



switchasia



EU SWITCH-Asia Programme: Scaling up SMEs Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Actions

18 March, 3:30pm to 6:00pm (GMT+8/ Manila Local Time)

Background

The EU's development policy promotes the transformation towards an inclusive green and circular economy that generates growth, creates jobs, and helps reduce poverty through sustainable management of natural capital. Addressing this challenge requires a broad set of interventions that go beyond government action to involve the private sector, in particular SMEs. To that end, enabling conditions are created that 'correct' markets and governance imperfections and failures, and provide suitable economic incentives to the economic actors (producers, consumers) to pursue a green, clean, low-carbon economy path, through responsible and sustainable consumption and production/SCP.

The EU is committed to building greener and more sustainable societies and economies that are socially just. This requires a great transition in how we live and work, consume and produce. The EU Green Deal, adopted by the European Commission in December 2019, is becoming increasingly relevant not just for domestic strategies, but also for our international partnerships. We are committed to work hand-in-hand with partner countries and organisations to achieve our shared goals.

The coronavirus pandemic has again demonstrated that it is urgently necessary to prioritise SCP. Our current consumption and production patterns are unsustainable, and among the root causes of ecosystems destructions and climate change, resulting in disruptive consequences for personal health, economies and societies. Given the enormous funding currently mobilized to tackle economic recovery, it is required to use this window of opportunity for transformative change along the value chain. SWITCH-Asia is a programme to strengthen this thinking and implementation. By enabling the sharing of knowledge and developing local capacity for responsible business practices, SWITCH-Asia can support local companies and industries, mostly SMEs, to more easily access the supply chains and contribute to the value chains which seek to establish greener and fairer outcomes within the systems.

Through the SWITCH-Asia Programme, the EU has been strongly committed to work closely with our partners in the region to strengthen sustainable consumption and production policy and practice in various sectors. The programme has targeted SMEs and entrepreneurs, as they are the backbone of the region's economies.

Objectives of the Session and Benefits

In Asia, SCP-relevant SMEs or technologies are often excluded from formal financing through banks or investors. They need to search for alternative financing options – often unsuccessfully. This hinders the transition to more sustainable modes of consumption and production.

The replication and scaling-up effect of project results together with access to finance and public-private investments for green products, services and technologies will be key elements within the programme in the next years, as well as for any partner programme aiming at promoting and delivering green economy and green recovery towards sustainability, for a greater impact in the region in the right direction, for its resources and ecosystems and for its people and shared prosperity.

Working at all levels, by bringing in the EU experience, by providing support to Governments and by implementing local projects in support to SMEs in various development sectors, the EU SWITCH-Asia programme provides green recovery solutions. Its experience demonstrates the importance of systemic and Multistakeholder approaches to respond to today's challenges, which require inclusive policies and innovative actions as well as appropriate resources to be resolved.

In order to ensure a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities for enabling SMEs to become effective engines for a greener value chain and a green recovery, this workshop will focus on two key aspects, two sides of sustainability coin, the innovative SCP solutions by SMEs and the needed financing for SMEs to scale up their activities for an impactful delivery.

Agenda

(GMT+8/ Manila Local Time)

Time	Activity
Moderator: Arab Hoballah, EU SWITCH-Asia	
3:30pm – 3:40pm	The EU Green Deal and SWITCH-Asia: how to accelerate green solutions in SMEs and support the green recovery Jean-Louis VILLE, Acting-Director for Middle East, Asia and Pacific at Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission
3:40pm – 3:50pm	ADB, policies for green recovery and the support to SMEs Ms. Preeti Bhandari, Director, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management Division, ADB
3:50pm – 4:50pm	Panel 1: SCP Solutions by SMEs, Innovation and Collaboration for Green Recovery Moderator: Loraine Gatlabayan - Mr. Oliver Greenfield, Convenor, Green Economy Coalition - Dr. Giulia Ajmone Marsan, Director on Strategy and Partnership, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) - Mr. Mirko Zürker, SEED Green Recovery Specialist and Head of SEED Asia - Mr. Qazi Sabir, Project Manager for the EU SWITCH-Asia Project - Implementation of Resource and Energy Efficient Technologies in the Sugar Sector of Pakistan (IREET), Pakistan (TBC) - Mr. Hugo Agostinho, Project Lead for the EU SWITCH-Asia Project - Switch to Solar Cambodia (TBC) - Mr. Guy Halpern, Policy Analyst at the Environment Directorate, OECD
4:50pm– 5:50pm	Panel 2: Financing for SMEs, Innovative Mechanisms for Green Entrepreneurship Moderator: Cosima Stahr

	• Ms. Laure Blanchard-Brunac, EDFI (TBC) • Mr. Sanjoy Sanyal. SME Finance Expert • Ms. Melanie Kengen, EU INTPA Investment Team (TBC) • Mr. Guntur Sutiyono, Indonesia Country Lead, ClimateWorks Australia • Mr. Uli Volz, SOAS (TBC)
5:50pm– 6:00pm	Outcomes and Conclusions <i>by Arab Hoballah, EU SWITCH-Asia</i>