officer in charge of Environmental portfolio under Penang State Government. Her vast experience also comes from her active involvement in environmental related issues, policies making, educational awareness and international networking platforms such as United Nations Environment Program, Climate & Clean Air Coalition, Global Environment Centre, Japan International Cooperation Agency and UN Habitat.


Dr. Michikazu Kojima

Regional Knowledge Centre on Marine Plastic Debris: ERIA, Indonesia

Dr. Michikazu Kojima is Chief Senior Researcher in Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO. He has studied recycling and waste management policy in Asian countries. From 2018 to 2020, he was Senior Economist in Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). In ERIA, he

worked for establishing Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris (RKC-MPD), with support of Ministry of Environment, Japan. As a research fellow of ERIA, he is still leading RKC-MPD.

Dr. Michikazu Kojima is Chief Senior Researcher in Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO. From 2018 to 2020, he was Senior Economist in Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). He has studied recycling and waste management in Asian countries.


Ramon San Pascual, MPH

Executive Director, Health Care without Harm SE Asia

Ramon San Pascual graduated master degree of Public Health, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. From 2016, He is Executive Director, Health Care without Harm SE Asia. International NGO that seeks to transform health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint,

becomes a community anchor for sustainability and leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice.


Dr. Pattra Maneesin

Deputy Governor, Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR)

Dr. Pattra Maneesin is the Deputy Governor Industrial Services, Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR). Prior to obtaining Ph.D. in Packaging from Michigan State University in 2001, Dr. Pattra received B.Sc.

in Agricultural Industry from King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, Ladkrabang and M.Sc. in Post - Harvest and Food Process Engineering from Asian Institute of Technology (AIT).

In addition, Dr. Pattra Maneesin is the Acting Director of Thai Packaging Centre, TISTR. She has more than 30 years experiences in doing researches in packaging. Dr. Pattra has also been a guest speaker and special lecturer on packaging and food packaging related topic. Her area of research includes modified atmosphere packaging (MAP), active packaging and shelf life extension of food products, export packaging for fresh produces, environmentally friendly packaging etc.

Currently, Dr. Pattra has also served as the Secretary General of the Asian Packaging Federation (APF).


Prof. Chettiyappan Visvanathan

Professor, School of Environment, Resources and Development, AIT

Chettiyappan Visvanathan is a Professor at the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Change, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. He

lectures in Environmental Engineering and Management Program. Prof. Visvanathan holds a Doctoral degree in Chemical/Environmental Engineering, Institut de Genie Chimique, Institut National Polytechnique, Toulouse, France. His expertise includes Solid-liquid separation technologies for water and wastewater treatment, Clean technologies, Circular Economy in Plastic waste management and Industrial pollution control.

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