



Circular Economy Webinar

Session 7 Summary: ADB's Roadmap for Circular Economy Zero Waste Cities in the People's Republic of China

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Key Takeaways

1. **There is a need to internalize the externalities of environmental and social costs in the linear economic model in the PRC (People's Republic of China).** The circular economy approach is seen as a solution to address resource consumption, promote sustainable growth, and recycle resources within the economic cycle.
2. **The circular economy can be divided into biological cycles**, where organic materials are degraded and become nutrients, **and technical cycles**, where resource effectiveness is prioritized to extend product life and maximize value.
3. **ADB is currently implementing a technical assistance (TA) project called "[Green Circular Economy Zero Waste Cities](#)."** It aims to operationalize the concept of circular economy in cities, using frameworks and diagrams developed by ADB. The project focuses on design and resource materials, circular economy life cycles, production, distribution, use, share and reuse, solid waste management, and bringing materials back into the value chain.
4. **The main objective of a Circular Economy Zero Waste City is to adopt a comprehensive, multi-sector approach at the city level.** The TA integrates a top-down and grassroots approach that involves national policies, policy standards, governance, taxes, market-based instruments, education, capacity development, research and development, IT platforms, private sector engagement, and viable business models.

Categories:

1. Top-Stream: Design, Resources, Materials Input
 2. Upstream: Circular Economy Lifecycles Production
 3. Mid-Stream Distribution and Use, Share, Reuse
 4. Down-Stream Zero Waste Cities: 3R/5R SWM (Solid Waste Management) increase
5. **The implementation of circular economy principles is outlined in a roadmap with five avenues:**
 - a. Initiating policy and pilots



- b. Working with institutions and policy standards, governance, taxes, incentives, and disincentives
 - c. Education and capacity development
 - d. Private sector engagement and business model development
 - e. Promoting behavior change
6. **Urban planning, infrastructure, and buildings play a significant role in circular economy principles.** Infrastructure projects can use recycled materials from construction waste, such as bottom ash in concrete. Buildings can be designed for adaptability, reuse, and disassembly to minimize waste and promote circularity.
7. **Land recovery and remediation, particularly for polluted sites, are important aspects of circular economy implementation.** Projects in Heilongjiang Province focus on transforming coal-based economies into green and diverse economies and include pilot mining remediation sites to rehabilitate open-cut coal mines for urban uses and public spaces.
8. **Institutional strengthening is the key mandate for development projects in the People's Republic of China** and is also particularly important in implementing circular economy.

[Watch the Recording here.](#)