

ESCAP-Embassy of Sweden Second Regional Workshop

EMPOWERING PEOPLE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

25-26 March 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

A regional workshop, jointly organized by ESCAP and the Embassy of Sweden, will highlight the importance of participation and empowerment in achieving more sustainable and inclusive societies.

The workshop on March 25-26, 2019 in the United Nations Conference Center in Bangkok will be held as a pre-event to the 6th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) which will highlight regional and subregional perspectives on the theme of the high-level political forum in 2019, "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality". The 2019 Regional Workshop will bring together civil society organizations, governments, private sector, academia and other interested stakeholders to discuss the impacts and value of empowerment, including public participation on strengthening implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia and the Pacific.

The 2030 Agenda links progress on the sustainable development goals to empowerment and participation. ESCAP has highlighted participation and engagement as being fundamental to the transformations envisaged to sustainable and resilient societies. It emphasized the linkages between better engagement, more effective social learning and capacity to change. Similarly, the [2018 Embassy of Sweden annual regional workshop](#), underlined the importance of participation for resilience-building, particularly for vulnerable communities and in the context of decision-making relating to natural resources. However, countries in Asia and the Pacific, often lack enabling frameworks for public participation, guidelines for effective partnerships and technical capacity.

The purpose of the workshop is to increase the knowledge of all stakeholders on the situation regarding empowerment and public participation and their impacts on development outcomes and to foster regional dialogue and cooperation around these critical issues. The workshop will discuss the importance of participation for the environmental dimension of the SDGs in the context of other goals related to gender (SDG 5), inequality (SDG 10), peace and justice (SDG 16), different dimensions of participation and its relation to frameworks such as human rights-based approaches to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The workshop will have two objectives:

1. To develop a shared understanding on the impacts and value of empowerment, including through public participation, for strengthening implementation of the SDGs with an emphasis on the environment related goals and;
2. To discuss and identify incentives on how participation will improve interventions for sustainable development.

The [Strategy for Sweden's regional development cooperation](#) encourages mutual interaction between human rights, democracy, gender equality, environment and climate change and increased regional collaboration for poverty reduction and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

We welcome all participants in this year's workshop to be actively engaged to find paths to jointly deliver effectively on their goals, the 2030 Agenda and to foster participatory approaches ensure more inclusive and equal societies.

Draft Programme

Monday 25 March	
Conference Room 2	
UNCC, Bangkok	
Time	Session
09:00 – 09:40	<p>Opening and welcome remarks</p> <p>Ms Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP</p> <p>Mr Staffan Herrström, Swedish Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, to Lao People’s Democratic Republic and to Myanmar</p> <p>Mr David. R. Boyd, Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment (<i>video message</i>)</p>
09:40 – 10:00	<p>Introduction to the objectives of the Workshop</p> <p>Ms Katinka Weinberger, Chief, Environment and Development Section, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Ms Åsa Hedén, Counsellor, Head of Development Cooperation- Regional Asia and the Pacific, Embassy of Thailand in Sweden</p>
10:00 -11:00	<p>Session 1: The role of participation for the 2030 Agenda: moving from words to actions</p> <p>Keynote speaker</p> <p>Mr Vitit Muntarbhorn, Professor Emeritus, Law Faculty, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; former UN Special Rapporteur, UN Independent Expert and member of UN Commissions of Inquiry on human rights</p> <p>Talk show: Is participation the key? Shaping the future through participation and empowerment</p> <p>Panellists</p> <p>H.E. Ms Rosemarie Edillon, Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, National Economic and Development Authority, Republic of the Philippines</p> <p>Mr Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary for Sustainable Development, ESCAP</p> <p>Ms Dharini Priscilla, Programme Manager, Grassrooted Trust</p> <p>Mr Lars Svensson, Sustainability and Communication Director, IKEA Southeast Asia</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Mr Jost Wagner, Managing Director, The Change Initiative</p>
11.00 -11.30	Coffee Break

