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SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component

Capacity Building and Policy Needs Assessment on Sustainable Production and Consumption

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IGES



Overarching messages from the study

- National government in Asia are taking the lead
- Ample evidence for the abundance of national policies, laws, regulation and programs to support SCP
- Policy implementation at sectoral and local levels depends on capacity building and knowledge transfer
- Systems for monitoring and evaluation and SCP indicators are missing
- Cross departmental collaboration to provide coherent policy settings across policy domains
- Harmonization of development objectives, funding for SCP
- Getting the mix of policies right
- Enhancing technical knowledge and national innovation culture
- Triple dividend of well-being, competitiveness and environmental integrity

Purpose of the Study

- Identify existing capacities and capacity strengthening needs for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) policies in the participating countries and to review the existing environmental policy tools in all 19 SWITCH eligible countries
- Identify priorities for capacity strengthening activities at regional and national level to guide future SWITCH-Asia PSC activities
- Identifying additional policy tools that have high potential to enable SCP
- Collaborative study: United Nations Environment Programme, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (Australia) and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (Japan)

Method used for the Study

- Country missions to Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam (August – October) completed
- Meetings with ministries relevant to SCP and workshop to study SCP policies and capacity strengthening needs
- Desk-top study of SCP policies for all other countries
- Policy analysis distinguished main steps in the policy process
 - Problem framing
 - Policy framing
 - Policy implementation
 - Evaluation and monitoring of policies

The SCP Context in Asia: governments are taking the lead

- SCP will underpin the future prosperity and competitiveness of Asian economies
- National governments have taken the lead to introduce policies, laws and legislation including many different instruments and incentives
- Multiple objectives among people, communities and businesses with environment not always high on the agenda
- SCP remains to be a complex and contested issue

Policies relevant to SCP

- Mainstreaming of SCP into National Development Plan and/or specific SCP strategies (National Action Plan, Roadmap, etc.)
- Important areas for SCP include
 - Environmental protection
 - Urban development
 - Construction and housing
 - Mobility and transport
 - Food and agriculture
 - Natural resources
 - Manufacturing and consumer goods
 - Tourism
 - Energy and water

Policy implementation remains a bottleneck for SCP in many Asian countries

- Single responsible authority for coordinating SCP activities in a country needed
- The two main functions of the coordinating authority are to show leadership and capacity for decision making
- Human capital and the knowledge transfer of SCP issues and policies to local level is crucial for successful implementation at these levels of government.
- If incentives are set in way to favor SCP it becomes easier and more likely to achieve good outcomes at all levels
- Since businesses depend on the local context for their day-to-day business activities it is most important that national policy setting drive State and local practice.
- For society at large it will be crucial have champions of SCP among community leaders and decision makers who promote innovative technologies for SCP and sustainable lifestyles.

Monitoring and Evaluation of SCP Policies

- Success of policies depends on monitoring and evaluation
- Need to learn from policy interventions and to allow for decision of policy extension, adaptation or cessation
- Traditional sustainability indicators will not be sufficient
- SCP puts a focus on the economic activities – production, distribution and consumption – and therefore requires data and indicators that incorporate economic accounts and environmental and social accounts that are compatible with the economic accounts
- Invest in frameworks, knowledge and data generation and indicators for SCP based on guidance frameworks for SCP developed by the UNEP

Expressed priorities for capacity strengthening – Frameworks, Policies and Institutions

- **Lead body and coordination mechanisms**
 - Mandate to work on SCP in a broad sense
 - Capacity and resources to generate and analyze data on consumption and resource use
 - Mechanisms for engaging other line ministries
- **Targeted implementation agencies**
 - Coordinating implementation in key SCP areas
- **Sustainable Public Procurement**
 - Guidelines/standards/eco-labels
 - Legal mandates/requirements
- **SCP relevant statistics and indicators**
 - Enhanced capacity for policy formulation, policy evaluation and monitoring
 - Reporting requirements for the private sector

Expressed priorities for capacity strengthening – Education and Training

- Different depth for different groups and different purposes
 - Awareness raising
 - Targeted development of knowledge and skills
- Key target groups
 - Consumers; Government employees; Private sector (including the finance sector and the insurance industry); Farmers; and Legal practitioners (police, prosecutors, judges, etc.)
- Implementation Modalities
 - National action plan on Education for Sustainable Consumption
 - Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations and other NGOs
 - Extension officers and auditors/advisors for key sectors
 - Integration of SC into campaigns on health and livelihoods
 - Involvement of informal leaders – e.g. TV stars and religious leaders
- Complementary efforts required (awareness is not enough)
 - Access to reliable information which products/services are more sustainable
 - More sustainable options must be easily available and affordable
 - Practical guidelines and benchmarking systems, e.g. energy efficiency in industry

Expressed priorities for capacity strengthening – Research and Innovation

- Technical research on e.g.
 - High-yield low-input farming and aquaculture
 - Sustainable building
 - Energy efficient production processes
 - Sustainable waste and waste-water treatment
 - Rural energy
- Statistics and indicators for policy formulation and monitoring
 - Household consumption, energy, water, materials, waste, land use, etc.
- Assessments of institutions and capacities
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of specific policy tools
- Sustainability assessments of products and services (e.g. LCA)
- Adaptation of technologies
- Laboratory capacity for product testing

Aspects to consider for regional capacity strengthening and policy support

- Involvement of all relevant ministries and other governmental bodies
 - Establishment of coordination mechanisms for cross-cutting policy development and implementation
- Consideration of sub-national implementation modalities
 - Capacities at state/provincial and municipal levels
- Integration of SCP objectives into development frameworks, such as 5-year plans and other national strategies
 - Mainstreaming SCP into infrastructure expansion and urban development

Aspects to consider for regional capacity strengthening and policy support

- Expansion of current national accounts and indicator systems to include the social and environmental dimensions
 - Broader evaluations of progress than GDP/capita
- Utilization of the full range of policy tools and effective policy mixes
 - Creating the right incentives for all players
 - Addressing whole value chains and provision systems systematically
- Fostering of innovation systems and entrepreneurship towards SCP
 - Facilitation of networks/platforms involving academia and private sector
 - Business models for sustainably meeting the needs of low-income groups
 - Channeling private sector investments towards SCP objectives

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Thank you

