

ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2017

"Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing Asia-Pacific"

29-31 March 2017 | UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE CENTRE . BANGKOK, THAILAND

Launch of the Asia Pacific SDG Partnership	
Date:	Wednesday, 29 March 2017
Venue:	Conference Room 2
Time:	12:00 – 12:15
What will be discussed?	
This launch event provides an opportunity to emphasize how the partnership supports member States in achieving the SDGs through knowledge products and how it will enhance collaboration with partners to track and share assessment of implementation challenges and opportunities of the SDGs.	

Voluntary National Review – Learning Cafe	
Date:	Wednesday, 29 March 2017
Venue:	Pavilion of Partnership / Engagement Space
Time:	15:30 – 17:30
What will be discussed?	
In preparation for the panel discussions in the plenary on the next day, representatives of the VNR participating countries will be invited to join a VNR Learning Café. Experts will have an informal opportunity for exchange of experiences and discuss ideas on processes and tools for follow-up and review, including stakeholder involved and the role of regional networks. The VNR Learning Café will be set up at the Engagement Space of the Pavilion of Partnerships on Sustainable Development which is designated to facilitate informal peer-learning experiences throughout the duration of the fourth APFSD. The target participants will consist of a technical-level professionals, institutional actors, academia representatives, scientists, as well as contributors from civil society.	
Key Questions?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ongoing or planned national-level follow-up and review, and challenges; ○ Processes and tools to facilitate preparation of VNRs; ○ How to undertake meaningful stakeholder engagement in follow-up and review. Regional commonalities and lessons learned from VNR preparations undertaken so far 	

The importance of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) to eradicate poverty in Asia and the Pacific	
Date:	Thursday, 30 March 2017
Venue:	Meeting Room F
Time:	12:15 – 13:30
What will be discussed?	
The Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Partnership in Asia and the Pacific is composed of multiple developing partners, whose mandates are to help countries achieve CRVS improvement and the goals for the CRVS Decade (2015-2024). The partnership includes multiple UN organizations, other international organizations and CSOs.	
The coordination between ESCAP and developing partners is fundamental for the organization of CRVS	

activities and for implementation of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific. The side event will showcase experiences of improving CRVS in Asia and the Pacific and highlight the strong partnership approach to supporting countries in the region.

Key Questions?

- In which ways are civil registration supporting service delivery in countries?
- What can be done to ensure hard to reach and marginalized groups are included in CRVS systems?
- Why is improving CRVS so essential to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the SDGs?

Technology and Sustainability (GCCS 2017 – Destination India)

Date: Thursday, 30 March 2017

Venue: Meeting Room A

Time: 12:15 – 13:30

What will be discussed?

The side event intends to touch upon, the bridge that technology can help build, between the vision of SDGs and the implementation process of achieving these goals. The session will also bring to the forefront how technology and cyberspace stand as the real leader in solving ground level problems related to SDGs and other development initiatives.

In addition, the session will give participants a peek into the upcoming Global Conference on Cyberspace (GCCS-2017) where world leaders and technology experts will come together with civil society, academia and government officials to discuss the latest innovations and how cyberspace of tomorrow can be a facilitator for achieving societal goals. It will tell them what to expect at GCCS 2017 – and how cyber solutions can help provide a vision of inclusive digital society.

Presentation on Global Environmental System Leaders (GESL)

Date: Thursday, 30 March 2017

Venue: Pavilion of Partnership / Engagement Space

Time: 12:15 – 13:30

What will be discussed?

Introduction of KEIO knowledge sharing system (5D World Map System) and joint project proposals on SDGs research.

Key Questions?

- How can we share and utilize our local-knowledge Big-data in a global view with ICT?

ASEAN and UN cooperation on the complementarities between the ASEAN Vision Community 2025 and 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (open session)

Date: Friday, 31 March 2017

Venue: Conference Room 4

Time: 09:00 – 09:30

What will be discussed?

