

Annex 1

All the contents in the concept note need to be fulfilled and the concept note shall not exceed two (2) paggers. The Budget breakdown and related documents such as project site maps can be attached separately. Please do not change anything from this form but font.

PROJECT TITLE	Feasibility Study on Plastic Recycling towards a Circular Future in Asia: Unlocking Plastic Recycling Possibilities among Small and Medium Enterprises		
Implementing Agency	International Environmental Technology Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-IETC)		
Other Partners	Executing agencies in project countries, Global Environment Centre Foundation (GEC), IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET), etc.	Cooperation with JICA	Yes
Project Location	Asia (2 countries)		
Principal purpose	The principal purpose of this project is to explore the potential of small and medium-scale plastic recycling in the Asian region, aiming to achieve a sustainable future. By leveraging the results of this exploration, the project seeks to generate positive impacts on the environment and economy of the region. Through the empowerment of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the project aims to promote plastic waste reduction, effective utilization of recycled materials, and activation of the regional economy, thereby contributing to the overall sustainable development of the local community. With a focus on formulating, implementing, and scaling up recycling business plans tailored to the characteristics of the region, the project endeavours to establish a foundation for proactive transformation towards a better future for Asia. The project will be implemented as part of the ONE UNEP Plastic Project if funded (See Annex 2 for relationship with the ONE UNEP Plastic Project)		
Main activities	This project aims to engage SME in the Asian region in plastic recycling efforts to achieve sustainable resource circulation. To encourage SME participation, the project will conduct an investigation into small-scale plastic recycling within the local context, evaluating the technological and economic feasibility as well as ensuring sound recycling technologies including its life-cycle assessment (LCA). Furthermore, it will assess the societal and environmental impacts of recycling projects, enhancing collaboration between SMEs and the local community. Additionally, through branding of recycled plastic materials, the project seeks to raise consumer awareness and promote sustainable consumption. Ultimately, the project strives to establish a model for sustainable plastic waste management, disseminating successful plastic recycling case studies throughout the Asian region and sharing them as international best practices.		
Applicable goal (s) of SDGs	SDG 1: No Poverty (By involving local SMEs in the plastic recycling project and generating employment opportunities, the project has the potential to stimulate economic growth and contribute to poverty reduction.) SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth (Through the activation of SMEs via plastic recycling, fostering new industries, and promoting economic growth, the project aims to create employment opportunities and foster economic growth within the local community.) SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (Reducing plastic waste and promoting recycling can alleviate the environmental burden in the local community, facilitating sustainable urban development that supports long-term habitation.) SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production (By addressing plastic waste issues, the project encourages a holistic approach to product life cycles, fostering sustainable consumption and production practices.) SDG 14: Life Below Water (Engaging in plastic recycling to mitigate the impact of plastic waste on marine environments holds the potential to contribute positively to ocean preservation and the protection of marine ecosystems.)		
Duration	31 st March 2024 to 30 th March 2025		
Target goals (key three goals)	Indicator(measure)		Target value(outcome)
	Goal 1	1. Increase local SME participation (Baseline: 0)	Number of SMEs (Target: 1)
	Goal 2	2. Increase amount of recycling	Metric tonnes recycled plastic
	Goal 3	3. Brand recognition and consumer awareness	Number of products made of recycled materials
Estimated budget and its breakdown	USD 802,919(including, 1% Levy: USD 7,950, 13%PSC: 91,457), (See Annex 1) • Personnel cost: USD 221,750 • Activity cost: USD 481,762		
Urgency	The proposal for this project was developed in response to the outcomes of the 2 nd Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC2) held from May 29 th to June 2 nd of this year,		

	aiming to establish a legally binding international instrument (treaty) addressing plastic pollution. INC2 focused on the objectives, obligations, and implementation measures of the treaty concerning plastic pollution issues. Japan proposed an ambitious goal to approach zero plastic pollution by 2040 and advocated for the importance of initiatives spanning various stages, including promoting plastic recycling, reducing environmental emissions, and raising awareness. Other nations similarly shared the goal of preventing environmental and health impacts, leading to discussions on specific obligations and measures within the treaty. Within these discussions, the inadequate progress in addressing plastic waste issues in developing countries was recognized as a concern. The urgent need for the immediate implementation of measures for proper management of plastic waste, particularly in the context of future treaty enforcement, became evident. In light of this situation, the urgency of this project is clear.
<i>Necessity</i>	The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the host of UNEP-IETC, recognizes its leadership role in environmental treaties and frameworks and the consequent obligation to address plastic pollution and waste issues. This responsibility is particularly urgent in light of the outcomes of INC2, emphasizing the necessity to urgently tackle plastic waste management, especially in developing nations. Given UNEP-IETC's expertise in waste management and the pressing global nature of plastic pollution, Japan's contribution to their budget would send a strong message of commitment to international environmental protection and sustainable development, aligning with Japan's role as a leader among crisis mitigation nations.
<i>Unpredictability</i>	The issue of plastic pollution, the focus of this project, presents unpredictability due to its broad impacts and rapid changes. The varying situations across regions and nations, influenced by economic and societal shifts, make precise predictions challenging. Despite discussions in INC2 and global trends, accurately forecasting the evolution of plastic pollution proves difficult. Factors such as emerging policies, technological advancements, international cooperation shifts, economic fluctuations, scientific discoveries, and societal awareness changes contribute to this uncertainty. This unpredictability necessitates the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to adopt a flexible and adaptable approach. Maintaining international collaboration, acquiring new information and knowledge, and establishing mechanisms to address evolving plastic pollution issues are essential for effective response. Amidst this uncertainty, the Japanese government maintains its commitment to addressing plastic pollution, showcasing leadership, and emphasizing adaptability in the face of unforeseen developments.
<i>Unsubstitutability</i>	Unsubstitutability holds utmost significance in the execution of this project. The proposed measures and project implementation serve as appropriate and essential means to address the current challenge of plastic pollution. Given the absence of viable alternatives and the immediate and urgent need for action, the project's implementation becomes critically important. Moreover, plastic pollution is a global issue demanding meticulous planning and effective measures. Based on the current situation, a comprehensive and international approach like the proposed project is indispensable, with few viable alternatives. Achievements achievable solely through this project encompass enhancing plastic waste management in developing countries through international cooperation, leveraging UNEP-IETC's expertise, establishing sustainable plastic lifecycle practices, and constructing international regulations and collaborative frameworks. Considering the present circumstances, the project's implementation is urgent, as it offers outcomes that are difficult to replicate through other means, making it an essential component of a sustainable solution to plastic pollution.
<i>Other reference(s)</i>	- Shunichi Honda (Programme Officer, P3, UNEP-IETC, Osaka) will be a project manager. - The project will be implemented by an executing agency in each project country in collaboration with GEC, IGES-CCET and JICA and other partners. - Private sectors in waste management area will be involved. - Plastic pollution is a critical global crisis that demands immediate action. As leading international organizations and recipient governments, we wholeheartedly endorse the proposed project for sustainable plastic value chain management. Spearheaded by UNEP-IETC, this initiative offers a holistic solution to a complex problem. By engaging local businesses, advancing recycling technologies, and fostering international cooperation, the project not only addresses the unpredictability and irreplaceability of the issue but also aligns seamlessly with our shared goals and SDGs.

