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### **ENGAGE for Research Planning and Capacity Development: Fostering SDGs 14 and 17 for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in Southeast Asia**

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#### **Abstract**

Transforming our world, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - a global plan of action for people, planet and prosperity launched in 2015 – outlined 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. The focus on coastal systems is represented by SDG 14- to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, and marine resources; and SDG 17- to strengthen the global partnership for sustainable development is an overarching mandate towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Within this context, The Sustainable Management and Governance of Coastal Ecosystems (ENGAGE) project was conceived. The ensuing synthesis presents highlights of the ENGAGE project from its inception in 2016 to its 'impact mapping' to March 2020. In 2016, the joint program implemented by AIT-Vietnam and UNU-INWEH as the key partners. The overarching objective of the program is to share an innovative and collaborative approach for research planning and capacity development towards Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) by employing a training-cum-workshop (Tcw) model. The goal was to steer long-term engagement of regional experts, create an enabling platform for information and knowledge exchange in the region, connecting researchers, development workers, and government officials working in coastal regions, along with policymakers, community leaders and resource managers. The Tcw model provided a face-to-face opportunity for a multi-stakeholder dialogue workshop held in Vietnam with 31 participants from 6 countries. Alongside, a virtual networking space through Facebook was established in 2017 to facilitate information sharing to design collaborative work. The group has > 500 members, with a significant proportion of early-career researchers. The ENGAGE program fosters capacity development and creates an enabling environment for regional stakeholders to collaborate in ICZM. National researchers share designed programs based on experiences gained through the ENGAGE network, of which a few key impacts and milestones will be presented.

#### **Keywords**

ENGAGE, Coastal Ecosystem Management, ICZM, EBA