



“Elevating Innovation and Building Capacity towards Resource-Efficient, Circular, Low-Carbon, and Climate-Resilient Economy in the Pacific”

Side Event: 11th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

Date and Time: Thursday, February 22, at 16:45-18:00 (GMT+7)

Venue: UN ESCAP Meeting Room H in a hybrid format

Meeting Link: <https://switch-asia.eu/event/elevating-innovation-and-building-capacity-towards-resource-efficient-circular-low-carbon-and-climate-resilient-economy-in-the/>

Organizer(s)

EU SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component (PSC)

Co-organizer(s)

European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships, the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RCC Asia Pacific), and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)- DSDG/UN DESA,

Registration

To register for this side event, please use:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjEqdOGrqTMiG9fySxQaMsUlm6JfZ-amNLis>

To attend the side event, all registrants must also register on Indico to attend the APFSD by February 6 using the link here: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007683/>

Please register using the option “Registration for Others” and choose your side event. Those who do not register on Indico will not be able to access the United Nations Conference Center.

Background

The Pacific countries face heightened vulnerability to both current and anticipated impacts of climate change, exacerbating existing unique challenges attributed to the region's remoteness and dependence on external resources.

Despite these formidable circumstances, Pacific nations have exhibited commendable leadership in sustainable development, actively contributing to global climate action ambitions. Recognizing the imperative nature of the situation, regional and national strategies underscore the necessity for the Pacific's development trajectory to embrace resilience, resource efficiency, and a low-emission pathway.

Aligned with the objectives of the 11th APFSD, this side event aims to delve into viable options for Pacific countries to align their sustainable development trajectories with resilient, resource-efficient, and circular economy pathways. The focus will be on fostering innovation and building capacities through strategic partnerships. The event will explore sustainable consumption and production policy alternatives, with the potential to bolster the implementation of SDG 13 and SDG 17 in these countries.

Key Questions

This side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

- (1) How can mainstreaming Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Circular Economy (CE) in policies and practices in the Pacific contribute to implement SDG 13 and 17 targets?
- (2) How can we strengthen the implementation of SDG 13 and 17 by integrating SCP/CE into the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other sustainable development ambitions of the region?
- (3) How can we amplify the innovations and capacity enhancement of the businesses and entrepreneurs towards resilient, resource efficient, circular economies in the region?

Event Outcomes

1. Increased awareness among the stakeholders the potential of SCP and circular economy as an essential tool for sustainable development pathways and
2. Strengthened policy alignment of SDG 13 and 17 with SCP and CE strategies for the Pacific Region

This side event will discuss how to support the implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent on the pathway towards resilience and well-being through partnerships, supporting the effort to bring circularity, SCP, and climate policies closer together. The key presentation will be delivered, addressing the intertwined issues of SCP, CE and climate change.

The panel discussion will build on the key presentation and discuss the challenges and opportunities to integrate climate actions with sustainable consumption and production and circular economy solutions. The recommendations from the event will inform possible interventions needed to support national governments and regional organisations in the Pacific region on scaling up SCP and CE policy and implementation towards low-carbon, resource-efficient and circular economy.

Programme

| Time | Speakers | Presentations/Discussions |
|------------------------|--|---|
| 16:45-16:50 5 mins | Session Moderator Mr. Arab Hoballah, Senior Expert for the Pacific, SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component (PSC) | Background and Introduction |
| 16:50-17:00 10 mins | Mr. David Daly, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to Thailand (TBC) | Welcome Remarks |
| 17:00-17:15 15 mins | Mr. Ranga Pallawala, Climate Change Expert, SWITCH-Asia PSC | Presentation: Understanding the Nexus between SCP, Circular Economy and Climate |
| | Panel Discussion | |
| 17:15-17:20 5 min | Moderator of Panel Discussion Dr. Zinaida Fadeeva, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia PSC | Introduction to Panel discussion |
| 17:20-17:50 30 min | Brief statement/answers to questions raised to panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Juhi Bansal, NDC/LT-LEDS Regional Specialist, UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RCC Asia Pacific) Mr. Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty, Environment Programme Coordinator, United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)- DSDG/UN DESA Mr. Jonathan Gilman, Asia Pacific Regional Policy Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme (TBC) Country representative from Ministry of Finance, Fiji (TBC) | |
| 17:50-17:55 5 mins | All Speakers | Questions from the Participants |
| 17:55-18:00 5 mins | Dr. Zinaida Fadeeva, Team Leader, EU SWITCH-Asia PSC | Closing remarks |

For information, please contact:

Dr. Zinaida Fadeeva, Team Leader, EU SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component at zinaida@switch-asia.eu cc: loraine@switch-asia.eu