Opening remarks

Policy Perspectives: Enhancing complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Launching of the publication “South-South in Action - Sustainability in Thailand, Experience for Developing Countries” jointly prepared by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand and United Nations

Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)	
Date:	Friday, 31 March 2017
Venue:	Conference Room 4
Time:	09:30 – 09:45
What will be discussed?	
In the publication series entitled “South-South in Action”, Thailand shares its experiences, best practices and efforts in South-South and triangular cooperation and its journey from aid recipient to an emerging donor country.	

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction for Poverty Eradication in Asia-Pacific	
Date:	Friday, 31 March 2017
Venue:	Meeting Room G
Time:	09:30 – 11:00
What will be discussed?	
The proposed side event will target government officials from national met and hydro services, national disaster management authorities and other ministries dealing with poverty eradication. The event is to be jointly organized by UN agencies of TWG-DR3. Research institutes and other international organizations will be also invited to make contributions to the event, in order to build partnerships in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into national strategies and policies for poverty eradication.	
Key Questions?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the UN perspectives on disaster impacts on poverty in Asia-Pacific? ○ What are the key issues and challenges for UN agencies to improve the coherence of the Sendai Framework, SDGs, and the Paris Agreement? 	

Launching of World Water Development Report 2017: “Waste Water as Untapped Resource”	
Date:	Friday, 31 March 2017
Venue:	Conference Room 3
Time:	10:00 – 12:00
What will be discussed?	
This side event will engage distinguished experts from member states and regional think-tanks, private sector, financial institutions and banks in a discussion on the main theme of World Water Day (<i>WWDR</i>) 2017: <i>Wastewater as an Untapped Resource</i> and on the ways of managing wastewater more effectively and efficiently in the region. New opportunities of applying financing mechanisms and economic instruments for stimulation of the wastewater treatment service-providers facilitated by coherent national policies and strengthened coordination of national institutions and local authorities will be highlighted. The panel deliberations would generate recommendations for the regional policy makers and practitioners on the way forward within Agenda 2030 and SDGs.	
Key Questions?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If wastewater was a currency would you waste it? ○ What is the most impactful policy lever in the region to address the SDG 6 on water and sanitation for all to ensure implementation of SDG 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable? ○ How to raise awareness that wastewater is an untapped resource with unexplored potential in the region (SDG 6.3 target)? ○ How to give impetus to service providers to apply whole-systems management of wastewater and to stimulate new business opportunities and investments in that? 	

Migration: A Critical Factor for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	
Date:	Friday, 31 March 2017
Venue:	Meeting Room H
Time:	10:00 – 11:00
What will be discussed?	
The side event will aim to bring together all APFSD participants with an interest in international migration, including Government participants, civil society members, private sector actors and experts on international migration as speakers and participants. They will be encouraged to consider the importance of international migration in their work, and to participate in the process of providing inputs to the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.	
Key Questions?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are key issues holding back migration's contributions to sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region? ○ What is needed to overcome these obstacles? ○ What should the global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration include to maximize the contribution of international migration to sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region? ○ What are suggested areas of focus for the Asia-Pacific regional preparations for the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration? 	

New platforms for civil society engagement with governments for realizing the 2030 Agenda	
Date:	Friday, 31 March 2017
Venue:	Meeting Room F
Time:	11:30 – 12:30
What will be discussed?	
The Side Event will present the experience of two countries in the region (Indonesia and Malaysia) in developing platforms for civil society engagement in the government-led Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) monitoring and implementation mechanisms, and offer an opportunity to reflect on the key elements for successful collaboration between civil society and government, and the role that UN agencies can play.	
Key Questions?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What progress has been made in strengthening civil society engagement with governments in processes for monitoring and implementing the SDGs? ○ What are the main challenges which have been identified so far, and what good practices and lessons learned can be shared with other countries which have yet to set up mechanisms for such engagement? ○ What scope is there for engaging civil society in localization of the SDGs? How to ensure that grassroots and community-based groups are fully empowered to participate in the process, to help ensure that no one is left behind? ○ What roles can UN agencies play, at national and regional levels, in supporting such engagements? 	

