



United Nations Centre
for Regional
Development



Ministry of Natural
Resources and
Environment, Russian
Federation

RUSSIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL
OPERATOR

Russian
Environmental Operator



Ministry of the
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Government of Japan

As of 14 Feb 2022

Provisional Concept Note of 11th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific (Hybrid)

1. **THEME:** Strengthening Science-Policy-Business Interface towards Resource Circulation and Circular Economy – Achieving the SDGs and Carbon Neutrality
2. **DATE:** 21-23 March 2022
3. **FORMAT:** Hybrid (only domestic participants in Russian Federation join physically and all international participants join online through WebEx Platform)

4. BACKGROUND

Since 2009, UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA led the Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum¹ has been serving as an important policy platform in the wake of the Asia-Pacific region on various environmental issues, in response to the challenges from environmental degradation, unsustainable consumption and production patterns. The SDGs Report 2020² drew attention on how eradicating global poverty remains the greatest global challenge. The UN Decade on Ecosystem restoration 2021-2030 is fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, mainly those on climate change, poverty eradication, food security, water and biodiversity conservation³. In addition, a number of countries are making their policies and programmes geared towards achieving net-zero emissions while ensuring clean, stable and affordable energy supplies, providing universal energy access, and enabling robust economic growth⁴. Towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, there is a growing recognition of circular economy as one of the key drivers that integrate with social and environmental objectives to preserve the natural capital base of economies and societies for future generations and to achieve safe, resilient and sustainable cities. It is therefore important to drive the process of economic integration and technical cooperation in Asia and the Pacific with an objective to create opportunities for economic growth and

¹ <https://www.uncrd.or.jp/index.php?menu=389> (Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific)

² https://s3.amazonaws.com/sustainabledevelopment.report/2020/2020_sustainable_development_report.pdf (The Sustainable Development Report 2020)

³ <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/30919/UNDecade.pdf> (The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030)

⁴ https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/20959e2e-7ab8-4f2a-b1c6-4e63387f03a1/NetZeroBy2050-ARoadmapfortheGlobalEnergySector_CORR.pdf (International Energy Agency, Report- Net Zero by 2050 A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector)

employment and to increase the standard of living in Asian and Pacific economies. Such integration process should include design of new initiatives that enhance trade, connectivity, and investment in such a way that the opportunities of sustainable resource management, waste minimization and low-carbon development are mainstreamed into those development initiatives. This could take many forms for example such as prioritizing investments into green sectors of the economy such as renewable energy, sustainable housing and transport, and eco-efficient manufacturing and green cities. Japan, for instance, aims to achieve a human-centered society (Society 5.0) in which anyone can enjoy a high quality of life full of vigor. It intends to accomplish this by incorporating advanced technologies in diverse industries and social activities and fostering innovation to create new value⁵.

The part 3R Forums noted the risk of reduced supply security of strategic natural resources and the threat of fast rising emissions and waste flows in Asia and the Pacific. Economies in the region are highly vulnerable to price increases for natural resources (energy carriers, metals, food and fiber, and timber), which is further accentuated by climate change. The past Forums have also recognized that there is a need to facilitate a public conversation and foster a debate about the need to align environment and development outcomes and to highlight that, in fact, especially in the medium and long term, there is no contradiction between sustainable natural resource management, waste minimization, climate mitigation and economic growth. To this regard, the 3R Forum, since its inception, has recognized the importance of partnerships between the policy, business, and science communities in addressing the sustainable resource management for the future prosperity of Asia and the Pacific region.

Science-driven 3R policy framework is key to conservation and sound management of resources and ecological assets. At the same time, with scientific back up, 3R needs to be linked to other policy domains such as climate mitigation and adaptation, resiliency, energy and water security, urban air pollution, and supply security of critical natural resources, among others. Science and research could further drive better policy options in 3R areas, and visionary policies in return could drive better science and R&D in 3R areas, and when both science and policy are translated into concrete or practical actions and projects on the ground level with active participation of business community and civil society, it provides a complete package of solutions to many of the waste and resource management issues the world is currently facing with. The Regional 3R Forum in Asia-Pacific aims to provide a unique platform to drive a science-based policy making for sustainable waste management as well as material and natural resource management.

