

Stockholm+50 Thailand National Consultations

A Roundtable Discussion on Accelerating Biodiversity Action: Our Opportunity, Our Responsibility Towards a Healthy Planet for the Prosperity of All

Date: Tuesday 5 April 2022 (13:30-17:00)

ZOOM Meeting, with English-Thai and Thai-English Interpretation

Summary Report

On April 5, the launch of Stockholm+50 Thailand National Consultations and a roundtable on Gender Perspectives Towards a Healthy Planet for the Prosperity of All were held virtually on Zoom meeting with remote simultaneous translation live streaming to UNDP Thailand Facebook. The first of a series of Stockholm+50 National Consultations in Thailand was hosted by the Embassy of Sweden in Thailand and UNDP in Thailand, in collaboration with the Embassy of Kenya in Thailand and Thailand's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. This event aimed to inform key actors and the general public about Stockholm+50, set in motion the multifaceted process of national consultations, and facilitate the sharing of women's views and expectations that can be taken forward in the High-level Leadership Dialogue discussions at the Stockholm+50 international meeting scheduled on 2-3 June 2022.

The event Master of Ceremonies was Ms. Kirke Kyander from UNDP Thailand. The launch session was addressed by the Ambassador of Sweden to Thailand, the Ambassador of Kenya to Thailand, the UNDP Resident Representative in Thailand, and the Permanent Secretary of Thailand's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The launch session was followed by three roundtable discussions. The first roundtable focused on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all, the second discussed a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and the third discussed the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action. The event was closed by the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Thailand. The live streamed video of the event can be accessed at: <https://fb.watch/cbXIoH1yDS/>.

Despite the various challenges around environmental sustainability, particularly in Thailand, there was a consensus that the Stockholm+50 could be the time to take the bold steps towards the action needed. The sessions echoed that pressure on nature and human environment will only be truly reduced through, among others, reconciliation partnership and networking, enabling access to knowledge and innovation, improved and more inclusive data management, increased opportunities for community-based and nature-based solutions,

more equitable sustainable financing and incentive measures, and better coordinated sustainable development initiatives.

Keynote Addresses

H.E. Mr. Jon Åström Gröndahl, the Ambassador of Sweden to Thailand, delivered the first Keynote address. Ambassador Åström Gröndahl emphasized that engaging all relevant groups and stakeholders, including representatives from civil society as well as women and girls, is always a Swedish top priority. Fifty years after the first world conference to make the environment a major issue, which include among others climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, the international meeting in Stockholm in June this year will inspire world leaders to a bold action needed to pave the way towards a green and fair future for all of us while accelerating the 2030 Agenda. Sweden set to welcome high-level representatives from all countries including the Thai delegation to Stockholm, where leaders as well as key public and private stakeholders will connect climate and environment action with development priorities and the well-being of present and future generations.

The second Keynote Address was delivered by H.E. Mr. Kiptiness Lindsay Kimwole, the Ambassador of Kenya to Thailand, stressing that the Stockholm+50 international meeting in Sweden in June this year is another opportunity we should not wait to prevent the catastrophes, to protect nature and its right for human prosperity, to focus on environmental challenges and institutional-based solutions for people's wellbeing, and to achieve Agenda 2030. The Ambassador shared Kenya's experience and actions in mitigating environmental challenges, including ending plastic pollution, renewable energy solutions, green industries, conserving coastal environment and blue economy, gender equality, forest protection, and actively reducing the use of hazardous chemical substances. Ambassador Kiptiness called on the whole of society to consider ecocide as a crime against the nature and human living that need to be seriously addressed at Stockholm in June and to work harder after Stockholm+50 to ensure a sustainable and prosperous planet.

The next Keynote Address was delivered by Mr. Renaud Meyer, UNDP Resident Representative in Thailand. Mr. Meyer emphasized that the whole of society needs to fully rethink about human relationships with the nature and natural resources, particularly those linked to our economy and society, as well as about climate change and its consequences. He pointed out that, through partnership with the embassies of Sweden and Kenya, UNDP in Thailand works actively and constructively with stakeholder groups to fully involve everyone, including young people, local communities and ethnic minorities, in the Stockholm+50 national consultations process and in work after Stockholm+50. The national consultations process will provide an opportunity to align the spirit of the Stockholm conference and the Thai Government's Bio-Circular-Green development vision with the Sustainable Development Goals, to inform the localization of the SDGs at sub-national level, and to ensure all sectors of society are involved and given a voice - to leave no one behind.

