

This event is hosted in partnership with the Asian Institute of Technology

CLMV Regional Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation

26-27 March 2018 | Bangkok, Thailand

CONCEPT NOTE

ABSTRACT

The CLMV Regional Conference will highlight challenges and solutions facing the developing continental Southeast Asian states in their way towards implementing the 2030 Agenda domestically. The conference will have a special focus on unique approaches relevant to the context of the countries in question. This includes specific challenges to implementing and monitoring the SDGs and their progress, financing on the cusp of graduation from LDC-status as well as the involvement of various stakeholders in the SDG planning and implementation stages.

Objectives

- To exchange information about the implementation progress and main challenges facing the countries
- To get familiar with the existing guidelines for voluntary national reviews of the 2030 Agenda implementation
- To explore additional review mechanisms for SDGs with a spotlight on SDG12
- To get to know how to fund all the above in the context of LDC and LMIC-status

BACKGROUND

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined in “*Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”¹ presents multiple challenges for countries to implement SDGs. Today, almost two years after the introduction of the SDGs, many stakeholders are ready to share their efforts to meet the 17 objectives and the challenges they have faced.

As a part of this process the group of CLMV countries has been engaged in the facilitated dialogue since 4 years that enables them an informal platform to exchange their experience and challenges related to the implementation of SDGs. The CLMV Regional Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation is the fourth regional event on the implementation of SDGs that have been jointly carried out by ASEF, HSF and the governments of CLMV countries since 2014, under the **Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum)**.

Established in 2003, the ENVforum is a partnership of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center (ASEIC), and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). Since its inception 14 years ago, the ENVforum has organised over 50 high-level international meetings, roundtables, conferences and workshops, bringing together over 1,200 selected participants from governments, academia, international organisations, NGOs, civil society and the private sector. The ENVforum has produced a series of 9 prominent publications addressing essential issues related to sustainable development.

¹ *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* can be found at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This regional conference is a 2-day event taking place in Bangkok, Thailand. It will gather over 20 representatives of governments from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam. Moreover, it will gather UN agencies representatives, civil society and the private sector. The conference is hosted by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in cooperation with SDGs Transformation Lab.

It will provide a forum for experts to exchange experiences on innovative financing for sustainable development, mobilising national resources and successful involvement of the private sector in the national planning process towards the 2030 Agenda. It is also designed to promote exchange between regional and international levels and highlight different approaches to Public-Private-Partnerships in Asia and Europe.

The conference will build on contributions from experts in the field of private sector engagement. It will consist of several interactive sessions allowing for the exchange of presentations showcasing national achievements by representatives from ASEM partners as well as plenary discussions on several aspects of SDG implementation and financing

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SPEAKERS & PARTICIPANTS

This conference will gather approximately 50 participants and speakers, including:

- Country's representatives from relevant CLMV ministries working on SDGs' implementation
 - International experts, civil society, academia and business representatives working on SDGs' implementation
 - Sustainable development finance experts and practitioners based in Thailand
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TANGIBLE OUTCOMES

- A regional conference enabling stakeholders to exchange ideas about VNR preparation, SDG funding and follow up and review
 - A report detailing conference proceedings and summarising expert presentations
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INTANGIBLE OUTCOMES

The event will:

- Contribute to Asia-Europe dialogue on SDG implementation
 - Encourage discussions on common challenges for the CLMV countries
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ABOUT THE PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

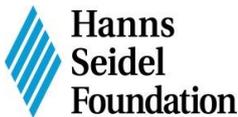


The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health.

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

ASEF runs more than 25 projects a year, consisting of around 100 activities, mainly conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, publications, and online platforms, together with about 125 partner organisations. Each year over 3,000 Asians and Europeans participate in ASEF's activities, and much wider audiences are reached through its various events, networks and web-portals.

For more information, please visit www.ASEF.org



The **Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF)** is an official German Political Foundation. It is entrusted by the German Parliament with a mandate, which lies at the core of the task of promoting democratic and sustainable structures worldwide. This mandate involves the strengthening of the relevant institutions and persons, procedures and norms and the requisite attitudes enabling such development to take place.

For more information, please visit www.hss.de or www.hss.de/southeastasia



ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center (ASEIC) was established in 2011 with the principal mandate of promoting Asia-Europe cooperation to create and enhance eco-innovation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in both regions.

For more information, please visit www.aseic.org/main.do



Established in 1998, the **Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)** is an independent, not-for-profit think tank, based in Japan. It goes beyond research to provide practical ways to protect the earth's environment and to realise greater sustainability and equity in the global community.

For more information, please visit www.iges.or.jp



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