



## **Promoting "waste-to-resource" initiatives for cities in Viet Nam: Opportunities for implementing a waste-sector Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) programme**

– National Workshop –

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 9 June 2016

### **SUMMARY REPORT**

#### **1 Overview**

The one-day workshop was organized by the Association of Cities of Viet Nam (ACVN), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change of Vietnam (IMHEN). Approximately 40 participants were in attendance, which included representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, (MoNRE), Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT), the Viet Nam Environment Protection Fund (VEPF), and the cities of Quy Nhon, Kon Tum, Can Tho, Son Tay, Ha Giang, Ha Tinh, Hung Yen, Hue, and Thai Nguyen. The objective of the workshop was to present the “waste-to-resource” NAMA programme prepared by IMHEN and ESCAP, and discuss opportunities for its implementation in cities in Viet Nam.

#### **2. Summary of proceedings**

Mrs. Ngo Thi Tam, General Secretary of ACVN, Mr. Joao Aleluia, Project Coordinator, Environment and Development Division of ESCAP, and Mr. Do Tien Anh, Director of Climate Change Research Center of IMHEN, delivered the opening remarks.

The workshop started with an overview of Viet Nam’s climate change sector, provided by Mr. Nguyen Van Minh, Vice-Manager of Division of Greenhouse Gas Emission Monitoring and Low-Carbon Economy, Department of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change, MoNRE. The presentation highlighted the policy and regulatory backdrop to NAMAs in Viet Nam, as well as the potential of NAMAs to support the greenhouse gas emission reduction ambitions of Viet Nam. However, it was noted that the deployment of NAMAs still faces some challenges, especially the lack of a NAMA framework, which is currently under development, and a generalized lack of knowledge about the concept of NAMAs among practitioners.

The workshop presented and discussed the design elements of the NAMA “Waste-to-Resources for cities in Viet Nam”, a programme that was prepared by IMHEN with the technical and financial

support of ESCAP. The overall goal of the NAMA is to support Viet Nam in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the solid waste sector through the implementation of waste management approaches that are in line with the principles of Reducing, Reusing, Recycling (3R) and the recovery of resources from waste, while at the same time contributing to sustainable development goals of Viet Nam.

The NAMA was well-received by all participants, who recognized the need for additional support to local government authorities in the implementation of more sustainable waste management practices, in particular technical and financial assistance, which could be provided through the proposed NAMA. Participants discussed how the considerable funds necessary for the “transformational” change proposed by the NAMA could be mobilized from domestic sources. VEPF confirmed its willingness to become the main financing mechanism of the NAMA

The workshop was also an opportunity to take stock of waste management practices observed in some of Viet Nam’s most environmentally advanced cities, including those promoted through ESCAP’s regional project “Pro-poor and sustainable solid waste management in secondary cities and small towns in Asia-Pacific”, and the benefits of adopting waste-to-resource approaches:

- **Ha Tinh** highlighted its commitment in adopting sustainable waste management practices. Challenges faced by the city included a lack of human and financial resources, a lack of mechanisms to support the replication of pilot initiatives, and difficulties in fostering a wider uptake of waste segregation practices.
- **Quy Nhon** shared its experiences in implementing Viet Nam’s first “Integrated Resource Recovery Center” and the adoption of a city-wide strategy for the separation of waste at source. The leadership of the city People’s Committee was recognized as a success factor, and a key challenge lay in marketing compost produced from urban waste.
- **Kon Tum** noted the existence of a comprehensive policy framework at the city and provincial levels for the management of solid waste. On the other hand, the implementation of “waste-to-resource” initiatives has been hindered by several issues, including insufficient commitment from local government and low waste collection fees.
- **Son Tay** noted the existence of a regulatory and policy framework for the management of solid waste, as well as challenges in its implementation, as for Kon Tum. Amongst these, Son Tay highlighted the high capital and operational costs incurred with waste handling infrastructure, the lack of awareness and low capacity of officials, and the inability to enforce laws and regulations.
- **Can Tho** mentioned a range of difficulties encountered in managing and disposing solid waste, mainly resulting from a lack of know-how and capacity. Can Tho highlighted the need for domestic and international support to overcome these challenges, with the city volunteering to pilot the NAMA.

### **3. Outcome**

Based on the discussion and feedback provided by participants during the workshop, it was agreed that the next steps for the NAMA would be to: a) obtain formal recognition from national ministries in order for the programme to be adopted; b) identify cities that could pilot the NAMA; and c) seek opportunities for international support in piloting and implementation stages.

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