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13th ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production

*Climate Resilience through Sustainable Consumption and
Production and Circular Economy for a Sustainable Future*

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The SWITCH-Asia Programme

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Policymakers and sustainability leaders from ASEAN Member States gathered in Seda Hotel, Manila Philippines from 9-11 March 2026 for the [13th ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production \(SCP\)](#) to strengthen regional cooperation and policy leadership on climate action through sustainable consumption, circular economy policies, and resource-efficient economic strategies.

Hosted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines, serving as Chair of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN), the event was organised in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, the EU SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component, the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, and the Hanns Seidel Foundation.

Held under the theme “*Climate Resilience through SCP and Circular Economy for a Sustainable Future*,” the three-day leadership programme provided a platform for policymakers to exchange experiences, policy tools, and innovative approaches to integrating sustainable consumption and production, circular economy practices, and climate strategies.

More than thirty-eight policymakers and experts participated in the event, representing nine ASEAN Member States, alongside representatives from international organisations, development partners, and the private sector. The programme explored how SCP and circular economy policies can accelerate climate mitigation, strengthen adaptation, and support resilient economic development across the ASEAN+3 region.

Sessions focused on practical policy instruments such as:

- **Green Public Procurement (GPP)** as a tool to drive sustainable markets;
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** frameworks to reduce waste and strengthen circular value chains;
- **Innovative business models and green financing mechanisms** supporting low-carbon and resource-efficient economies;
- **Regional collaboration and knowledge exchange** among ASEAN policymakers.

These discussions highlighted how policy alignment between SCP, circular economy, and climate strategies can help countries advance commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production and SDG 13 on Climate Action.

Participants highlighted that circular economy approaches can contribute significantly to climate action by reducing material extraction, minimising waste, improving resource efficiency, and lowering greenhouse gas emissions throughout product life cycles and supply chains.

The event also reflects the Philippines' leadership in strengthening regional environmental cooperation as part of its ASEAN Chairmanship in 2026. By advancing dialogue on sustainable consumption and production and circular economy policies, the leadership programme reinforced ASEAN+3 collaboration in addressing climate change and accelerating the transition toward resource-efficient, low-carbon, and climate-resilient economies across the region.

Highlights

- The programme reaffirmed that circular economy and sustainable consumption and production are essential to effective climate action, particularly through addressing material use and lifecycle impacts beyond energy systems.
- Policy fragmentation and limited institutional coordination continue to be key barriers, constraining the integration and implementation of SCP, CE and climate policies.
- Green Public Procurement stands out as a practical and scalable instrument to translate policy into market demand, with increasing evidence of cost-neutral implementation when lifecycle approaches are applied.
- Financing remains a critical constraint, highlighting the need for blended finance, de-risking mechanisms and development of bankable project pipelines to mobilise private capital. In addition to the blended finance solutions equally critical is a stable and predictable regulatory environment that actively incentivises and de-risks investment in circular economy models, products, and services.
- Private sector engagement is still limited, pointing to the need for stronger policy signals, incentives and improved market readiness for circular solutions.
- There is strong demand for enhanced regional cooperation, particularly in harmonising standards, sharing tools and developing regional markets for circular products and secondary materials.
- Overall, the programme confirmed the need for a systemic approach combining policy alignment, market-based instruments, financing and stakeholder engagement.

Summary

The first day of the programme focused on establishing the conceptual and policy linkages between SCP, circular economy, and climate action. Presentations highlighted the critical role of material efficiency in mitigating climate change, noting that current production and consumption patterns often reinforce emissions and resource depletion. The discussions introduced the concept of a “vicious cycle,” whereby climate solutions that do not consider material use may inadvertently increase emissions. Participants explored methodologies for integrating circular economy principles into climate policies, including technical mitigation approaches that quantify emissions reduction potential and policy-based approaches that assess coherence across regulatory frameworks. Through interactive group work, participants identified common barriers to integration, including fragmented policy frameworks, limited institutional coordination, insufficient data on material flows, low awareness among policymakers, and weak stakeholder engagement processes. Recommendations emphasized the need for harmonized policies, enhanced inter-ministerial collaboration, improved data systems, and stronger capacity building to support the integration of circular economy into climate strategies.

