

EU-ABC ASEAN Circularity Coalition Webinar on Circularity within the ASEAN Framework

Date: Tuesday, 25th June 2024, 1600-1730hrs (Singapore Time)

Description:

The ASEAN Circularity Coalition is a groundbreaking initiative aimed at promoting sustainable practices, and advancing the principles of circular economy in the ASEAN region. Established by the EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC), it aims to bring together government bodies, businesses, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders to address pressing environmental challenges while fostering economic growth and social development.

The establishment of the ASEAN Circularity Coalition comes at a critical juncture as the world faces escalating crises such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and growing inequality. Recognising the urgent need for action, the coalition aims to lead the transition towards a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

The coalition's mission is to advocate for and implement policies and practices that support a circular economy, where resources are used efficiently, waste is minimised, and sustainable consumption patterns are embraced. By creating a collaborative platform for key players from both the public and private sectors, the coalition will develop and promote comprehensive circularity roadmaps tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities of the ASEAN region.

Key initiatives of the Asia Circularity Coalition include:

1. **Waste Management and Recycling Practices:** Advocating for effective waste management strategies and promoting the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies to minimise waste generation.
2. **Product Design and Production:** Encouraging the integration of eco-design principles into manufacturing processes to maximise resource efficiency and minimise environmental impact.
3. **Sustainable Consumption:** Educating consumers and businesses about the importance of sustainable consumption patterns and promoting the adoption of circular business models. The coalition's efforts will be guided by the fundamental principles of circularity, including designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems. By embracing these principles, the coalition aims to create a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable future for the ASEAN region.

The principles of circularity have gained significant traction globally as a means to address pressing environmental challenges and move towards sustainable development. The ASEAN region, with its diverse economies and growing demand for resources, has recognized the importance of embracing circular economy approaches to ensure long-term resilience and sustainability.

This webinar is the first of its kind undertaken by the ASEAN Circularity Coalition, whereby ASEAN, with its burgeoning population and rapidly growing economy faces pressing challenges in waste management and resource scarcity. Embracing the circular economy presents a unique opportunity for all stakeholders – the government and the private sector in particular – to address these issues sustainably.

The objectives of this webinar are to:

1. Explore the ASEAN framework and initiatives related to circularity and sustainability, as well as current challenges.
2. Highlight the role of the private sector, in supporting the circular economy agenda in the region.
3. Showcase successful circular economy projects and best practices.

The webinar aims at facilitating a dialogue between ASEAN representatives, circular economy experts, and industry leaders to identify opportunities and address challenges in implementing circularity.

Programme

Webinar on Circularity within the ASEAN Framework Tuesday, 25 June 2024	
16:00-16:10	<p>Opening Remarks and introduction</p> <p>Brief introduction of the ASEAN circularity coalition, as well as the coalition’s plans to support ASEAN’s efforts towards sustainability integration. Brief overview of the purpose of the webinar and the importance of collaboration and harmonization on environmental issues at the ASEAN level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chris Humphrey, Executive Director, EU-ASEAN Business Council
16:10-16:25	<p>Keynote address:</p> <p>ASEAN representative to share its goals and vision to advance a circularity policy framework to advance the economic agenda as well as to foster further integration for the ASEAN economies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Satvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community
16:25-17:15	<p>Panel discussion:</p> <p>Circularity in ASEAN - Aligning a Regional Framework: best practices in the public and private sector aimed at strengthening cooperation.</p> <p>Suggested panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member of the ASEAN Circularity Coalition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o To provide business perspective of circular practices implemented, challenges companies face in ensuring they meet circularity targets (internal and nationally set) - Representative from the Asian Development Bank <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o To provide insights into financing infrastructure in ASEAN countries to encourage circularity - Representative from the ASEAN Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o To share learnings from the platform, ASEAN perspectives on circularity, current gaps and solutions, importance of public-private partnership - Representative from European Institute of Innovation for Sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o To share best practices from Europe and partner companies, learnings for ASEAN (with understanding that not all solutions may be workable for this region) <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liyana Othman, Advocacy Director, EU-ASEAN Business Council.
17:15-17:25	Q&A session
17:25-17:30	<p>Closing remarks:</p> <p>Summary of key points discussed during the webinar. Agreement on potential follow-up actions and next steps for ongoing collaboration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chris Humphrey, EU-ASEAN Business Council