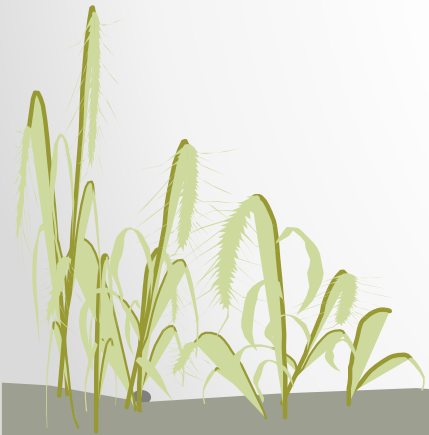


# Opinion

## Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2020 Towards sustainable economies (by Dr. Zheng Jian)

Dr. Qwanruedee Chotichanathawewong

Director of Research Center for Environmental Strategy  
National Research Council of Thailand, NRCT

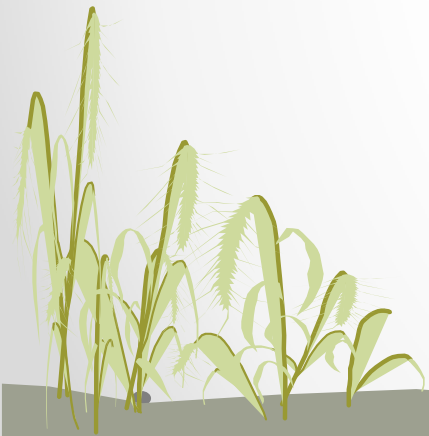


## Opinions

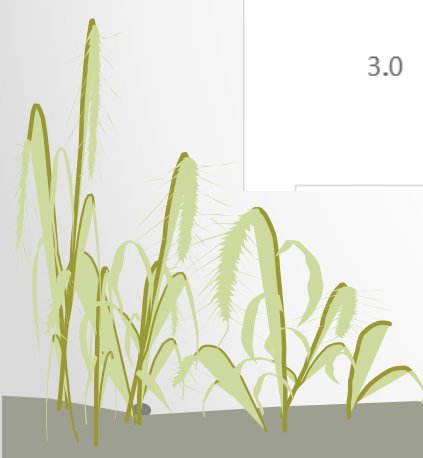
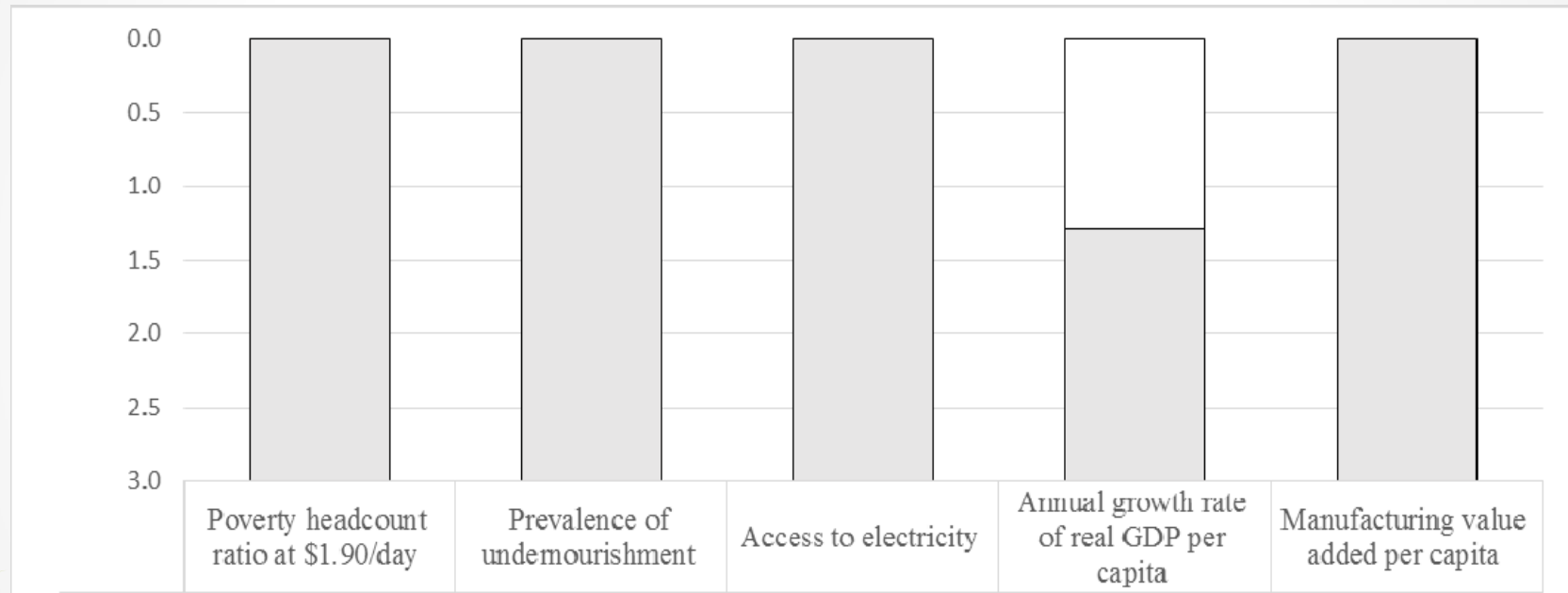
- The distribution of income has become more unequal.
- The Successes of SDG 12's implementation will be the positive effects to support the achievement of several SDGs.
- The transition towards sustainable consumption and production is NO EASY TASK and requires collective actions of ALL STAKEHOLDER.
- Consumers need to move towards sustainable lifestyle
- The COVID-19 crisis brings both new challenges and new hopes for inclusive and sustainable development
- The COVID-19 crisis provides a golden opportunity



