



Accelerating the Circular Economy: Integrating Circularity into Programs, Projects, and Policies

Applying Circular Economy Principles

1–3 October 2024

Marco Polo Hotel, Ortigas, Metro Manila, Philippines



KEY TAKEAWAYS REPORT

Key insights and resources from the Q4 ADB Circular Economy Training Program

ABOUT THE TRAINING PROGRAM

“Accelerating the Circular Economy: Integrating Circularity into Programs, Projects, and Policies” is a capacity-building program for Asian Development Bank (ADB) staff and participating developing member countries (DMCs) of the [TA-6669 REG: Promoting Action on Plastic Pollution from Source to Sea in Asia and the Pacific - Prioritizing and Implementing Actions to Reduce Marine Plastic Pollution](#). It focuses on circular economy (CE) principles, policies, project design, and the upcoming Global Plastics Treaty (GPT) opportunities to scale up investments supporting plastics circularity. It ran throughout 2024, with four sessions (one per quarter). The fourth and final leg of the four-part series, “Applying Circular Economy Principles”, was conducted in-person in Manila, Philippines from 1–3 October 2024.

THE Q4 SESSION AIMED TO:

- Enhance knowledge on applying circular economy principles beyond solid waste management (SWM) and recycling
- Identify ideas for CE integration into both DMCs’ and ADB’s programs, policies, and projects



ABOUT THE KEY TAKEAWAYS REPORT

This key takeaways report covers highlights from the final part of the training series, “Applying Circular Economy Principles.” The key takeaways from the training include the application of key CE principles and their enabling environments, updates on the GPT, and progress from DMCs’ circularity programs and initiatives.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Applying Circular Economy Principles

The three-day training was divided into seven different sessions.

1 October 2024

- 1.1 Applying Circular Economy Principles
 - 1.2 Global Plastics Treaty Updates: What is Next?
 - 1.3 Circular Economy and Enabling Environments
-

2 October 2024

- 2.1 Circular Economy and Gender, Equality, and Social Inclusion
 - 2.2 Circular Economy and the Private Sector
 - 2.3 Reports from the DMC Representatives
-

3 October 2024

- 3.0 Ideation Session with DMC Representatives and ADB Staff

OPENING REMARKS

The workshop commenced with a message from ADB's Vice President for East and Southeast Asia, and the Pacific, Scott Morris, highlighting the importance of transitioning to a CE to support holistic systemic solutions for driving sustainable development.



Scott Morris

Vice President for East and Southeast Asia,
and the Pacific, ADB

GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND ADB'S STRATEGIC REGIONAL RESPONSES

The UN's latest report on the Sustainable Development Goals highlights troubling progress, with only 17% on track. As of 2022, 3.9% of the population, approximately 155 million people, live in extreme poverty, which is 68 million more people than anticipated, reversing two years of progress. Climate impacts have caused \$318 billion in damages from 2018 to 2023, while political unrest has driven up food and energy prices. Countries with fragile and conflict-affected situations and small island developing states are greatly affected by these issues.

ADB's Response and their Relationship with Circular Economy

The ADB addresses the region's evolving needs amid global challenges through the following frameworks:



Updated Corporate Strategy

The strategy outlines five strategic focus areas to accelerate ADB's progress in supporting SDGs. These are climate action, private sector development, regional cooperation and public goods, digital transformation, and resilience and empowerment.



New Operating Model

The model enables ADB to improve its responsiveness to the region's evolving development needs.

THREE KEY DIRECTIONS SHAPING ADB'S CE APPROACH

ADB supports the transition to a CE by employing three different approaches:



SUPPORTING HOLISTIC SOLUTIONS FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

ADB's ambition is to support a holistic and system-wide approach to enable and operationalize the CE.



SUPPORTING INNOVATION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

ADB will support innovation for circularity by expanding circular business models and high-level and digital technologies.



SUPPORTING A JUST TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

ADB will support socially inclusive measures to ensure a just transition to a CE.

WELCOME REMARKS

Marzia Mongiorgi, ADB's Regional Head in Operations Coordination for the Southeast Asia Department (SERD), underscored the importance of CE training in scaling circular solutions in Southeast Asia. She also emphasized the need to promote circularity through regional collaboration in addressing climate change.



