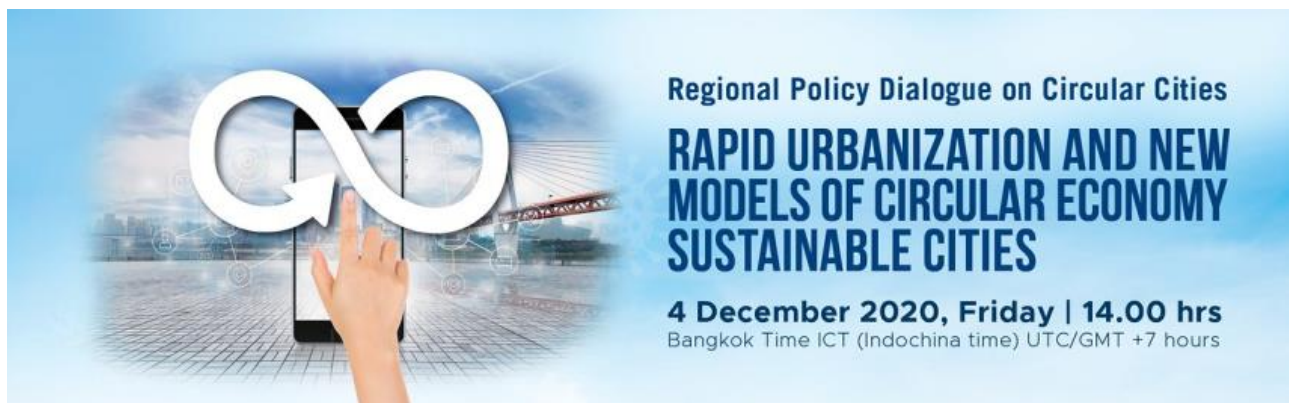


## Flash Report

### Regional Policy Dialogue on Circular Cities

# “Rapid Urbanization and New Models of Circular Economy Sustainable Cities”



**Date:** Friday 4 December 2020 | 14.00 hrs.

**Venue:** Live Broadcasting from Asian Institute of Technology

#### Disclaimer

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union”.

## Table of Contents

<b>List of Acronyms:</b> .....	3
<b>Background:</b> .....	4
Logistical information about the event .....	4
<b>Review on Participants:</b> .....	4
<b>Summary of Key Messages:</b> .....	5
Welcoming Remarks.....	5
Switch Off Air Pollution (SOAP).....	5
Role of Urban Planning: Rapid Urbanization and New Models of Circular Economy Sustainable cities .....	5
Socioeconomic aspects including gender .....	6
<b>Snapshots of the Event</b> .....	7
<b>Annex:</b> .....	8
Annex 1: The Final agenda .....	8

## List of Acronyms:

<b>AIT</b>	Asian Institute of Technology
<b>CE</b>	Circular Economy
<b>EE</b>	Energy-Efficient
<b>EU</b>	The European Union
<b>SCP</b>	Sustainable Consumption and Production
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SWITCH-Asia RPAC</b>	SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme

## Background:

The cities are growing rapidly in number and in size as the economic activities, education, health, recreation, and basic amenities are stimulating urbanization. However, the environmental footprints of the cities are alarmingly high in terms of extraction of natural resources to sustain socioeconomic activities in the cities and also in terms of pollution, green house gases and waste coming out of the cities. This is creating a vicious circle for the cities in obtaining the natural resources as well as to provide quality of life and basic amenities to their citizens. The depletion of natural resources due to over extraction and over exploitation as well as due to contamination due to the pollution coming out of the cities has created an urgency to support the cities in doing the business differently.

Circular economy approach, by closing the loop as local as possible and by increasing the resource efficiency at local level, could help cities transformation to be sustainable with happier and healthier citizens. The concept of “Circular Cities” is to reduce the intake of natural resources and to reduce the pollution and negative environmental impacts through resource efficiency is the focus of this dialogue. Sustainable consumption and production practices based on lifecycle assessment approach could provide basis for circular economy utilizing various aspects and focusing on various actors within the cities.

**Case Study:** The case study of Ulaanbaatar, one of the most polluted capital in the world. London construction consolidation center. The effort of Penang city in Malaysia. The case study of Helsinki of Finland and Kalasatama, which is near the city center.

## Logistical information about the event

The organization of regional policy dialogue on circular cities “rapid urbanization and new models of circular economy sustainable cities” was organized as a hybrid-event via live broadcasting from Asian Institute of Technology (AIT).

## Review on Participants:

More than 231 participants were registered prior to the event, and 6,205 viewers joined online which was accessible through Zoom and Live broadcast on the Facebook’s Page of SWITCH-Asia, AIT Entrepreneurship Center and their networks.

## Summary of Key Messages:

### Welcoming Remarks



**Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon**

Regional Coordinator Resource Efficiency in Asia Pacific  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Today we are here to discuss the role of the city in managing sustainable consumption and production. To do so, the concept is to make the city happier and healthier using circular economy approach. We are also trying to see some of the new innovative ideas of how we can create efficient pollution-free cities based on circular economy principle and make the country become carbon-neutral city by 2050.

