

Full report- External

Online Launch Event: Circular Economy and Sustainable Lifestyles Course



Date: Tuesday 18 May 2021 | 10.00-11.00 (Bangkok Time)

Venue: Live Broadcasting from Asian Institute of Technology

Disclaimer

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List of Acronyms:

AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
CE	Circular Economy
EU	The European Union
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SL	Sustainable Lifestyle
SWITCH-Asia RPAC	SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

Background:

The EU-funded SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component implemented by UNEP has organized the Leadership Academy since 2018, aiming at strengthening technical capacity of young professionals from the 17 SWITCH-Asia countries. This results in strong perception and deeper understandings of key messages that Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is now at the heart of environmental solutions to accelerate achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including Climate Action, Marine Litter, Air Pollution, Food Loss and Food Waste, Resource Efficiency, and so on. The Circular Economy and Sustainable Lifestyle Offline Course is a follow-up activity that is designed to enhance knowledge and understanding on SCP and share practices of the virtuous circle of circular economy and sustainable lifestyles which are fundamental principles of SCP and vehicles to achieve overall SDGs particularly SDG 12, Responsible Consumption and Production. The course is accessible to all stakeholders and anyone who is interested in the topic.

Objectives of the event

To disseminate and shape up knowledge and case studies of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), highlighting sustainable lifestyles and circular economy, and to promote uptake and advocate SCP policies of Asian countries.

Logistical information about the event

The organization of the Online Launch Event: Circular Economy and Sustainable Lifestyles Course regional policy dialogue on Circular Economy was organized as a closed hybrid-event via live broadcasting from Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

Review on Participants:

More than 300 participants were registered prior to the event, and more than 920 viewers joined online which was accessible through Zoom and Live broadcast on the Facebook's Page of AIT Entrepreneurship Center and their networks.

Key messages:

The following is a summary of the key messages emerged from the online launch event:
Circular Economy and Sustainable Lifestyles Course

- The purpose of this website is to maintain the knowledge for the current and future generations so everyone can take advantage of the idea.
- By sharing resources and practices, everyone will help promoting the knowledge and raising awareness to scale up more sustainable lifestyle.
- This is a good opportunity to apply CE knowledge and engage ministry and agency to deliver solution for CE and SCP approach to build back better.
- It is our responsibility to share our knowledge and experience with the rest of the world to enhance transition towards sustainability
- we should grow this knowledge together for the advantage of making this planet a better place to live.

Welcome and Opening remarks:

Welcome remarks

Dr. Mushtaq Memon

The EU-funded SWITCH-Asia RPAC, Project Manager, Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency in Asia Pacific, UNEP

In order to keep together circular economy (CE) and sustainable lifestyle (SL) knowledges that we have been accumulated with the EU support for a very long time, we have developed knowledge models together with multiple choice questions on a website platform provided by AIT. The purpose of this website is to maintain the knowledge for the current and future generations so everyone can take advantage of the idea. The course also going very good with the EU green deal of how we going to shape our action with sustainable approach.

Mr. Giuseppe Busini

Minister Counsellor – Deputy Head of Mission Delegation of the European Union to Thailand

Mr. Busini highlighted important pillars of the EU green deal and EU actions to support the sustainable approach around the world. He addressed that projects funded and launched by SWITCH-Asia are aiming to improve strategy and action plan of government regarding to SCP practice. Mr. Busini also encourage everyone to share experiences, ideas and solutions to support producer and consumer across Asia in their commitment for greener economy.

Panel sessions:

Partnership to Enhance the Success

Dr. Naveed Anwar

Vice President for Knowledge Transfer, AIT

Founded in 1959, AIT is an academic institution focusing on sustainability and social impact with innovation. The institution creates a great source of network and resources as it has almost 40,000 participants, staffs and worldwide partners from around the world. AIT is proud to be part of this project to provide useful resources and support for educational and research facility in order to conduct high impact and value to social.

Circular Economy

Prof. Chettiyappan Visvanathan

Professor, Environmental Engineering and Management Program, AIT

Dr. Visu gave a presentation on capacity building needs and means to promote circular economy by elaborating that synergistic skill-development with system thinking approach is needed to drive community capacity for plastic circular economy and strengthen the skills of people and communities in order to achieve their circular economy goals.

