



**Regional Knowledge-Sharing Meeting on Plastic Pollution
in the Asia and the Pacific region**

7 March 2024 (8:30 – 17:00 Bangkok Time)

Bangkok, Thailand / Hybrid

Centara Life Hotel Phra Nakhon

Zoom link: personal links shared on 4MAR

Background

In March 2022, at the resumed fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), a historic resolution was adopted to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. An [Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee](#) was established (INC) and the fourth session will be held in April 2024.

Building on a positive momentum to address plastic pollution across different levels, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), through the [One Plastics Initiative](#), ongoing projects and Regional Seas programmes, is bringing together governments and key stakeholders in the region.

On 7 March 2024, UNEP will host regional knowledge-sharing meetings on plastic pollution ahead of INC-4, focusing on the interests of the Member States. In preparation for this event, surveys were distributed to gauge the countries' interests, aligning with the categories outlined in [the revised draft text of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution](#), including its impact on the marine environment. The meeting aims to facilitate in-depth discussions on key topics such as Polymers of Concern, Chemicals of Concern, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and finance landscape, tailored to the interests of our country partners.

The event will take place in Bangkok at the [Centara Hotel Phra Nakhon](#) in Bangkok/hybrid.

Objectives

- Strengthening countries' technical understanding of specific interventions to end plastic pollution while providing a tailored regional opportunity for learning and knowledge sharing

Target audience

- Member States in the Asia and the Pacific region

For more information, please contact: Feng Wang (feng.wang@un.org), Hiroko Matsuo (hiroko.matsuo@un.org); copying to: Hyejin Seo (hyejin.seo@un.org) and Carlos Añibarro (carlos.anibarromontero@un.org).

Moderator: Antoinette Taus, Goodwill Ambassador UNEP

Time	7 March 2024
08:30 09:00	Registration and Networking
09:00 09:30	Opening Session Welcome and opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pinsak Suraswadi, Director-General of Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand (TBC)• Yujeong Kim, Senior Programme Management Officer, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Introductory Presentation on UNEP's works and the agenda of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feng Wang, Programme Officer, Coordinator for Plastics, Consumption and Production Unit, Industry and Economy Division, UNEP Group Photo
09:30 10:45	Session 1: Polymers of Concern Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Llorenç Milà i Canals, UNEP Experts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amila Abeynayaka, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies/ Technical University of Denmark• Hideshige Takada, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology• Jorge Emmanuel, Silliman University (Dumaguete, Philippines)• Sangwon Suh, University of California-Santa Barbara Choreography of Session 1 on Polymers of Concern <u>Step 1 (15-20 mins): Identifying polymers of concern</u> <p>Building on the questions from the survey of Member States, the moderator (Llorenç of UNEP) will be asking you to provide a 2-3 mins narrative/pitch per expert, by explaining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classification/criteria of polymers of concern / Criteria for classifying polymers of concern• Assessing the environmental impact of polymers throughout their life cycle; Scientific studies demonstrating the effects of polymers of concern on health <u>Step 2 (15-20 mins): addressing polymers of concern</u> <p>The moderator (Llorenç) will ask you to answer the questions from the survey of Member States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Which polymers or groups of polymers do you see of highest priority to address, in which applications/products and why? degree of hazardousness, degradability, major traders of such polymers• Can you share successful examples of ways to phase out/ reduce polymers of concern? (both in terms of upstream (e.g. production, design etc.) and downstream (e.g. waste management) practices• Synergies with other international instruments to complement provisions and not duplicate mandates and instruments. <u>Step 3 (35-40 mins)</u> <p>Answer any questions directly coming from the room by Member States.</p>

<p>10:45 11:15</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>11:15 12:30</p>	<p>Session 2: Chemicals of Concern</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Llorenç Milà i Canals, UNEP <p>Experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amila Abeynayaka, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies/ Technical University of Denmark Hideshige Takada, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology Jorge Emmanuel, Silliman University (Dumaguete, Philippines) Shabbir Gheewala, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi <p>Choreography of Session 2 on Chemicals of Concern</p> <p><u>Step 1 (15-20 mins): Identifying chemicals of concern</u> Building on the questions from the survey of Member States, the moderator (Llorenç of UNEP) will be asking you to provide a 2-3 mins narrative/pitch per expert, by explaining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria for classifying chemicals of concern, Complementarity with similar conventions Accurate and sensitive methods to identify and analyse chemicals in plastics Regulatory compliance and management; Risk management; Hazard Management; chemical composition and additives. Where do you see the highest costs of inaction? <p><u>Step 2 (15-20 mins): addressing chemicals of concern</u> The moderator (Llorenç) will ask you to answer the questions from the survey of Member States.</p> <p>Survey results from the Asia-Pacific region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which chemicals or groups of chemicals do you see of highest priority to address, in which applications/products and why? Can you share successful examples of ways to phase out/ reduce hazardous chemicals in plastics? (both in terms of upstream (e.g. phasing out/ substitution of chemicals) and downstream (e.g. waste management) practices How can we avoid regrettable substitution and promote safe and sustainable alternatives? What role do you see for sustainable chemistry? Is there no substitute for using chemicals, so that they don't have a bigger impact? <p><u>Step 3 (35 mins)</u> Answer any questions directly coming from the room by Member States.</p>
<p>12:30 13:30</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>13:30 14:45</p>	<p>Session 3: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feng Wang, UNEP <p>Experts:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crispian Lao, National Solid Waste Management Commission (the Philippines) • Henri Bastaman, Expert Staff to the Minister of Environment and Forestry for SDGs Implementation and Environmental Research at the Ministry for Environment and Forestry Republic of Indonesia • Xiaoting Chen, Ellen MacArthur Foundation China • WWF (TBC)
14:45 15:15	Coffee Break
15:15 16:30	Session 4: Finance landscape Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feng Wang, UNEP Experts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umesh Madhavan, Circulate Initiative • Xiaoting Chen, Ellen MacArthur Foundation China • WWF (TBC)
16:30 16:40	Reflection
16:40 16:50	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida, Global Coordinator for Chemicals and Pollution Action, UNEP