### Switch Off Air Pollution (SOAP)



**Ms. Beatriz Maroto Izquierdo**

Mongolia Country Director of the NGO Geres and Switch EU Project Coordinator

The project is set to save at least 800 tons of coal and reduce 3,000 tons of the CO2 emission in Ulaanbaatar's using standardized technical solutions of adoption of energy sustainable consumption and behavior patterns. We have a large baseline survey so that we can have profitable and fair price market of EE housing. During EE delivery model we have partnered with many organizations such as The World Bank, XACBANK, ToC, and many more. Now market delivery model was set-up; new EE branch was established; winter monitoring survey was conducted for 3-month period each winter; two pilots have been tested. We are continuing to study on the insulation market to understand customers better.

### Role of Urban Planning: Rapid Urbanization and New Models of Circular Economy Sustainable cities



**Assoc.Prof.Dr. Ali Gul Qureshi**

Associate Professor, Department of Urban Management  
Graduate School of Engineering Kyoto University.

It is simple idea that everyone can think of but sometimes it is hard to educate people, politician, and policy maker. The main points are compact cities with mixed land-use that can reduce transportation and energy requirement; transit oriented and walkable neighborhoods; public transportation and shared mobility to increase accessibility in overall; cooperative freight transportation facilitating reverse logistics. Some of the tips are: prioritize high value-low cost trips over lower value-high cost trip and create construction consolidation center (CCC).

## Socioeconomic aspects including gender



**Prof. Kyoko Kusakabe**

Professor, Department Head Department of Development and Sustainability

There are many gender integration approaches such as gender insensitive or hostile approach, basic need first and gender second approach, household as a single unit approach, welfare approach, etc. Beyond these diverse approaches, it is about the management of the rules and gender relations, and individual both women and men who will be the actor of the change.

## Penang City's Efforts, Malaysia



**Ms. Josephine Tan (Jo)**

General Manager, Penang Green Council, Malaysia

What Penang has done in the past few years is considered to be intense way to become the efficient green and zero waste city. Their strong projects, policies, and campaigns are effective that it can reach the goal and go on for further targets. For example, by 2030, they want to have 80% of recycling rate, get 90% of food waste diversion, and earn 30% of renewable energy. Their circular economy roadmap, waste management, and how they deal COVID-19 have interesting steps for other nation' people to see. For example, they have come up with Greenie at home challenge, a series of mask education, community message videos, and E-Refurbishing to E-Learning.

## Keynote Speech: Experiences of Cities in Finland

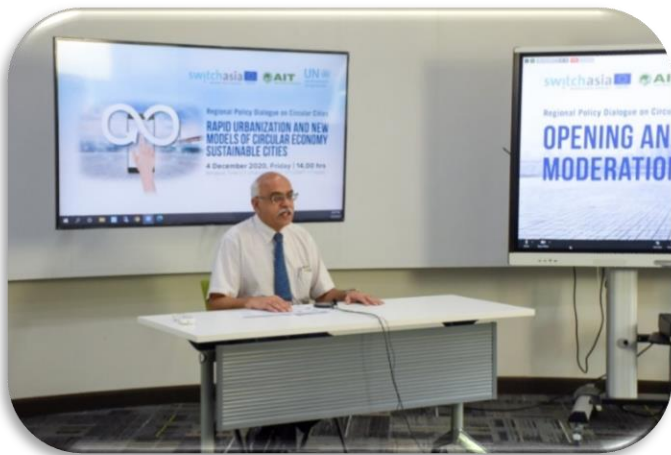


**Mr. Heikki Karhu**

Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Finland in Thailand

Mr. Heikki presented the interesting common circular economy policy tools with practical examples in Finnish cities and the case study of Helsinki. More than 90% of municipal solid waste is recovered. Underground waste management and sorting system that connected to the basement of housing building and street level are designed to transport waste at a speed of 70 k per hour to centralize at waste management facility. Also, vacant and public spaces are offered with variety of physical items to borrow.

## Snapshots of the Event



## Annex:

### Annex 1: The Final agenda

<b>Time (IST)</b>	<b>Theme</b>
<b>1400-1410</b>	Opening and moderation <b>Dr. Mushtaq Memon</b> Regional Coordinator Resource Efficiency in Asia Pacific United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
<b>1410-1420</b>	SWITCH-Asia Experience <b>Beatriz Maroto Izquierdo</b> Mongolia Country Director and Switch EU Project Coordinator
<b>1420-1430</b>	Role of urban planning <b>Associate Prof. Dr. Ali Gul Qireshi</b> Associate Professor, Department of urban Management, Graduate School of Engineering Kyoto University
<b>1430-1440</b>	Socioeconomic aspects including gender <b>AIT</b>
<b>1440-1450</b>	Penang City's Efforts, Malaysia <b>Ms. Josephine Tan (Jo)</b> General Manager, Penang Green Council, Malaysia
<b>1450-1510</b>	Keynote Speech – Experiences of cities in Finland <b>Mr. Heikkii Karhu</b> Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Finland in Thailand
<b>1510-1525</b>	Q&A
<b>1525-1530</b>	Closing and next steps <b>Dr. Mushtaq Memon</b>



## For more information

SWITCH-Asia event page:

URL: <https://www.switch-asia.eu/event/circular-cities-rapid-urbanization-and-new-models-of-circular-economy/>

### **Contact SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Funded by European Union**

Implemented by United Nations Environment Programme, Asia and the Pacific Office

**Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon**

Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency

United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
Project Manager

Regional Policy Advocacy Component

(SWITCH-Asia – the European Union funded programme)

Email: [memon@un.org](mailto:memon@un.org)