Later, Mr. Jatuporn Buruspat, Permanent Secretary of Thailand's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment delivered a Keynote Address via pre-recorded video message. Mr. Buruspat stressed that women have played a crucial role in sustaining communities and

conserving natural resources and the environment. After 50 years since the Stockholm Conference in 1972, our planet is still facing the challenges of climate change, loss of biodiversity, and pollution crisis, as well as the pandemics resulting from unbalanced development and nature threats. The upcoming Stockholm+50 international meeting will be an opportunity to strengthen global commitments toward a sustainable relation with the nature, speed up actions toward achieving the sustainable development goals, and address new challenges. Thailand has strongly committed to shifting to a sustainable lifestyle through transforming into a low carbon society, mitigating pollution, and resource efficiency society. Effective mechanisms and actions as well as innovative solutions and local wisdom or knowledge are needed to help shape the world's direction toward sustainable development. The BCG model is adopted to promote green and sustainable development in Thailand. As the world has changed, this requires new solutions through technology and digital innovation across all levels for addressing existing and future challenges. In partnership with stakeholders at all levels in the society, Thailand will actively implement the national commitments towards sustainable recovery, environmentally friendly practices, and Agenda 2030 achievement. Finally, Mr Burapat informed that Thailand is drafting its first law directly targeting climate change and its commitment to meet the Paris Agreement goals. The Government will also host the Thailand Climate Action Conference (TCAC) in August 2022 and encouraged all to participate in the event.

Summary of Roundtable Discussions

The first roundtable discussion was moderated by Ms. Anchidtha Roonguthai from UNDP Thailand. The topic of discussion was 'reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all'.

Ms. Pirawan Wongnithisathaporn from the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) expressed her views on building and restoring sustainable and resilient relationship with nature for marginalized and vulnerable groups. She believes that a human rights-based approach framework is necessary in the context of people in marginalized and vulnerable groups for living in harmony with the nature that they depend on. She pointed out that key enabling environment drivers in achieving this goal includes (a) understanding of people's relations with the nature, governance through customary land rights, and recognizing their role in climate mitigation and adaptation; (b) provision of adequate climate financing and technical support; (c) ensuring gender responsiveness and sensitivity to ethnic knowledge systems in climate change and disaster risk reduction measures; (d) adherence to the rights of ethnic minorities under international law and principles; and (e) protection of ethnic women and girls against violence and for their economic and political empowerment.

Ms. Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, Former Minister of Tourism and Sports of Thailand and Chairperson of the Board, KasikornBank PCL, expressed her views on restoring and regenerating a positive relationship with nature. She described some of her experiences in the private sector, particularly banking and manufacturing industries, emphasizing that women play a crucial role in the sustainable use of natural resources. Responsible financing corporate should support business that aims for improving the quality of peoples' live. Some good initiatives include Nan Sandbox (i.e., an innovative public-private venture committed to

ending deforestation in Nan province) and Bangkadi Industrial Park (i.e., a community of businesses that seek to achieve enhanced environmental, economic and social performance through collaboration in fostering inclusive and sustainable development). Thailand is committed to become a carbon neutral society, reducing plastic use, circular economy.

Ms. Kanjana Phumelee, Director of Statistical System Management Division, National Statistical Office (NSO), expressed her views on measuring the progress towards a healthier and more prosperous planet. She explained that Thailand's economic development planning has taken into account social and economic performance measuring through a number of metrics and indicators. In adopting Agenda 2030, Thailand has developed a national approach to measuring SDG performance that requires effective monitoring of SDG indicators through comprehensive national environmental information strategies based on the use of data from various sources. Major challenges associated with measuring Thailand sustainability include investments in data innovation, data inclusivity, data utilization, data interoperability and reproducibility, and strengthening systemic statistical capacity.

During the discussion, Ms. Wongnithisathaporn responded to a question on the impact of national policies and measures concerning forest conservation on ethnic communities' rights. She mentioned about the forest conflict in upland areas inhabited by ethnic minorities who depend on natural resources in the reserved forests. Her recommendations for resolving such issues included efforts toward better mutual understanding, changes in structures and attitudes, local cooperation, utilization of traditional methods, and local institutions.

The second roundtable discussion was moderated by Dr. Anuk Serechetapongse from UNDP Thailand. The topic of discussion was 'achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic'.

