

Towards Regional Circular Economy for Central Asia

Wednesday, 22 May 2024

Venue : Hotel Royal Tulip Almaty, Kazakhstan

AGENDA

Date: 22 May 2024 (Full Day)

Format: In-person participation

Invited participants: Representatives of governments, international organisations, civil society organisations, educational institutions, EU Delegations, SWITCH-Asia grant projects, experts

Objectives of the meeting:

The meeting is dedicated to exploring policies and practices aimed at fostering green, circular and low-carbon development in Central Asia. The event will convene representatives from national, regional, and international organizations, creating a dynamic platform for the exchange of valuable experiences and insights.

The conference will delve into critical issues such as material use and climate change, emphasizing the importance of circularity in key sectors like tourism and food, and construction. Discussions will revolve around financing strategies for promoting low-carbon and circular economies, crucial for sustainable development in the region.

Structured as a series of interactive panel discussions, the conference offers an opportunity for participants to share their perspectives and engage in meaningful dialogue. Through this collaborative approach, we aim to highlight synergies and innovative solutions that will facilitate Central Asia towards a more sustainable future.

AGENDA

Time	Content
8:00 – 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 9:00	<p>Welcome and Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guy JANAWAY, Representative of the European Union (DG INTPA, European Union) • Zinaida FADEEVA, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component (PSC) • Didar KARIMSAKOV, Chairman of Management Board, International Green Technologies and Investment Projects Center (ICTIPC), Ministry of the Environment, Kazakhstan
9:00 – 10:30	<p>Setting the Context: Circular Economy for net zero for climate, nature and environment</p> <p>Moderator: Zinaida FADEEVA, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component</p> <p>Keynote presentations (20 min):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government leading by example: Zafar MAKHMUDOV, Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) • Business leading by example: Maksatbek DAMIR UULU, Program Manager, American University of Central Asia <p>High level panel discussion – towards adoption of global best practices (45 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yan CHEN, Advisor of Green Economy and Private Sector Development Programme in Kyrgyzstan (GIZ) - Circular Economy for Central Asia • Thomas THOMAS, ASEAN CSR Network – ASEAN regional circular economy initiatives – policies and business practices • Olivier LEONARD, Principal Procurement Specialist, ADB Uzbekistan (TBC) • William HYNES, World Bank (TBC) • Zafar MAKHMUDOV, Zafar MAKHMUDOV, Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) • Maksatbek DAMIR UULU, Program Manager, American University of Central Asia <p><i>Interaction with audience</i></p>
10:30 – 10:50	Coffee Break
10:50 – 11:45	Connecting the dots – Climate action through decoupling development from resource use

	<p>Stage setting remarks (10 mins) –Victor VALIDO, Project Manager, International Resource Panel (IRP)</p> <p>Panel discussion (45 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranga PALLAWALA – SWITCH-Asia PSC • Oyunchimeg AMARTUVSHIN – Senior Programme Development Officer (Central Asia), Global Green Growth Institute • Victor VALIDO – Project Manager, International Resource Panel 	
11:45 – 12:30	<p>Fireside chat – Doing Business in and for the Circular Economy</p> <p>Moderator: Thomas THOMAS, SWITCH-Asia Circular Economy Expert and CEO ASEAN CSR Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zafar NOROV, ACTED Tajikistan • Rashida SHAKENOVA, Director, KTA and KAGIR • Rene van BERKEL, SWITCH-Asia Circular Economy Expert 	
12:30 – 13:30	<p>Lunch</p>	
13:30 – 14:30	<p>Creating Markets for Circular Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlocking Green Public Procurement (GPP) for Circular Economy (10 mins) – Nurgali RAKHMANOV, SWITCH-Asia Expert • Making Extended Producer Responsibility work for Circular Economy (10 mins) – Thomas LINDHQVIST, Lund University, Sweden • Greening Public Finance as Circular Economy Catalyst (10 mins) – Kathrine THODAY <p>Experiences and reflections from the region – (30 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Didar KARIMSAKOV, Chairman of Management Board, International Green Technologies and Investment Projects Center (ICTIPC), Ministry of the Environment, Kazakhstan • Kamila ZHUMAKANOVA - Ministry of Trade and Integration, Kazakhstan (online) • Dilshod SHARIFI, Head of the International Economic Department, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan (online) 	
14:30 – 15:00	<p>Coffee Break</p>	<p>Kick-off meeting of GPP Technical Advisory in Kazakhstan</p>
15:00 – 15:45	<p>Sectoral Transformations in Tourism</p> <p>This session will explore the triggers for a circular transformation through tourism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maksatbek DAMIR UULU, Program Manager, American University of Central Asia • Zafar NOROV, Regional Project Manager, ACTED 	
15:45 – 16:30	<p>Sectoral Transformations in Buildings and construction</p>	



	<p>The session's focus is on standards as a foundation for achieving circularity in the built environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Florian BERANEK, SWITCH-Asia buildings and circularity expert• Alexandr BELYY, Director, Kazakhstan Green Building Council• Quentin MOREAU, Central Asia Regional Director, GERES• Valeria ORLOVA, Project Manager, CAREC
16:30 – 16:45	Final Reflections and Concluding remarks