Videos on plastics for playing during breaks:

- UNSG on plastic pollution for the 2023 WED: <https://youtu.be/qvMfr14lff>
- Champion of the Earth to beat Plastic pollution: <https://youtu.be/SWkFdzj9Xpk>
- Finance solution and stop financing pollution: (Inger video from WED 2023)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQr3oV5xfEk>
- Educational UNEP video on Plastic pollution:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kET-l4DbohQ>
- UNEP Circularity approach: <https://youtu.be/AiKKY2AC71w>

1. Meeting slides

SESSION 1: Polymers of Concern

UN environment programme

MODERATOR



Llorenç Milà i Canals
Head of the Secretariat
Life Cycle Initiative
UNEP

EXPERTS



Amila Abeynayaka
Researcher,
Technical University of
Denmark (DTU)
Fellow, Institute for
Global Environmental
Strategies (IGES)



Jorge Emmanuel
Adjunct Professor and
Research Fellow
Silliman University



Hideshige Takada
Professor
Tokyo University of
Agriculture and Technology



Sangwon Suh
Professor
University of California,
Santa Barbara
Head Scientist at
Watershed

SESSION 2: Chemicals of Concern

UN environment programme

MODERATOR



Llorenç Milà i Canals
Head of the Secretariat
Life Cycle Initiative
UNEP

EXPERTS



Amila Abeynayaka
Researcher,
Technical University of
Denmark (DTU)
Fellow, Institute for
Global Environmental
Strategies (IGES)



Jorge Emmanuel
Adjunct Professor and
Research Fellow
Silliman University



Hideshige Takada
Professor
Tokyo University of
Agriculture and Technology



Shabbir Gheewala
Professor and Head,
Life Cycle Sustainability
Assessment Lab
King Mongkut's University
of Technology Thonburi

SESSION 3: Extended Producer Responsibility



MODERATOR



Feng Wang

Programme Officer, Coordinator for Plastics, Consumption and Production Unit, Industry and Economy Division
UNEP

EXPERTS

Marilyn Quizon-Mercado

Regional Plastic Policy Coordinator for Asia (No Plastic in Nature Initiative Hosted by WWF PH)



Crispian Lao

Vice Chair and Private Sector Representative for the Composting, Recycling and Resource Recovery Industry Sector
National Solid Waste Management Commission, the Philippines



Xiaoting Chen

Programme Manager
Ellen MacArthur Foundation

SESSION 4: Finance Landscape



MODERATOR



Feng Wang

Programme Officer, Coordinator for Plastics, Consumption and Production Unit, Industry and Economy Division
UNEP

EXPERTS



Umesh Madhavan

Research Director
The Circulate Initiative



Alexandra Harrington

Chair, IUCN WCCEL Plastic Pollution Task Force



Peggy Lefort

Pollution and Circular Economy Lead, UNEP FI



Rocky Guzman

Legal and International Governance Specialist,
Asian Development Bank



Marijana Todorovic

Associate Programme Officer, Programme Resources and Oversight Unit, Secretariat of the BRS Conventions



Maria Socorro Manguiat

Ozone Secretariat

Andrew Brown

OECD

Cecilia Kinuthia-Njenga

UNFCCC

Marilyn Quizon-Mercado

2. Summary of the meeting

- **Date:** 7th March 2024
- **Venue:** Bangkok, Thailand / Hybrid Centara Life Hotel Phra Nakhon
- **Objective:** On 7 March 2024, UNEP's One Plastic Initiative hosted the Regional Knowledge-Sharing Meeting on Plastic Pollution in the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on the interests of the Member States. In preparation for this event, surveys were distributed to gauge the countries' interests, aligning with the categories outlined in the revised draft text of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including its impact on the marine environment. The meeting aimed to facilitate in-depth discussions on key topics such as Polymers of Concern, Chemicals of Concern, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and finance landscape, tailored

to the interests of the Member States. This event was exclusively targeted at government officials from the Member States who attended the INC regional consultations prior to INC-4 on 5th and 6th March held in Bangkok as the intended audience.

- **Number of Participants:** 98 On-site, 27 On-line

- **List of participating countries**

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Bahrain | 11 Kyrgyzstan | 21 State of Palestine |
| 2 Bhutan | 12 Malaysia | 22 Tajikistan |
| 3 Cambodia | 13 Maldives | 23 Thailand |
| 4 China | 14 Nauru | 24 Tonga |
| 5 Cook Islands | 15 Nepal | 25 Tuvalu |
| 6 Fiji | 16 Palau | 26 Vanuatu |
| 7 India | 17 Republic of Korea | 27 Viet Nam |
| | Republic of the Marshall | |
| 8 Indonesia | 18 Islands | |
| 9 Japan | 19 Saudi Arabia | |
| 1 | | |
| 0 Jordan | 20 Sri Lanka | |

3. Meeting photos



