

Global Opportunities for SDGs (GO4SDGs) Regional Launch in Asia and the Pacific

*Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production for an
Inclusive and Resilient Recovery*

Wednesday, **21 April 2021** | 14:00-17:30 Bangkok Time GMT+7 | Virtual
Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/iJZqPQqCWS361NcJ9>

Introduction

“With only 10 years left before the 2030 deadline, there is an urgent need to step up action. And every nation, every community and every person can and must make a contribution.” UN Secretary General, António Guterres

Asia and the Pacific is fast becoming the largest market in the world with the strongest economic growth of all regions, driven by infrastructure development, increasing domestic private consumption and intraregional trade. However, this growth remains largely founded on unsustainable consumption and production patterns that exacerbate inequality and environmental degradation, intensifying existing risks and vulnerabilities in a changing climate. Since early 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, economic growth has been hit, especially some sectors such as tourism, transport, and circular supply chains in production.¹

The region plays a central role in global value chains, but at low rates of resource efficiency, presenting significant opportunities for circular economy practices. The region has regressed on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and urgently needs to reverse material consumption and footprint trends to meet the goal, notwithstanding progress on individual targets. Rising incomes and lifestyle changes and continued resource-intensive growth patterns are expected to further exacerbate resource depletion and ecosystem degradation. Concerted public and private action is needed to increase resource efficiency, fundamentally shift consumption patterns and production processes, improve waste management systems, and transition toward a more circular economy approach.²

Global Opportunities for SDGs (GO4SDGs) in Asia and the Pacific Region

The Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs) initiative aims to support regional and local efforts to improve resource efficiency for an inclusive and resilient recovery. The initiative aims to help accelerate the region to “build back better” by sharing best practices and science-based knowledge and solutions, and policy tools and provide capacity development opportunities in priority areas.

GO4SDGs aims to connect the dots towards decarbonization, resource efficiency and sustainability, integrating the circularity, climate, and biodiversity agendas. It builds on existing partnerships, tools and pools of expertise around the world to further strengthen regional and local

¹ United Nations, Asia-Pacific Knowledge Management Hub,
<https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/SDG%2012%20Goal%20Profile.pdf>

² Ibid.

capacities, particularly for those countries transitioning their economies and societies to become more sustainable and inclusive.

GO4SDGS brings together partners working directly with the private sector and civil society to accelerate action on the SDGs, including the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), SEED Initiative, and the World Economic Forum (WEF). It also builds on UNEP's leading knowledge and platforms such as the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP), the International Resource Panel, One Planet Network and the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE).

GO4SDGs initiative is designed to support: **governments** to strengthen policy coherence; **small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** to increase capacities and access for financing innovation and circularity; and **youth** to amplify their voices and empower them to embrace sustainable lifestyles.

Objectives of the GO4SDGs Regional Launch

The launch in Asia and the Pacific region aims to:

- Present the initiative “Global Opportunities for SDGs” (GO4SDGs) including its [menu of services](#), capacity building activities and the regional activities and roadmap.
- Promote a dialogue about the importance and co-benefits of resource efficiency -including sustainable consumption and circularity- in the region for climate ambition and to achieve an inclusive and resilient economic recovery post COVID-19.
- Identify synergies and build cooperation with other relevant regional initiatives and partners, such as ESCAP, SWITCH Asia, PAGE, among others, to have a more coherent delivery and create a bigger impact.

Wednesday 21 April 2021
GO4SDGs High Level Launching

14:00 -15:30
(BKK time)

Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production for an Inclusive and Resilient Recovery

Opening Remarks:

- **Dechen Tsering**, Regional Director and Representative, UNEP-ROAP
- **Stephan Contius**, Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda, Head of Division United Nations, Developing Countries and Emerging Economies; Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Germany
- **Kaveh Zahedi**, Deputy Executive Secretary, Sustainable Development, ESCAP

Keynote Speech:

- **Janez Potocnik**, Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel (IRP) and Partner at SYSTEMIQ, "**Resource Efficiency for an Economic Recovery**"
- **Edgar Hertwich**, Member, International Resource Panel and Professor, Norwegian University for Science and Technology "**Presentation of findings of IRP report Resource Efficiency & Climate Change**"

Panel Discussion:

- **Yasuo Takahashi**, Executive Director, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan
- **Saima Shafique**, Project Manager WASH Unit, Ministry of Climate Change of Pakistan

Presentation of GO4SDGs Menu of Services and Roadmap for Asia and the Pacific:

- **Mushtaq Memon**, Regional Coordinator, Resource Efficiency, UNEP-ROAP

Moderator: Merlyn Van Voore, Head of the Secretariat of the International Resource Panel, UNEP

Wednesday 21 April 2021 (continued)

16:00-17:30
(BKK Time)

Advancing Innovation and Circularity for SMEs

Transition to a resource efficient and circular economy can help achieve SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) by reducing the use of natural resources and materials in the most efficient manner and help foster innovation and create jobs along the way.

This session will present best practices and initiatives of circular economy models among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the region. Discussions will highlight policy and finance instruments that support these actors. Synergies between such initiatives and GO4SDGs will be explored to identify opportunities for cooperation on advancing innovation and circularity of SMEs in the region.

Speakers

- **Mirko Zurker**, Head of SEED Asia, Co-Lead Policy
“Presentation on Policy and Innovation Labs”
- **Adi R. Nugroho**, CEO & Co-Founder, Mycotech, Indonesia
“Presentation on a textiles SME case”
- **Guillaume Touati**, Country Representative, AVSF Mongolia and Project Manager, SWITCH-Asia Sustainable Textile Production Eco Labelling Project
“Presentation on SWITCH-Asia and a textile SME case in Mongolia”
- **Rhea Mazumdar Singhal**, Founder & CEO, Ecoware, India
“Sustainable Consumption and Production. How packaging can play a part?”
- **Helen Burdett**, Lead, Circular Economy Innovation, World Economic Forum
“Presentation on Scale360° Circular Innovation”

Discussions

- What challenges do SMEs face in their transition to a circular economy business model? What are the lessons learned?
- What are the synergies and areas for potential cooperation between existing initiatives in the region and the GO4SDGs?

Moderator

- **Mushtaq Memon**, Regional Coordinator, Resource Efficiency, UNEP-ROAP

Upcoming:

Workshops on "SCP HAT"
28-29 April 2021

12:00 - 15:00
(BKK Time)

Identifying Hotspots: Applying the Sustainable Production and Consumption Hotspot Analysis Tool (SCP-HAT)

Registration link: <http://bit.ly/SCPHatAP>

As part of the event, GO4SDGs is offering a workshop to train stakeholders in the Region on the Sustainable Production and Consumption Hotspot Analysis Tool (SCP-HAT). This tool analyses hotspots in a country or at the sector level where unsustainable consumption and production is happening. The workshop is a mixture of plenary sessions, small working groups, and hands-on application of SCP-HAT. It is designed for SCP practitioners and national focal points, UN Country Teams, research institutes, and other key decision makers.