Marzia Mongiorgi
Regional Head, Operations Coordination, SERD, ADB

SCALING CIRCULARITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

As Asia and the Pacific's climate bank, ADB is committed to scaling climate finance and introducing innovative solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation. CE offers multiple benefits for the climate, people, and economies. Promoting circularity in the region can be achieved by strengthening collaboration among countries.

Fostering stronger collaboration between DMCs and ADB Staff

DMCs and ADB Staff are encouraged to strengthen regional cooperation in applying CE and mainstreaming its principles by:

DMCs



Sharing initiatives and opportunities for promoting CE solutions with the ADB Staff



Assessing the feasibility of presented CE initiatives during the training in their respective countries



Embracing the possibilities that GPT presents in support of a circular plastics economy while expanding CE's application in agriculture, food, e-waste, construction, and other sectors

ADB STAFF



Developing impactful CE solutions to assist DMCs, following the New Operating Model and the Strategy 2030 Midterm Review's priorities



Participating in the CE Working Group to continue engaging on this important work



Applying the lessons learned from the training series to replicate CE solutions in other parts of Asia and the Pacific



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Circular economy will represent an important tool in ADB’s portfolio of support for our developing member countries for achieving the SDGs in the region. It will address and require action across all five focus areas, and it can be considered as an enabling framework to guide investment, optimize policy design, and articulate opportunities and trade-offs.

SCOTT MORRIS

Vice President for East and Southeast Asia, and the Pacific, ADB

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Our aspiration is to stimulate greater collaboration on circular economy programs, and encourage everyone to think about the circular economy as a way to embed sustainability into sectors and value chains.

MARZIA MONGIORGI

Regional Head, Operations Coordination, SERD, ADB



SESSION 1.1

APPLYING CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES

The session discussed CE's key principles in relation to the priorities of ADB and the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE).

RESOURCE SPEAKERS



James Baker

Senior Circular Economy Specialist (Plastic Wastes),
Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB



Pham Anh Huyen

Researcher, ISPONRE, Viet Nam



KEY PRINCIPLES OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

CE has three principles that distinguish it from the linear economy. Applying these principles creates an enabling environment for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at an accelerated rate.



ELIMINATE WASTE AND POLLUTION

Product design should eliminate wasteful components that lead to pollution. Waste is a design flaw. Addressing this flaw could facilitate materials' re-entry into the value chain.



CIRCULATE PRODUCTS AND MATERIALS

CE aims to keep materials in use at their highest value by employing upstream and downstream strategies. Applying CE covers different kinds of waste other than solid waste.



REGENERATE NATURE

Circulating products and materials in use paves the way for reducing material extraction. Applying CE principles allows value chains to operate while regenerating natural resources.

Macro and Micro Circular Economy

The application of CE principles advances the transition to circularity. Integration of CE principles can be segmented into two levels:

MACRO LEVEL

CE principles pivot systems or frameworks on a national or organizational level (e.g., integration of CE into programs, projects, and policies)

MICRO LEVEL

Activities and strategies aligned with CE principles or in support of macro level changes (e.g., banning of single-use plastics or promotion of recycling)



CASE STUDY: Institutionalization of CE in Viet Nam

Viet Nam applied CE principles on a macro level through a national law and policy.

LAW ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION 2020

The law has several articles that mandates the application of CE principles and strategies:

- Article 138 emphasizes the reduction of exploitation and use of non-renewable and water resources; extending the useful life of materials, equipment, goods, and parts; and the reduction of waste generated.
- Article 139 outlines the responsibilities of selected ministries in implementing CE and requires enterprises to ensure that policies are implemented.
- Article 140 outlines incentives for CE adoption and details legal frameworks that support CE.
- Article 142 defines CE as an economic model and mandates its incorporation into development strategies, requiring businesses to establish management systems to reduce resource extraction and waste, and increase recycling and reusing.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT CE (NAPCE)

The NAPCE aims to create sustainable consumption patterns, optimize natural resource usage, and minimize the environmental impact of waste production. It also seeks to establish CE-based production and business models while promoting best practices for achieving material circularity. NAPCE's responsibilities include raising awareness, refining institutional policies, offering support for CE implementation, leveraging waste management for CE advancement, and enhancing collaboration and monitoring for effective CE implementation.



