ASIA PACIFIC OCEAN WEEK
26–30 October 2026

Session:	**Science-informed and stronger together: Strengthening regional action and commitment for a more resilient South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**
Organizer(s):	**UNOPS / SCS-SAP Project ; UNEP-COBSEA**
Date/Time:	**Tuesday, 27 October 2026, 13h30 – 16h00**
Location:	**UNCC, Meeting Room F**

INFORMATION AND LOGISTICAL NOTE

BACKGROUND

The South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand sustain a quarter of the world's population and are among Asia's most biodiverse large marine ecosystems. After 25 years of regional cooperation across more than six countries in the East Asian Seas, the evidence is clear: the region's environmental trends need to move in a sustainable direction, and achieving this requires deeper, more sustained collaboration than what has been achieved so far.

This side event, organized by the Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (SCS SAP) Project, a six-country, GEF-funded initiative implemented by UNEP and supported by UNOPS, presents the case for stronger collaboration through three interlocking lenses.

First, what the science now tells us. The updated Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (2025-2026), the most comprehensive regional assessment of the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) since 2000, documents the current state of the two shared seas across climate, people, pollution, ecosystems, fisheries, and governance — and makes clear why a stronger regional response is needed, urgently.

Second, what regional cooperation has already delivered. The SCS SAP achievement record from 2008 to 2021, including 47 protected and managed areas, 2.1 million hectares across four coastal habitats, and hard lessons about where implementation fell short, shows what six countries working together can accomplish, and what a renewed strategic action must do differently.

Third, what local and regional action looks like. Coordinated national and community actions supporting a common goal. SEA:Grants grantees from seven countries demonstrating that effective marine conservation is stronger when built with communities and that their models are ready to scale. Regional organizations collaborating to sustain a momentum through a more synergized approach to protecting coastal and marine ecosystems, knowledge sharing, and financing.

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TENTATIVE AGENDA

Date	
Time	**Agenda**
13:30 – 13:40	**OPENING** ● Anders Poulsen, SCS-SAP Project Manager Master of Ceremonies: Khristine Gudczinski
13:40 – 14:10	**Session 1: Diagnosing the Seas – A social and scientific status update on the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand** **The updated Regional Transboundary Diagnostics Analysis (TDA)** ● Dr. Vo Si Tuan & Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon ● Q&A (10 mins)
14:10-14:40	**Session 2: Accelerated Conservation – Results and Achievements of the SCS SAP Project** ● Overview of Regional Outputs, *Reynaldo Molina, SCS SAP* ● Demonstrating Results from Thailand, *Ukkrit Satapoomin, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR)* ● Reflections: UNEP Goodwill Ambassador for the Philippines *Antoinette Taus* ● Q&A (10 mins)
14:40 – 14:55	**Film showing: Stakeholders' Voices. Various films from the East Asian Seas**
14:55 – 15:55	**Session 3: Envisioning the Future - Regional Workshop on Best Practices and Sustainability** ● Designing a region-wide conservation programme based on what we know now ● Facilitators: Margarita Victoria Caballa and Jimin Hong
15:55 – 16:00	**CLOSING** ● Mahesh Pradhan, COBSEA Coordinator

MEETING DOCUMENT
The meeting documents are available on the project Google shared drive:
[Science-informed and stronger together: Strengthening regional action and commitment for a more resilient South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (for sharing with participants) - Google Drive]

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For those who are unable to access Google platform, please visit SCS SAP project website via: SCSSAP - Strategic Action Programme Implementation - Asia-Pacific Ocean Week: Science-Informed and Stronger Together side event

Participants are encouraged to use soft copies whenever possible. If hard copies are needed, please bring your own copies of the meeting documents.

ONLINE PARTICIPATION
For participants joining remotely, please use the Zoom links provided below. All times are listed in Thailand Time (GMT+7).

Time: Oct 27, 2026 13:30 PM Thailand
Zoom Meeting Link:
https://unops.zoom.us/j/97303035953?pwd=J3XcB6NYFQaPkcHng95ZAvcCwOxu4q.1
Meeting ID: 973 0303 5953
Passcode: 200834

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE (DEADLINE: 20 OCTOBER 2026)

Registration is free of charge and required to enter the UN Conference Centre (UNCC). Participants are kindly requested to complete two short registration forms (approximately 3–5 minutes each):

1. **SCS-SAP Registration:** Complete the registration form
2. **Indico Registration (Non-UN participants only):** Asia-Pacific Ocean Week (26–30 October 2026)

Completing both registrations will help us coordinate attendee details with the APOW Secretariat and facilitate entry approval to the UNCC.