Starting from the 6th Regional 3R Forum in Maldives (2015), circular economy approach has been mainstreamed in the policy discussions among the member countries. The 99 private tourist resorts of Maldives by signing the “Declaration by Private Tourist Resorts in Maldives for the Promotion of 3Rs and Resource Efficiency Towards Protection of Local Environment and Marine Ecosystem” underpinned the importance of science-policy-business in advancing 3R as an economic industry⁶. In the 7th Regional 3R Forum in South Australia in November 2016, the member countries adopted Adelaide 3R Declaration towards the Promotion of Circular Economy in Achieving Resource Efficient Societies in Asia and the

⁵ https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/society5_0/index.html (Society 5.0)

⁶ <https://www.uncrd.or.jp/content/documents/3733FINAL-Male-Declaration-Maldives-FINAL%20Version-12Oct2015.pdf> (Maldives National 3R Day 16th August 2015 Malé 3R Declaration, 5th Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific 2015)

Pacific under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁷. Furthermore, at the 8th Regional 3R Forum held in India in April 2018, the participating Mayors and local authorities signed the voluntary and good-will Indore 3R Declaration of Asian Mayors on Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air in Cities⁸. In the 9th Regional 3R Forum in Thailand in March 2019, the member countries and participating cities agreed the Bangkok 3R Declaration Towards Prevention of Plastic Waste Pollution through 3R and Circular Economy⁹. Furthermore, the 10th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum (Series of Webinars)¹⁰ in November-December 2021, recognized the important role of eco-towns in advancing 3R and circular economy and highlighted the symbiotic material flow in eco-towns or eco-industrial parks as the basis for advancing 3R, resource efficiency and circular economy.

In addition, UNEA-5 (Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly)¹¹ with its theme of “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals” calls for strengthened action to protect and restore nature and the nature-based solutions to achieve the SDGs in its three complementary dimensions (social, economic and environmental). UNEA-5 provides Member States and stakeholders with a platform for sharing and implementing successful approaches that contribute to the achievement of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, including the goals related to the eradication of poverty and sustainable patterns of consumption and production¹¹. Similarly, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021¹² focused on resilience, recovery and hope. The HLPF is main UN platform on sustainable development, and follow-up and review of implementation of the SDGs. The HLPF 2021¹² adopted the ministerial declaration on the theme “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.

Information presented at the annual Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum shows that several member countries are already undertaking 3R policy implementation and activities under the framework of Hanoi 3R Goals (2013-2023)¹³ that support multiple global agendas and agreements such as SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda, the Nairobi Mandate and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, among others.

⁷<https://www.uncrd.or.jp/content/documents/4671Adelaide%203R%20Forum%20Declaration-FINAL%20CIRCULATION.pdf> (Adelaide 3R Declaration towards the Promotion of Circular Economy in Achieving Resource Efficient Societies in Asia and the Pacific under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 7th Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific 2016)

⁸ <https://www.uncrd.or.jp/content/documents/6541Final%20Indore%203R%20Declaration-11April%202018.pdf> (Indore 3R Declaration of Asian Mayors on Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air in Cities, 8th Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific 2018)

⁹ <https://www.uncrd.or.jp/content/documents/7743Final-Bangkok%203R%20Declaration-adopted-11%20March%202019-Issued-without-formal-editing.pdf> (Bangkok 3R Declaration Towards Prevention of Plastic Waste Pollution through 3R and Circular Economy, 9th Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific 2019)

¹⁰ <https://www.uncrd.or.jp/Home?page=view&nr=1201&type=13&menu=198> (10th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific 2020)

¹¹ <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea5> (UNEA-5)

¹² <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/hlpf-2021-prepares-to-focus-on-resilience-recovery-hope/> (HLPF 2021, 6-15 July 2021)

¹³ https://www.uncrd.or.jp/content/documents/659Hanoi-Declaration_Eng.pdf (Ha Noi 3R Declaration, Adopted during 4th Regional 3R Forum 2013).