DISCUSSION INSIGHTS

Key points from the session's question and answer discussion are outlined below:

1. Countries must focus on other sectors to promote CE

Agriculture plays a crucial role in advancing CE by preventing the open burning of agricultural waste and improving its management. The paper industry should also explore factors affecting the quality of recyclable paper, such as exposure to residual waste. Additionally, addressing the infrastructure needs for processing lithium battery waste in the electric vehicle sector is essential.

2. CE's relationship with climate change

CE is a key climate change mitigation strategy. For example, reducing reliance on shipping new products by increasing reuse or recycling rates can decrease greenhouse gas emissions and lessen the need for extracting new raw materials.



LINK TO PRESENTATIONS



Applying Circular Economy Principles
by James Baker



**Circular Economy Principles and
ISPONRE**
by Pham Anh Huyen

SESSION 1.2

GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY UPDATES: WHAT IS NEXT?

The session provided an overview of the latest GPT updates from the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) meetings, as well as the parties' possible core obligations. The session's goal was to help DMCs prepare for the implementation of the GPT while also improving ADB staff's understanding of their roles in achieving the treaty's targets.

RESOURCE SPEAKER



Roger Joseph Guzman

International Governance, Legal, and Policy Specialist (Consultant), ADB



KEY UPDATES ON GLOBAL PLASTIC TREATY DISCUSSIONS

There have been several notable discussions and updates since the conclusion of the fourth INC session (INC-4) in Ottawa, Canada. These discussions have revolved around the scope of the instrument, the intersessional work, the low-hanging fruit issues, and the governance framework to be applied.



SCOPE OF THE INSTRUMENT

Substantial discussions focused on whether the GPT should cover the “full life cycle of plastic,” the definition of which is still under discussion.



INTERSESSIONAL WORK

There are concerns on the exclusion of primary plastic polymers which the Bridge to Busan Initiative aims to address. There are also concerns on the key elements in the upstream life cycle of plastics which could affect the treaty's content.



LOW-HANGING FRUIT ISSUES

There are some convergence among parties on waste management, need for plastic product design, just transition, among others.



GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Discussions are ongoing on whether there would be common global rules or voluntary measures based on national plans.



The INC-5 in Busan, Republic of Korea is the fifth and final negotiating round before the diplomatic conference in mid-2025, where the instrument will be up for adoption and open to signatures by the countries.

GPT's Financing and Implementation

The treaty will include provisions that are up for negotiation in the next INC focusing on financing issues and implementation measures to hold parties accountable.

Multilateral Fund

Discussions on the establishment of a dedicated, stand-alone, multilateral, and independent fund is needed. Developing countries are advocating for a stand-alone multilateral fund to ensure accessible financing in addressing specific issues.

Plastic Pollution Fee

Developing countries proposed a plastic pollution fee for plastic polymer producers. There are discussions on whether it should be a stand-alone measure or included in Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as the key modality to operationalize the polluter-pays principle.

National Plans

The draft treaty text emphasizes that national action or implementation plans should be tailored to each country's specific circumstances and capabilities.

Implementation and Compliance

The draft treaty text underscores the importance of facilitative and non-punitive mechanisms for implementation. This approach respects national sovereignty and acknowledges that countries have varying capacities and circumstances.

Next Steps in the GPT and ADB's Role

The full treaty text is expected to be available by the end of 2024 and will be open for adoption in 2025. The intersessional period will provide countries with the opportunity to develop programming support such as the development of national plans, policy tools (e.g., EPR, monitoring and evaluation), and digitalization of the plastics value chain. ADB can assist in the identification, preparation, and implementation of government and private sector actions and investments, as well as support the GPT's implementation through financing, including sovereign and private sector lending, with added co-benefits for climate action.



DISCUSSION INSIGHTS

Key points from the session's question and answer discussion are outlined below:

1. GPT and marine litter in the high seas

The GPT is focused on plastic pollution within the country's national jurisdiction. There are many other conventions and global treaties that cover marine litter and pollution in the high seas (e.g., UNCLOS, The London Convention and Protocol) and there needs to be a way to harmonize all these frameworks.

