

## Flash Report

# Contextualizing the Circular Economy for Action: *A Few Perspectives from Asian Countries*



**Date:** Thursday 4 February 2021

**Time:** 14.00 hrs.

**Venue:** Live Broadcasting via zoom, Bangkok, Thailand

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## List of Acronyms:

<b>AIT</b>	Asian Institute of Technology
<b>CE</b>	Circular Economy
<b>EE</b>	Energy-Efficiency
<b>EU</b>	The European Union
<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contribution
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>SCP</b>	Sustainable Consumption and Production
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SWITCH-Asia RPAC</b>	SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme

## Background:

### Objectives of the event

The basic aim of the webinar is to understand the concept of a "Circular Economy" from the context of developing economies in Asia. It explores the dimensions of a circular economy as the nexus of four key issues - Food, Energy, Water and Waste, the the "FEWW Nexus". It is targeted at national and local government officials (and their stakeholders) responsible for developing circular economy policies and action. The webinar presents the "GET Matrix" as a concrete multi-stakeholder policy tool, bringing together three policy patterns - the Global-National-Local pattern; the Governments-Business-Civil Society pattern; and the Governance-Education and Technology pattern.

### Logistical information about the event

The invitation to attend The webinar on Contextualizing the Circular Economy for Action: A Few Perspectives from Asian Countries was sent out for registration and on the actual daty, the webinar was organized in hybrid mode and open for public via Facebook pages of SWITCH-Asia and AIT. It was live broadcasting from Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand.

## Summary of Key Messages:

### Welcoming Remarks



#### **Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon**

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

“How you informally engage yourself, that’s more important and that will help to formalize many things whether being a policy maker, a technology provider, and a new business model like this shared economy.”

### Concept presentation: Understanding the Circular Economy



#### **Hari Srinivas**

Professor of Global Environmental Policy  
Kwansei Gakuin University  
Kobe, Japan

“The GET Matrix brings the three policy patterns (Governmental/public organization, Businesses and industries, and NGOs and Civil Society) together, in order to understand who has to do what at which level to activate a circular economy. That is the major problem I always keep in my mind.”

## Addressing the Circular Economy in the Housing Sector



**Madeline Schneider Senior Manager**

Berlin und Umgebung, Deutschland and one of its lead authors and NKE to SWITCH-Asia SCP

Housing is one of the key areas where consumption has the highest impact on the environment. By in-depth assessment of ten focal countries, most of them have considerable efforts in the field of SCP in sustainable housing. The need for actions which are affordable housing, district development, and SDGs and NDCs connection should be always be addressed across all topics area.

## Circular Economy from the Perspective of High-End Housing in the Real Estate Sector: An Overview from Dhaka, Bangladesh



**Nurunnahar Mili**

Senior Architect ADB TA (Grant) 9879 BAN  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Ms. Nurunnahar Mili presented circular economy system by designing levels of construction and development. She summarized the logical approaches for circular economy of real estate housing sector. It is concluded to be a formulation for CE, 'R' policies, and Sustainable Greens.

## Circular economy in view of local architecture with lifestyle: Case study from the North of Viet Nam



**Pham Khanh Toan**

Director General of International Cooperation  
Department Ministry of Construction of Viet Nam  
Hanoi, Vietnam

Mr. Pham Khanh Toan presented three buildings as examples for his concept of circular economy – “the lifecycle of the built environment is consisting of rationalized phases which utilize the most availability of the local natural advantages, ensure the minimal impacts to the natural environment while providing best services to people and enrich the local cultural values.”

## Achieving a Circular Economy Through Urban Heritage Conservation Case Study from Yangon, Myanmar



**Moe Moe Lwin**  
Director, Yangon Heritage Trust  
Yangon, Myanmar

Ms. Lwin presented urban heritage conservation in the context of circular economy. From Yangon Heritage Trust's experience, she presented how NGOs manage conservative process in each urban heritage with their conservative concept, and the outcome towards sustainable urban environment. The organization is now moving to the city level. Focus is not only on the buildings or compounds, but also for the better place living toward their vision – of one of the Asia's most livable city.

## Decent work as a basis for circular economy: Perspective from garment factories in the Mekong region



**Kyoko Kusakabe**  
Professor of Gender and Development  
Asian Institute of Technology  
Bangkok, Thailand

Ms. Kyoko captured the main point into the problem of garment industries. Labor issue is the main problem she chose to look into as it mostly gets less highlighted in circular economy discussion. She pointed out that promoting decent work is very important contribution for circular economy.