The second day of the programme shifted focus toward practical tools and implementation mechanisms. A key presentation on cost-neutral Green Public Procurement (GPP) challenged the perception that sustainable procurement necessarily entails higher costs, introducing methodologies such as Total Cost of Ownership (TCO), lifecycle costing, energy performance contracting, product-as-a-service models, and demand aggregation. Case studies from multiple countries demonstrated that these approaches can achieve cost savings over time while delivering environmental and social benefits. Discussions on GPP implementation across ASEAN revealed that while many countries have established policy frameworks, implementation remains uneven, particularly at the subnational level, and there is a lack of standardized methodologies to measure progress. Participants highlighted the need for regional coordination, development of practical tools and guidelines, and enhanced knowledge sharing to scale up GPP adoption.

Further sessions explored financing mechanisms for circular economy and climate projects, emphasizing the importance of blended finance approaches that combine public and private capital to reduce investment risks and attract private sector participation. Presentations highlighted the role of policy de-risking, regulatory clarity, and financial instruments such as guarantees, concessional finance, and carbon markets in enabling investment. The discussions underscored that while private capital represents the largest potential funding source, it requires stable policy environments and well-prepared, bankable projects to be effectively mobilized. The session on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) examined its role in improving waste management systems and supporting circular economy transitions. Participants discussed challenges related to financing infrastructure, ensuring consistent feedstock supply, and creating stable markets for recycled materials. The importance of harmonizing standards across ASEAN, integrating the informal waste sector, and leveraging digital tools for traceability and monitoring was emphasized, alongside the need for collaboration between governments, industry, and development partners.

The third day focused on peer exchange and identifying pathways for regional collaboration. Participants shared reflections on their national experiences, highlighting the importance of strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing policy alignment, and engaging stakeholders across sectors. Discussions identified key opportunities for regional cooperation, including harmonizing standards and certification systems, developing regional markets for secondary materials, and advancing green public procurement and sustainable lifestyle initiatives. Participants emphasized the value of ASEAN platforms in facilitating knowledge exchange and supporting coordinated action. The programme concluded with a set of recommendations, including strengthening regional policy coherence, enhancing technical assistance and capacity building, developing practical tools and guidelines, mobilizing financing and partnerships, and promoting data sharing and innovation to support SCP and circular economy implementation.

Overall, the programme successfully demonstrated that integrating SCP and circular economy into climate strategies is both necessary and achievable, provided that countries adopt coordinated and holistic approaches that combine policy reform, market-based instruments, and stakeholder engagement. The discussions reinforced the importance of regional collaboration and the role of initiatives such as the EU SWITCH-Asia Programme in supporting ASEAN and ASEAN+3 countries to advance sustainable, circular, and climate-resilient development pathways.

Setting the Stage: Climate Leadership through SCP and Circular Economy

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony of the 13th ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme on SCP set a strong strategic and collaborative tone for the three-day programme, with speakers emphasizing the urgency of integrating SCP and circular economy principles into climate policies and national development strategies.

In her opening remarks, **Ms. Jacqueline A. Caancan**, CESO III, OIC-Assistant Secretary for Environment and the concurrent Director of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of DENR of the Philippines emphasized the country's commitment to advancing sustainable development through integrated

approaches that link climate action with sustainable consumption and production. She highlighted the importance of embedding sustainability principles across government policies, including public procurement systems, waste management strategies, and climate frameworks. Her remarks underscored the need for strong institutional coordination, particularly between national and local governments, to ensure effective implementation. She also stressed the role of partnerships—both regional and international—in supporting capacity building, financing, and knowledge exchange to accelerate the transition toward more sustainable and resilient economies.



Dr. Vong Sok, Head of the Environmental Division of the Sustainable Development Directorate at the ASEAN Secretariat, noted that Circular economy and sustainable consumption and production are tools to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase climate resilience throughout the economy.

He reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to advancing SCP and circular economy as key pillars of regional sustainable development. He highlighted the role of ASEAN frameworks and cooperation mechanisms in supporting member states to integrate sustainability into national policies and economic systems. His remarks emphasized the importance of regional collaboration in addressing shared challenges such as resource efficiency, waste management, and climate change, noting that coordinated efforts can enhance policy coherence and create opportunities for scaling up sustainable solutions across the region. He also underscored the value of platforms such as the Leadership Programme in facilitating dialogue, knowledge sharing, and peer learning among policymakers.

Delivering remarks as Team Leader of the EU SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component, **Dr. Zinaida Fadeeva** highlighted the European Union's continued commitment to supporting ASEAN countries in advancing SCP and circular economy policies. She emphasized that addressing climate change requires going beyond energy systems to consider the role of materials and resource use across value chains. Drawing attention to the growing recognition that material extraction and processing contribute significantly to global emissions and environmental degradation, she stressed the importance of transitioning toward circular systems that promote resource efficiency, waste reduction, and SCP patterns.

She highlighted that: *"Policy instruments such as Green Public Procurement and Extended Producer Responsibility can translate circular economy principles into practical solutions that support both resource efficiency and climate action in Southeast Asia."* She reinforced the role of SWITCH-Asia in providing technical support, facilitating policy dialogue, and strengthening regional cooperation to support implementation on the ground.

In his keynote address, **Atty. Jonas R. Leones**, Chairperson, ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) and Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs of the DENR Philippines, highlighted the broader regional and global context of the programme. He emphasised:

"Climate change is reshaping development priorities across all sectors, posing significant challenges. It requires the deliberate integration of material considerations within climate action through circular economy."



He emphasized that climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution are interconnected challenges that require integrated and systemic solutions. He underscored the importance of aligning national policies with regional and international commitments, while ensuring that sustainability initiatives are inclusive and responsive to local contexts. His remarks also highlighted the Philippines' leadership in advancing environmental governance and its commitment to strengthening ASEAN cooperation on sustainability and climate resilience.

Across all opening remarks, a common theme emerged, which emphasized the need for resource efficiency, CE, and SCP to be embedded in policies, supported by stronger policy coherence, cross-sectoral collaboration, and regional partnerships. They also underscored that this transition offers opportunities for environmental protection, economic growth, innovation, and resilience across ASEAN and ASEAN+3 countries.

Session 1: Introduction of Participants and Introduction to the Leadership Programme

Session 1 opened with participant introductions through a tour de table, fostering initial engagement and networking among ASEAN+3 representatives. This was followed by an overview of the 13th ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme, outlining its objectives, structure, and expected outcomes, with a focus on strengthening understanding and collaboration on SCP, circular economy, and climate action. The session, moderated by Loraine Gatlabayan, set the foundation for the programme by aligning participants on its goals and creating a collaborative learning environment.





Session 2: Taking Stock – SCP, Circular Economy and Climate Action



Session 2, led by **Mr. Ranga Pallawala** from the SWITCH-Asia PSC, provided a comprehensive overview of the current status and linkages between SCP, circular economy, and climate action, setting the foundation for subsequent policy discussions. The presentation highlighted that while climate strategies have traditionally focused on energy systems, there is increasing recognition that material use and production systems are significant drivers of emissions, environmental degradation, and resource pressures. It emphasized that integrating SCP and circular economy approaches into climate policies is essential to address these systemic challenges and achieve long-term sustainability goals.

Mr. Pallawala underscored the importance of material efficiency, lifecycle thinking, and circular business models in reducing emissions and enhancing resource productivity. He noted that strategies such as reducing material consumption, extending product lifecycles, and improving recycling systems can contribute significantly to both climate mitigation and resilience building. The presentation also highlighted progress at the regional level, including the development of ASEAN frameworks and national policies, while identifying persistent gaps in implementation, data availability, and policy coherence.

Country discussions that followed reflected diverse levels of progress across ASEAN Member States. Participants shared experiences in advancing SCP and circular economy policies, including efforts to integrate these approaches into national development plans, climate strategies, and sectoral policies. Countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines highlighted existing frameworks and regulatory measures, including circular economy roadmaps and EPR systems, while others noted ongoing efforts to develop strategies and build institutional capacity.

