Closing Event of the Project:
The Value of Empowerment and Participation on Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

30 November 2021 (13:00-14:30 GMT+7)
Verify your local time here.

Background
Since 2018, ESCAP and SIDA have jointly implemented a project on “The value of empowerment and participation on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” Activities in this project have contributed to improve the understanding and access to knowledge of target stakeholders on the impacts and value of empowerment, including public participation, for strengthening implementation of SDGs in Asia and the Pacific, particularly on the environment-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16).

As part of the project, stakeholders have benefitted from workshops and expert group meetings, whose outcomes have supported the development of knowledge products, and produced valuable insights into future work on procedural rights in the region.

ESCAP will host an Executive Training Program for high-level government officials from 29 November to 3 December 2021. Registered participants attending the Executive Training Program may also register for this closing event. The discussions on empowerment and development features in this event will be offered as a side event, along the curricular modules of the training week.

Objectives
This event will conclude the implementation of the project, through the presentation of the final knowledge products. These include, a final assessment report on the value of engagement and participation for advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; a research
paper on the advantages of environmental impact assessments, incorporating environmental procedural rights, to support member States on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in the ASEAN region, as well as a feasibility study on opportunities to advance access rights in the Pacific. The launch of the reports will be followed by a discussion featuring a panel of experts. Furthermore, ESCAP and partner UN agencies, will propose opportunities for future cooperation for development in Asia-Pacific.

Session Structure Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (Bangkok)</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Opening</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                | *Moderator:* Katinka Weinberger  
|                | Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section, UNESCAP |
|                | *Welcome Remarks:* AnnaMaria Oltorp  
|                | Head of Development Cooperation - Regional Asia and the Pacific (Sida)  
|                | Embassy of Sweden |

**Presentations: Empowerment and Participation for Development**

| 13:10          | Kalpana Giri  
|                | Senior Program Officer, RECOFTC  
|                | Presentation of Assessment Report on the value of engagement and participation for advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development |
|                | Matthew Baird  
|                | Director Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law (ARIEL)  
|                | UNESCAP/UNEP Consultant |

**Panel of Experts**

<p>| 13:40          | H.E. Prof. Dr. Amara Pongsapich, Representative of Thailand to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker/Title/Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 13:50        | **Dibya Gurung**  
Gender and social inclusion expert for environment and climate change  
Women Organizing for change in Agriculture and NRM (WOCAN) |
| 14:00 – 14:10| Q&A                                                                             |
| **Next steps** | **Opportunities for Future Cooperation for Development in Asia-Pacific**        |
| 14:10 – 14:25| **Georgina Lloyd**  
Regional Coordinator Environmental Law and Governance  
Asia and the Pacific Office (UNEP) |
|              | **Heike Alefsen**  
Regional Representative  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
Regional Office for the Pacific |
|              | **Romchat WACHIRARATTANAKORNKUL**  
Human Rights, Climate Change and Environment Focal Point  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
South East Asia Regional Office |
| 14:25 pm     | Final Remarks (ESCAP)                                                            |
| 14:30        | END                                                                              |

**Modalities of Training**
This virtual event will be hosted via Zoom.

This event is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).