Sustainable Lifestyle

Prof. Vilas Nitivattananon

Dean, School of Environment, Resources and Development Professor, Urban Innovation and Sustainability, AIT

Prof. Nitivattananon concluded lesson learned from 3 dialogues of the course, food, tourism and packaging. He provided examples of how stakeholders took sustainable lifestyle idea into their strategy and actions. Prof. Nitivattananon highlighted that to promote education and learning of SL, three actions have to be done: Interactions among stakeholders at all level, synergies promotion among the three areas and resilience and the mobilization of adaptive capabilities relating to sustainable lifestyles.

Leadership Academy

Ms. Tunnie Srisakulchairak

UNEP Programme Management Officer, SWITCH-Asia RPAC

Ms. Srisakulchairak introduced the academy with its strategic objective followed by learning benefits of the program and module of each year. As half of the participants are government representative, she addressed that this is a good opportunity to apply CE knowledge and engage ministry and agency to deliver solution for CE and SCP approach to build back better. Ms. Srisakulchairak informed that the upcoming 2021 Leadership Academy which partnered with Tongji university and will focus on technology for CE.

SCP Website and AIT Share

Ms. Punchaya Raksasakul

Senior Software Programmer, AIT

Ms. Raksasakul presented a video showing platform and contents of the courses which focuses on circular economy, sustainable lifestyle and SCP practices across sector. The platform contains 6 modules of 30 minutes each along with built-in quizzes. Certificate will be awarded for participants who completed the course. Ms. Raksasakul ended her presentation with step-by-step registration instruction and user guide.

Conclusion sessions:

Closing and next steps by UNEP

Dr. Mushtaq Memon

Dr. Memon thanked all partners and participants for the success of this online course launching event. Apart from accessing free knowledge and information from the platform, he also encouraged participants to share presentation and case study to build a library of additional resources. He highlighted that we should grow this knowledge together for the advantage of making this planet a better place to live.

Highlights of discussions:

This Circular Economy and Sustainable Lifestyles course is designed to maintain CE and SL knowledge for everyone to take advantage of the idea. Each of the 6 modules of the course contains built-in quizzes for participants to keep on track and check their knowledge after finishing each module. Participants who completed the course will be awarded with a digital certificate from SWITCH-Asia, UNEP and AIT. The participants are also encouraged to share their presentation and case study for building a library of additional resources.

Evaluation/Assessment results:

The sessions were delivered online with the purpose of reaching out to the maximum public; therefore, evaluation/assessment of participant feedback was not applicable. However, feedback and comments were received via zoom's chat box and FB pages.

Annexes:

Annex 1: The Final Agenda

Time (IST)	Theme
1000-1005	Welcome Remarks Dr. Mushtaq Memon Manager to the RPAC SWITCH-Asia
1005-1010	EU – Welcome Remarks Mr. Giuseppe Busini Minister Counsellor – Deputy Head of Mission Delegation of the European Union to Thailand
1010-1015	Partnership to Enhance the Success Dr. Naveed Anwar Vice President for Knowledge Transfer, AIT
1015-1025	Circular Economy Prof. Chettiyappan Visvanathan Professor, Environmental Engineering and Management Program, AIT
1025-1035	Sustainable Lifestyle Prof. Vilas Nitivattananon Dean, School of Environment, Resources and Development Professor, Urban Innovation and Sustainability, AIT
1035-1045	Leadership Academy Ms. Tunnie Srisakulchairak UNEP Programme Management Officer, SWITCH-Asia RPAC
1045-1055	SCP Website and AIT Share Ms. Punchaya Raksasakul Senior Software Programmer, AIT
1055-1100	Closing and next steps by UNEP Dr. Mushtaq Memon Manager to the RPAC SWITCH-Asia

