



CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM 2025

Advancing a Circular Economy for a Sustainable Future

17–18 June 2025 | Auditoriums 1–4 | ADB Headquarters, Manila



EVENT PROGRAM

as of 3 June 2025

OBJECTIVES

The Circular Economy Forum aims to:

- promote and reinforce the circular economy as one of the core approaches guiding ADB's operations;
- share knowledge, case studies, best practices and experiences from across Asia and the Pacific to inspire replication and scaling up of circularity initiatives;
- strengthen understanding of circular economy principles and explore other focus areas and sectors that can integrate these principles as guided by the ADB Environment Action Plan;
- instill awareness of enabling conditions that can drive the uptake of circularity in Asia and the Pacific, as well as lessons from applying digitalization in the plastic value chain and related circular economy projects, which can help improve project design; and
- discuss highlights and lessons learned from the Promoting Action on Plastic Pollution TA project, which can serve as a jump-off point for developing wider ADB investments.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The Circular Economy Forum seeks to convene 300 participants:

- government officials and staff from ADB developing member countries (DMCs) working with the environment, planning, and finance ministries, as well as other related departments and agencies, such as water and waste management;
- ADB staff and consultants;
- civil society organizations, including advocacy and youth groups;
- academia and research institutions; and
- development partners, donors, and other finance institutions.



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KEY MESSAGES

- Circular economy is one of the three pillars of ADB’s framework for investing in environment and nature and addressing the triple planetary crisis, as embedded in the new Environment Action Plan 2024–2030.
- ADB is poised to support DMCs with a comprehensive package of investments, knowledge sharing, and capacity building that enable a system-wide advancement to a circular economy.
- Circular economy requires commitment and cooperation across all sectors and industries to achieve true regenerative growth.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The program will have plenary presentations and three parallel tracks: (i) Enabling Conditions, (ii) Digitalization and Innovation, and (iii) Digitalization of the Plastic Value Chain. Each session will showcase a combination of ADB and external case studies in the region.

DAY 1

TIME	17 JUNE 2025 (TUESDAY)		
8:30–9:00	Registration		
9:00–10:00	Opening Remarks and Keynote Session		
10:00–10:30	Coffee/Networking Break		
10:30–12:00	PLENARY SESSION 1: Circular Economy in Sectors		
12:00–13:30	Lunch Break		
13:30–15:00	TRACK 1	TRACK 2	TRACK 3
	Enabling Conditions: Legal Frameworks and Policy	Digitalization and Innovation: Breakthroughs in Practice	Digitalization of the Plastic Value Chain: Developing Digital Road Maps
15:00–15:30	Wrap-up/Recap of the Day (continuation in separate rooms)		
15:30–16:00	Coffee/Networking Break		



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DAY 2

TIME	18 JUNE 2025 (WEDNESDAY)		
8:00–8:30	Registration		
8:30–9:00	Preliminaries (conducted in separate/track rooms)		
9:00–10:30	TRACK 1	TRACK 2	TRACK 3
	Enabling Conditions: Sustainable Finance	Digitalization and Innovation: Data Collection and Management	Digitalization of the Plastic Value Chain: Piloting Digital Applications
10:30–11:00	Coffee/Networking Break		
11:00–12:30	TRACK 1	TRACK 2	TRACK 3
	Enabling Conditions: Aligning Circular Economy Strategies with Sustainable Development Goals	Digitalization and Innovation: Urban and Rural Development	Digitalization of the Plastic Value Chain: Data Governance Framework
12:30–14:00	Lunch Break		
14:00–14:15	Energizer		
14:15–15:45	PLENARY SESSION 2: Pathways to Circular Resilience		
15:45–16:30	Wrap-up and Closing Remarks		
16:30 onwards	Cocktails and light refreshments		



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DETAILED PROGRAM SESSIONS

DAY 1 – 17 June 2025, Tuesday

8:30–9:00 Registration

9:00–10:00 Opening Remarks and Keynote Session

Auditoriums 1–4

This opening session will set the scene for the forum, highlighting the importance of the circular economy approach in ADB programs and investments and showcasing the innovations and future direction of the circular economy to generate increased uptake and scale.

