



10th APFSD

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27-30 March 2023



Green Jobs for Circularity

Side Event: 10th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

Date and Time: March 27, 17:15-18:30 GMT+7

Registration link: <https://forms.office.com/e/K2U0t2MRvQ>

Organizer(s)

United Nations Environment Programme / Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs)

Co-organizer(s)

SWITCH-Asia

Embassy of Finland in Bangkok

International Labour Organization

Registration

To register for this virtual side event, please use this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/K2U0t2MRvQ>

Background

Transitioning to a circularity supports achieving the Agenda 2030. Businesses are increasingly adopting circular business models and creating profit while reducing the need for virgin raw materials.

According to ILO, adopting sustainable practices in business operations to limit global warming to 2°C will create some 24 million jobs, offering youth – both men and women – job opportunities that will also contribute to the transition to a green and circular economy.

Asia and the Pacific region is home to more than 600 million youth. The youth in the region can be a solution to ensuring skilled workforce for circular businesses but this requires identifying needed skills and focusing on adequate education.

This side event will focus on the opportunities and challenges for Asia and the Pacific region to move towards circularity while creating new green jobs. It will focus on three



high impact sectors: textiles, food packaging and agri-food sectors. The textile industry accounts for 55% of the global textiles and clothing exports and employs around 60 million workers (approx. 80% women). Green jobs in agriculture and agri-food sectors are expected to increase as much as 60% in primary-sector employment and a 20% increase in global gross domestic product by 2050.

Key Questions and Outcomes

Bringing together a diverse panel of experts from the public sector, private sector and civil society, this session aims to draw attention to one of the essential enablers for scaling circular business models. Overconsumption of materials and natural resources causes 45 % of GHG emissions and 90 % of biodiversity loss. The circular economy can support achieving the Agenda 2030 by reducing material and resource consumption while enhancing the economic and social development and reducing environmental degradation.

For circular business models to scale, it is essential ensure a labour force that has adequate skills. The Asia and the Pacific region is home to more than 600 million youth. However, their future job prospects are continuously hampered by technology, COVID-19 pandemic, and climate change. This APFSD side event will focus on ways to ensure that the available work force and available green and circular jobs fit each other. It will discuss the business opportunities role of ensuring necessary skills shift value chains towards circularity.

This side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

1. What are the enabling policies to accelerate the transition towards an inclusive circular economy?
2. What are some of the existing skills gaps in scaling circularity in high impact sectors? What is required to overcome this gap?
3. What do you think are the priority areas where acceleration of green jobs needed to achieve circularity?

Expected outcomes:

- Increased understanding on the importance to invest in green skills and policies to drive for an inclusive circular economy in high impact sectors.
- Kick off the Green Jobs for Youth Pact in the Asia Pacific Region.
- Suggested recommendations and action points to promote creation of green jobs for youth at the local and national levels;
- Identification of existing barriers and possible solutions through sharing of best practices, knowledge and tools available.

Programme

Time	Content	Speakers
17:15-17:20	Opening session	Moderator to give housekeeping announcements.
17:20-17:30	Welcoming speeches	Indonesia (tbc) (5 min) Dechen Tsering, Regional Director and Representative Asia and the Pacific Office, United Nations Environment Programme (5 min)
17:30-17:40	Keynote address	Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Global Coordinator, Green Jobs Programme, ILO
17:40-18:25	Panel discussion	Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adriana Zacarias Farah, Global Head of GO4SDGs, UNEP Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unilever (tbc) Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik, Advisory Committee Member, Green Jobs for Youth Pact, GO4SDGs of UN Environment Programme Md. Mahfuzur Rahman, Senior Officer, GGGI/ SWITCH-Asia Switch Garment Helena Saren, Head of Zero Carbon Future mission, Business Finland
18:25-18:30	Closing the session	Moderator to wrap up

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