

## **Highlights of Experts Workshop V**

**Event Title:** Experts Workshop V (Plastic Waste)

**Date:** 17 August 2021

**Co-organizers/Supporting Organizations:** Co-Organized by Ministry of the Environment, Japan and UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA.

**Number of participants:** 26

**Number of participated countries:** 7

On 17 August 2021, UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA organized an Experts Workshop (online) on the thematic chapter - Plastic Waste - of the 2nd State of 3R and Circular Economy in Asia-Pacific. The workshop, which was attended by 26 participants from 7 countries, including senior government officials and experts from MoE-Japan, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, NEA-Singapore, MONRE-Viet Nam, PCD/MONRE-Thailand, ISWMAW, UN ESCAP, UNEP-IETC, IGES/CCET, UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA and private sector, was organized under the aegis of the UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA led Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific. The objective of this workshop was to receive inputs, feedbacks, and suggestions from the experts on the scope and content of the thematic chapter on Plastic Waste. The First State of the 3R in Asia and the Pacific- Experts' Assessment of Progress in Ha Noi 3R Goals will be used as a baseline for preparing this second assessment report in relation to implementation of the Ha Noi 3R Declaration - Sustainable 3R Goals for Asia and the Pacific (2013-2023). Some of the critical issues and challenges raised by experts are impacts of social and health impacts of plastic waste, issues of hard-plastics in electronic wastes which are often treated with toxic brominated fire retardants (BFR), lack of harmonized methods of measurement of plastic waste, plastics and climate nexus and impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on plastic waste generation, among other. The experts also flagged the importance of artificial intelligence and remote sensing for monitoring leakage of plastic wastes into oceans and other ecosystems. The 2nd State of 3R and CE is scheduled to be launched in 2023.