Opening Remarks

- Jonas Leones, Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Philippines

Keynote Presentation

- Rob Kaplan, Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Circulate Capital

10:00–10:30 Coffee/Networking Break

10:30–12:00 **PLENARY SESSION 1: Circular Economy in Sectors**

Auditoriums 1–4

This session highlights the application of circular economy principles across different sectors.

- Moderator: Susann Roth, Advisor, Office of the Principal Director, Department of Communications and Knowledge Management, ADB
- Dennis Ng, CEO, Mober



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- Norio Saito, Senior Director, Water and Urban Development, Water and Urban Development Sector Office (SD2-WUD), ADB
- Cinderella (Cindy) C. Tiangco, Director, Energy Office, Sectors Department 1, ADB
- Yoko Watanabe, Director, Environment, ADB
- Qingfeng Zhang, Senior Director, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2 (SD2-AFNR), ADB

12:00–13:30 Lunch Break

13:30–15:00 TRACK SESSION 1: Enabling Conditions: Legal Frameworks and Policy

Auditorium 1

This session illustrates how legal frameworks, regulations, and policies can promote or enhance a circular economy.

- Dorothy Delarmente–Bagting, Councilor, Quezon City Government (Philippines)
- Roger Joseph (Rocky) Guzman, International Governance, Policy, and Legal Specialist (Consultant), ADB
- Sara Lim, Researcher/Administrator, ADB-Korea Climate Technology Hub, ADB
- Discussant: Dian Kurniawati, Founder, PT Tridi Oasis Group

13:30–15:00 TRACK SESSION 2: Digitalization and Innovation: Breakthroughs in Practice

Auditorium 2

This session showcases successes and challenges of ongoing local case studies (i.e., a city, municipality, or province) that use digitalization and innovation to promote a circular economy.

- Eileen Ortega-Gamo, Director (Community Bamboo Development and Carbon Removal), Rizome Philippines
- Surbhi Jore, Founder, ASM Global
- Rudolph Peralta, Senior GIS Analyst, Arup



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13:30–15:00 **TRACK SESSION 3: Digitalization of the Plastic Value Chain: Developing Digital Road Maps**

Auditorium 3

This session introduces key concepts of digitalizing the plastic value chain to accelerate circularity. Learn about digital transformation strategies and how to assess readiness levels using a specialized maturity assessment tool. The session also provides practical guidance on setting objectives and developing digital road maps for the plastic value chain, equipping participants with essential knowledge to drive digital transformation in their organizations.

- Le Roux Cronje, Technical Lead (Data Governance, Security, and Cybersecurity), Learning and Innovation Division, DT Global Inc.
- Vincent Aloysius, Team Leader and Circular Economy Specialist, Seureca-Veolia
- Emilio López Cano, Associate Professor, Rey Juan Carlos University

15:00–15:30 **Wrap-up/Recap of the Day**

To be continued in the separate track rooms

- Day 1 Recap and Reminders for Day 2
- Day 1 Survey

15:30–16:00 **Coffee/Networking Break**



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DAY 2 – 18 June 2025, Wednesday

8:00–8:30 Registration

8:30–9:00 Preliminaries

To be conducted in separate track rooms

- Energizer
- Recall of Day 1
- Overview of Day 2

9:00–10:30 TRACK SESSION 1: Enabling Conditions: Sustainable Finance

Auditorium 1

This session identifies different tools and approaches to finance the transition to a circular economy.

- Claire Alembik, Investment Specialist, Infrastructure Finance Division 2 (PSIF2), ADB
- Ma. Celina Anonuevo, Senior Manager, Deloitte
- Ghislain de Valon, Senior Infrastructure Finance Specialist (Climate Financing), Green Finance Hub Unit, Southeast Asia Department, ADB

9:00–10:30 TRACK SESSION 2: Digitalization and Innovation: Data Collection and Management

Auditorium 2

This session presents challenges and successes of collecting and managing data through case studies, and how data can be used to inform circular economy strategies.