Ms. Patricia Mongkhonvanit, Director-General, Public Debt Management Office, expressed her views on shaping an equitable, inclusive and sustainable recovery. She described Thailand's response to Covid-led economic contractions so far has been to boost spending. With a strong fiscal position, the government rolled out massive fiscal stimulus measures to support vulnerable groups and assist the recovery of economic activities during the pandemic. Through cash transfers, consumption support, travel subsidies, economic and social rehabilitation (such as investments on infrastructure and basic economic development needs in EEC, BCG model investment), as well as medical services funding support, fiscal supports are provided promptly and effectively. In boosting revenue collection and strengthening spending efficiency, the government has initiated a sustainable finance ecosystem, notably the ESG (environmental, social, and governance) and sustainability bonds to help reduce financial risks stemming from climate change, forest resource depletion, environmental degradation, and social issues. In addition, prior to the pandemic, electronic payments, digital wallets, and e-savings have been introduced to create inclusion, equitable and sustainable financing environment in Thailand.

Ms. Sakuna Saranand, Member of the Committee on Science, Technology, Research and Innovation, House of Representatives, expressed her views on decent green jobs and skills of the future. She focused on the essence of prudent application of knowledge and appropriate

technology to cope with critical challenges facing by communities living in the rural areas. The rural Thai communities rely, often in large measure, for agriculture as the basis of their livelihoods and are highly dependent upon natural resources that are affected by environmental challenges including climate change, soil degradation and biodiversity loss. Ms. Saranand believes that great care is needed in application of local wisdom, tested knowledge and understanding, and appropriate technology as an important means of strengthening the capacity of local communities, particularly women and vulnerable people, to generate income from biodiversity-based agricultural practices. She highlighted the local communities in Sakon Nakhon Province of the northeastern Thailand where the indigo-dyed textile product has become the remarkable lifestyles of the community's living in close relation with nature.

Ms. Salinla Seehaphan, Chief Sustainability Officer, Lotus's, expressed her views on better performing industries and supply chains for a just transition. She mentioned that a retail business acts as a marketing intermediary that connects producers with consumers, therefore plays a crucial role in completing a cycle of chain management starting from raw materials from suppliers to producers into finished goods or services, continuing to distribution to consumers. Ms. Seehaphan focused on challenges and good practices to help Thai SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) to shift toward recovery from the economic losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic while achieving environmental sustainability. She gave credence to better and sustainable performance post COVID-19 by creating a platform of opportunities for sustainability of SMEs. Key enabling environment drivers in achieving a just transition include provision of supporting ecosystem services (i.e., online and offline distribution channels, financial innovation and support), capacity development (i.e., generating and sharing of real-time knowledge and inclusive information), and building a strong network (i.e., applying a sharing economy concept to generate value added from underused resources through networking among SMEs, academics and producers to reduce costs and increase visibility – emphasizing the implementation of SDG 17 partnership building toward updated and continuous journey).

The audience voiced their views on ensuring equal opportunities to benefit from a sustainable and just transition and follow-up activities from Stockholm+50. Key recommendations are summarized as: (a) provide adequate access to socio-economic development opportunity (i.e., internet, knowledge, and capitals) for ethnic minorities, as well as natural resources development and extraction opportunity for their livelihoods and welfare particularly during the COVID-19 crisis; (b) focus on inclusive and sustainable recovering through green economy practices including renewable energy, innovation and inclusive partnerships to create jobs and produces in all economic sectors, engagement of women in socio-economic development at household and business levels, and application of appropriate digital technology in agriculture; (c) seek potential integration or synergies among development drivers or sectors to reduce costs, reduce risks, and increase positive impacts; (d) emphasize partnership building through policy initiatives such as the implementation of BCG (Bio-Circular-Green Economy) model; and (e) ensure women's access to financial resources for livelihoods.

The third and last roundtable discussion was moderated by Ms. Nitchakan Daramatat from UNDP Thailand. The topic of discussion was 'accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development in the context of the Decade of Action'.

