

"Promotion of Community Resilience Against Plastic Pollution and Climate Change in the Mekong River Basin"

7-9 March 2023

Royal Princess Larn Luang Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Hybrid Event

BACKGROUND

The final stakeholder workshop of the Mekong River project will be held on 7-9 March 2023 under the theme of "Plastic-Free Rivers: Stakeholders' Capacity Building to Promote Community Resilience against Plastic Pollution and Climate Change". The event will highlight the achievements of the Mekong River project in driving capacity building on the assessment and monitoring of riverine plastic pollution and approaches to strengthen community resilience to plastic pollution and climate change.

Delegates and experts will discuss increasing scientific knowledge, strategies and tools for broader outreach and awareness, as well as innovative solutions for advancing policy, technology, and behaviour changes towards plastic-free rivers.

SESSIONS

In-depth discussions on the following project outcomes and outputs will seek recommendations on scaling-up capacity building for a plastic-free Mekong River Basin:

- **Enhanced international cooperation and stakeholder engagement** for investment growth and uptake of plastic pollution prevention measures by national and local governments, civil society organizations and financial institutions;
- **Increased investment, with participation of local businesses, in new technologies at the community level** to mitigate climate change and plastic pollution, as demonstrated in specific riverine communities in Thailand and Vietnam;
- **A network of regional experts, stakeholders, and community representatives to effectively implement the protocols** for Riverine Microplastic and Macroplastic Monitoring in the Mekong River/Basin, while understanding the impacts of climate change and plastic pollution on livelihoods in select communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic;
- **Capacity building plans including mapping of climate change and plastic pollution impacts** on riverine communities in Lower Mekong, and ensuring access to national source inventories on marine litter and micro-plastic management;
- **Innovative technologies and best practices** to reduce the impacts of climate change and plastic pollution, shown and documented in select communities in Thailand and Vietnam for replication; and
- **Strengthened community awareness, training and implementation plans** on new technologies and best practices for plastic waste reduction, management and upscaling of best practices to mitigate climate change impacts.

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AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Session schedules follow ICT or Bangkok time

Agenda may be updated

7 March (Tue)	8 March (Wed)	9 March (Thu)
	09:00 - 10:15 SESSION 2: Monitoring plastic pathways <i>Part 1: Methods and technologies for monitoring</i>	09:00 - 10:15 SESSION 5: Science-based actions to tackle plastic wastes <i>Part 1: Value chain and upstream solutions</i>
	10:15 - 10:45 Coffee break	
	10:45 - 12:00 SESSION 2: Monitoring plastic pathways <i>Part 2: Developing methodologies further</i>	10:45 - 12:00 SESSION 5: Science-based actions to tackle plastic wastes <i>Part 2: Downstream solutions</i>
	12:00 - 13:30 Lunch break	
13:30 - 15:00 OPENING SESSION	13:30 - 14:45 SESSION 3: Partnerships to end plastic pollution	13:30 - 14:45 SESSION 6: Voices and actions from the ground
15:00 - 15:30 Coffee break	14:45 - 15:15 Coffee break	
15:30 - 16:30 SESSION 1: Reaping rewards - Investing in plastic pollution prevention	15:15 - 16:30 SESSION 4: Community resilience in the Mekong River Basin	15:15 - 16:30 CONCLUDING SESSION
16:30 - 18:00 RECEPTION		

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Session

The workshop will commence with messages from event hosts and project partners. Following the opening remarks and keynote address, a high-level panel discussion will be held to reiterate the overarching theme and provide context for the succeeding sessions.

Session 1: Reaping rewards - Investing in plastic pollution prevention

The first session is a 60-minute panel discussion with speakers representing the private, public, development and financial sectors. This session will highlight how international cooperation can drive monetary and non-monetary investments to effectively address the issue of plastic pollution in rivers.

Session 2: Monitoring plastic pathways

Session 2 will showcase proven methods and technologies for monitoring riverine plastic pollution, while addressing existing knowledge gaps. The session will cover the different approaches by different sectors, innovative technologies and guidelines for monitoring plastic pollution.

Session 3: Partnerships to end plastic pollution

This session will underscore the role of collaborative action towards plastic-free rivers. The session will be delivered through presentations of successful partnerships and a panel discussion with insights from the private, public and development sectors to emphasize the critical role of multi-stakeholder collaboration and ways to create lasting impact.

Session 4: Community resilience in the Mekong River Basin

Session 4 will deep-dive into the results of the Mekong Project by featuring insights from the experience of Thailand and Vietnam through presentations by project partners.

Through a commentary presentation and a panel discussion, the results of the project will be linked to other efforts on monitoring and assessing plastic pollution and increasing climate resilience by tackling plastic pollution in rivers.

Session 5: Science-based actions to tackle plastic wastes

This session offers a closer look at available technologies to reduce the detrimental impacts of plastic pollution across the plastics value chain – from upstream to downstream. In this session, we seek to identify keys to success and address potential drawbacks of existing technologies, as well as opportunities to replicate in other communities, cities, nations, or regions.

Session 6: Voices and actions from the ground

The session provides a space for actors working on the ground to combat plastic pollution to present local actions, including plastic waste management policies by cities through the case of Bangkok and Tokyo. Also, key stakeholder groups will be invited to convey compelling messages and commitments for plastic-free rivers.

Concluding Session

The workshop will conclude with a final panel discussion aimed at taking stock of the recent discussions, new perspectives and next steps towards plastic waste management and alleviation. It will also aim at linking ongoing global processes on plastic pollution with regional and local actions.

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