These countries emphasized the importance of technical support, capacity building, and knowledge exchange to support policy development and implementation. Across all country discussions, several common challenges were identified. These included fragmented institutional responsibilities, where SCP, climate change, and circular economy policies are managed by different ministries with limited coordination; insufficient data and monitoring systems to track material flows and lifecycle impacts; and limited awareness and technical capacity among policymakers and stakeholders to operationalize circular economy concepts.

In conclusion, Session 2 highlighted that while integrating circular economy into climate policies presents complex challenges, it also offers significant opportunities to enhance emissions reduction, resource efficiency, and economic resilience. Achieving this integration requires strong institutional coordination,

enabling policy environments, improved data systems, and sustained stakeholder engagement, supported by regional collaboration and technical assistance. The session reinforced the need for a systemic and holistic approach that moves beyond sectoral interventions to fully embed circular economy principles into climate strategies across ASEAN+3 countries.

Session 3: Breaking Silos – Integrating SCP, Circular Economy, and Climate Policy



Session 3, moderated by **Mr. Ranga Pallawala** focused on addressing policy fragmentation and promoting integrated approaches to align SCP, CE, and climate policies, particularly within climate action plans and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In his presentation, Ranga Pallawala emphasized that one of the key barriers to effective climate action is the persistence of sectoral silos, where policies related to energy, industry, agriculture, and waste are developed and implemented independently. He highlighted that circular economy provides a framework to connect these sectors by focusing on material flows, value chains, and lifecycle thinking, thereby enabling more coherent and impactful climate strategies. He also underscored the importance of embedding SCP and circular economy principles into NDCs as a means of strengthening both mitigation and adaptation outcomes.

The session included case discussions and a group exercise where participants analyzed national policy frameworks to identify gaps in coherence across sectors. Country examples illustrated both progress and challenges in breaking silos. Thailand shared how its Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) model promotes cross-sector integration by linking agriculture, industry, and environmental management, although coordination across ministries remains a challenge. Indonesia highlighted efforts to integrate circular economy into its national development planning and climate strategies, particularly in priority sectors such as plastics and food systems, while noting the need for stronger alignment between sectoral policies and implementation mechanisms. The Philippines discussed the integration of circular economy principles through policies such as the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act, while recognizing the need to better connect waste management, industrial policy, and climate objectives. Participants from Vietnam, Lao PDR, and Cambodia noted that while policy frameworks are emerging, institutional coordination and technical capacity remain key constraints.

The group exercise revealed common challenges across countries, including limited inter-ministerial coordination, overlapping mandates, inconsistent policy objectives, and insufficient data to support integrated decision-making. Participants also identified the need for stronger governance mechanisms, such as inter-agency coordination platforms and integrated policy planning processes, to support alignment across sectors. The discussions emphasized that breaking silos requires not only policy reform but also institutional change, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement, including the involvement of the private sector and local governments.

In conclusion, Session 3 highlighted that achieving effective integration of SCP, circular economy, and climate policy requires a systemic and cross-sectoral approach that addresses both policy and institutional barriers. The session reinforced the importance of embedding circular economy principles into climate strategies, strengthening coordination across sectors, and leveraging regional cooperation and knowledge exchange to support countries in developing more coherent and effective policy frameworks.

Session 4: Business Engagement and Advancing Circular Economy in ASEAN



In Session 4, **Loraine Gatlabayan**, representing the EU SWITCH-Asia PSC, presented the efforts in advancing SCP circular economy transitions in regional and national policies, emphasizing that while ASEAN has made significant progress in developing policy frameworks for SCP and circular economy, there remains a critical need to translate these policies into concrete action. She noted the challenges such as limited awareness, weak policy incentives, and the percept

She highlighted the establishment of the ASEAN Circular Economy Business Alliance (ACEBA) as a regional platform to facilitate collaboration among businesses, policymakers, and stakeholders, and to promote peer learning and the scaling up of circular solutions across priority sectors. The presentation further showcased a portfolio of business case studies demonstrating tangible economic and environmental benefits of circular practices, reinforcing the message that circular economy can drive competitiveness, innovation, and resilience. She introduced the Principles-Based Framework for Circular Economy Business Action of ACEBA, designed to provide practical guidance for businesses to integrate circular practices into their operations, value chains, and investment decisions.