Dr. Kannika Thampanichvong, Senior Research Fellow, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), expressed her views on challenges in the decade of action. She identified major environmental challenges facing Thailand during the Decade of Acceleration as including climate change impacts and delivering climate promise, pollution (air, water, waste), loss of biodiversity, and deterioration of natural resources. Dr. Thampanichvong recommended key solutions to address the specific challenges, focusing on climate change and pollution, as follows: (a) accelerating adaptation actions across sectors by raising awareness of all parties on the impacts of climate change and the necessity of adaptation, integrating climate data, mobilizing finance and enhance access, ensuring access to adaptation technology, and creating economic incentives to implement adaptation actions; (b) decarbonizing key economic sectors through incentive or economic instruments, laws and regulation to support and legitimize economic/incentive instruments and measures, database on the point source greenhouse gas emission, and awareness raising; (c) changing incentives to tackling air pollution through policies and incentives for vehicles with higher emission standard or electric vehicles, R&D and technology development on alternative usage of agricultural residues, provision of laws and regulations such as air quality or emission standard and PRTR (Pollutant Release and Transfer Register), and access to finance or tax incentives; (d) determining carrying capacity and economic instruments through research on carrying capacity of water resources, laws to legitimize the collection of wastewater tax, and the use of economic instruments to set the right incentives; and (e) encouraging at source waste segregation and uses of waste to support circular economy, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, by encouraging at source segregation through provision of knowledge, facilities and financial incentives, supporting transition to alternative waste disposal technology, and handling effective infectious waste collection and disposal system.

Ms. Thanyaporn Krichtitayawuth, Executive Director, Global Compact Network Thailand (GCNT), expressed her views on partnership for a green, inclusive and sustainable economic transformation. She focused on corporate climate action that is based on global partnership agreement and cooperation. Key contributions from the private sector through global networking to address climate change include business model transitions, green innovation, circular economy, nature-based solutions, and human rights. In Thailand, many businesses have already embedded sustainability into their operations and discussed key milestones in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions in alignment with the global 'RaceToZero' initiative to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest. Business pathways that are low-carbon dependent are being promoted and adopted through the GCNT networking, including to act responsibly in the face of the climate crisis, to scale up financing in support of sustainability, to embrace business nature-based solutions to protect biodiversity and natural resources, to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts, to create an enabling environment for a green and circular economy (particularly for plastics), and to ensure compliance with global standards including human rights for health and wealth. Key modules

adopted by the GCNT on building business partnerships for climate action are three-fold: founding on collaboration with climate experts, including from the Science-Based Targets Initiative; sharing best practices from inspired business leaders and managers; and providing knowledge, incentives, and tools to help businesses achieve a net-zero transition.

The audience voiced their views on an enabling environment for delivery on the ground and follow-up activities from Stockholm+50. Key recommendations are summarized as: (a) pilot implementation followed by replicability and scaling up, stakeholder engagement, delivering as one, good governance and safeguards in social and economic development, and policy coherence for sustainable development such as the Thai ERC (Energy Regulatory Commission) regulatory sandbox; (b) community engagement and capacity building for biodiversity, awareness raising, inclusive financing model to support local government and communities (such as UNDP's BIOFIN initiative), economic and fiscal instruments, socio-economic incentive measures, as well as partnership building through nature-based solutions; and (c) consistent governance process to develop and maintain clean and green policies and procedures; (d) fostering local knowledge and wisdom based on SEP in localizing sustainable development; (e) development and adoption of appropriate and inclusive technologies for people living in poverty and vulnerable groups; (f) promoting a STOP-THINK-ACT campaign at all levels (from individual and household to corporate); and (g) performance monitoring for action in all sectors to ensure accountability towards environmental sustainability.

Closing

Finally, the closing remarks was delivered by Ms. Lovita Ramguttee, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Thailand. She emphasized the importance of acceleration of action particularly during the crisis, living in harmony with the nature, think about most vulnerable people, partnerships and responses to challenges, and the power of modern and traditional knowledge systems for sustainable living. She stressed that it is crucial to work together and join hands to do better, and that UNDP has worked closely with all partners and major stakeholder groups including governments, civil society, women, ethnic minorities and local communities, academia, youth, industry, private sector and beyond to ensure their voices and engagements.

Ms. Ramguttee informed the participants that, following this launch event, Thailand national consultations will continue through April and May in the northern and southern regions focusing on environmental issues under the Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogues and priority national themes. She also pointed out that a workshop in mid-May to validate the draft national consultation report will be convened in Bangkok, and a pre-departure event hosted by the Embassy of Sweden in Thailand for high level delegation to the Stockholm+50 international meeting. Key outputs of Stockholm+50 National Consultations in Thailand also include the national online survey results and the SparkBlue online national stakeholder engagement platform.

Ms. Ramguttee expressed her gratitude to the Keynote Speakers, the Speakers, and the Audience for their contribution and attendance. She affirmed their views and opinions have been captured and recorded, which will be reflected in Thailand's National Consultations

Report to be presented as part of the Global Report presented at the Stockholm+50 International Meeting in June in Sweden. She invited all participants and stakeholders to actively and continuously engage through UNDP Thailand in the upcoming events related to Thailand's Stockholm+50 national consultations as well as in the work after Stockholm+50.