

## COMPLETION REPORT

Measuring the influence of sound material society in Thailand

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The concept of SMS from Japan has spread all over parts of Asia and the world to promote policy dialogues and 3R strategies in the region. Thus, it influences the knowledge transfer in waste management that is being practiced in many private and public organizations in Thailand. In this regard, the research aims to empirically present evidence of the influence of Japan's SMS to mainstream solid waste management (SWM) practices in Thailand. The secondary objective is to quantify these influences by investigating their long-term successes in the country. Whether in terms of the SWM projects initiated/developed through Japan, a questionnaire was used to explore the number of individuals/organizations trained, money spent, and quantifiable inputs and contributions. The research also provides qualitative validation through the four case studies of selected SWM practices. Several stakeholder engagements and discussions were conducted to determine criteria of measuring extent of the influence and to reflect outcomes of sustainable use of resources in Thailand.

It was found that the influences of SMS from Japan have been reached to multilevel of the Thai administrative hierarchy during the last ten years. This can be categorized into a level of 1) national government policies and plans, 2) local administration's regulations and practices, and 3) project initiatives. The national policies and plans on SWM have been recognized as a mainstreaming 3Rs into various target groups such as individual encouragement through separate-colored bins, integrated MSWM (Municipal Solid Waste Management) system, community-based solid waste management (CB-SWM) by promoting annually the national CB-SWM Best Practice competition, informal sector by way of enhancing vagrant scavengers into a conventional recycling business. The process of implementation basically involved both public and private sector. Initiatives of Japan-SMS is generally applied into those mentioned practices through collaboration projects with Japanese donor agencies i.e. JICA, ADB, IGES, etc. As for the survey results, there have been three major categories of Japan influencing evidences on SMS in Thailand - financial, technical knowledge, and technological. The knowledge transfer from Japan is usually channeled through: 1) training course, 2) technology infrastructure, 3) funding, and 4) documents and websites. However, it was found in some cases that financial support and technology infrastructure supported by Japan caused difficulty to local officers and led to unsuccessful project due to knowhow limitations of local staff.

Recommendations were addressed to Thailand and Japanese. As for Thailand, in order to achieve the zero waste management schemes, the development planners and practitioners on SWM and 3R can explore more Japan-SMS practices and consider adopting some useful and suitable knowledge to apply into existing organizational plans and programs. Moreover, they may also apply the research results, particularly on factors contribution to the success, as a baseline data when replicating or upscaling SWM/3R projects are taken into account. For Japan, donor agencies or related SWM organizations can apply findings of influences in terms of financial, technical knowledge and technological aspects to consider resource allocation and administration to these types of assistance under the sustainable solid waste management scheme.

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