Special Session 1: March 14, 16:30–18:00 (JST)

Circular Economy -Transformation of Policies to Actions

Organized by the Solid Waste Management Association of Thailand (SWAT)

Thailand has introduced the National Roadmap on Solid Waste Management since 2015. After that, there have been several more national strategies and action plans on waste and plastic waste management. In particular, the Roadmap on Plastic Waste Management which is effective from 2018 to 2030, the plan is aimed at reducing or banning single-use plastic (SUP) products and increase recycling rate of plastic waste.

In addition, Bio-Circular-Green Economic Model or BCG has been introduced by the research community and promoted by the Thai government as a new economic model for inclusive and sustainable growth. The BCG model capitalizes the country's strengths in biological diversity and cultural richness and employs technology and innovation to transform Thailand to a value-based and innovation-driven economy. The model also conforms with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is also intended to align with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) which is also the key principle of Thailand's social and economic development.

Introducing circular economy (CE) principles in production, trade and consumption within the waste hierarchy (i.e., reduce, reuse, recycle) can provide solutions to current unsustainable production and consumption patterns.

This special session will include policies and supporting measures and especially the implementation of CE by private sectors. Case studies with tangible results in Thailand will be discussed.

Programme

Session Chair: Dr. Chindarat Taylor, Vice President, SWAT; Founder and Director, Resource Efficiency Pathway.

16:30-16:35

Introduction and welcome

Dr. Chindarat Taylor, Vice President, SWAT; Founder and Director, Resource Efficiency Pathway.

16:35-16:50

An Enhancement of Plastic Packaging Waste Segregation Performance for Closed-loop Recycling.

Dr. Orathai Chavalparit, President, SWAT; Professor, Chulalongkorn University.

To enhance closed-loop recycling for plastic packaging waste management, the data-based networking for a recycling facility that could be accessed easily on-internet or online should be developed. Information and knowledge are a big gap that could be improved in the future development of Rayong plastic waste management. Moreover, a technical capacity or human capacity to separated plastic waste for recycling is also necessary to promote. Technical training for all responsible persons in the community or government agency in the complexities of plastics for recycling propose is needed widely.

16:50-17:05

Practice of Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Policy at Doi Tung Development Project

Dr. Thanapong Duangmanee, Director of Environmental Policy, Mae Fah Luang Foundation

Founded in 1988, Doi Tung Development Project is a social enterprise aiming to improve the livelihood of the people living in Doi Tung and, at the same time, striking balance between human and nature. Through BCG policies, the project can divert more than 130 tons/year of waste from landfill with only 13% for incineration, utilize discarded macadamia shells as bioenergy, use solar energy, which, in terns, reduces GHG emission by more than 500 tCO_2eq per year and saves about $US 80,000 per year. The project also upcycles waste to create products, such as biodiesel, vermicompost, carpets made by recycled PET bottle, and gift boxes made from paper coffee cups.

17:05-17:20

Circular Economy Policy – Background and Update

Dr. Wijarn Simachaya, President, Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)

The Circular Economy in Thailand is targeting three sectors: plastic waste sector, agricultural & food industry sector (food waste and food loss), and construction sector. By targeting plastic waste, Thailand is now developing a Closed-loop system for plastics, which are collecting, sorting, circulation, and utilization. The system will benefit to reduce virgin plastic as reduction of resources consumption, to reduce energy consumption, to reduce greenhouse gas emission, reduce pollution and contamination of marine plastic debris, to create new jobs and to generate income to community.

17:20-17:35

Upcycling of Marine Plastics to High-value Products.

Mr. Svein Rasmussen, Founder, Starboard, Thailand

Disrupt the "thinking" and get the audience to consider that in addition to focusing so much energy on finding ways to continue the pollution through upcycling and finding business opportunities in singing that song, [we might want to be more critical and spend more energy and time on the root cause. Find simple solutions to drive change, set rules against single use plastic and where alternative packaging that is 10% within cost should be chosen. Single use plastic usage taxed at 10% Companies using alternatives might get 10% support. Each company must present a plastic footprint together with their annual accounting.

17:35-17:50

Experiences in Recycling of Plastic Waste in Thailand – Challenges and Opportunities.

Mr. David Bourge, General Manager, SUEZ Circular Polymer, Thailand

This presentation will show what are the current limitations which impeach to develop plastic circularity in Thailand and what are the new regulations, behaviors, technologies to push to limit pollution. The plastic crisis even did not start yet! This is time for us to act.

17:50-18:00

Q & A and Closing Remarks