



JOINT SDG FUND



Workshop Report

WASTE BANK GUIDELINES

Consultation Workshop on Strengthening the
Implementation of Community Waste Bank
Guidelines and Initiatives in Thailand

2025



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Workshop Overview

Workshop Title: Consultation Workshop on Strengthening the Implementation of Community Waste Bank Guidelines and Initiatives in Thailand – 2025

Date & Time: Wednesday, 2 July 2025, from 08:30 to 12:00 hrs.

Venue: Amari Bangkok Hotel (Pratunam), Bangkok, Thailand (Thai-language session)

Background and Objectives of the Project

Background of the Workshop

Mahidol University, in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the Joint SDG Fund, and the Ministry of Interior of Thailand, is implementing the project titled "**Partnership to Accelerate SDG Localization in Thailand.**"

This initiative aims to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the subnational level by strengthening institutional mechanisms and integrating local development efforts into the national SDG framework. The project places particular focus on voluntary local reviews (VLRs), data monitoring, policy integration, and localizing the SDG principle of "**Leaving No One Behind.**"

As part of this effort, the Community Waste Bank (CWB) initiative was selected as a key activity to support sustainable and inclusive local development. The aim is to enhance local waste management systems, promote grassroots participation, and link circular economy practices to the SDGs.

Objectives of the Workshop

The workshop served as a platform to gather insights, feedback, and experiences from stakeholders, especially those most affected on the development of Thailand's Community Waste Bank guidelines and initiatives. Key objectives included:

- **Reviewing national and local strategies** for CWB development.
- **Gathering field-level data and practical experiences** from provinces with successful models and those needing support.
- **Discussing policy alignment and integration** with Thailand's national development plans and SDG implementation.
- **Providing recommendations** for inclusive and equitable expansion of CWBs to support sustainable local economies.

The workshop brought together local government representatives, community members, academic experts, and development partners to share good practices, identify gaps, and shape policy directions for a robust national CWB framework.

Key Discussion Points on Challenges and Opportunities for Community Waste Banks

The community waste bank initiative has been implemented for many years, yet its progress remains gradual due to various challenges. During the workshop, the participants shared valuable perspectives, which are summarized below. These insights, when combined with our

comprehensive report, can serve to strengthen the sustainability and long-term success of community waste banks.

Imbalance in Volunteer Demographics and Leadership Continuity

One of the major issues raised was the reliance on older volunteers who often have limited digital literacy and may not possess the physical capacity required for managing certain tasks. Furthermore, these initiatives frequently depend on the dedication of a few key individuals. When these leaders step down or are unavailable, the entire system risks collapsing. To ensure continuity, it is crucial to involve younger generations and diversify leadership roles within the community.

Need for Improved Collaboration with Local Authorities

Participants emphasized that some local administrative organizations (LAOs) have not fully integrated waste banks into their local development plans. In some cases, LAO officers lack the technical knowledge to support or scale the initiatives effectively. Building institutional awareness and embedding waste banks into official policies will help provide consistent backing, especially during leadership transitions within the LAOs.

Limited Public Understanding of the Waste Bank Concept

Despite efforts to promote waste banks, a significant portion of the public still confuses them with informal recyclers or buyers of waste. This misconception affects participation rates. It is important to clarify the concept and long-term benefits of waste banks through continuous public education and tailored communication strategies.

Inconsistent Government Support and Technical Assistance

While many waste banks operate with grassroots energy, their long-term success depends on external support. Some participants noted that they receive little to no assistance from provincial or national bodies. Regular funding, technical guidance, and integration into national waste management policies are needed to enable local initiatives to thrive and grow.

Challenges in Financial Management and Pricing Mechanisms

Concerns were raised over the lack of standardized pricing for recyclable materials, which sometimes leads to disputes or reduced trust among members. Moreover, some waste banks struggle with accounting and financial planning. There is a pressing need to improve financial literacy and provide support for pricing strategies to ensure transparency and sustainability.

Lack of Documentation and Exchange of Best Practices

Participants expressed interest in learning from successful models, but few resources are available to guide replication. Creating a central repository of best practices, including case studies from both rural and urban areas, would help scale successful approaches and avoid repeating common mistakes.

Fluctuating Market Demand and Limited Support from Recyclers

Even when communities collect waste diligently, they often face challenges in finding consistent buyers, especially for low-value or contaminated materials. Building reliable partnerships with waste buyers and improving waste sorting systems can help improve the economic viability of waste banks.

Strategies to Sustain Public Engagement and a Sense of Ownership

Another recurring theme was the difficulty in maintaining long-term community interest. Participants noted that initial enthusiasm often wanes, particularly when benefits are not immediately visible. Strengthening participatory approaches, recognizing volunteers' efforts, and offering small incentives could help build a deeper sense of ownership among community members.

Weak Linkages Between Waste Collection and Broader Waste Management Systems

In many areas, the collected recyclable waste is not effectively integrated into municipal waste management flows. Strengthening the connection between community waste banks and formal waste collection, recycling, and treatment systems is vital to close the loop and improve environmental outcomes.

