

## **Regional Conference Highlights Sustainable Consumption and Production in Southeast Asia**

**Shah Alam, Malaysia** — The Conference on ASEAN Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Policies and Practices took place on October 21-22, 2024, in Shah Alam, gathering regional and international experts to discuss advancements in sustainable consumption across Southeast Asia. The event, organized by the Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP) and backed by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), marked 12 years of significant cooperation between Germany and Southeast Asia on sustainability initiatives.

Delegates from several countries, including Bhutan, engaged in fruitful exchanges on eco-labeling, green public procurement (GPP), and fostering sustainable consumer lifestyles. Notable attendees from Bhutan included officials from the Bhutan Standards Bureau (BSB), the Ministry of Finance, and the Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (CCAA).

The conference also served as a platform to officially conclude the “Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Outreach in Asia” project, which has been pivotal in advancing eco-labeling and GPP initiatives in Bhutan. Over its course, the project has successfully developed the Bhutan Green Label, establishing eco-label criteria for key materials such as cement and high-strength steel rebars.

Collaborating closely with the Bhutan Standards Bureau and other stakeholders, the project has significantly enhanced Bhutan’s capacity for implementing green standards, marking a substantial step toward sustainable development in the region.

The discussions and insights shared at this conference are expected to influence future SCP policies across Southeast Asia, promoting a more sustainable future for the region.