



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 21-CP-36-GE-WSP-A-PN2100094-001

Date of Issue	13 October 2021
Project Code	21-CP-36-GE-WSP-A
Title	Workshop on the Circular Economy for the SDGs
Timing and Duration	24–26 November 2021 (three days)
Hosting Country(ies)	Republic of China
Modality	Digital Multicountry
Implementing Organization(s)	China Productivity Center and APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	38
Local Participants	12
Qualifications of Participants	Government officials, policy research officers, senior representatives of industrial associations, productivity professionals, and SME representatives working on industrial policy, environmental protection, sustainability, green growth strategies for the SME and manufacturing sectors, climate change mitigation, innovation, technology upgradation, and resource conservation
Nomination of Participants	All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries
Closing Date for Nominations	10 November 2021

1. Objectives

- a. Understand the circular economy as a sustainability concept to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.
- b. Explore business growth opportunities through the adoption of circular economy approaches.
- c. Share innovative business models and technological experience to transform the existing linear economic model to the circular one.

2. Background

Since the First Industrial Revolution in the 18th century, technological advances, expansion of the scientific knowledge base, and innovations have guided us to the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Globalization and progress in manufacturing techniques have also opened new business avenues, thereby fostering economic growth across the world. Today, when we are facing the COVID-19 pandemic, digital tools and digitization have allowed businesses to stay afloat as widespread travel restrictions and strict social distancing norms are enforced to minimize physical contact.

However, since its inception, industrialization has mainly been based on a linear model of “take-make-waste.” This has led to myriad issues directly impacting the environment negatively through waste generation, pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and climate change. In addition, reliance on limited natural resources as raw material and energy sources, and the absence of end-of-life treatment technologies, have exacerbated the challenges faced by communities and enterprises alike. Businesses need to transform their processes from linear to circular to remain competitive and resilient against the adverse effects of climate change. The transition from the extractive linear model to a circular one also offers economic benefits and opportunities for sustained growth for businesses.

The international community is actively supporting and pursuing sustainable development in a concerted effort. The most prominent is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by all UN members in 2015. At its core are the 17 UN SDGs, which call for urgent action to limit the global average temperature below preindustrial levels. The APO, besides developing and propagating the concept of Green Productivity (GP) for improving quality while enhancing productivity, environmental protection, and social well-being at the organizational level, has intensified efforts to promote the compatibility between GP and the circular economy concept. Some recent work includes a publication on Green Productivity for SDGs in 2020 and organizing a conference on Promoting the Circular Economy in Manufacturing through Green Productivity in 2021. This workshop is a continuation of those endeavors to support and realize sustainable development.

3. Scope, Methodology, and Certificate of Attendance

The duration of each day’s sessions will be around three hours, comprising presentations by experts, group discussions, and other relevant learning methods. The indicative topics of the presentations are:

Day 1:

- The GP concept, framework, and strategies
- Integrating GP with the circular economy approach
- Transforming business to the circular economy model

Day 2:

- Optimizing resources through digitalization
- Promoting the circular economy among SMEs

Day 3:

- Updates by APO member countries on pursuing sustainability
- Case studies and best practices

The detailed program and list of speakers will be provided two weeks prior to the sessions with announcement of the names of the selected participants.

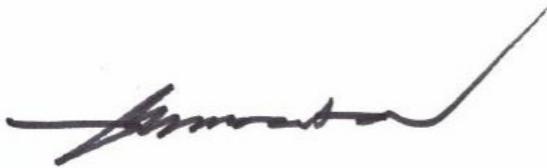
The participants are required to attend all sessions. This full participation is a prerequisite for receiving the APO certificate of attendance.

4. Financial Arrangements

- a. The APO will meet the assignment costs for overseas resource persons.
- b. The host country will meet the costs for a virtual site visit(s), either broadcast live or recorded as applicable.

5. Implementation Procedures

Please refer to the implementation procedures for APO digital multicountry projects circulated with this document.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. AKP Mochtan', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General