UNCC BUILDING ACCESS AND BADGE COLLECTION

Participants are kindly requested to present the QR code received by email after registration approval to the security staff at the main entrance. After security screening, the staff will guide you to the registration desk on the ground floor of the UNCC building to collect your badge.

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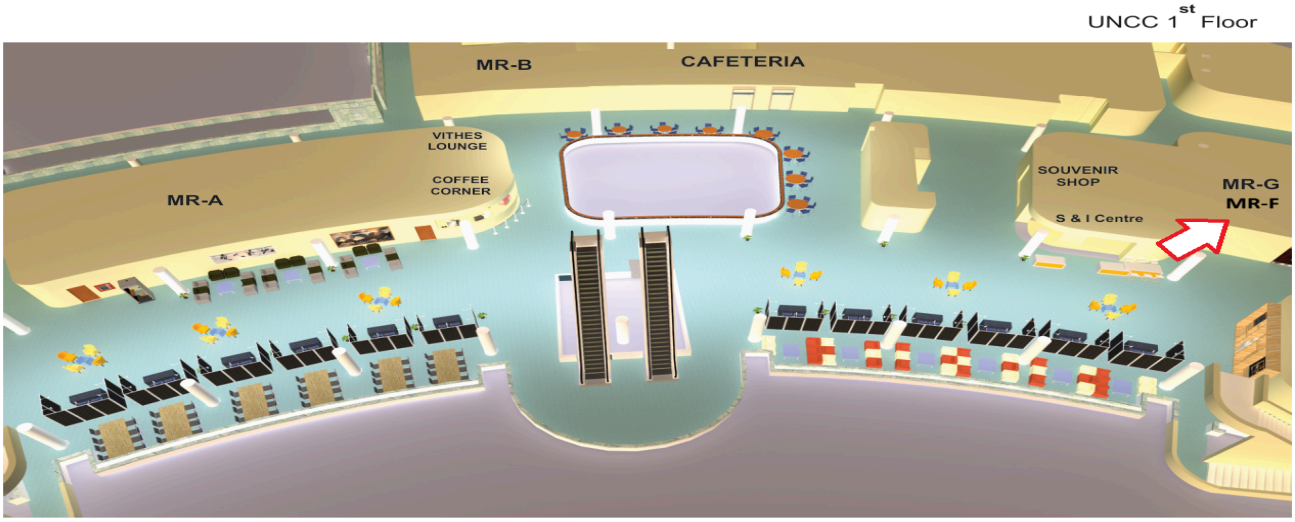
MEETING VENUE

The event will be hosted at meeting room F (level 1), the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand.

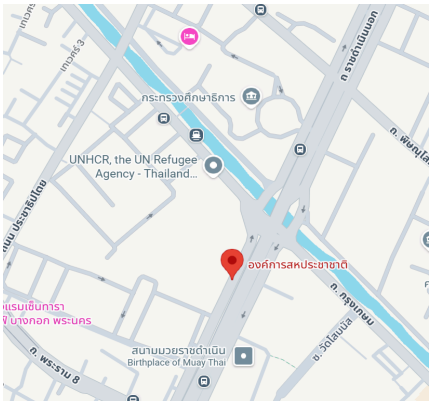
Address:
United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC)
Rajadamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Website: www.unescap.org/uncc
Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/jNFPJ4ETuqra7N649

FLOOR PLAN



TRANSPORTATION

Participants are kindly requested to make their own transportation arrangements to and from the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) Bangkok.



Participants may choose the most convenient option depending on their accommodation and location, such as public bus, taxi, or Grab.

Participants staying in Bangkok are encouraged to plan their journey in advance and allow sufficient travel time to arrive at the venue before the scheduled start of the meeting.

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DRESS CODE

Business casual attire is recommended.

INTERNET AND WI-FI ACCESS

Free Internet and Wi-Fi access will be provided by the UNCC

CONTACT PERSONS
On logistics related matters, please contact:

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