



Regional Forum on Environmental Compliance in Industrial Sector

24 - 25 September 2015 at Novotel Bangkok on Siam Square, Thailand

Hosted by Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand and
Environment Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University

Co-hosted by Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network

1. Rationale

At the end of 2015, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will establish the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) as one of the three pillars towards ASEAN Community (AC). The AEC originates from the ASEAN Vision 2020, which aspires to create a single market and production base with a free flow of goods, services, investments, capital and skilled labor by 2015. The implementation of AEC will bring both positive and negative impacts to the environment in each country member and the region as a whole.

The manufacturing industry will be a key sector that benefits from AEC or AC integration especially with the widening and deepening free trade agreements and areas. The expected growth of production and consumption in the region will likely lead to higher levels of water and air pollution. It is therefore urgent that environmental requirements should be reviewed and adapted to the changing and expanding economy of the region in order to ensure that environmental sustainability accompanies economic development.

However, to find a balance between environmental sustainability and economic growth is not an easy task. The regulations, compliance and enforcement are essential to ensure environmental and health safety of the countries. However, the business raised concerns over the complexity of environmental monitoring and reporting. On the other hand, there is a trend that compliance promotion and incentive has been increasingly used to promote environmental compliance (e.g, cleaner technology). Thus, manufacturing industries have the potential to become a driving force for the creation of a sustainable society through cleaner production practices and the design of environmental friendly products.

Although each country bears the responsibility to establish its own national and local emission standards, the harmonisation of industrial pollution control policies, strategies and databases can facilitate regional investment. ASEAN countries face common challenges in the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations such as overlapping and fragmented authority, and weak human and institutional capacity. Currently there is no ASEAN working group dedicated to improving environmental compliance and enforcement (although there is a network existing in the Asian region called the "Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network: AECEN"). As a result, opportunities to discuss the issues and promote good practices among ASEAN members remain quite limited. Recognizing this gap, Pollution Control Department (PCD) under Ministry of Natural

Resources and Environment of Thailand together with the Environmental Research Institute of Chulalongkorn University (ERIC) and AECEN are working together to organize a regional forum on environmental compliance in the industrial sector as a platform for policy makers and regulators to share their experiences and find ways forward to ensure that the implementation of AEC will be environmentally sustainable. The forum will contribute to the effort of creating harmonised environmental policies and databases in the area of industrial pollution prevention and control. The results of the meeting (in the form of policy recommendations or proposal) will be submitted to the existing ASEAN Working Groups (for the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment) and the ASEAN Secretariat.

2. Objectives

1. To exchange information on policies, strategies, legislations and regulations related to industrial pollution control.
2. To exchange and share experiences and good practices or policy measures in relation to industrial pollution control, compliance promotion and enforcement.
3. To discuss the need to develop an ASEAN vision or strategy on industrial pollution management or on harmonisation of policies, strategies or legislations.
4. To enhance network of policy makers, regulators and researchers in the field of pollution prevention and control in the region.

Scope of discussion: we will mainly discuss water and air pollution from industrial sector, industrial waste maybe discussed but not emphasized.

3. Participants (approx. 60 participants)

1. Representatives of governmental agencies related to industrial pollution control and investment promotion in 10 countries (2 delegates per country)
2. Representatives of governmental agencies in Thailand (e.g. Pollution Control Department, Department of Industrial Works, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Board of Investment)
3. Representatives of private sector
4. Academia and researchers

Agenda

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September 24 (THU)

- 8:30 - 9:00 Registration
- 9:00 – 9:15 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- Associate Professor Dr. Chakkaphan Sutthirat, Director of Environmental Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University
 - Dr. Wijarn Simachaya, Director-General of Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand
- *Group photo*
- 9:15 – 10:30 **Panel Discussion: “Towards ASEAN Community: Can we make balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability?”**
- Mr. Apichai Sunchindah, Independent Development Specialist
 - Associate Professor Dr. Adis Israngkura, School of Development Economics, National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA)
 - Dr. Wijarn Simachaya, Director-General of Pollution Control Department, Thailand
- Moderator: Dr. Sujitra Vassanadumrongdee, ERIC
- 10.30 – 10.50 Coffee Break
- 10:50 – 12:20 **Industrial Pollution Prevention and Control Policies and Laws – Country Reports***
Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam
- 12:20 – 13:20 Lunch @ The Square, 2nd Floor
- 13:20 – 15:30 **Industrial Pollution Prevention and Control Policies and Laws – Country Reports (Cont’d)**
Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore
- 15.30 – 15.45 Coffee Break
- 15.45 – 16.30 **Open Discussion and Summary**
(link with ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision)

18:30 – 20:00 Cocktail Reception @ pool-side, 4th Fl.

* 20 minutes for each country including Q&A

September 25 (FRI)

9:00 – 9:40 **Discussion on Common Problems Found in the Implementation of Industrial Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations**

9.40 – 10.15 **Keynote Speech: “Innovative Approach towards Effective Environmental Compliance and Enforcement”**
Dr. Peter King, Secretariat, Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN)

10.15 – 10.30 Coffee Break

10.30 – 12.00 **Panel Discussion: Good Practices in Promoting Compliance in Industrial Sector (focusing on air and water pollution)**

- *Insights from USEPA and International Experience*
By Mr. Davis Jones, Associate Director, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, USEPA
- *Eco-industrial Town Projects in Thailand*
By Ms. Somchint Pilouk, Deputy Director-General,
Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand
- *Malaysian Experience*
By Mr. Ismail Bin Ithnin, Director of Enforcement Division,
Department of Environment, Malaysia
- *Indonesian Experience*
By Mrs. Nety Widayati, Head of Sub Directorate of Water Pollution Control Planning, Directorate Water Pollution Control, Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Moderator: Ms. Chochoe Devaporihartakula, Programme Manager, AECEN Secretariat

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch @ Lok Wah Hin Chinese Restaurant, 2nd Floor

- 13.00 – 14.40 **Breakout Group Discussion (focusing on air and water pollution)**
(two small group discussions)
Topics to be discussed:
- Sharing on good practices in promoting compliance and enforcement in industrial pollution control
 - Preparedness plan for AEC/AC regarding pollution control
 - Further collaboration among ASEAN countries on environmental regulations
- 14.40 – 15.00 Coffee Break
- 15.00 – 15.30 Report from the Breakout Groups
- 15.30 – 16.00 **The Way Forward and Open Discussion**
- 16.00 – 16.30 **Summary of Discussions and Closing Remarks**
- Dr. Sujitra Vassanadumrongdee, ERIC
 - Ms. Jongjit Niranathmateekul, Deputy Director-General, Pollution Control Department, Thailand