2. Benefits of the GPT on participating countries or parties

The GPT provides a comprehensive and collective action to address plastic pollution, which is a transboundary problem. These regulations and control measures would ensure that there is collective action in solving this problem.



LINK TO PRESENTATION



Global Plastics Treaty Updates: What Is Next?
by Roger Joseph Guzman

SESSION 1.3

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS

The session provided insights on how policy-based loans (PBLs), community development, and sustainable procurement create enabling environments that support the adoption of CE and its key principles.

RESOURCE SPEAKERS



Anna Fink

Senior Country Economist, Indonesia Resident Mission, ADB



Eileen Gamo

Community Development Head, Rizome Philippines



Jenny Yan Yee Chu

Procurement Specialist, ADB



WHAT ARE POLICY-BASED LOANS?

PBLs support countries with financial gaps in their annual budgets by providing loans. PBL is disbursed directly to the national treasury instead of the implementing ministries. They are programmatic and disbursed in tranches. A PBL should be aligned with a strategic policy reform area of the government that is considered a high priority. These measures ensure that the loan is used to achieve systemic priorities intersecting various national goals.



Leveraging PBLs

PBLs provide a number of benefits for transitioning to a circular economy. However, there are certain considerations and actions needed to fully maximize PBLs' potential in driving circularity.



Supports systemic changes

PBLs require an analysis of the key challenges that need alleviation to drive systemic changes.



Promotes sustained engagement

PBLs enable the creation of relevant policies that serve as an avenue for continuous engagement.



Drives multisectoral collaboration

PBLs must be paired with a technical assistance and require strong coordination among different actors.

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT?

Sustainable procurement is the process of using procurement as a tool to achieve sustainable goals by evaluating what is procured, their sources, and economic impacts.

KEY SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT PRACTICES

Conducting sustainable procurement employs practices such as setting ambitions and targets, establishing an internal procurement cycle, conducting needs assessment, and identifying a circular business model while also promoting market collaboration.

It is also important to apply reduce and reuse practices, procure better with the goal of using products for a longer duration, and develop a plan on how to deal with products' end of life.



ROLE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Community development advances CE by encouraging local innovation, sustainable use of resources, and by empowering local communities. It also promotes responsible consumption and supports local products. These efforts lead to more sustainable and resilient communities.



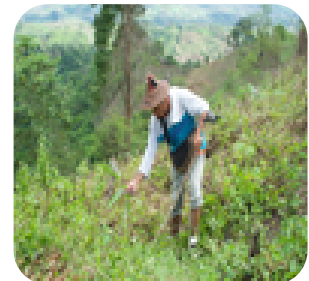
CASE STUDY:

Rizome's Community Bamboo Development and Carbon Removal

Rizome, a Philippine company focused on bamboo, developed a bamboo-based value chain, from propagation and sustainable thinning to raw material conversion.

The program is centered around community-based actions and in generating sustainable livelihoods for indigenous communities, ensuring community ownership of the process and outcomes.

The program's contribution in mitigating climate change is also accounted for by following Verra's greenhouse gas reduction standards.





DISCUSSION INSIGHTS

Key points from the session's question and answer discussion are outlined below:

1. The challenges and opportunities in integrating bamboo and CE in community development

Promoting a bamboo-growing culture, instead of a plant-and-forget mentality, is one of the challenges. The program aims to fully embed growing bamboo into the lives of Indigenous Peoples. At times, the earnings from the program are not enough to drive cultural and mindset shifts, which affects the program's sustainability.

2. The support governments could extend to CE-driven community development and the role of ADB in strengthening these programs

Governments' role in infrastructure development is critical to the success of the program (e.g., road development to improve accessibility of resources). Meanwhile, ADB could bridge funding gaps in scaling and sustaining community development programs.



LINK TO PRESENTATIONS



Policy-based Loans
by Anna Fink



**Community Development and
Climate Change Targets**
by Eileen Gamo



Green Procurement
by Jenny Yee Chan

SESSION 2.1

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND GENDER, EQUALITY, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

This session focused on the crucial role of the informal sector in the waste value chain, and how a gender-focused approach to CE is critical for community-based programs.

