



**Introductory Webinar on Circular Economy – A Key Element in
Achieving Environment and Natural Resources Component of the
Philippines’ Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)**
A pre-conference event to the First National Conference on Social Development and Sustainable
Development of UPLB
Organized by UPLB CHE DSDS, ICLEI SEAS, and GIZ International Services
20 October 2022, Thursday, 1:30 – 5:00 PM

Background

Consumption and production drive economic and social progress yet they exert increasing pressure on our natural environment and resources. Extraction and exploitation of natural resources to meet current lifestyles resulted in climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, among others. The United Nations (UN) has stated that “should the global population reach 9.6 billion by 2050, the equivalent of almost three planets could be required to provide the natural resources needed to sustain current lifestyles”. Hence, the need to shift to more sustainable practices and solutions to avoid worsening environmental and social problems.

Circular Economy in Brief

One of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focuses on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12) which encompass circular economy and other sustainable development models. Circular economy has been promoted as an alternative to the prevailing linear economic model which leads to more waste and neglects regeneration of nature.

There has yet to be a universal definition of circular economy but it embodies circularity of products and materials and elimination or reduction of waste and pollution. The United Nations Environment Assembly (2019) provided a notable definition of circular economy as:

“...one of the current sustainable economic models, in which products and materials are designed in such a way that they can be reused, remanufactured recycled or recovered and thus maintained in the economy for as long as possible, along with the resources of which they are made, and the generation of waste, especially hazardous waste, is avoided or minimized, and greenhouse gas emissions are prevented or reduced, can contribute significantly to sustainable consumption and production”.

Similarly, the Philippine Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022, or Republic Act No. 11898 defines circular economy as:

“...an economic model of creating value by extending product lifespan through improved design and servicing, and relocating ways from the end of the supply chain to the beginning.”

These definitions present circular economy as an economic model to achieve sustainable consumption and production.

Guiding Framework and Relevant Policies

In the Philippines, the circular economy is integrated in frameworks, policies and programs in energy, waste and other areas. In 2020, the National Economic and Development Authority presented the Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP4SCP) that serves as a guiding framework with the end goal of more Filipinos consuming and producing green goods and services and a shift towards sustainable and climate-smart practices and lifestyles. PAP4SCP was formulated in line with SDG 12 and in support of the country’s national vision (Ambisyon Natin 2040).

On 23 July 2022, the Republic Act No. 11898, lapsed into law and amended the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. The law embraces circularity as it “requires producers to be environmentally responsible throughout the life cycle of the product, especially its post-consumer or end-of-life stage”. The law also establishes

the National Ecology Center (NEC) for information, training, and networking services under the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) and calls for development of the National Framework for Extended Producer Responsibility which espouses reusable, recyclable, or retrievable of diverse materials and products. The law is a big step for the Philippines considering that plastic waste is a major problem in the country.

Circular economy is also one of the vehicles to realize the Philippine Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), a set of climate action commitments for the Paris Agreement. This is evident through climate change mitigation actions such as utilizing energy efficiency measures and renewable energy that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions while contributing to energy security and minimizing solid wastes.

Overall, the circular economy presents opportunities to enhance COVID-19 economic recovery plans and shift to a more sustainable consumption and production pattern that decouples economic growth from environmental degradation and natural resources depletion.

Considering that several stakeholders are unfamiliar with circular economy, a webinar is hereby proposed to understand vital policies, framework, best practices and gauge the appetite and interests of relevant stakeholders. The webinar shall bring together Philippine local governments, national government agencies, private sector and the academe through the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in partnership with the ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability Southeast Asia Secretariat (ICLEI-SEAS) and the GIZ International Services.

Objectives

The circular economy webinar shall serve as platform to convene diverse stakeholders to:

- Explain circular economy concepts and relevant framework and policies and its link to climate targets;
- Gather feedback on interest and gaps on circular economy initiatives of local government and private sector representatives.

At the end of the webinar, the participants are expected to have an improved understanding of circular economy concepts, policies and framework. Meanwhile, the organizers can better assess the needs and requirements of local governments and other stakeholders as potential entry point in mainstreaming circular economy in planning and development.

