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SHARING ZERO WASTE MODELS ACROSS SOUTHEAST ASIA: FROM PHILIPPINES TO VIETNAM AND INDONESIA

According to the Government of Indonesia’s Ministry of Environment and Forestry, a significant percentage of solid waste in Indonesia is unmanaged. Only 25% of solid waste is collected by centralized service providers, but this waste is not segregated and therefore is transported as mixed waste to landfills. In Vietnam, a rapid rise in tourism in Cam Thanh commune in Hoi An and the Cham Islands has led to mounting solid waste management challenges that also require more effective handling of large and growing quantities of waste.

HARMONIZING LOCAL AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES

The Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives Philippines (GAIA) is improving solid waste management, including recycling, in Indonesia and Vietnam as part of a Southeast Asia regional initiative that is managed out of the Philippines. In Indonesia, working in coordination with city governments and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the project team will establish zero waste pilot projects in Bandung. In Vietnam, GAIA will initiate zero waste activities in Cam Thanh commune in Hoi An and the Cham Islands, a UNESCO-designated global biosphere reserve. GAIA’s work will: (1) support community-based initiatives to develop zero waste pilot projects; (2) build the technical capacity of municipal governments in solid waste management; and (3) coordinate cross-border policy campaigns.

ADVANCING A ZERO WASTE MODEL

GAIA promotes a zero-waste approach to waste management that emphasizes responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of materials, thereby, reducing the amount of waste that is incinerated, sent to landfills, or discharged into the marine environment. The GAIA project will provide technical assistance to city governments to support the development of ten-year solid waste management plans that improve the waste management value chain through household waste segregation at source. In addition, NGOs will have the opportunity to develop the skills to become mentors to other city officials by participating in the GAIA Zero Waste Academy’s intensive course on how to implement a community-based ecological reuse and recycling program.

KEY FACTS

- **Indonesia and Vietnam have been named among the top contributors of plastic pollution leaking into the marine environment**, with studies citing the growing population and the lack of infrastructure to capture waste leaks as the main causes.
- By the end of the project, the targeted localities are expected to have **functioning, scalable programs based on ten-year solid waste management plans**, materials recovery facilities temporarily storing aggregated recyclable materials, and the composting of organic waste.

PROJECT: Building and Sharing Zero Waste Models in Selected Asian Communities

DURATION: March 2019 – March 2021 | **IMPLEMENTER:** Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives Philippines (GAIA)

LOCATION: Indonesia and Vietnam, from headquarters based in Manila, Philippines | **BUDGET:** \$249,610