11th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific (Hybrid)

With the above background, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, Russian Environmental Operator (REO) of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan (MOEJ), and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) of Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) / UN DESA is co-organized the 11th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific (hybrid) on 21-23 March 2022 the Russian Federation with the theme of “*Strengthening Science-Policy-Business Interface towards Resource Circulation and Circular Economy – Achieving the SDGs and Carbon Neutrality*”. The Forum is organized in conjunction with WASMA - International Exhibition of Equipment and Technologies for Recycling and Wastewater Treatment, Moscow, The Russian Federation, which will be held during the same period. The 11th Forum will also provide an opportunity to discuss the on-going process of preparing the 2nd State of 3R and Circular Economy in Asia-Pacific¹⁴, which is due to be officially launched in 2023.

5. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the 11th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific are:

- i. Discuss and share various 3R and circular economy related best practices and case studies, policy initiatives, best available and emerging technologies and institutional arrangements, among others;
- ii. Discuss how science-policy-business interface could be strengthened to advance 3R and circular economy in Asia-Pacific;
- iii. Review and evaluate countries’ progress, initiatives, achievements, and best practices in implementing the Ha Noi 3R Declaration – Sustainable 3R Goals for Asia and the Pacific for 2013-2023¹³;
- iv. Discuss about the preparation of 2nd State of 3R and Circular Economy in Asia-Pacific; and
- v. Discuss strategy for moving beyond the Ha Noi 3R Declaration and the successor of Ha Noi 3R Declaration until 2030 aligning with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, among others

6. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The 11th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific will provide innovative solutions in terms of policy, institutional setups, and partnership towards effective implementation of 3R and resource efficiency policies and strategies. The Forum will discuss the progress towards achieving the goals and targets of Ha Noi 3R Declaration (2013-2023), in addition to gaining policy and scientific insights in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

7. CO-ORGANIZERS

The 11th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific (Hybrid) is co-organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, Russian Environmental Operator (REO) of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of the

¹⁴ <https://www.uncrd.or.jp/?page=view&nr=1217&type=13&menu=198> (2nd State of 3R and Circular Economy in Asia-Pacific)

Environment of the Government of Japan (MOEJ), and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) of Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) / UN DESA. The Forum is organized in conjunction with WASMA - International Exhibition of Equipment and Technologies for Recycling and Wastewater Treatment, Moscow, The Russian Federation, which will be held during the same period.

8. PARTNERS / SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

The 11th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific is supported by number of international and donor organizations. This list is available in the programme.

9. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Asia-Pacific countries - Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, the Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

Several Central Asian and Pacific countries from UNESCAP region are also expected to join the 11th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific.

10. PARTICIPANTS

Participation in the Forum is by invitation only. Approximately 500 participants, including high-level government representatives from Asia-Pacific countries, city mayors, international experts, research institutes and resource persons, and others as listed below will attend the Forum:

- High level government representatives and policy makers from relevant Ministries such as Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Energy, and Ministry of Natural resources and Environment, etc;
- City Mayors/Local Government representatives;
- Experts and international resource persons, including representatives of scientific and Research and Development (R&D) institutions in the areas of 3R/resource efficiency/waste management/life cycle assessment and management;
- Representatives of UN and international organizations, including international financial institutions, multi-lateral development banks and donor agencies; and
- Representatives of the private and business sector and NGOs etc.

11. HOW TO REGISTER

This Forum is open to the government and the public (upon registration/nomination form). The organizers will be screening all registered participants as this is an intergovernmental meeting. Participation in the UN Forum is free of charge.

12. LANGUAGE AND DOCUMENTATION

All documentation material will be in English.

UNCRD will disseminate all documents and presentation material of the Forum on the Forum web link only. Please visit the Forum web link for further information:

13. OFFICIAL PRE-EVENTS AND PARALLEL-EVENTS

The 11th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific will have several pre-events and parallel events. The list is available in programme.

<https://www.uncrd.or.jp/Home?page=view&nr=1223&type=13&menu=198>

14. CORRESPONDENCE

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