

**Promoting Plastics Circularity in the Philippines:
Launch of the Manila City Action Plan for Plastic Circularity and Future Opportunities**

Multifunction Hall 2, ADB Headquarters, Mandaluyong City

Monday, 10 February 2025, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Background

The Philippines is among the top contributors of marine plastic pollution, accounting for 36% of ocean plastic inputs. The Pasig River, a major waterway traversing the capital region of Metro Manila, is among the top river basins contributing to 90% of land-based leakages of plastic waste into the ocean. This has major impacts on the health of communities and the natural environment, as plastic waste clogs riverine, coastal, and marine ecosystems and permeates food systems.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is supporting the Philippines in the implementation of its National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction, and Management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML). To strengthen local level capacity and implementation, ADB supported preparation of a city action plan to promote plastics circularity in the city of Manila. The city action plan aims to address the gaps in the formal waste management system, while capturing the opportunities that can be achieved through collaboration with various actors in the plastics value chain to promote plastics circularity.

The launch of the city action plan contributes to ADB's holistic and system-wide approach for supporting the NPOA-ML and operationalizing plastics circularity in Manila and beyond. ADB recently launched a program supporting Pasig River rehabilitation, starting with the Pasig River Discovery Space to develop a digital twin model for plastic pollution. This complements a Blue Loan to Indorama Ventures Ltd to expand plastics recycling capacity in the Philippines in 2020 and the preparation of a proposed policy-based loan to support blue economy development. The launch presents a key opportunity for a dialogue between ADB and the Government of the Philippines for continued collaboration to address plastic pollution and transition to a circular economy.

Objectives

- To formally hand over and launch the City Action Plan for Plastic Circularity to the City of Manila
- To engage in a dialogue with stakeholders from the Government of the Philippines on future opportunities to operationalize plastics circularity in Manila and beyond

PROGRAM

Emcees/Moderators: Ms. Teresita V. Pascual and Ms. Jo Atienza

| Time | Session and Speakers |
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| 9:00 – 9:15 AM | Registration |
| 9:15 – 9:30 AM | Opening Session <i>Ms. Maria Dorica Naz-Hipe, Regional Director, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) – National Capital Region (NCR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)</i> |

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| | <i>Mr. Norio Saito, Senior Director, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2 (SD2), ADB</i> |
| 9:30 – 10:00 AM | <p>Presentation of the Manila City Action Plan for Plastic Circularity</p> <p><i>Mr. Vincent Aloysius, Team Lead and Circular Economy Specialist, Seureca</i></p> |
| 10:00 – 10:15 AM | Q&A |
| 10:15 – 10:30 AM | <p>Handover Ceremony</p> <p><i>Mr. Pavit Ramachandran, Country Director, Philippines Country Office, Southeast Asia Department, ADB</i></p> <p><i>Hon. Krystle Marie C. Bacani, Councilor, Fourth District of Manila, and Chairperson of the Committee on Environment, City Council of Manila</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Maria Dorica Naz-Hipe, Regional Director, EMB – NCR, DENR</i></p> <p>Photo Opportunity</p> |
| 10:30 – 10:45 AM | Coffee Break |
| 10:45 – 11:45 AM | <p>Looking Ahead – Operationalizing Plastics Circularity in Manila and Beyond</p> <p>Presentation: ADB Support for Plastics Circularity in the Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr. James G. Baker, Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Office (SG-AFNR), SD2, ADB</i> - <i>Ms. Christine P. Chan, Principal Urban Development Specialist (Finance and Investment), Water and Urban Development Sector Office, SD2, ADB</i> - <i>Mr. Nathan A. Rive, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, SG-AFNR, SD2, ADB</i> <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><i>Asian Development Bank</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Jonathan T. Garzo, Officer-In-Charge, Department of Public Services, City Government of Manila</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Esperanza A. Sajul, OIC-Assistant Director, EMB, DENR</i></p> |
| 11:45 AM – 12:00 PM | Closing Session |

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| | <p><i>Ms. Yoko Watanabe, Director, Environment, Climate Change, Resilience, and Environment Cluster, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Lilian M. De Leon, Assistant Secretary for International Relations, Department of the Interior and Local Government</i></p> |
| 12:00 – 1:30 PM | Lunch |