Need for Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

The success of waste banks hinges not only on community efforts but also on support from various stakeholders. Participants suggested that schools, religious institutions, and the private sector can play more active roles. Developing inclusive platforms for dialogue and cooperation will broaden support networks and resource mobilization.

Updating the Operational Manual with Practical Tools and Roles

Lastly, several participants suggested that the existing waste bank manual should be updated to reflect field realities. This includes clearer classification of waste types, roles of different actors (e.g., recyclers, LAOs, community leaders), and improved downstream waste management strategies. Incorporating user-friendly tools and templates would also enhance day-to-day operations.

List of Participants

Onsite Participants

No.	Name	Position	Organization
1.	Mrs. Khamkaew Marksub	Environmental Specialist	Pollution Control Department
2.	Miss Khanittha Puangraya	Environmental Specialist	
3.	Ms. Natthinee Namwong	Sanitation Specialist	Environment Department, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration
4.	Mr. Anan Pitakkul		
5.	Mrs. Somjit Suksin		
6.	Mr. Teerapat Phuttaphol	Policy and Planning Analyst	Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)
7.	Ms. Kannika Krutkaew	Policy and Planning Analyst	
8.	Mr. Eknarin Ariyavongvivat	Director, Marine and Coastal Resource Conservation	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
9.	Ms. Poonwan Na Narajsiam	Assistant Executive Chairman	WASTEBUY Delivery Co., Ltd.
10.	Mr. Patarapol Tularak	Project Manager	Circular and Sustainable Solutions Co., Ltd.
11.	Ms. Apisara Boonya-atichart	Project Manager	Resources Management for Sustainability (3R) Foundation
12.	Ms. Jiratchaya Sritaksinakul	Net Free Seas Community Coordinator	Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)
13.	Ms. Natchaya Ritthisirikul	Net Free Seas Community Coordinator	
14.	Ms. Weena Nanthamontry	Senior Manager	Thailand Institute of Packaging and Recycling Management for the Environment (TIPMSE)
15.	Dr. Abhisit Bhatsada	Lecturer	Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies, Mahidol University
16.	Mr. Mongkolchai Assawadithalerd		Center of Excellence on Hazardous Substance and Waste Management for Sustainable Development
17.	Mr. Phisek Meethong		Department of Local Administration
Mahidol University			
18.	Dr. Wasaporn Techapeeraparnich	Deputy Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering	Mahidol University
19.	Prof. Chettiyappan Visvanathan	Professor, Faculty of Engineering	Mahidol University

No.	Name	Position	Organization
20.	Dr. Nawatch Surinkul	Professor, Faculty of Engineering	Mahidol University
21.	Ms. Jutamas Kaewsuk	Lecturer	Mahidol University Kanchanaburi Campus
22.	Dr. Sri Shalini Sathyanarayanan	Lecturer, Graduate Program in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering	Mahidol University
23.	Ms. Sulinda Nualprasong	Program Secretary, Graduate Program in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering	Mahidol University
24.	Ms. Kanitthika Santhaweesuk	Research Associate	Mahidol University
25.	Ms. Chanisa Sangiampak	Research Associate	Mahidol University
26.	Ms. Humm Kham Zan Zan Aung	Research Associate	Mahidol University
27.	Mr. Racha Thaiprakob	Staff, Faculty of Engineering	Mahidol University
28.	Mr. Santhat Mathon	Staff, Faculty of Engineering	Mahidol University
The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)			
29.	Mr. Srinivasa Popuri	Chief, UN-Habitat Multi Country Programme Office, Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific	UN-Habitat
30.	Mr. Riccardo Maroso	Programme Manager	UN-Habitat
31.	Ms. Phannisa Nirattiwongsakorn	National Programme Officer	UN-Habitat
32.	Ms. Phattiya Jitpoj	Local Project Coordinator	UN-Habitat
33.	Ms. Yada Ponchamni	Research Assistant	UN-Habitat
34.	Ms. Sandy Kumar		UN-Habitat
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)			
35.	Mr. Pan Piyasilp		UNDP
36.	Ms. Pittayarat Ngonsuk	Project Coordinating Associate	UNDP
37.	Ms. Gigi Sariddichainanta	Project Associate	UNDP