Annex 1: Budget

Activity		Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost (USD)	Total Cost (USD)
Personnel cost					
IETC P-3	30%	12	months	185,000	55,500
IETC P-2	20%	12	months	116,250	23,250
IETC G-4	20%	12	months	100,000	20,000
Secretariat of the Life Cycle Initiative	100%	2	months	11,500	23,000
IETC Project Consultant (Level C)		10	months	10,000	100,000
Activity cost					
An executing agency in country A		1	contract	208,500	208,500
An executing agency in country B		1	contract	208,500	208,500
Travel cost for IETC staff					
International travel					
A country in Asia		4	times	7,000	28,000
B country in Asia		4	times	7,000	28,000
Domestic travel		6	times	1,460	8,762
				Total	703,512
				1% Levy	7,950
				13% PSC	91,457
				Grand total	802,919

Annex 2: Relationship with the ONE UNEP Plastic Project and others

- **How will this fit in the Theory of Change of the One Plastics Initiative?**
 - ▶ The proposed project, "Towards a Circular Future in Asia: Unlocking Plastic Recycling Possibilities among Small and Medium Enterprises," significantly enhances the ONE UNEP Plastic Project's impact by addressing a specific gap – the engagement of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the transition to a circular plastic economy. For instance, by designing tailored training programs and providing technical support to SMEs, the project empowers these often underserved entities to actively participate in circular practices. This contribution not only aligns with the ONE UNEP Plastic Project's aim of inspiring and supporting industry action but also adds a crucial dimension of inclusivity and holistic change. By directly involving SMEs, the project amplifies the project's influence by encouraging widespread adoption of circular practices across various sectors, reinforcing its potential for transformative change.

- **Technology review output would be useful, but could we expand to cover a wider range of technologies for sound plastic value chain management including recycling but not limited to? This came up as a need in the UNEP Circle of Excellence for Plastic ambition yesterday, so it will be timely.**
 - ▶ Recognizing the evolving landscape of plastic value chain management and the need for comprehensive solutions, I fully support the idea of encompassing a wider range of technologies beyond recycling. This expansion aligns perfectly with the forward-thinking approach of the UNEP Circle of Excellence for Plastic ambition, as you indicated. By incorporating technologies that span not only recycling but also areas like innovative packaging, material substitution, waste reduction, and sustainable production, our project can contribute more effectively to the holistic transformation of plastic systems. We would contribute to adapting the technology review output to embrace these advancements and explore synergies with the broader plastic value chain management, ensuring that our efforts remain timely, relevant, and impactful.

- **To do the above, could we collaborate with UNIDO's Investment and Technology Promotion Office (UNIDO ITPO)?**
 - ▶ Absolutely, we see great potential in collaborating with UNIDO ITPO to enhance the scope and impact of our project. The expertise and resources offered by UNIDO align closely with our project's objectives to advance sustainable plastic value chain management. By leveraging UNIDO's insights and network, we can effectively explore a wider array of technologies, innovative solutions, and investment opportunities to drive circular economy practices. This collaboration not only complements our efforts but also fosters a more comprehensive and harmonized approach towards achieving our shared goals. We are eager to engage with UNIDO ITPO to maximize the positive outcomes of our project and contribute to a more sustainable plastic future.

- **Could we also expand the geographic scope to global coverage, if we focus on the technology review?**
 - Expanding the geographic scope to achieve global coverage is a promising idea, especially when focusing on the technology review. By encompassing a broader range of regions, we can capture diverse technological innovations and practices that are being implemented worldwide for effective plastic value chain management. This approach would not only enrich our project's insights but also allow us to identify best practices, success stories, and lessons learned from different corners of the globe. Such a comprehensive review would provide a more holistic perspective on the state of plastic recycling and circular economy efforts, enabling us to contribute to the broader UNEP goal of reducing plastic pollution and advancing a global circular plastic economy. We welcome the opportunity to explore the feasibility of this expansion and its potential impact on enhancing our project's outcomes. However, limiting our focus in Asia this time was the suggestion from the IETC Head in order to fully complete our project activities under the project implementation conditions of JSB.