## Circular economy through environmental education and action: Learning from the economy of the poor to rebuild community, case study from the grassroots in India



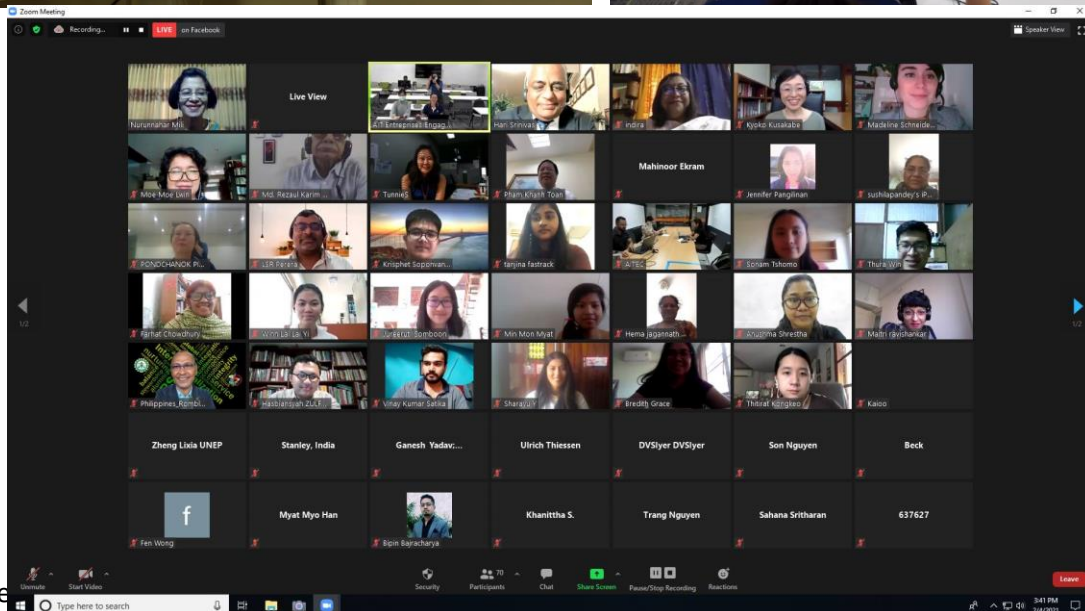
**Indira Dasgupta**  
Director, People's Institute for Development and Training  
Bangalore, India

This case study from grassroots in India has shown us that circular economy should be input to the minor scale; from locally to globally. PIDT showcased that circular economy and sustainability can be applied anywhere through education and action. The creating of 'Festival of Awareness' has proven the vision to create humane, equality-based, transformatory, resource rich, and sustainable society under analytical understanding of the socially and economically underprivileged through the people decisions and resources.

## Review on Participants:

More than 285 participants were registered prior to the event, and 2,700+ viewers joined online which was accessible through Zoom and Live broadcast on the Facebook's Page of SWITCH-Asia, AIT Entrepreneurship Center and their networks.

## Snapshots of the Event



## Annex:

### Annex 1: The Final agenda

Time	Programme
2:00 – 2:10	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> <b>Mushtaq Memon</b> <i>Regional Coordinator Resource Efficiency in Asia Pacific United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</i>
2:10 – 2:20	<b>Concept Presentation: Understanding the Circular Economy</b> <b>Hari Srinivas</b> <i>Professor of Global Environmental Policy Kwansei Gakuin University, Kobe, Japan</i>
2:20-2:30	<b>Addressing the Circular Economy in the Housing Sector</b> <b>Madeline Schneider</b> <i>Senior Manager Berlin und Umgebung, Deutschland and one of its lead authors and NKE to SWITCH-Asia SCP</i>
2:30-2:38	<b>Circular Economy from the Perspective of High-End Housing in the Real Estate Sector: An Overview from Dhaka, Bangladesh</b> <b>Nurunnahar Mili</b> <i>Senior Architect ADB TA (Grant) 9879 BAN Dhaka, Bangladesh</i>
2.38-2:46	<b>Circular economy in view of local architecture with lifestyle: Case study from the North of Viet Nam</b> <b>Pham Khanh Toan</b> <i>Director General of International Cooperation Department Ministry of Construction of Viet Nam Hanoi, Vietnam</i>
2:46-2.54	<b>Achieving a Circular Economy Through Urban Heritage Conservation</b> <b>Moe Moe Lwin</b> <i>Director, Yangon Heritage Trust, Yangon, Myanmar</i>
2.54-3.02	<b>Decent work as a basis for circular economy: Perspective from garment factories in the Mekong region</b> <b>Kyoko Kusakabe</b> <i>Professor of Gender and Development Studies Asian Institute of Technology Bangkok, Thailand</i>
3.02-3.10	<b>Circular economy through environmental education and action: Learning from the economy of the poor to rebuild community, case study from the grassroots in India</b> <b>Indira Dasgupta</b> <i>Director, People's Institute for Development and Training</i>
3.10-3.30	<b>Q&amp;A Session</b>
3.30-3.35	<b>Closing and conclusion</b> <i>Tunnie Srisakulchairak, UNEP programme officer for the SWITCH Asia RPAC</i>



## For more information

SWITCH-Asia event page:

URL: <https://www.switch-asia.eu/event/webinar-sustainable-lifestyles-in-asia/>

### **Contact SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Funded by European Union**

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