

Strengthening Cooperation in Addressing Transboundary Pollution by Marine Plastic Litter in Southeast Asia Region under the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road

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Marine plastic litter both macro and micro-plastic is a global marine environment problem causing transboundary water pollution and poses serious problems. The impact of marine plastic litter extends to marine living organisms and human health as well as the economic sector. Recent studies showed that Southeast Asian countries produce the most marine plastic litter. Addressing marine plastic litter in this region is a big challenge.

This research firstly identifies the recent problem of marine plastic litter pollution and discusses national policy and management of marine plastic litter in Southeast Asian countries. Secondly, this study provides explanation of the principles of international law governing transboundary pollution. This research provides analysis of the existing regional cooperation in Southeast Asia in addressing marine environmental problems.

As a result, some of the Southeast Asian countries have implemented management and policy in addressing marine plastic litter. The existing cooperation between Southeast Asian countries in addressing marine plastic litter lacks being progressive. Therefore, strengthening cooperation is needed for the protection of the marine environment from marine plastic litter. China's 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (MSR) through the vision on strengthening maritime cooperation has put attention to promoting the protection of the regional marine environment. MSR can be the best option to address marine environmental problem in this region, specifically on marine plastic litter which causes transboundary pollution.

Keywords: Marine plastic litter, Strengthening cooperation, 21st Maritime Silk Road, Southeast Asia.

