

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The plastic waste issue is a worsening problem globally, and Southeast Asia (SEA) is at the heart of it. The region contains five of the world's top ten plastic waste producers. A review of current policies in countries from Europe, Africa, and SEA shows that many countries do not have a comprehensive approach to address the plastic waste issue, as policies do not address all actors sufficiently. This paper proposes five interlocking recommendations to address the limitations of current policies. The first recommendation is a Pay-As-You-Throw system which charges consumers based the volume of waste they dispose of. Governments should also designate a mandatory bag with which consumers dispose of their waste, so as to reduce the use of plastic bags. The second recommendation proposes that governments set a levy on the use of plastic bags. The third recommendation involves the replacement of normal plastic bags with bioplastic bags. The mandatory bags used in the first recommendation should be made out of bioplastics to further reduce the use of normal plastic bags. The fourth recommendation pushes governments to capitalise on political ties to further regional cooperation on environmental matters. States should use comparative advantages to build sustainable trade networks to manage plastic waste. The last recommendation proposes increased use of EcoBricks, and the commercialisation of ByBlocks, which is a construction material made out of plastic. This repurposing of plastic waste presents an economically viable option for states to invest in. The five recommendations are made to complement each other and are adaptable to suit different contexts, in hopes of further adopting these recommendations to other parts of the world.