# Distribution of Income



**Figure:** Distance to targets for economic dimension in case of Thailand



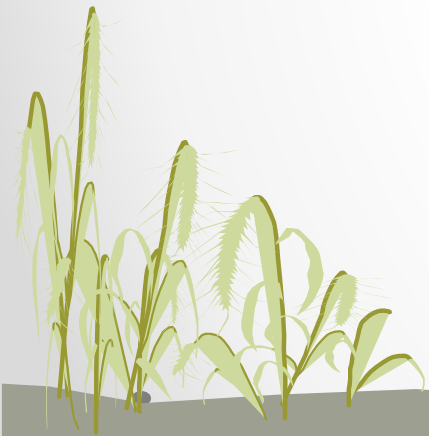
## Table Achievement for economic dimension

SDGs Indicator	Target value	Average data					
		World	Middle	Low Middle	RECP	ASEAN	Thailand
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90/day (% population)	0	10	1.6	14.1	9.35	10.16	0
Prevalence of undernourishment (% population)	0	10.8	7.21	13.99	8.39	10.26	0
Access to electricity (% population)	100	88.85	99.37	86.16	96.01	94.36	100
Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (%)	7				3.84	4.15	4
Manufacturing value added per capita	20				19	19.75	28



# In depth of situation (before COVID-19)

- In 1986 67% of Thais were living in poverty. In 2016 it is about 10.9% and falling, and just 0.6% are living in extreme poverty.
- The important fact is that the number of poor people has been reduced while the gap between rich and poor has widened dramatically.
- In turn, in the past seven years, the number of billionaires in Thailand rose from 5 to 28 persons.



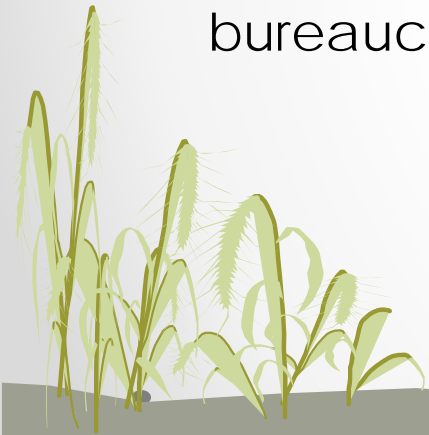
## The reasons that Thailand remains poor is imbalanced development

- Industrialization policy in 1960 but development was not widespread.
- Average salary in Bangkok and industrialized areas higher than the rest regions
- Concentration of development in urban areas means a lack of investment in rural. Poor people living in rural areas have very limited access to public services.
- Many rural poor people cannot afford education more than the six years of compulsory schooling. The enrollment rate for “tertiary education” was reported as 18% in rural areas compared to 39.5% in urban.
- Income from agriculture activity is still very low



# Progress on reforms

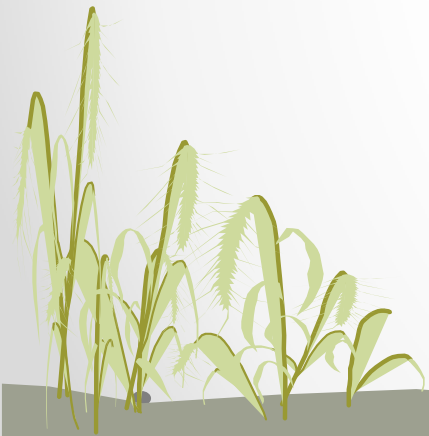
- Poor registration program
- Launch of the National Savings Fund
- Retirement safety net for informal workers
- Approval of progressive inheritance and property taxes
- Implementation of multi-year large public infrastructure projects
- Education and competition
- Public infrastructure management and government bureaucracies





