

News release: A webinar to launch a series of policy dialogue on sustainable lifestyles in Asia and an offline course on Circular Economy



On 2nd Sep 2020, SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component funded by European Union (EU), implemented by UNEP Asia Pacific Office and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) organized a webinar to launch a series of policy dialogue on Sustainable Lifestyles in Asia and an offline course on Circular Economy. The Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Lifestyles aims at creating enabling environment (policies, financing, technologies, business models, and stakeholder engagement) to replicate and scale up good practices on sustainable lifestyles with particular focus on new normal from the COVID 19 pandemic. An offline course on Circular Economy is developed based synergies of major contents from the 2018 and 2019 SWITCH-Asia Leadership Academy targeting young professionals in Asia.

More than 7,000 viewers joined the webinar which was accessible for public through Zoom and Live broadcast on FB of SWITCH-Asia, AIT and their networks.

Official Welcome Remarks by **Dr. Eden Woon**, AIT President “I thank you all for Organizing a Dialogue on Sustainable Lifestyle for Sustainable Patterns of Consumption and Production. I also wish this would meet the expectations and foster long-term collaboration between all the stakeholders and organizers. In these challenging times too, AIT, without "missing a beat" is providing all the educational, research, and outreach activities. We are forefront in the region to provide a hybrid mode of instruction to our students and take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of our faculties, students, and staff while continuing our mission to create Social Impact with innovation.”

Opening Remarks by **Dr. Isabelle Louis**, Deputy Regional Director, UNEP Asia Pacific Office “ As a part of the efforts to promote economic growth while preserving the environmental condition of our planet, the “sustainable consumption and production”, which resource efficiency practices, has been mainstreamed in many countries aiming to promote healthy societies, environmental resilience and pollution free Asia and Pacific. Thanks to the European Unions’ generous support through SWITCH-Asia’s Regional Policy Component, UNEP has been supporting member states and stakeholders on sustainable consumption and production in partnership with major institutes like Asian Institute of Technology. “

Keynote Speaker **H.E. Mr Pirkka TAPIOLA**, Ambassador of the European Union to the Kingdom of Thailand “The EU has been supporting sustainable lifestyles through various mechanisms including through awareness-raising and advocacy, green public procurement, sustainable financing, policies and regulatory frameworks, and business models including extended lifespan through right to repair,

shared economy for optimal use, product as service to control the life cycle of the products and so on. All these aspects are becoming even more important within the framework of the European Green Deal.

Europe will not achieve transformative change by acting alone. The EU will continue to lead the way to a circular economy at the global level and use its resources, expertise and financial means to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.”

The technical sessions were delivered as foundation to the upcoming webinars were delivered by four experts discussing the sectors (Tourism, Food and Consumer Packaging) on sustainable lifestyles and how they can impact or be impacted by COVID 19. with an additional focus on Covid-19) and concept of offline course on the circular economy. The experts also announced the next upcoming webinars scheduled every month for 3 months.

Learn more about this event [here](#).

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