Including Persons with Disabilities in Sustainable Development- An Inclusive Pathway to Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity	
Date:	Friday, 31 March 2017
Venue:	Meeting Room H
Time:	11:30 – 12:30
What will be discussed?	
This side event aims at addressing the meaningful participation and inclusion of a regional perspective, particularly keeping in mind the idea of development justice. In addition, the debate elaborates on the	

challenges that people with disabilities face in the region, while trying to provide solutions and recommendations on how to address these issues through the implementation of the SDGs. Member States will be invited to sit on a panel with experts from the Disability Constituency to make formal statements and engage in a dialogue with other panelists. Member States and panelists will discuss strategies and current best practices in addressing poverty eradication and gender equality, focusing on the challenges for women with disabilities' inclusion within national policies.

SRHR and Gender Equality: Crucial to Eradicating Poverty in Asia Pacific	
Date:	Friday, 31 March 2017
Venue:	Meeting Room A
Time:	11:30 – 12:30
What will be discussed?	
<p>This side event aims to explore the interconnections between sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality and poverty eradication. It will also look at progress and gaps in achieving sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as take a critical look at indicators being proposed at the global level to see whether they really measure the change that we want to achieve. The meaningful engagement of civil society, in partnership with government and UN agencies is critical for discussions on how to best to address marginalization and inequality, and ensuring no one is left behind.</p>	
Key Questions?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How and why fulfillment of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is necessary to eradicate poverty and achieve gender equality in Asia Pacific? ○ How do we measure SRHR, address limitations of data, and ensure that the rights aspects are captured in the indicators discussion? ○ How can we reach those left behind and ensure their engagement in implementing, monitoring, and providing feedback on the Agenda 2030? 	

The contribution of Family Farming to achieving SDGs in Asia	
Date:	Friday, 31 March 2017
Venue:	Meeting Room E
Time:	11:30 – 12:30
What will be discussed?	
<p>From the stand point that the development of sensible policies towards family farming is key in eradicating poverty in Asia, this event aims at creating a strategic alliance between farmers groups, coalitions working specifically on family farming and those NGOs working on rural development and poverty eradication. This side-event will present the importance of promoting better policies for family farmers and it will generate recommendations towards localizing SDG commitment especially at national level. Specifically this side event will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Show real examples of local and regional efforts to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. ✓ Increase the visibility and recognition of the important role that family farming plays in feeding the world population, ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition. ✓ Increase collaboration between different stakeholders that operate in the rural areas. ✓ Promote concrete actions towards ending discrimination in all forms against women and girls in rural areas, promoting their empowerment through the increasing of their access to information, productive and financial resources and decision-making processes. 	
Key Questions?	
What are the main sources of poverty in rural farming populations?	

- What are the linkages between sound policies for family farming and poverty reduction?
- How can sound policies for family farming help achieving concrete targets on the SDGs 1, 2, and 14?
- What are the necessary arrangements needed to translate global commitments into tangible results and how could these be monitored?

Regional Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific for SDG Implementation in Developing and Least Developed Countries

Date: Friday, 31 March 2017

Venue: Meeting Room A

Time: 13:15 – 14:30

What will be discussed?

This side event intends to support & facilitate a discussion on regional cooperation on key instruments for the delivery of SDGs in developing and least developed countries in the region. The dialogue aims to bring the expertise of CSOs to contribute to the discussion on joint cooperation between developed, developing and LDC governments with the objective to explore how critical regional cooperation tools in a number of areas such as technology, trade, and global governance, can be used the most effectively, through the Regional Roadmap and other regional processes, to provide developing and least developed countries active support towards achieving true sustainable development in their countries.

Key Questions?

- Which means of implementation (MOI) are essential for and may be barriers to the implementation of the SDGs for developing and least developed countries in the Asia-Pacific?
- How can regional cooperation be better organized to facilitate the delivery of such MOI?
- Which regional platforms can best facilitate such cooperation?