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THAILAND



JOINT SDG FUND

Concept Note

Closing Ceremony of the Joint SDG Fund Project

Title: *“Advancing Local Action for the SDGs: From Mechanisms to Momentum”*

20 August 2025, 08.30 – 15.30 Hrs.

Conference Room 4, United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok

Background

The localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a crucial process that transforms global commitments into local realities. It places local communities and territories at the core of sustainable development planning, enabling inclusive, context-specific, and impactful action toward the 2030 Agenda.

In Thailand, the national development philosophy—Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP)—resonates with the 2030 Agenda's core principles and serves as a strong foundation for SDG localization. The Government of Thailand has integrated the SDGs into national development strategies such as the 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan, the 20-Year National Strategy (2017–2036), and the Thailand 4.0 Policy. To date, approximately 49.4% of global SDG indicators (119 out of 241) have been contextualized within Thailand's national framework.

In support of these efforts, UN-Habitat and UNDP, with funding from the Joint SDG Fund, are implementing the project *“Partnership to Accelerate SDG Localization in Thailand”* (SDG-L 1.5) in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior (MOI). This initiative aims to scale up SDG localization at the provincial and municipal levels through awareness-raising, capacity enhancement, and institutional support. It builds upon the progress of Phase I and focuses on two pilot provinces—Udon Thani and Surat Thani—to demonstrate innovative approaches in SDG financing, monitoring, and integrated planning.

Project Overview

Over the past years, the Joint SDG Fund project has produced tangible results that contribute to advancing local action for the SDGs. These include:

- A National Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Framework to guide municipalities in assessing SDG progress.
- Financial Mechanism Assessments in Udon Thani and Surat Thani to explore financing pathways for local sustainable development.
- Development of SDG-Aligned Project Proposals to support localized implementation.
- Completion of the Koh Samui VLR, serving as a model for other municipalities.
- A Waste Bank Guideline showcasing practical, community-led sustainability solutions.
- A finalized SDG Profile Guideline to support provincial monitoring and planning.

These tools and models have been designed to be scalable and adaptable for wider use across Thailand's provinces.



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Objectives

The Closing Ceremony aims to:

- Showcase the key achievements and outputs of the Joint SDG Fund Project, while marking strategic milestones in Thailand's progress toward SDG localization.
- Highlight good practices and practical tools developed during the project to support local implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.
- Foster multi-stakeholder dialogue and knowledge exchange on sustaining and scaling up local SDG initiatives.
- Enrich stakeholder engagement and strengthen networks to support the continued advancement of SDG implementation across Thailand.

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding among stakeholders of the tools, frameworks, and models available to support local SDG implementation.
- Strengthened collaboration and partnerships among national and local actors, development partners, the private sector, academia, and civil society for scaling sustainable development initiatives.
- Strategic insights and feedback to inform future policymakers for SDG localization at the sub-national level.
- Commitment from stakeholders to continue supporting the integration of SDGs into local planning, financing, and monitoring processes.

Participants: Governmental agencies, state enterprises, local authorities, private sectors, academia, civil society, and other relevant organizations totaling 120 participants.

**Draft Agenda****Date:** 20 August 2025**Time:** 08:30 – 15:30 hrs.**Venue:** Conference Room 4, UNCC, Bangkok

Time	Agenda Item
08.30 – 09.00	Registration and exhibition of key project outputs
09.00 – 09.20	Opening Remarks by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Michaela Friberg-Storey, UN Resident Coordinator • Mr. Unsit Sampuntharat, Permanent Secretary for Interior, Ministry of Interior
09:20 – 09:30	Group Photo
09:30 – 09:40	Project Overview Presentation – Summary of results and milestones By UNDP and UN-Habitat
09:40 – 10:30	Panel Discussion on “Aligning Local Data with Global Goals: SDG Monitoring in Practice” Moderator: Pan Piyasil, UNDP Thailand Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koh Samui Municipality – Sharing experiences from developing a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) • Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) – Insights on Provincial SDG Profiles • UN-Habitat – Overview of the National VLR Framework (<i>Jutamas Kaewsuk, SDG Localization Expert</i>) • Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Reflections on Thailand’s Voluntary National Review (VNR) process Q&A (10 min)
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break
10:45 – 12:00	Panel Discussion on “Mobilizing Finance for Local SDG Action: From Assessment to Implementation” Moderator: Pan Piyasil, UNDP Thailand

Time	Agenda Item
	<p>Opening Presentation (15 minutes): Unlocking Local Financing: Insights from Udon Thani and Surat Thani</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Udon Thani Assessment (7 minutes) • Surat Thani Assessment (7 minutes) <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors of Udon Thani and Surat Thani – Perspectives from the Provincial Strategy Offices • UNDP Economist Team - Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) • Sarinee Achavanuntakul – Perspectives on Private Sector Engagement in SDG Financing <p>Q&A (10 min)</p>
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	<p>Deep Dive Session “Innovative Approaches to Local Waste Management and Sustainability” Moderator: UN-Habitat in collaboration with Mahidol University</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Local Administration – Presentation on the Waste Bank Initiative • Udon Thani City Municipality – Local innovations in urban waste management • Kong Go Green – Insights from a Sustainability Influencer and practitioner • Civil Society Representative (e.g., WWF) – Community engagement for sustainable solutions
14:30 – 15:00	<p>Collective Reflections: Lessons Learned and Pathways to Scale A wrap-up session highlighting key takeaways and ideas for scaling impact, with voices from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Group – Reflections on inclusive and gender-responsive approaches • UNDP Youth Ambassador – Youth perspectives on building a more inclusive and sustainable future • Persons with Disabilities (PWD) – Insights on ensuring no one is left behind



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Time	Agenda Item
15:00 – 15:30	Closing Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNDP Representative – Niamh Collier-Smith• UN-Habitat Representative – Srinivasa Popuri

Note:

1. *The agenda is subject to change without prior notice.*
2. *Simultaneous Thai–English interpretation will be provided.*