



6th Greater Mekong Subregion Environment Ministers' Meeting

Phnom Penh | Cambodia | 10-13 September 2024





Session D: Environmental Quality Management

Rapporteur:

Ms. Pareena Prayukvong

Technical Assistance Team





Session Agenda & Contributors



13:00 **Welcome & Introductions**

Moderator: Dr. Jürgen Stäudel, Advisor Solid Waste Management, Ministry of Environment (MOE), Cambodia



13:05 **Scene Setting**

Ms. Chiara Metallo, TA Theme 4 Lead, Ramboll



13:20 **Keynote Address**

Dr. Wijarn Simachaya, President, Thailand Environment Institute

13:35 **Panel Discussion**

- Dr. Kim Thi Thuy Ngoc, Head, Division of Science and International Cooperation, ISPONRE, MONRE, Viet Nam
- Ms. Maria Katherina Patdu, Associate Programme Officer, UNEP
- Mr. Si Len, CEO & Director, Save the Lives, Cambodia
- Dr. Chettiyappan Visvanathan, Emeritus Professor, Mahidol University



14:15 **Audience Q&A**

14:25 **Summary and Closing Remarks**

14:30 **LUNCH**



Key Takeaways

Session D Environmental Quality Management

- While challenges remain, the GMS region has made significant progress in **advancing pollution control and waste management through policy development, and the promotion of circular economy practices**.
- However, there is limited evidence that these efforts have led to effective and sustainable outcomes and **further documentation and sharing of successful practices across the region are needed**.
- It is imperative for GMS countries to **strengthen regional frameworks** and **implement harmonized policies that effectively address transboundary pollution issues** and **reduce costs for inaction**, such as haze and water contamination, while also promoting sustainable waste management practices that align with global standards.
- A **multi-stakeholder approach** is needed to address these complex environmental challenges, **combining top-down policy alignment with bottom-up community engagement** and **localized capacity-building efforts**, ensuring that **policies are actionable and context-specific**.
- There is widespread recognition that **GMS countries must enhance dialogues and cooperation** to foster **innovation, share best practices**, and **invest in integrated waste management systems**, as well as **advanced pollution control technologies** that support a **Bio-Circular Green (BCG) Economy**.
- **Technology plays a critical role** in improving pollution monitoring and waste management systems, enabling **more efficient data collection, real-time reporting through digital solutions, AI tools**, as well as the adoption of **circular economy approaches** and **advanced waste management solutions**.
- It is likewise important to move beyond basic pollution control measures and **develop comprehensive environmental governance frameworks** that can **attract climate finance and private sector investment**, thus scaling up sustainable solutions and building resilience in the GMS region.