# SDG 12: SCP

(related to several SDGs)

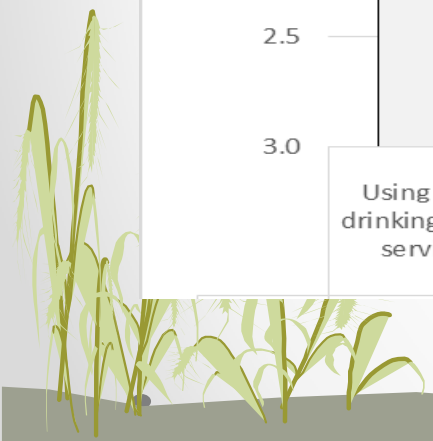
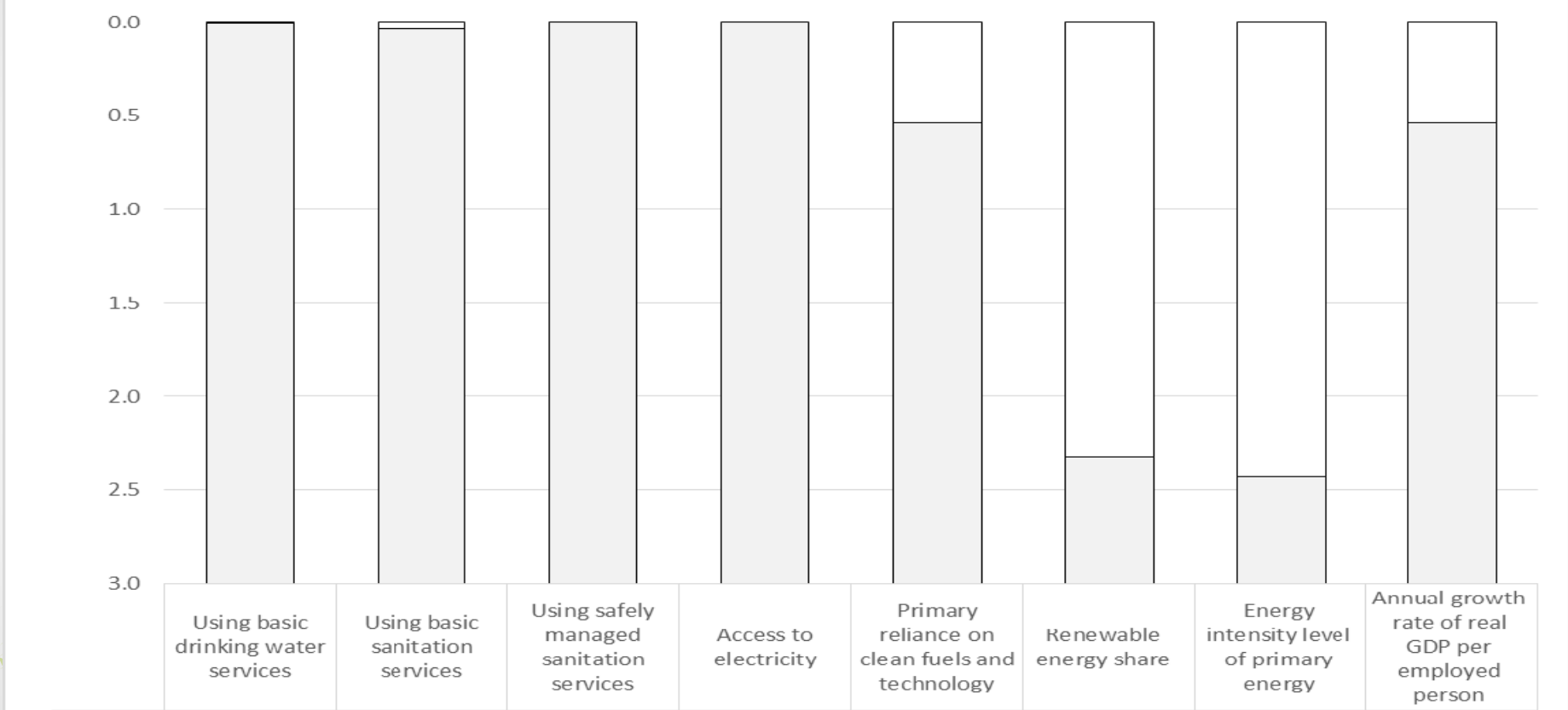


## Progress in SDG12 would be central to our overall progress on the whole Sustainable Development Agenda

- SCP aims at decoupling economic growth from its potentially negative effects on the environment and society.
- The Successes of SDG 12's implementation will be the positive effects to support the achievement of several SDGs such as health, natural resource and environment, poverty reduction and so on.

