



Regional Policy Dialogue on Circular Cities

RAPID URBANIZATION AND NEW MODELS OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY SUSTAINABLE CITIES

4 December 2020, Friday | 14.00 hrs

Bangkok Time ICT (Indochina time) UTC/GMT +7 hours

BACKGROUND

The cities are growing rapidly in number and in size as the economic activities, education, health, recreation, and basic amenities are stimulating urbanization. However, the environmental footprints of the cities are alarmingly high in terms of extraction of natural resources to sustain socioeconomic activities in the cities and also in terms of pollution, green house gases and waste coming out of the cities. This is creating a vicious circle for the cities in obtaining the natural resources as well as to provide quality of life and basic amenities to their citizens. The depletion of natural resources due to over extraction and over exploitation as well as due to contamination due to the pollution coming out of the cities has created an urgency to support the cities in doing the business differently.

Circular economy approach, by closing the loop as local as possible and by increasing the resource efficiency at local level, could help cities transformation to be sustainable with happier and healthier citizens. The concept of "Circular Cities" is to reduce the intake of natural resources and to reduce the pollution and negative environmental impacts through resource efficiency is the focus of this dialogue. Sustainable consumption and production practices based on lifecycle assessment approach could provide basis for circular economy utilizing various aspects and focusing on various actors within the cities.

PROGRAM

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| 14.00-14.10 | <p>Opening and Moderation
Dr. Mushtaq Memon
<i>Regional Coordinator Resource Efficiency in Asia Pacific</i>
<i>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</i></p> |
| 14.10-14.20 | <p>SWITCH-Asia Experiences
Ms. Beatriz Maroto Izquierdo
<i>Mongolia Country Director of the NGO Geres and Switch EU Project Coordinator</i></p> |
| 14.20-14.30 | <p>Role of Urban Planning
Associate Prof. Dr. Ali Gul Qureshi
<i>Associate Professor, Department of Urban Management, Graduate School of Engineering Kyoto University</i></p> |
| 14.30-14.40 | <p>Gender Integration Approaches
Prof. Kyoko Kusakabe
<i>Professor, Department Head Department of Development and Sustainability</i></p> |
| 14.40-14.50 | <p>Penang City's Efforts, Malaysia
Ms. Josephine Tan (Jo)
<i>General Manager, Penang Green Council, Malaysia</i></p> |
| 14.50-15.10 | <p>Keynote Speech - Experiences of Cities in Finland
Mr. Heikki Karhu
<i>Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Finland in Thailand</i></p> |
| 15.10-15.25 | <p>Q & A</p> |
| 15.25-15.30 | <p>Closing and Next Steps
Dr. Mushtaq Memon</p> |

Register Here



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CONTACT

Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon

*Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency
UN Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Project Manager*

Regional Policy Advocacy Component

(SWITCH-Asia – the European Union funded programme)

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PROFILES OF THE SPEAKERS



Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon

Regional Coordinator Resource Efficiency in Asia Pacific United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Dr. Memon is working with UN Environment (United Nations Environment Programme) as a

Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency in Asia Pacific Office located in Bangkok. He is supporting resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, green economy, green financing, sustainable public procurement, sustainable tourism, sustainable industries and various areas for Asia and the Pacific. He is also implementing EU funded SWITCH-Asia Phase 2 component by UN Environment to support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production in the region. He got his Masters in Project Management and National Development from University of Bradford in UK, and Doctorate in Environmental and Resource Economics and Management at Hiroshima University in Japan.



Ms. Beatriz Maroto Izquierdo

Mongolia Country Director of the NGO Geres and Switch EU Project Coordinator

Ms. Beatriz Maroto Izquierdo is Country Director in Mongolia of the NGO Geres. Her professional

experience began around technical innovation on development aid, but soon took shape in project and program management to provide access to energy and water to the most vulnerable population. She as well alternated her main profession, being Professor in the Renewable Energy Master at Carlos III Madrid University and in the Off-grid renewable energy systems course of the Institute of Sustainable Energy. Industrial Engineering Master in Energy Technologies Specialization. With over 10 years of experience in Integral Management of Development Aid Projects in International and Multicultural environments: Latin-American, Africa, Asia and Europe. She is devoted to the implementation of sustainable development programs as a way of resilience of indigenous population.



Mr. Heikki Karhu

Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Finland in Thailand

Mr. Heikki Karhu has been working as First Secretary and Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Finland in Bangkok since August 2018. The Embassy covers all matters concerning Finland's political and

economic interests in Thailand and Cambodia. The circular economy and sustainable technologies are strategic priority themes for Finland in South-East Asia. In his role, Mr. Karhu has actively promoted new partnership between Finnish and local institutions and companies in the circular economy, cleantech and waste-to-value. Mr. Karhu joined the diplomatic service in 2014. He holds a Master of Laws from the University of Helsinki and a Master of Science in Economics from the Aalto University.



Prof. Kyoko Kusakabe

Professor, Department Head Department of Development and Sustainability

Prof. Kyoko Kusakabe is a professor of Gender and Development Studies at Department of Development and Sustainability, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of

Technology in Thailand. She has over 20 years of experience in research and teaching gender and development in Asia especially focusing on the Mekong Subregion. Aside from her academic work, she has experience in working with NGOs and government organizations for gender mainstreaming and integration of gender issues. She was a gender expert on regional urban environmental management project supported by the Canadian government and also currently leads a research project on gender mainstreaming guidelines for regional marine plastic management of the World Bank. She has published/edited 5 books, over 50 journal papers, over 20 chapters in books, over 20 monographs, and managed over 40 projects as PI/ co-PI. She is a co-author of Thailand's Hidden Workforce: Burmese Migrant Women Factory Workers (Zed Books, 2012, co-authored with Ruth Pearson) and co-edited Fisherfolk in Cambodia, India and Sri Lanka: Migration, gender and well-being, (Routledge, 2020).



Associate Prof. Dr. Ali Gul Qureshi

Associate Professor, Department of Urban Management, Graduate School of Engineering Kyoto University

Dr. Ali Gul Qureshi is an associate professor in Department of Urban Management at Kyoto University,

Japan. His basic education is in civil engineering (from MUET, Pakistan) with specializations in transportation engineering (from AIT, Thailand), logistics and operations research (from Kyoto University, Japan). His interests lie in city logistics policies, sustainable urban and regional planning, eco-towns, sustainable growth, environmentally efficient freight and passenger transportation, and post disaster logistics issues. His other research interests are related with exact and heuristics optimization of different variants of vehicle routing and facility location problems, and their integration in different frameworks such as multi-agent systems, and their application in evaluation of city logistics measures. He regularly contributes high quality research papers in leading international and regional (Asia-Pacific) journals and in peer reviewed conferences related with his areas of research.



Ms. Josephine Tan (Jo)

General Manager, Penang Green Council, Malaysia

Ms. Josephine Tan Mei Ling is the General Manager for Penang Green Council. She reported to office as PGC's new General Manager in April 2019. She has been appointed as the

Co-Lead for the Circular Economy Club – Penang Chapter in March 2020. For the past 6 years, she has been serving as the Special Officer in charge of Environmental portfolio under Penang State Government. Her vast experience also comes from her active involvement in environmental related issues, policies making, educational awareness and international networking platforms such as United Nations Environment Program, Climate & Clean Air Coalition, Global Environment Centre, Japan International Cooperation Agency and UN Habitat.

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