Tentative Program

20 October 2022, Thursday, 1:30 – 5:00 PM

Time	Topic	Resource Person
1:30 – 1:40	Preliminaries Webinar reminders Webinar introduction	Host: ICLEI SEAS and UPLB CHE DSDS
1:40 – 1:50	Opening Remarks	Victorino Aquitania Regional Director ICLEI SEAS
1:50 – 2:00	Keynote Message	Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
2:00 – 2:15	Introduction to Circular Economy	Dr. Rex Demafelis Professor

		UPLB College of Engineering and Agro-Industrial Technology Chair, UPLB Interdisciplinary Life Cycle Assessment Laboratory
2:15 – 2:30	Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP4SCP)	Rosemarie G. Edillon, CESO I Undersecretary National Economic and Development Authority
2:30 – 2:45	Salient Features of the Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 or Republic Act No. 11898	Environmental Management Bureau Department of Environment and Natural Resources
	Discussions	Facilitator: UPLB CHE DSDS
2:45 – 3:00	Discussant 1	City Government of Baguio
3:00 – 3:15	Discussant 2	Bureau of Local Government Development Department of Interior and Local Government
3:15 – 3:30	Discussant 3	Private sector representative
3:30 – 3:45	Q&A Photo op with speakers and discussants	
3:45 – 3:50	5-minute break	
3:50 – 4:05	Circular Economy International Best Practices & Tools	GIZ International Services
4:05 – 4:20	Circular City Actions Framework	Ricardo Marfiga, Jr. Senior Project Officer ICLEI SEAS
4:20 – 4:30	Q&A	Facilitator: GIZ International Services
4:30 – 4:40	Rapid scoping of interest/gaps/concerns on circular economy Gather feedback on the webinar	
4:40 – 4:50	Synthesis/call to action	UPLB CHE DSDS
4:50 – 5:00	Closing Remarks	Dr. Riki Sandalo Dean, College of Human Ecology UPLB
	Photo with all participants End of program	

Organizers

DENR Climate Change Service

The Climate Change Service shall serve as the coordinating mechanism internally among DENR offices as well as externally, with other national government agencies, non-government organizations and local government units, particularly in the following: (a) development of the Climate Change strategies and programs; (b) formulation and recommendation of Climate Change policies; (c) development and implementation of the Climate Change programs and projects; (d) development and implementation of information, communications and capacity development program for Climate Change provide support to the Inter-Agency Committee on Climate Change (IACCC) Secretariat; (e) provide support to the EMB and other DENR offices for us to comply with our obligations under the UN Convention on Climate Change; (f) prepare and submit regular reports on the accomplishments and status of programs and plans on Climate Change; (g) perform other functions as maybe directed by the Secretary.

DSDS, CHE UPLB

The Department of Social Development Services (DSDS) is one of the four teaching units of the College of Human Ecology in the University of the Philippines Los Baños. It is committed to promote effective and sustainable human organizations and social institutions towards resilient, inclusive and enhanced human ecosystems. As such its mission is to conduct instruction, research and extension (IRE) programs that are instrumental in the development and strengthening of organizations and social institutions to enable them to actively participate in organizing, mobilizing, and managing human and environmental resources towards economic productivity, social development and ecological well-being. As such its major IRE products and processes are within the four thematic areas of its Social Development and Management Program (SDMP), to wit: Social Technology for Institution Building (STIB), Consumer Protection and Stakeholder Satisfaction (CPSS), Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (CCDRM) and Sustainable Livelihoods and Enterprise Development (SLED).

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability Southeast Asia Secretariat

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network working with more than 2,500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Our members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

GIZ International Services

GIZ International Services (InS) is an integrated division of GIZ. Its services are frequently contracted directly by partner country governments and international donor institutions, its considerable experience with networks in partner countries and in Germany is a key factor for successful international cooperation. GIZ International Services offers state-of-the-art project management and implementation and innovative and tailor-made solutions.

Guidance Notes

Registration

ALL participants are requested to register individually through the online registration platform <https://bit.ly/3RWJXRQ> by **14 October 2022, Friday**. Given the limited slots, those who fail to register by the deadline may not be accommodated in the online meeting venue.

Accessing the forum

Further information to all registered attendees shall be provided days leading to the forum. Please sign in 15 minutes prior to the start of the webinar.

The event platform can only accommodate a limited number of participants. Those who fail to register and can no longer be accommodated in the online venue can join the webinar livestream via the following Facebook pages:

- UPLB CHE DSDS Facebook page
- ICLEI SEAS Facebook page

Concerns

For concerns or questions, please contact Prof. Marife Dapito of UPLB CHE DSDS at mbdapito@up.edu.ph , Ms. Nikki Ortiz of ICLEI SEAS at email nikki.ortiz@iclei.org, or Ms. Josephine Tioseco at email jo_mangila@yahoo.com of GIZ International Services.