



Call for Applications: 2021 SWITCH-Asia Leadership Academy on Technology for A Circular Economy

6-8 September 2021, Online
Application Deadline: 23 August 2021

What is SWITCH-Asia?

The overall objective of the EU funded SWITCH-Asia programme is to promote sustainable and inclusive growth, contribute to the economic prosperity and poverty reduction in Asia and to a transition towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient and circular economy.

The Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC) implemented by UNEP is responsible for organising the Leadership Academy, a flagship activity of the SWITCH-Asia programme, working closely with selected young professionals from Asia to shift mindsets towards sustainable consumption and production practices. Previous academies were organised in 2018 in Bangkok and 2019 in China to introduce the fundamental concept of circular economy. In 2020, the Academy dived deep into how to communicate about the circular economy, showcasing case studies from both Asia and Europe. This year, SWITCH-Asia RPAC sees the need to touch base on technology and innovation. Technological advancements across sectors have catalysed circular business models, driving new processes, new communication channels and operational efficiencies that promote achievement of circular economy principles and approaches through enabling the decoupling of resource use from economic growth across industries.

For more information about the SWITCH-Asia 2021 Academy please visit [here](#).

What are the Objectives of the Academy?

The 2021 Leadership Academy focuses on **Technology for Circular Economy** to enhance technology innovation and integrated solutions to globally achieve the carbon neutrality goal. Main purpose of this Leadership Academy is to shift mindsets and inspire action on innovative green technologies towards circular economy, to support learning about technologies and innovations contributing to Circular Economy across sectors and along the lifecycle of products and services, as well as to showcase innovative practices. The Leadership Academy will also strengthen the network of young professionals across Asia.

As a main component of the 2021 Leadership Academy, SWITCH-Asia RPAC will be organising in collaboration with Tongji University, a training on Circular Technology, which will unfold through three-day virtual sessions, bringing frontiers insights and valuable cases of green technology innovation for a circular economy.

Why should I join?

The Academy stimulates the sharing of practical technologies and green solutions through cases studies and stories from Asia and all over the world, including:

- Green energy technologies, water saving technologies, new materials, integrated practices in the region and information technologies as enablers of a more efficient integrated knowledge-sharing economy.
- An analytical and consumer behavioural perspective to promote green technology innovation in the business sector.
- The possibility of being connected to a growing network of young professionals working and promoting the circular economy in Asia.

Who attends this Academy?

The Leadership Academy on Circular Technology will be open for young participants from countries in Asia who are young professionals representing different sectors such as private sector, academia, government and NGOs.

- Actively working on frontiers technologies, innovation and green technologies.
- Strong interest in potentially adopting circular technologies under their current professional responsibilities.

The Modules of the Training

The Academy will be conducted virtually across 3 days. There is after class time designed for group assignments. The Academy will cover the following topics:

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|--------|---|
| Unit 1 | Introduction to Circular Economy and the Role of Technology |
| Unit 2 | Technology for a Resource-efficient Circular Economy |
| Unit 3 | Technology for a Consumer empowered Circular Economy |
| Unit 4 | Unlocking New Value for a Circular Economy: Circular Technology Applications and Case Studies |
| Unit 5 | Looking Forward: Technology Trends and Policy Perspective |

Each Module will consist of relevant class exercises.

How to apply?

Candidates meeting the following criteria are encouraged to apply for the 2021 SWITCH-Asia Leadership Academy:

- Citizens or nationals of one of the following countries: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
- A university degree in environment, development, engineering, policy, economics, information technology or relevant discipline. Higher education is an advantage.
- At least 2 years of working experience.



To apply for the Leadership Academy on Circular Economy programme, participants should:

- Submit the online application form at <https://forms.office.com/r/AKQt5N798Y> no later than **23 August 2021**.
- Email the following documents to **Ms. Shuzhi Hou** at shuzhihou@tongji.edu.cn with a copy to **Ms. Lixia Zheng** at lixia.zheng@un.org, no later than **23 August 2021** (Subject of the Email: SWITCH-Asia Application+Full Name)
 - (1) A cover letter (1-3 pages) describing your motivation to join this programme, explaining a topic on circular economy in which you are currently working on and how you plan to apply the knowledge learned from this Academy to your work (Name the file as: Cover Letter+Full Name)
 - (2) One page CV (Name the file as: CV+Full Name)
 - (3) Copy of degrees obtained (Name the file as: Degree+Full Name)

Contact

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