

The 14th Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production:
Call for Action – “Acting Together for our Future Sustainability”

12-14 November 2018, Indonesia

**ASIA PACIFIC CITIZENSHIP PLEDGE FOR RESILIENT AND
SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES**

Introductory Note

The Asia-Pacific region stands at the center stage of the world economy today. As a major driver of global trade and host to more than half of the global population, present decisions on consumption and production in the region will have major implications for the sustainability of the planet's land, freshwater, biodiversity and climate support systems. In this context, increasing affluence in the region is contributing to increasing material and energy consumption and associated environmental impacts at the local, national and transboundary levels. Recognizing these challenges, there has been significant progress in promoting and implementing SCP in the region through an emergence of a strong regional approach for cooperation on SCP implementation in Asia and the Pacific.

Some examples on this collaboration include the adoption of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on SCP, the development of a regional roadmap for implementing the 2030 Development Agenda at the 4th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, raising the profile of SCP in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, as well as the preparation of an SCP Regional Roadmap in Asia and the Pacific. Moving forward is important to ensure that these efforts continue to gain traction by scaling up integration with the global development agenda, cooperation frameworks and related processes, emphasizing the central role SCP plays in contributing to the achievement of SDG 12 and SCP related SDGs.

The 2018 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF): “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” recognized the important role of the Regions and building on the lessons learned to foster coherence on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) between local and global levels. The Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) stressed in the HLPF the importance of resilience building and the engagement of key regional and sub-regional actors, all levels of government, and inclusive and multi-stakeholder participation including disadvantaged, poor, vulnerable and risk-exposed populations for the achievement of the SDGs.

Interlinkages in the SDGs through the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns and practices are recognized as an important way forward to achieve the Goals. Countries in Asia and the Pacific have started integrating SCP into national development plans and strategies and the creation of approaches and structures to promote, coordinate and integrate implementation efforts. Despite positive efforts, there is still a long way to go to speed up transformative actions to reach the Goals.

The Asia Pacific Citizenship Pledge for Resilient and Sustainable Societies was put forward at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) Side Event: Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Asia and the Pacific for accelerated achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) held in 18 July 2018 in New York, USA. This HLPF side event was co-hosted by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia with the participation of Ministry of Environment, Japan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand, with the support of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Asia Pacific (UN ESCAP), the Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP), and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). This collaborative partnership to contribute to the HLPF was initiated in the 13th APRSCP held in Melaka, Malaysia in 10-11 October 2017.

Considering the strategic importance of Asia and the Pacific region, this Citizenship Pledge is a call to include the voice of the region in international SCP-related discussions and to have a common vision in the Region towards SCP to achieve the SDGs.

Part 1: Pledge

We, as representatives of ASIA PACIFIC SOCIETIES participating in the 14th APRSCP,

SHARE a common vision in the Asia Pacific Region of pursuing hunger elimination, poverty eradication, sustainable prosperity and better quality of life well-being, in harmony with nature;

ACKNOWLEDGE that our daily operations and activities are consuming precious natural resources and contributing to environmental challenges locally, regionally and globally [incl. climate change, plastic pollution problems, water problems, food wastes, etc.];

RECOGNIZE the importance of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) as one of the three overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for sustainable development, together with poverty eradication and the management of natural resources in order to foster economic and social development;

PLEDGE to take actions in being more responsible of our consumption of natural resources and avoiding/reducing the burden to the environment in our policy/strategy/activities/operations/products/services through the shift towards SCP patterns to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Part II: Plan of Action

We, the representatives from Asia and the Pacific attending the 14th APRSCP held in Indonesia on 12-14 November 2018,

ACKNOWLEDGE the indivisible, integrated and interlinked nature of the SDGs and the importance of the interlinkages through SCP to mitigate trade-offs and maximize synergies towards transformation and to scale up actions to achieve the SDGs.

SUPPORT the need for strengthened action towards SDG 12 in the Asia Pacific to reverse negative trends, noting that unsustainable consumption patterns are contributing to social and environmental challenges at the local, national and transboundary levels. We support the implementation of SCP and Circular Economy strategies in the Region through scaled-up political will and multi-stakeholder collaboration to accelerate achievement of SDG12 and SCP related goals.

RECOGNIZE that achieving the SDGs requires integrating SCP into policies and plans, engaging the business and industry sector, and involving other stakeholders and the community through innovation, experience, and real implementation on the ground.

SUPPORT regional and national collaboration towards the implementation of the UN ESCAP SDGs Regional Roadmap and the implementation of the Framework of Action based on the UN ESCAP publication in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on the Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly on the initiatives to form the ASEAN Resource Panel, providing support for Greening Small and Medium Enterprises in ASEAN and forming the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue. In the National level, we are committed to support the implementation of SCP initiatives through multi-stakeholder partnerships and the mainstreaming of SCP into policies through National SCP Framework and Action Plans and sectoral Roadmaps.

ENCOURAGE International, Regional and National collaboration/partnerships among effective change agents led by UN Environment, EU Switch-Asia Programme, IGES among others, to scale-up implementation of SCP through policy reforms, building technical skills and institutional competency, and supporting ongoing public and private sector investments in sustainable technologies.

SUPPORT the formation of communities of practice such as developing a National SCP Resource Pool, which is in synergy with One Planet Network of the 10YFP on SCP at the global level. The National SCP Resource Pool aims to contribute to improving the science-

policy interface, to advancing policy reforms and implementation, innovations and investments, and to enhancing stakeholder collaborations, information-sharing and knowledge platforms for better decision-making on SCP. It is important to ensure that these efforts are in line with the global frameworks for cooperation, particularly its contribution to the achievement of the SDG 12 and related SDGs.

Part III: Collaboration

We are willing to collaborate with stakeholders in the region:

1. To share lessons learned and work with partners to effectively mainstream SCP in policies, plans and strategies and to use SCP tools and instruments for better implementation of the SDGs;
2. To encourage best practices, technological advances and innovations in sectors such as energy, transport, manufacturing, health, agriculture, biodiversity, forestry and waste management;
3. To support SCP initiatives in advancing data availability, science, technology and innovation, financing, and capacity development;
4. To empower indigenous resources – people and resources –leading to strategic and innovative thinking systems;
5. To ensure that SCP plans and implementation contribute to increased resiliency from climate change impacts, disasters and extreme events;
6. To strengthen encourage greater transparency and participation through partnerships with governments, business sector, communities, and other stakeholders on the ground to build up this momentum.

IN COLLABORATION with the Government of the Republic of Indonesia with the participation of Ministry of Environment, Japan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand, with the support of the UN ESCAP, APRSCP, IGES, EU Switch-Asia Programme and other partners, issue this Asia Pacific Citizenship Pledge for Resilient and Sustainable Societies at the 14th Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production held in Jakarta Indonesia, 13 November 2018.

For further communication and information:

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