

Environment



The Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris was established by ERIA in October 2019 to support ASEAN+3 countries in addressing emerging challenges associated with marine plastic debris and to foster relevant good practices. The Regional Knowledge Centre aims to facilitate networking amongst stakeholders, raise awareness, promote innovative actions in each country, and facilitate national and regional cooperation, while supporting the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Member States (2021–2025).

The activity categories of the Regional Knowledge Centre during FY2022 were mainly (i) research-related work, (ii) private sector collaboration, (iii) awareness raising, and (iv) capacity development.

Many research-related projects are ongoing, including with partner institutions such as the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific at the Asian Institute of Technology, and the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore. Additionally, discussions to develop the OECD's Plastic Outlook Report focusing on the Asian region in partnership with IGES were initiated. The Regional Knowledge Centre, also in collaboration with IGES established ERIA's Experts Working Group on Marine Plastic Debris was set up in 2021 with the objective of assisting with the establishment of baselines and offering multidisciplinary assessments of the marine plastics situation in the ASEAN+3 region. The Working Group held its third meeting – for the first time in person – in Jakarta in 2022.

In FY2022, the Regional Knowledge Centre continued its engagement with the private sector and promoted its contribution to plastic waste reduction – both upstream and downstream. Three online/hybrid events were organised focusing on Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The ERIA online platform showcasing private companies' products, technologies, and services contributing to plastic circularity also grew to host 72 entries from seven ASEAN+3 countries.

In terms of awareness raising, in addition to the 'Zero in on Plastics' interview series which started in 2021, a series of youth awareness raising activities were launched in 2022. On this front, the Regional Knowledge Centre collaborated with the ASEAN–Japan Centre to support its Eco-School programme, mobilising 10 schools and 2,089 students from Indonesia, the Philippines,

and Thailand to receive plastic waste education. A podcast series named 'Living Chic with Plastic' was also launched at the end of 2022.

Finally, some of the capacity building activities that the Regional Knowledge Centre engaged in include mangrove habitat conversation training, marine plastic monitoring training, and the preparation of the development of a solid waste statistics system in Cambodia.

The Regional Knowledge Centre has also kept expanding its outreach and partners, and FY2022 saw the consolidation of partnerships with organisations such as the Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN and GIZ through its 3RproMar project.