11:30 -12:20	<p>Session 2: Inspiring change through participation</p> <p>Segment 1: ESCAP and the Embassy of Sweden in Thailand launched a call for case studies, this presentation will provide an overview of the collection of cases and of the analytical framework that will be developed to deepen the understanding on the value of participation and empowerment to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>Speakers Ms Katinka Weinberger, Chief, Environment and Development Section, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Ms Åsa Hedén, Counsellor, Head of Development Cooperation- Regional Asia and the Pacific, Embassy of Thailand in Sweden</p> <p>Segment 2: Stories from the field: participation and empowerment through the lens of SDG 5 gender equality, SDG 15 life on land and SDG 13 climate action.</p> <p>Speakers Ms Cham Perez, Research Coordinator, Center for Women’s Resources</p> <p>Mr Lorenzo Urbinati, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)</p> <p>Mr Bo Bo Min, Myanmar Climate Change Alliance</p>			
12:30-12:45	<p>Greening the UN Ms Aneta Nikolova, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</p>			
12:45 -14:00	<p>Group photo Lunch</p>			
14:00 -15:00	<p>Session 3: Deep dive discussions</p> <p>This will be an opportunity to discuss, in groups, the importance of participation for the 2030 Agenda, how it can help in achieving the tenant of “leaving no one behind”; the different dimensions of participation including human rights-based approaches to implementation of the SDGs and crosscutting elements of participation.</p> <p>Format: This session will be held in 4 parallel sessions with two rounds of discussions to provide participants with the opportunity to participate in two groups.</p>			
	<p>Group 1 (MR C+D) Why is participation key for the 2030 Agenda?</p>	<p>Group 2 (CR 2) Participation and its importance for “leaving no one behind”</p>	<p>Group 3 (Public Foyer) Strategies and dimensions of participation</p>	<p>Group 4 (MR G) Interconnected nature of participation and of SDGs</p>
	<p>Speakers: Nyein Tun, ERI Anna-Karin Jatfors, UN Women</p>	<p>Speakers: Miles P. Young, RRRT Gam Shimray, AIPP</p>	<p>Speakers: Victoria Demello, UNDP Arun Jacob, ESCAP</p>	<p>Speakers: Lisa Guppy, UN Environment Helena Olsson & Victor Bernard, RWI</p>
	<p>Moderator: Stefanos Fotiou, ESCAP</p>	<p>Moderator: Therese Bjork, OHCHR</p>	<p>Moderator: Dhrupad Choudhury, ICIMOD</p>	<p>Moderator: Anisha Rajapakse, Independent Expert</p>

15:00 -15:30	Coffee break (second floor)			
15:30- 16:30	Session 3: Deep dive discussions Format: Second round of parallel sessions with participants choosing a different group.			
	Group 1 (MR C+D) Why is participation key for the 2030 Agenda?	Group 2 (CR 2) Participation and its importance for “leaving no one behind”	Group 3 (Public Foyer) Strategies and dimensions of participation	Group 4 (MR G) Interconnected nature of participation and of SDGs
	Speakers: Nyein Tun, ERI Anna-Karin Jatfors, UN Women	Speakers: Miles P. Young, RRRT Gam Shimray, AIPP	Speakers: Victoria Demello, UNDP Arun Jacob, ESCAP	Speakers: Lisa Guppy, UN Environment Helena Olsson & Victor Bernard, RWI
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16:30 -17:00	Reflections of the day (Conference Room 2) In plenary			
From 17:00	Dinner Art experience by Jobel			
Tuesday 26 March Conference Room 2 UNCC, Bangkok				
9:00 - 9:30	Check-in Participatory exercise – “perspectives about the future” <i>Video speech of Greta Thunberg at COP24</i>			
9:30 - 10:00	Session 4: Empowering people for a sustainable future Keynote speaker Mr Antonio A. Oposa Jr., President of The Law of Nature Foundation, Recipient of the 2008 International Environmental Law Award and the 2009 Ramon Magsaysay Award			
10:00 -10:30	Coffee break			
10:30 -12:00	Session 5: Knowledge into action – the ten-year challenge to save the planet What would you do if you had 10 years before all agricultural land became unusable, water was so polluted it became undrinkable, climate change risks became unmanageable and all biodiversity was phased out of the planet? Participants will have the opportunity to come up with actionable recommendations to address these challenging scenarios with a view to galvanize action, identify practical examples of how to create change and the incentives needed to accelerate delivery of the SDGs in an inclusive manner. Format: This session will be held in 4 parallel sessions with participants choosing one preferred group for discussion. Participants will have the opportunity to come up with actionable recommendations needed to accelerate delivery of the environmental dimension of the SDGs in the context of other goals related to gender (SDG 5), inequality (SDG 10), peace and justice (SDG 16)			

	Group 1 (MR F) SDG 2 zero hunger	Group 2 (MR C+D) SDG 6 clean water and sanitation	Group 3 (Public Foyer) SDG 13 climate action	Group 4 (MR G) SDG 15 life on land
	Speaker: <i>Clemens Grünbühel, SEI</i>	Speaker: <i>Jyotiraj Patra, Oxfam</i>	Speaker: <i>Stefanos Fotiou, ESCAP</i>	Speaker: <i>Warangkana Rattanasat, RECOFTC</i>
	Moderator: <i>Lawrence Surendra, Sustainability Platform</i>	Moderator: <i>Raphael Glemet, IUCN</i>	Moderator: <i>Evelyne Batamuliza, UNDP</i>	Moderator: <i>Francesco Checchi, UNODC</i>
12:00 -12:45	Session 6: Recommendations from breakout groups			
12:45-13:00	Closing ESCAP and the Embassy of Sweden in Thailand			
13:00-14:30	Lunch			