Annex 2: Presentations

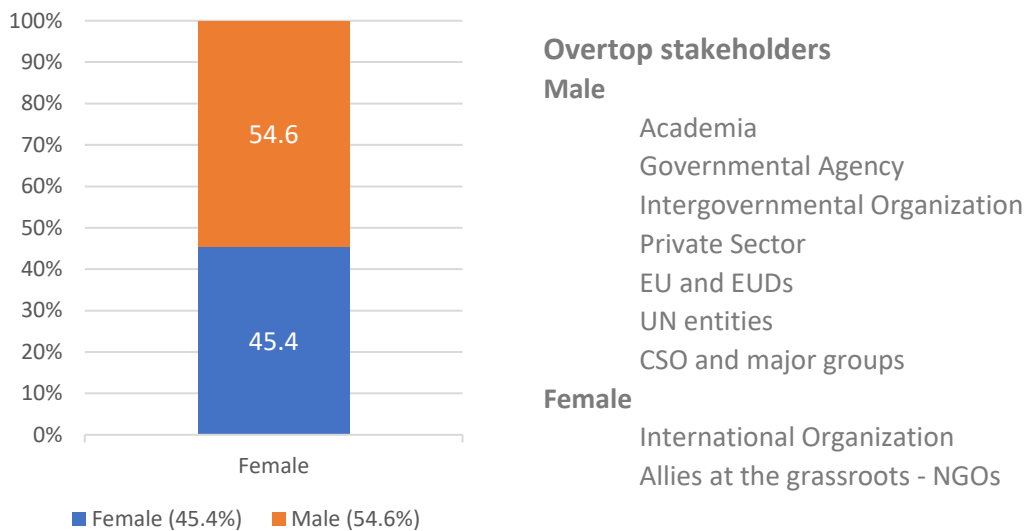
Please see all the presentations on the website of Switch-Asia

[Link to Presentations](#)

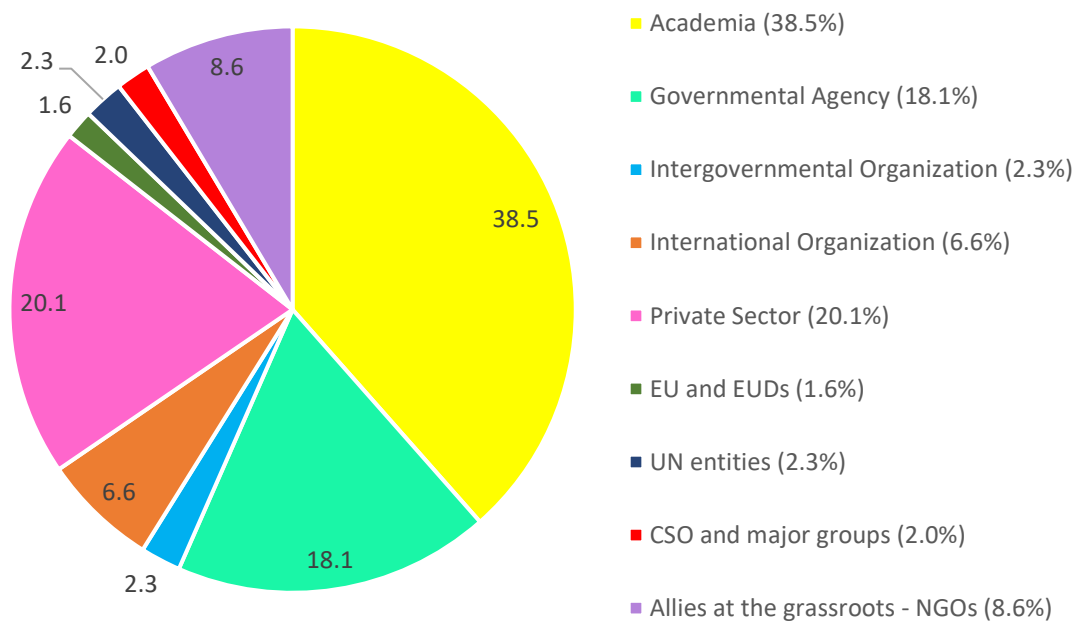
Annex 3: Participation

Figures below presents the distribution of participants who registered prior to the online launch event by stakeholders and gender. Based on total of 304 registration, 45% were female represented mainly by international organization and NGOs and 55% were male represented mainly by academia and private sector.

Registration by Gender (%)



Registration by Stakeholders (%)



For more information

SWITCH-Asia event page:

<https://www.switch-asia.eu/event/circular-economy-and-sustainable-lifestyles-course/>

Contact SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Funded by European Union

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

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