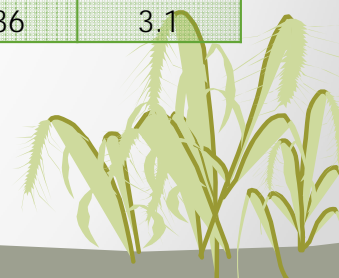
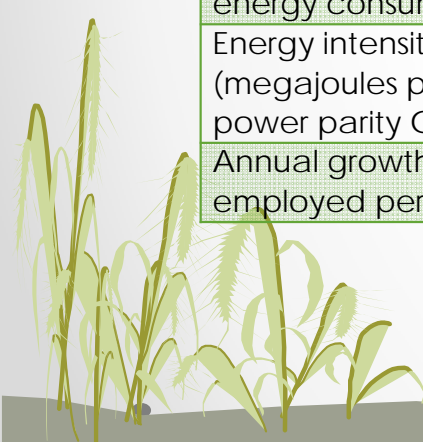


**Figure :** Distance to targets for green economics in case of Thailand



**Table:** SDG global indicators related to Green Economics

SDGs Indicator	Target value	Average Data					
		World	Middle	Low Middle	RCEP	ASEAN	Thailand
Population using basic drinking water services (%)	100				93.8	91.65	99.93
Population using basic sanitation services (%)	100				85.56	82.59	98.75
Population practicing open defecation, by urban/rural (%)	68	1.5	1.97	0.75	6.78	8.25	0
Population with access to electricity (%)	100	88.87	99.37	86.16	96.02	94.36	100
Population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (%)	95				66.88	58.7	78
Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption (%)	97.03	18.05	13.36	40.13	25.19	30.52	21.84
Energy intensity level of primary energy (megajoules per constant 2011 purchasing power parity GDP)	27.87	5.13	5.93	4.65	4.69	4.38	5.36
Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (%)	3.78				3.87	4.36	3.1



## SDG global indicators related to SCP (SDG 12) and natural resources

SDGs Indicator	Target value	Average Data					
		World	Middle	Low middle	RCEP	ASEAN	Thailand
Age-standardized mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution (deaths/100,000 population)	324	114.15	82.5	167.1	84.14	100.2	61
Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (deaths/100,000 population)	101	11.76	1.16	19.18	4.29	4.73	3.5
Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisonings(deaths/100,000 population)	5.2	1.45	1.07	1.87	0.68	0.57	0.4
Health worker density, by Nurse (per 10,000 population)	202.62	3.42	3.48	1.8	48.19	30.59	29.65
Health worker density, by Pharmacist (per 10,000 population),	25.72				4.93	2.84	4.19
Health worker density, by Physician (per 10,000 population)	81.9	1.5	1.97	0.75	15.22	10.4	8.1
R&D expenditure as a proportion of GDP (%)	4.25	2.22	1.65		1.16	0.53	0.78
Researchers (per million population)	8250				2115.19	1150.7	1210
Forest area as a proportion of total land area (%)	98.9				45.72	49.9	32.1
Average proportion of Freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas covered by protected areas (%)	100				38.08	39.11	43.58
Average proportion of Terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas covered by protected areas (%)	100				42.01	41.49	71.28
Above-ground biomass in forest (tonnes /hectare)	500.43				136.36	150	88.24
Forest area certified (thousands of hectares)	170985.03				2049.26	1210.8	56.88
Forest area net change rate (%)	3.28				0.17	0.17	0.18
Total ODA for biodiversity (millions of constant 2017 US\$)	431.41				92.61	42.73	23.61



