

## **ASEAN Waste Management Forum on 15 December 2017 at BITEC, Bangkok**

*This forum was organized by SWAT, in conjunction with TechnoBiz and ISWA*

The Second Edition of the ASEAN Waste Management Forum went well and there was substantial learning and sharing of experiences and best practices between ASEAN countries and beyond. The participants were very interested in the topics being presented and there were many excellent questions from the audience. This led to very interactive and collaborative dialogues which will lay a good foundation for improvements in waste management, resource efficiency and the circular economy in the ASEAN region.

SWAT has had very positive feedback from event participants across the region. By organizing this forum, SWAT is playing an important role in bringing the ASEAN countries together to form an effective network for sustainable waste management. This fulfils SWAT's objectives of cooperating with stakeholders both domestically and internationally to disseminate knowledge and raise awareness on sustainable waste management.

### **The Program:**

- Welcome and opening remarks by Dr Chindarat Taylor, Vice President of SWAT.
- Keynote Presentation – the Circular Economy - Possibility or illusion for developing countries by Prof. Dr Goran Vujic, Executive Director of the Serbian Solid Waste Association and International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) National Member representative.

Session 1. Chaired by Dr Chindarat Taylor, Founder and Director Resource Efficiency Pathway and Vice President of SWAT.

- Waste Management in Vietnam and its potential to contribute to Vietnam's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by Dr Loung Quang Huy, Director, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam.
- Waste Economics and Financing in Asia by Ms Kakuko Yoshida, UNEP Regional Office Asia and Pacific.
- Newly developed waste management facilities and opportunities by Mr Victor Li, immediate past chairman, Hong Kong Waste Management Association.

Honorary Guest Speaker on Promotion of recycling industry through green production and eco-industry by Dr Witoon Simachokedee, Chairman of 3R Foundation.

Session 2. Chaired by Mr Adisak Thongkaimook, Vice President of SWAT.

- The recent developments and challenges of solid waste management in Myanmar by Ms Su Su Myat, Waste Management Consultant of GRET.
- Current situation of MSW management and investment in the Laos PDR by Mr. Bounthong Keohanam, Director of Urban Development, Department of Housing and Urban Planning, Ministry of Public Works, Laos PDR.

Session 3. Chaired by Ms Nuchida Rungthawornwong, Stakeholder Relations and Compliance Manager, INSEE ECOCYCLE and Executive Committee of SWAT.

- Malaysian strategy towards sustainable solid waste management by Mr Siraj Abdul Razack, Waste Management Association of Malaysia.
- Challenges in solid waste management in Philippines by Ms Grace Sapuay, President, Solid Waste Management Association of Philippines.

Special Presentation on MSW Management in Thailand by Mr Patarapol Tularak, Secretary-General of Solid Waste Management Association of Thailand.

- Closing remarks for the forum by Dr Chindarat Taylor, Vice President of SWAT.

### **Summary of key messages from presentations and questions at the forum**

- The Circular Economy package is being implemented in the EU and it is an important approach encompassing preservation of finite natural resources and reduction of waste. A circular economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy of make-use-dispose in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract values from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life.
- Data from UNEP indicated that South East Asia is one of the hot spots for plastic pollution in oceans.
- Japan, Korea and Singapore (developed nations in Asia) generate very high waste per capita and have widespread use of incineration to treat their waste.
- The true cost of waste management should be calculated to include costs of inaction resulting in land consumption, air-water-soil pollution, remediation etc.
- We need to be creative and look at long term solution to the problems when China starts the ban on import of recycled plastics and other materials in 2018.
- Vietnam's national strategy and action plans for waste sector are based on the government's roadmap and Green House Gas (GHG) emission reduction targets. The current status of waste management, waste collection and treatment technologies such as landfills, composting and waste to energy were discussed.
- Hong Kong government has implemented several waste management facilities such as the WEEE treatment facility, the 2000 TPD waste water sludge treatment facility, organic waste treatment facility Phase 1 of 200 TPD will be in commercial operation in 2018.
- Myanmar is looking to improve data management, management & implementation, capacity building for service providers and development of PPP business model.
- The focus of the Laos PDR government is on waste collection and transportation. There are 17 controlled landfills and 40 open dumps in Laos PDR.
- MSW in Malaysia is growing around 5% per year. Currently 89% of waste is landfilled. In 2020, Malaysia aims to have 60% of waste sent to landfills and 20% recycled. Malaysia has federalized their waste management and waste to energy

infrastructure development. Waste collection and transportation has been privatized. Procurement of waste to energy projects are carried out centrally using UK PPP model. There are FITs to incentivize waste to energy development.

- In general, solid waste management in Philippines involves collection-transportation-disposal. There are good examples of 3R in Philippines such as segregation of waste at source, composting, making blocks from plastic waste and ocean clean up. There are rice husk biomass power plants and RDF plants for use in the cement industry.
- Solid waste management in Thailand has undergone major developments and improvements since the introduction of the National Solid Waste Master Plan in 2015. Waste management is a national priority in Thailand. There are excellent examples of reduce, reuse and recycle (3R) around the country. The Thai government has introduced Feed in Tariffs (FITs) to accelerate the development of waste to energy for municipal solid waste and industrial waste.

### **Acknowledgement**

The Solid Waste Management Association of Thailand would like to express our sincere thanks all the speakers, session chairs and our honorary guest speaker, Dr Witoon Simachokedee, Chairman of the 3R Foundation, for their valuable insights and enthusiastic information exchange during the ASEAN Waste Management Forum on 15 December 2017.

Our thanks to the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) for publicity of this event, and especially to Dr Vujic for the keynote speech for this forum.

Big thanks to TechnoBiz for their support in organizing this event.

Special thanks to Khun Patarapol Tularak, our Secretary General, for his dedication, hard work and good humour which were indispensable to making this event possible.

Last but not least, our thanks to Khun Sunee Piyapanpong, President of SWAT for her fantastic support during her busy schedule.

We look forward to keeping in touch and welcoming you all to our next ASEAN Waste Management Forum.

Dr Chindarat Taylor

Vice President of SWAT

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