RESOURCE SPEAKERS



Zonibel Woods

Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), ADB



Ranitya Nurlita

Environmental Consultant, Indonesia



Patricia A. O. Bunye

Senior Partner, Cruz Marcelo & Tenefrancia, and
Founding President, Diwata-Women in Resource Development



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK'S COMMITMENTS TO GENDER EQUALITY

Mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) integrates issues related to how men and women are impacted by different sectors. In the process, it analyzes the different experiences between genders and applies the findings in project design, gender-specific actions, and evaluations of ADB's work in addressing gender inequalities. Tackling gender inequality also strengthens ADB's commitment to upholding CE principles in its programs. Viewing these principles through a gender lens can support positive gender roles while providing opportunities to address gender needs in promoting circularity.

Accelerating Progress in Gender Equality

ADB's Strategy 2030 Operational Priority 2 established five main pillars to accelerating progress in gender equality that are highly relevant to the CE space.



WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT INCREASED

CE projects can contribute to improving women's access to financial resources.



GENDER EQUALITY IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ENHANCED

CE could enable the provision of relevant education and skills-building opportunities.



GENDER EQUALITY IN DECISION-MAKING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCED

CE engages women in decision-making and recognizes their critical roles in building circularity.



WOMEN'S TIME POVERTY AND DRUDGERY REDUCED

Having CE infrastructures and services available addresses time poverty and improves access to resources.



WOMEN'S RESILIENCE TO EXTERNAL SHOCKS STRENGTHENED

CE projects recognize that climate change affects women and men differently.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Natural resource management in key CE sectors, such as mining and energy, is generally a male-dominated field. Improving inclusivity in these sectors requires replicable gender mainstreaming practices and policies. Case studies demonstrating successful GESI integration in this sector are valuable for understanding effective strategies, especially in avoiding tokenism and providing equal opportunities for all genders.



CASE STUDY:

The Solar Lolos of Diwata's "Tanging Tanglaw"

Diwata is an all-women nonprofit organization that supports responsible extraction for resource development in the Philippines. Diwata's program "*Tanging Tanglaw*" (loosely translated as Only Torch) worked with older indigenous Aeta women in assembling, maintaining, and repairing solar panels. The Solar Lolos (grandmothers) were sent to India to develop skills in harnessing solar energy to bring light to their communities. After the program, the Solar Lolos became more articulate and self-assured which could enable them to assume leadership roles in their patriarchal community.



PLAY VIDEO

[Solar Lolos: Tanging Tanglaw](#)

ROLE OF THE INFORMAL WASTE SECTOR

This sector is essential for waste management and fostering a CE in Asia and the Pacific. It focuses on collecting recyclable household waste (e.g., dry materials like plastics, paper, and metals) and providing valuable employment opportunities and sources of income for informal waste stakeholders.

Challenges of the Informal Waste Sector

Waste pickers face unsafe working conditions as they lack proper safety equipment during the waste segregation process. They have limited access to training and social protections since many of them are unregistered workers. The informal sector suffers from low income and unstable employment. Negative societal perceptions toward waste pickers further limit their opportunities.

Realizing the informal waste sector's potential as a driving force in CE requires that these challenges be addressed.



DISCUSSION INSIGHTS

Key points from the session's question and answer discussion are outlined below:

1. Sectors responsible for informal waste sector's welfare in Indonesia

The ministries responsible for informal waste actors' welfare include the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the Ministry of Social Affairs. The private sector can also support the formalization of the informal sector while providing access to health insurance and other forms of assistance.

2. Preparing waste pickers for other roles, since the government's direction is to reduce waste over time, which could affect their income

Some waste management startups in Indonesia offer scholarships for certification, enabling informal workers to professionalize. By upskilling individuals in the community through programs that allow them to pursue college degrees, their chances for employment beyond the solid waste management sector improve.



LINK TO PRESENTATIONS



Gender Mainstreaming
in ADB
by Zonibel Woods



The Role of the Informal
Waste Sector
by Ranitya Nurlita



Gender Mainstreaming in Natural
Resource Management
by Patricia A. O. Bunye

SESSION 2.2

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The session gave an overview on how the private sector can apply CE principles in different fields such as agribusiness, waste management, infrastructure development, and e-waste management. The session's panelists also provided insights on the application of EPR in their respective fields.