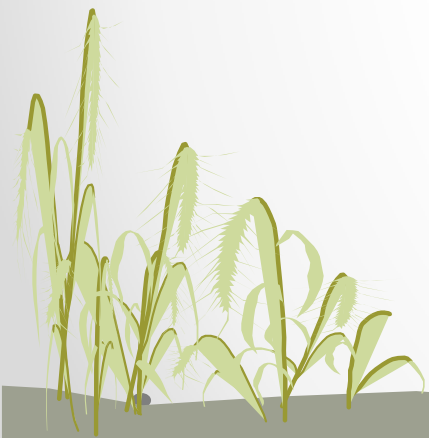
## SCP policy and situation of Thailand

- During 2010-present Thailand has got supports from EU, GTZ, UNDP, etc. Then Thailand has been among the frontrunners of SCP practice in Asia, both policy instruments and application by consumers, businesses, government, and civil society.
- Most of the initiatives introduced concentrate on sourcing and production stages.
- Selected SCP instruments are the Green Industry Mark (GIM), the Eco-friendly label, Life Cycle Inventory (LCI), green procurement.
- Holistic life cycle approaches with an emphasis on actual reduction of resources by design at sector-specific or cross-sectoral levels, as well as consumer contribution to resource reduction.
- The action plan for SCP 2017-2026 along the same line as SDG 12 clearly shows the strategy for moving forward SCP agendas and cooperation between responsible public agencies.



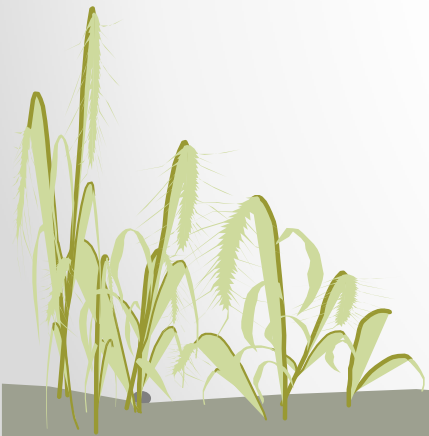
## SCP policy and situation of Thailand (con't)

- To start driving market, Thailand implements Green Procurement for government agencies. However, it still has limitation of types of green products.
- Collaboration continuously between the private sector and the government is the key challenge.
- The implementation gaps lie in the behavioral and lifestyle changes which requires a large amount of time and budget.



## Challenges for Thailand to achieve for this SDG are:

- *Target 12.3 – about food loss and food waste.*
- *Target 12.4 – about the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes.*
- *Target 12.5 - about reducing waste generation.*
- *Target 12.7– about promoting public procurement.*





# Challenge of Thailand for SCP: Relation of SCP and SDG 9

All indicators under SDG 9 (Infrastructure) are important for SCP and Thai economy.

- **For Indicator 9.2.1: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization**

More than 90 of Thai industry and business are SME and need supports in skill, technology, budget and so on, so transformation to be sustainable industry or business is very difficult including increasing resource-use efficiency and adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies.

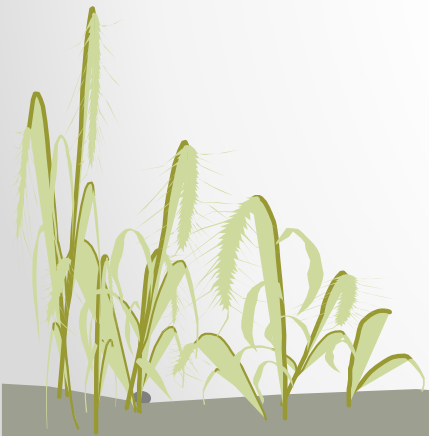
- **For Indicator 9.5: Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors**

It is still far from target. Thai government emphasizes to achieve this SDG because he believes that it can support to Thailand 4.0 policy and being to developed country. He also creates many activities and provides budget both private and government sides.

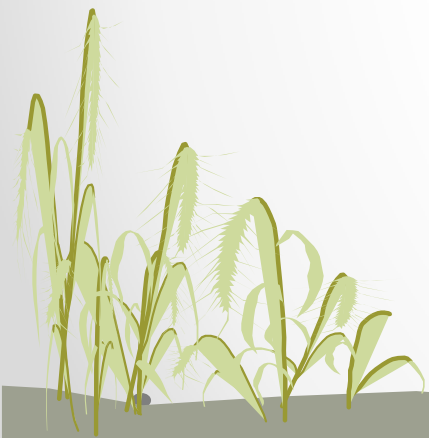


## Challenges of Thailand for SCP

- Creating is region-wide lower carbon and eco-friendly travel opportunities
- Implement the eco-footprints of domestic and international food and beverage consumers under the promotion of sustainable tourism as being a world-famous mass tourism destination.



# Pendemic of COVID-19



## The COVID-19 crisis brings both new challenges and new hopes for inclusive and sustainable development

- Have effects to economic situation but can recover soon. This uses sufficient economy.
- People know how to use IT and online systems without educating
- No traffic jam – good for air pollution, PM2.5
- Less consumption of natural resources and less disturbance to the environment
- Set Zero: collect data about natural resources, environment, consumer behavior and lifestyle, etc.
- Taking care of health very well and raising awareness about public health
- No political conflict



Thank You

