

Policymakers deliberate Sustainable Consumption and Production in Food Systems and Livelihood in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹

The 10th ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme is a collaboration of UNU-IAS, ASEAN Secretariat and the Hanns Seidel Foundation, and co-organized and hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia. In deliberating concepts, principles, methodologies and tools, as well as through case studies, policymakers in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region critically analyzed and discussed issues on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), as well as the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A total of 34 policymakers of environment and environment-related ministries and departments from eight of the ten ASEAN Member States - Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam - joined the leadership programme in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 10-13 October 2017. A total of 15 resource persons conducted the programme led by UNU-IAS researchers and supported by researchers from Universitas Gadjah Mada, as well as resource persons from the ASEAN Secretariat, UNIDO, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the European Union Delegation to Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam, and the Hanns Seidel Foundation.

Leadership for sustainable development is about empowerment and change, bringing present unsustainable states into desired future sustainable states. While sustainability conditions are reflected in international multilateral agreements, intergovernmental platforms and declarations on sustainable development – foremost among them being the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – many efforts need to be done to stimulate behavioral and cultural changes to support conducive structures and sustainability practices. It was recognized that SCP issues, which are particularly reflected in SDG 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), are indeed cross-cutting and embedded in other goals and targets. The SDG framework was viewed as an indivisible network of goals and targets.

The SDGs and SCP framework were viewed from the perspective of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint through a consensus basis of decision-making across various working groups including the ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education which currently serves as the focal point for SCP within the ASEAN framework. The ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry exemplified the ASEAN vision and strategic plan for cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry as they relate to SCP, livelihood and community involvement.

Among the highlights of the programme were sharing of country experiences and practices – such as the country strategy on 2030 Agenda and SDG and SCP implementations, government strategies to overcome implementation challenges, roles of the education sector, country initiatives towards implementing the ASEAN 2025 Blueprint and SCP framework, as well as exemplifying best practices in the country. Country experiences pertain to national laws and

¹ Reported by Mario Tabucanon and Zinaida Fadeeva, UNU-IAS

plans, as well as SDG targets and SCP practices that relate to sustainable supply chain ranging from green procurement, green certifications, eco-labels, sustainability standards, cases on sustainable products and supply chains, and the challenges of implementations. Country initiatives reflect efforts to mainstreaming and upscaling of policy to advance SCP practices.

It is always useful to other ASEAN Member States to learn from the programme's host country, in this offering, Indonesia. They shared their SCP and sustainable food system situation and practices – in terms of policy, strategy and progress of implementation – emphasizing the strategy of localizing SDGs and SCP into the language of the target sectors. Indonesia also shared its Agroforestry strategy of community involvement and linking forestry with SCP and livelihood.

A salient feature of the programme was learning through best practices and case studies. Universitas Gadjah Mada, a member of ProSPER.Net² and lead-stakeholder for RCE Yogyakarta³, shared two cases on university outreach to communities. One case dealt with university roles in innovation for strengthening the value chain of cacao farming from the unsustainable “planting-harvesting-selling” setup to the “planting-selling-processing-selling” model. The other case was about women group cooperative in a community that engage in inclusive social business on food through effective “natural” leadership style or skills; the case won a President of Indonesia Award. These two case studies were further pursued through field visits that enabled participants to see the actual sites and interacted with real farmers and women stakeholders.

Participants also learned from the UNIDO presentation emphasizing resource efficient and cleaner production (RECP) given the pressures on the world's environmental systems particularly in terms of pollution and waste. The case of rice milling in Cambodia was highlighted. The representative from the Ministry of the Environment of Japan described their experiences on local sustainable food and ecology systems engaging with multi-stakeholders and strong community participation. Several best practices were introduced.

The trend of increasing pollution in cities and towns is alarming and could have serious impact from the perspective of food systems development. To overcome SCP challenges, it is an important strategy to support small and local food systems, engaging the poorer sector into

² **ProSPER.Net:** *Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network is an academic and research alliance of higher education institutions in the Asia-Pacific region under the aegis of UNU-IAS. Universitas Gadjah Mada is a founding member of ProSPER.Net, which currently comprise 40 institutions.*
<http://prospernet.ias.unu.edu/>

³ **RCE:** *Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development, which is a multi-stakeholder, community or region (subnational)-based network on Education for Sustainable Development, acknowledged by the United Nations University. RCE Yogyakarta is one such network among currently 158 around the world.*
<http://www.rcenetwork.org/portal/>

supply chains utilizing the “Base of the Pyramid” of BoP Protocol or by supporting of and giving recognition to local producers. One key challenge is access to finance by small businesses and entrepreneurs, and to this effect UNU-IAS introduced the UNDP financing methodology (ref. Framework to catalyze finance towards green, low-emission climate resilient development, UNDP 2011) and conducted group discussions on fermentation technology as an element of the cacao farming supply chain (case study discussed before).

In the last five offerings of the ASEAN+3 LP, the SWITCH Asia Programme of EU was a collaborator. Participants were briefed on the experiences of the first phase of the programme as well as on the succeeding phase starting in 2017. The programme is the EU’s instrument for SCP policy intervention in Asia. Policy makers were recommended to contact the EU representatives in their country.

With a growing familiarity of SCP practices in ASEAN countries, there is need for upscaling best practices through innovative models and systems, and engaging with other synergistic ways of thinking. Participants had many takeaways – expressing at the end of the programme what they liked, learned, and took home with them to their respective organizations. Overall, feedbacks such as “a successful training workshop”, “the whole programme was very informative, and length of the whole stay was enough to share experiences” were among those conveyed by participants.

The collaborators of the 10th ASEAN+3 LP expressed satisfaction on the outcome, and with the initiative of the ASEAN Secretariat, in the context of the implementation of the new ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment (ASPEN), there is a plan to enhance future offerings in order to cater to more sectors, groups and to having a strengthened format, content and delivery.