RESOURCE SPEAKERS



Eileen Gamo
Rizome Philippines



François Jenny
Seureca



Russell Hirst
Wiser Group



ROLE OF BUSINESSES IN TRANSITIONING TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The private sector can develop and provide circular products and services while also investing in innovations that could make production, distribution, waste management, and resource recovery systems and technologies more sustainable.

Industry-specific approaches are needed to encourage enterprises to adopt circular principles. Blended finance approaches are necessary to crowd in private capital for investments in circularity. Lastly, knowledge and capacity building for businesses are crucial in promoting the adoption of circular practices.

The application of CE principles in the business sector

CE principles can be applied in different industries in the private sector, such as construction, waste electrical and electronic equipment (or e-waste), and recycling.



Rizome Philippines leads a bamboo-growing program that promotes bamboo as a resource that can support an entire value chain, from bamboo thinning, manufacturing, and distributing bamboo-made products and construction materials.



Seureca is applying CE concepts in its interventions and investments in waste management and recycling projects, such as those related to lithium battery recycling and the establishment of waste management facilities.



The Wiser Group specializes in e-waste of different values, from electric equipment including lamps, photovoltaic panels, small and large appliances, among others. These materials are then recycled into new products.



LINK TO PRESENTATIONS



Circular Economy and the Private Sector
by James Baker



Circular Plastics Economy and the Private Sector
Panel Discussion

Application of EPR schemes in Southeast Asia

EPR is one of the keys that can accelerate the transition to a CE. Southeast Asia holds a huge potential for EPR due to the region's active waste sector, including the informal waste sector. Unlocking EPR's true potential requires comprehensive policies and legal frameworks to be in place to drive compliance among producers. These frameworks, when implemented and enforced well, could result in long-term sustainability. Compliance with EPR schemes could also result in more sustainable business models for the private sector in the long run. EPR should not be limited to plastic waste. Its scope can cover e-waste, textiles, and other forms of waste.



CHALLENGES THAT HINDER THE SHIFT TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Challenges in advancing CE initiatives include the lack of regulatory framework and incentives, underdeveloped standards for recycled products, difficult trade-offs for companies, lack of financing and resources, and difficulty influencing consumer behavior.

EXAMPLES OF CHALLENGES AND HOW TO ADDRESS THEM:



Lack of space and financial resources to build new waste management infrastructure
Retrofitting is one of the ways to address space limitations. Financing could also be addressed by focusing on revenue-generating projects and leveraging profitable initiatives.



E-waste generation due to planned obsolescence
Manufacturers should adopt sustainable design practices that prioritize durability and repairability. EPR, through the implementation of take-back programs, can encourage recycling and responsible disposal of outdated or irreparable electronics.



Expensive costs in producing sustainable alternatives (e.g., bamboo) to conventional construction materials
Bamboo is a sturdy material and has a lesser carbon footprint than most construction materials. Boosting investments in bamboo materials could increase its adoption while also mitigating climate change.



DISCUSSION INSIGHTS

Key points from the session's question and answer discussion are outlined below:

1. Government's role in collecting e-waste

Government regulations should require facilities for e-waste management. For example, in some countries, certain regulations require the establishment of at least five different waste facilities for different types of e-waste.

2. Constraints the private sector faces in different countries in implementing EPR

Political instability could pose a risk in the implementation of EPR. If the government keeps changing its priorities, it discourages investments. Stable politics create more confidence in investors.

SESSION 2.3

REPORTS FROM THE DMC REPRESENTATIVES

The session tackled the progress and challenges of CE in DMCs, possible ways that countries can work together, and potential opportunities for ADB support.

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES



Ms. Ana Suryana
Ministry of Environment and Forestry,
Indonesia




Ms. Wassana Jangprajak
Pollution Control Department, Thailand




Mr. Rolando E. Enoc
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources - Environmental Management Bureau,
Philippines (EMB)



Mr. Nguyen Anh Tuan
Division of Science and International
Cooperation, ISPONRE, Viet Nam

 INDONESIA	Challenges In 2022, the rate of plastic recycling in the country was at 12%, while 72% of plastic were uncollected. This waste comes from both cities and rural areas due to the inadequate solid waste services and infrastructure. The country also has a high domestic plastic and paper waste generation.	Progress Indonesia focuses on driving behavior change among its people, implementing EPR, developing infrastructure, and optimizing national waste data management. Local governments regulate the use of single-use plastics in restaurants, hotels, and households. Producers are using recycled packaging, phasing out products with single-use packaging, redesigning packaging, and implementing take-back programs.
		Opportunities for Regional Collaboration Knowledge sharing among the region can support Indonesia in improving their EPR mechanism and raising the public's CE and EPR awareness.

