

Plenary Session 4: Panel Discussion Points

1. What are possible means of empowering SMEs towards transitioning to circular economy? What could be the policy, institutional, financial and partnership aspects of greening the SMEs towards sustainable industrialization, fostering innovation and pollution reduction? What does it imply in terms of synergies in achieving SDG 9 and SDG 12?
2. Required financial and technical capacity and high upfront costs are critical challenges for SMEs. Considering these constraints, how can governments assist the SMEs to integrate resource efficiency and circular economy principles in their operations and supply chain? How can government help SMEs to adapt to the new and innovative circular business models that unlock economic benefits?
3. What are the key social and physical infrastructures that the governments should consider in creating an enabling environment for greening the SMEs towards circularity? What lessons do Gamagori City's PPP case offer us in this regard?
4. Globally increasing number of SMEs or firms are pursuing green strategies to benefit in many ways, e.g., cost savings, energy savings, better public image, better marketing of products, etc. What are the best examples and experiences where environmental regulations, including government incentives have encouraged SMEs to innovate and create cost advantages?