



ASEM High-level Meeting on Marine Sustainability

Connect Asia with Europe

Marine Sustainability



when maintained and protected, aquatic resources can contribute to sustainable and inclusive global development.

Oceans and seas are essential components of the global biosphere. Marine sustainability and human society are intrinsically interlinked. The Oceans are crucial for global food security, human health and regulation of climate. The livelihoods of over 3 billion people worldwide depend upon services from marine and coastal biodiversity.

Over the past 10 years, there has been increasingly focus on marine and maritime governance both in Asia and Europe. The fundamental challenge that all policymakers must address is how to maintain and protect aquatic resources and to achieve sustainable use of the oceans that ensures that marine resources are available for future generations, while meeting the demands of human population growth and sustainable economic growth.

The World Bank estimates that oceans absorb about 25% of the extra carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels. Oil and gas remain major sources of world energy with roughly 30% of production being offshore.

The Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that blue economy industries assure the livelihoods of 660 to 820 million people worldwide.

Challenges

Despite the benefits of using aquatic resources, there are many challenges that also need to be addressed.

These include:

- unsustainable mineral extraction
- poorly planned and unregulated coastal development
- unsustainable fisheries
- biodiversity loss caused by pollution, invasive species, ocean acidification

To overcome these challenges and seize growth opportunities, Asia and Europe must allocate more resources to sustainable investment. Transformative thinking and integrated actions between Asia and Europe will make the marine resources more sustainable.

Objectives of the Meeting

The goal of the ASEM High-level Meeting on Maritime Sustainability is to have action-oriented discussions pertaining to a marine sustainability strategy that is people-centric and environment-centric. The Meeting will provide an opportunity for both Asia and Europe to explore:

- The priorities and challenges of promoting marine sustainability and its contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The innovation role of various stakeholders including national and local governments, private sector, civil society, regional and sub-regional groups as well as scientists and researchers in formulating sustainable ways for marine sustainability.



In view of the mentioned objectives, topics that may benefit from further consideration include the following:

- How can marine sustainability and sustainable blue economy be promoted between Asia and Europe?
- How can marine sustainability contribute to conserving and sustainable using marine and coastal ecosystem?
- How can science and technology and innovation be promoted in service of the sustainable marine environment?

Participants

- 53 ASEM Partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat
- Ministers of Oceans, Seas and Environment, Economy, Tourism
- Mayors and Governors of Ocean facing cities
- Regional Economic Institution
- Private Sectors, Shipping, Fisheries, Tourism
- United Nations Funds, Program and Specialized Agencies
- Civil Societies
- Researchers and Scientists

Date and Venue

- Date: 7-8 March 2019
- Venue: Centara Grand at CentralWorld Bangkok
- Address 999/99 Rama 1 Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330
- Tel: +66 (0) 2100 1234
- Fax: +66 (0) 2100 1235

Cost

The host will bear the costs of the venue, conference meals and conference-related expenses. Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation cost during their stay.

Languages

The Official language for the conference is English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided from English to Thai /Thai to English.

Contact:

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Day 1, Wednesday 7 March 2019

08:30 – 09:15	Registration
09:15 -09:30	Opening Ceremony Minister of Foreign Affairs or his representative (tbc)
09:30 – 10:20	Asia and Europe Leadership Commitment for Marine Sustainability Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand or his representative (tbc) Secretary-General of ASEAN or his representative (tbc) Ministers of National Resources and Environment /High-Level Representatives from ASEM members (tbc) Mr. Kazushige Endo, Director, United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)
10:20 - 10:30	Photo-Session
10:30 – 11:00	Morning Break
11:00 – 12:30	Asia-Europe Paths for Achieving Marine Sustainability: Resources Efficiency and Technology Towards Circular Economy and SMART Ocean What are the opportunities and challenges for advancing responsibilities of ocean industries to achieve marine sustainability? What should be the roles of stakeholders in addressing the risks, opportunities and challenges of circular economy? What and how technology, experience, lessons learned and ongoing efforts can stakeholders bring to help advance sustainable circular economy and SMART Ocean? Chair/Moderator: Dr. Heinz Schandl, Senior Scientist, CSIRO, Canberra, Australia (tbc) Speakers/Panel Experts/Representatives from ASEM members (tbc) Dr. Anupam Khajuria, Researcher, United Nations Center for Regional Development Mr. Karl Vrancken, Researcher Manager Sustainable Material VITO,

	<p>Belgium (tbc)</p> <p>Representative from SCG, Thailand (tbc)</p> <p>Q&A</p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 15:00 Plenary Session	<p>Enhancing Cooperation for Sustainable and Responsible Blue Economy Development</p> <p>What are the best practices, lessons learned and ongoing efforts that all stakeholders can bring to help advance sustainable and responsible blue economy development?</p> <p>What are roles of ocean industries and actions on law enforcement needed towards the sustainability of global marine resources?</p> <p>Chair/Moderator:</p> <p>Nattha Komolvadhin, editor, anchor, journalist, ThaiPBS, Thailand (tbc)</p> <p>Speakers/panels:</p> <p>Experts/Representative from ASEM members (tbc)</p> <p>Representative from DG MARE or Representative, the European Union (tbc)</p> <p>Representative from UN Global Compact Network Association of Thailand (tbc)</p> <p>Q&A</p>
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 – 17:00	<p>Waste Management and Pollution-free Ocean: Practical Solutions</p> <p>How are ocean industries reducing plastic pollution in daily operations, and what are the lessons learned and future plans, in aquaculture and tourism industry?</p> <p>How can marine-related industry help keep plastics and other wastes out of the ocean by facilitating their removal from island and coastal areas?</p> <p>What are the roles of stakeholders including local community to protect the ocean from all pollution?</p> <p>Chair/Moderator:</p> <p>Dr. Sunil Herat, Associate Professor, Griffith University, Australia (tbc)</p>



	<p>Speakers/Panel</p> <p>Experts/Representatives from ASEM members (tbc)</p> <p>Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thon Thamrongnawasawat, Kasetsart University, Thailand (tbc)</p> <p>Representative from Thai Hotel Association, Thailand (tbc)</p> <p>Q&A</p>
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Day 2, Thursday 8 March 2019

09:00-15:00	<p>Field Trip Program</p> <p>To visit the Khlong Khon Mangrove Forest Preservation in Samut Songkhram Province</p>
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