 PHILIPPINES	Challenges The Philippines generates 0.40 kilogram/capita/day, resulting in approximately 61,700 tons of waste daily. The country's waste consists of biodegradable waste (55%), recyclable waste (22%), and residual waste with potential (5%).	Progress The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (Republic Act 9003) has been amended by the Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 (Republic Act 11898). The law focuses on both upstream and downstream mechanisms in reducing plastic waste. The country has also laid out the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction, and Management of Marine Litter and the Roadmap for the Management of Plastic Waste and Reduction of Non-recyclable Single-Use Plastics.
		Opportunities for Regional Collaboration The Philippine government is interested in sharing best practices on solid waste management and improving EPR mechanisms with other DMCs in the region.



THAILAND

Challenges

In 2023, Thailand generated 26.95 million tons of waste, only 38% of which is properly disposed of. Most plastic waste are single-use plastics, 72% of which is disposed of in landfills. The country's plastic waste composition is diverse and wide-ranging. Despite this, there is no specific law focusing on CE and EPR. There is also a lack of clear guidelines in managing waste infrastructure, as well as low public awareness of CE.

Progress

In 2018, the country created a road map to address plastic waste. The first action plan covers 2020–2022, which banned some plastic products (e.g., bags) and other single-use plastics. In doing so, plastic waste is reduced at the source. In the second phase of the action plan (2023–2027), the plan prioritizes the assessment of the product life cycle over bans.

Opportunities for Regional Collaboration

Knowledge sharing of successful case studies could be beneficial. There is also a need for a harmonized data management system to monitor waste in the region.



VIET NAM

Challenges

The CE framework is not yet fully integrated into the implementation of the country's plan to achieve its nationally determined contributions. There is also a lack of public-private investment partnerships, and no tax incentives are offered to improve the adoption of CE practices.

Progress

The National Action Plan for CE (NAPCE) has been submitted to the Prime Minister's Office for final approval by the end of this year. NAPCE is expected to be approved following the sector and provincial action plan by 2027. The provincial road map for CE will also be integrated into the provincial action plan for CE by 2027.

Opportunities for Regional Collaboration

The country hopes to collaborate with other DMCs in knowledge sharing activities.



ENTRY POINTS FOR ADB'S SUPPORT

The four countries shared similar opportunities that could be supported by ADB to achieve circularity in the respective countries and the region. The possible entry points they underscored include the need for capacity building, database development, technical assistance, and support in establishing green procurement practices.



LINK TO PRESENTATIONS



Updating Indonesia's National Action Plan on Marine Debris Handling and CE by Ms. Ana Suryana



Report from Philippines by Mr. Rolando E. Enoc



Applying CE Principles to End Plastic Pollution in Thailand by Ms. Wassana Jangprajak



Government Actions and Potential ADB Support: Viet Nam by Mr. Nguyen Anh Tuan



CIRCULAR ECONOMY GLOSSARY

Blended finance

ADB defines it as “Combining concessional finance from donors or third parties alongside [development finance institutions’] normal own account finance and or commercial finance from other investors, to develop private sector markets, address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and mobilize private resources”.

Circular economy

CE is a system where materials never become waste, and nature is regenerated. In CE, products and materials are circulated through maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling, and composting.

Downstream solutions

Solutions that deal with the waste that is already generated.

Extended producer responsibility

This is a policy in which financial or physical liability for end-of-life handling is placed on the producer or manufacturer.

Financing mechanism

This is a mechanism for the provision of financial resources on a grant or concessional basis, including for the transfer of technology.

Planned obsolescence

A business strategy to shorten the consumer’s ownership period in order to increase sales volume. This is accomplished through poor quality manufacturing, an accelerated product succession timeline, or compelling marketing campaigns.