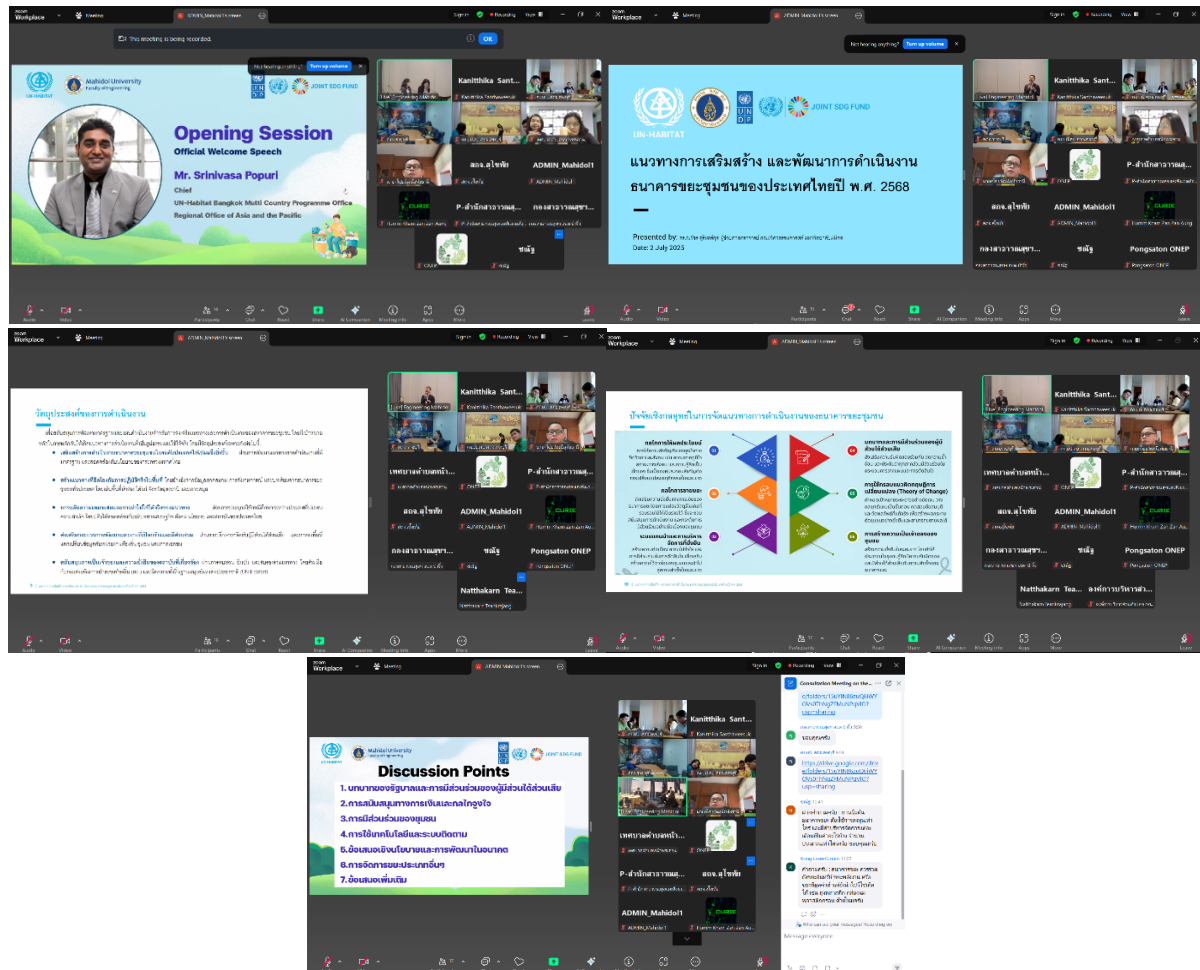
Online Participants

No.	Name	Position	Organization
1.	Ms. Kanchanittha Eksaengsri	Officer, Local Affairs	Saraburi Provincial Office for the Promotion of Local Administration
2.	Sgt. Jirapong Sabpommarach	Director, Local Public Service and District Coordination Division	

No.	Name	Position	Organization
3.	Ms. Thitima Changmai	Senior Local Administration Promotion Officer	
4.	Ms. Saruda Chaitantikul	Officer, Local Affairs	Lopburi Provincial Office for the Promotion of Local Administration
5.	Mrs. Krittiya Pimcharee	Director, Local Public Service and District Coordination Division	
6.	Mr. Natsiwach Thanawongphongsaphak	Local Administration Promotion Officer	
7.	Ms. Komolluck Jitchum	Analyst and Local Development Plan Monitoring Officer	
8.	Mr. Prasit Nava	Director, Public Health and Environment Division	Pang Ngiu Subdistrict Administrative Organization
9.	Mr. Chaiwat Supkitwathana	Mayor	Khao Bang Kraek Subdistrict Municipality, Uthai Thani Province
10.	Mr. Nattajak Chaidet	Local Administration Promotion Officer	Sukhothai Provincial Office for the Promotion of Local Administration
11.	Mr. Suthee Saithong	Head of the Office of the Permanent Secretary	Khao Khlung Subdistrict Administrative Organization
12.	Ms. Orachorn Prapapaicon	Local Administration Promotion Officer	Ratchaburi Provincial Office for the Promotion of Local Administration
13.	Mr. Peerapat Phengthong	General Employee	Public Health and Environment Unit
14.	Mr. Pongsathon Thanboon	Policy and Planning Analyst	Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)
15.	Ms. Natthakarn Teankrajang	Senior Environmental Officer	

Documentary Photos of Stakeholder Consultation Workshop (Onsite and Online)

Snapshots from Virtual Attendees



Photos from Onsite Workshop Activities

