

GIZ Forms a Task Force on SDGs

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Statistics collected by the United Nations show that about one in five people in developing countries live on less than \$1.25 per day; that water scarcity, poor water quality and drought afflict many parts of the world's poorest regions; and that climate change is affecting lives and threatening communities at an unprecedented rate that will only increase in the future.

Against this backdrop, the two GIZ Sector Networks (SNs) in Asia recently met in Bangkok to discuss approaches to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The two networks are part of GIZ's knowledge-management initiatives in Asia to enhance the technical capacities and expertise of German Development Cooperation in the region through the sharing of best practices and networking. The call for "SDG Champions" in the GIZ Sustainability Office was particularly loud during the five-day conference and the most important item on the agenda.

This inaugural conference of TUEWAS (Transport, Environment, Energy and Water) and SNRD Asia (Sector Network Natural Resources and Rural Development Asia) brought together more than 250 participants from 17 countries in Asia. The cross-boundary platform allowed for networking and exchange of know-how across different Working Groups (WGs) as well as between national and international staff and people of different generations. To move the agenda forward, the conference called for the setting up of a Task Force on SDG to monitor and streamline various German technical cooperation efforts in Asia.

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