Sustainable procurement

Sustainable procurement is the process of using procurement as a tool to achieve sustainable goals by evaluating what is procured, their sources, and economic impacts.

Take-back systems

This is a series of processes that retrieves used products or packaging materials from customers for recycling, refurbishment, or for potential reuse on a secondary market.

Upstream solutions

Tracing the problem’s root cause and resolving it from there. Instead of thinking about how to deal with landfill waste, upstream innovations prevent waste generation in the first place.

Value chain

This is the full life cycle of a product or process, including material sourcing, production, consumption and disposal/recycling processes.

Sources:

[Ellen MacArthur Foundation. \(n.d.\). “What is a circular economy?”](#)

[European Commission \(n.d.\). “Green Public Procurement“](#)

[Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\). \(n.d.\). “Extended Producer Responsibility.”](#)

[ADB. \(n.d.\). “Private Sector Financing“](#)

[University of Cambridge \(n.d.\). “What is a value chain? Definitions and characteristics”](#)



FURTHER READING

RESOURCES ON APPLYING CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES

PROGRAM EVENT PAGE



ADB Circular Economy Training Series: Accelerating the Circular Economy: Integrating Circularity into Programs, Projects, and Policies

The event page for the series outlines the program's overview, training schedule, and topics, and includes session materials and other resources.

[LINK TO RESOURCE](#)

SESSION 1.1 APPLYING CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES



Circular Economy Principles

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation

A set of articles that provides in-depth information about key CE principles.

[LINK TO RESOURCE](#)

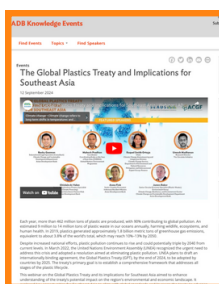
SESSION 1.2 GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY UPDATES: WHAT IS NEXT?



Addressing Plastic Pollution for Climate Benefits: Opportunities in the Global Plastics Treaty for Asia and the Pacific

Highlighting how plastic impacts climate change, this brief considers the anticipated GPT and shows how ADB can help Asia and the Pacific implement CE solutions to help meet low-carbon goals.

[LINK TO RESOURCE](#)



The Global Plastics Treaty and Implications for Southeast Asia Asian Development Bank

A webinar on the GPT and its implications for Southeast Asia that aimed to deepen the understanding of the treaty's potential impact on the region's environmental and economic landscape.

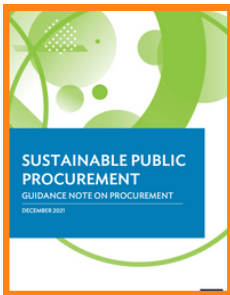
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FURTHER READING

RESOURCES ON APPLYING CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES

SESSION 1.3 CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS



Sustainable Public Procurement

Asian Development Bank

A guidance note to assist ADB staff and borrowers (including grant recipients) on how to integrate sustainability aspects in the public procurement process.

[LINK TO RESOURCE](#)



What are Policy-Based Lending and Sector Development Program?

Asian Development Bank

An explainer video that outlines key aspects of ADB's policy-based lending and how it responds to DMCs' evolving needs.

[LINK TO RESOURCE](#)

SESSION 2.1 CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND GENDER, EQUALITY, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION



Accelerating Progress in Gender Equality, 2019–2024

Asian Development Bank

An institutional document that highlights ADB's operational priority, and its supporting key pillars, in recognizing that achieving gender equality is crucial in realizing socioeconomic development.

[LINK TO RESOURCE](#)



Decent Work in the Circular Economy

International Labour Organization

This report offers a summary of the available evidence on decent work within the CE and highlights research gaps and leverage points for just and labor markets.

[LINK TO RESOURCE](#)



FURTHER READING

2.2 CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR



Business and the Circular Economy

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation

A resource page that highlights case studies, sector-specific strategies, and other content related to how businesses can transition to a CE.

[LINK TO RESOURCE](#)



Compendium of Technologies for the Recovery of Materials from E-waste

UN Environment

A compendium with a list of commercially available or near commercially available technologies in recovering e-waste and subsequent treatment of residual wastes.

[LINK TO RESOURCE](#)