- Surbhi Jore, Founder, ASM Global
- Ana Kumarasamy, Associate Program Officer, Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)



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- Miguel Yorro, Vice President for Business Development, Sustainability, and Product Innovation, Safewater Technologies

9:00–10:30

TRACK SESSION 3: Digitalization of the Plastic Value Chain: Piloting Digital Applications

Auditorium 3

This session explores the landscape of digital solutions advancing plastic circularity, presenting key findings from global and regional screening initiatives. Participants will gain valuable insights from pilot testing of selected digital solutions, understanding their practical applications and impact. The session also delves into the essential components of designing and implementing an open data platform for effective plastic value chain management. Critical success factors and practical recommendations for executing open data platforms will be shared. The session aims to equip attendees with actionable strategies for leveraging digital tools to enhance plastic circularity efforts.

- Emilio López Cano, Associate Professor, Rey Juan Carlos University
- Marios Kostis, Project Engineer - Operational Tools and Digital Initiatives Hub, Seureca

10:30–11:00

Coffee/Networking Break

11:00–12:30

TRACK SESSION 1: Enabling Conditions: Aligning Circular Economy Strategies with Sustainable Development Goals

Auditorium 1

This session explores the factors crucial for applying a circular economy approach which can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Kiyoshi Nakamitsu, Unit Head – Project Administration (South Asia), Water and Urban Development Sector Office (SD2-WUD), ADB
- Eileen Ortega-Gamo, Director (Community Bamboo Development and Carbon Removal), Rizome Philippines
- Noriko Sato, Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, Pakistan Resident Mission, ADB



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- Karma Yangzom, Principal Environment Specialist, Climate Change, Resilience, and Environment Cluster, ADB

11:00–12:30 TRACK SESSION 2: Digitalization and Innovation: Urban and Rural Development

Auditorium 2

This session looks at how circular economy principles can improve and enhance the development of both cities and rural communities.

- Tomoko Kato, Senior Food and Nutrition Specialist, SD2-AFNR, ADB
- Jamie Naval, Managing Partner, Anthill Fabrics

11:00–12:30 TRACK SESSION 3: Digitalization of the Plastic Value Chain: Data Governance Framework

Auditorium 3

This dynamic discussion will center on how digital tools and structured governance frameworks are transforming plastic waste management, featuring insights from case studies in Indonesia and Viet Nam, particularly how these countries are leveraging plastic waste management systems, mobile platforms, and real-time monitoring to improve traceability, accountability, and policy enforcement. This session will unpack the “what” and “how” of governing data to drive smarter decisions, stronger compliance, and scalable impact.

- Le Roux Cronje, Technical Lead (Data Governance, Security, and Cybersecurity), Learning and Innovation Division, DT Global Inc.

12:30–14:00 Lunch Break

14:00–14:15 Energizer

14:15–15:45 PLENARY SESSION 2: Pathways to Circular Resilience

Auditoriums 1–4



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The closing panel will highlight the importance of mobilizing different stakeholders for a robust, inclusive, and resilient circular economy.

- Moderator: James Baker, Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, SD2-AFNR, ADB
- Maria Lorena Cleto, Senior Safeguards Specialist (Social), Office of Safeguards, ADB
- Jinha Kim, Gender Specialist (Climate Change), Gender Equality Division, ADB
- Dian Kurniawati, Founder, PT Tridi Oasis Group

15:45–16:30 **Wrap-up and Closing Remarks**

Auditoriums 1–4

This last session will summarize the takeaways from the forum and include a forward-looking statement from ADB.

Recap of the Day

Closing Remarks

16:30 onwards **Cocktails and Light Refreshments**

ADB Courtyard