She emphasized the importance of creating an enabling ecosystem that supports business engagement through coherent policies, access to finance, capacity building, and multi-stakeholder partnerships. She also highlighted that accelerating the transition toward circular economy in ASEAN requires stronger alignment between policy frameworks and business action, supported by regional cooperation and platforms such as ACEBA, with SWITCH-Asia continuing to play a catalytic role in facilitating this process.

Country interventions demonstrated a range of approaches to engaging the private sector in circular economy initiatives. Indonesia highlighted its efforts to mobilize businesses through its national circular economy roadmap, with a focus on priority sectors such as plastics, food systems, and manufacturing. The country emphasized the importance of partnerships with industry associations and platforms such as ACEBA to strengthen business engagement, particularly among small and medium-sized enterprises. Indonesia also noted ongoing efforts to align business practices with national sustainability targets while promoting innovation and circular business models.

Thailand shared its experience in integrating circular economy principles into its broader Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model, which actively involves the private sector in advancing sustainable industries. The country highlighted initiatives to promote resource efficiency, sustainable production, and circular value chains, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism. Thailand emphasized the importance of strong policy alignment, incentives, and partnerships with businesses to scale up circular economy practices.

The Philippines highlighted the role of regulatory frameworks, particularly the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act, in driving private sector accountability for plastic waste management. The country noted that EPR serves as a key mechanism for engaging producers in circular practices, while also creating opportunities for investment in recycling infrastructure and innovation. The Philippines also emphasized the importance of supporting businesses, especially SMEs, through capacity building and awareness raising to enable effective participation in circular economy initiatives. Other countries, including Vietnam, Lao PDR, and Cambodia, shared emerging efforts to strengthen private sector engagement in circular economy. Countries noted that while progress is being made, private sector engagement remains at an early stage in many contexts, requiring sustained support and targeted interventions.

Across all country interventions, several common challenges were identified. These include limited access to finance, particularly for SMEs; lack of clear and consistent policy signals; insufficient technical capacity and awareness among businesses; and challenges related to market readiness, such as limited demand for circular products and services. Participants also highlighted the need for standardized definitions, metrics, and certification systems to support the scaling up of circular practices and ensure transparency and accountability.

In summary, the session highlighted the importance of public-private collaboration and platforms such as ACEBA in facilitating dialogue, partnerships, and knowledge sharing, with development partners playing a key role in providing technical and financial support. It concluded that while progress has been made, stronger enabling ecosystems—through improved policies, financing, capacity building, and partnerships—are needed to align public and private efforts and accelerate the transition to circular and climate-resilient economies in ASEAN+3.

Session 5: Implementation of Climate Policies through Sustainable/Green Public Procurement (SPP/GPP) at the Decentralized Level



Session 5 focused on the role of sustainable and green public procurement (SPP/GPP) as a practical policy instrument to support the implementation of climate policies, with particular emphasis on decentralized governance and local-level action. The session highlighted that public procurement represents a significant share of government expenditure and therefore offers strong potential to drive market transformation toward environmentally sustainable products, services, and infrastructure. At the same time, it emphasized that effective implementation at the subnational and local government levels is critical to translating national climate and sustainability commitments into tangible outcomes.

The interactive panel discussion, moderated by **Ms. Elodie Maria-Sube** of SWITCH-Asia PSC, brought together perspectives from government, international organizations, and regional experience. **Ms. Rowena Candice Ruiz**, Executive Director of the Government Procurement Policy Board of the Philippines, highlighted

the importance of institutionalizing sustainable procurement within legal and regulatory frameworks, while ensuring that procurement systems remain transparent, efficient, and accessible. She emphasized that integrating sustainability into procurement requires clear guidelines, standardized criteria, and continuous capacity building, particularly at the local level where implementation challenges are most pronounced.

Ms. Moeko Saito-Jensen, representing the UNDP EU Green Economy Programme in the Philippines, highlighted the role of development partners in supporting SPP implementation, including through technical assistance, pilot projects, and capacity development. She emphasized the importance of demonstrating practical solutions at the local level to build confidence among government agencies and suppliers, and to create replicable models that can be scaled up. Her remarks also underscored the need to link procurement with broader green economy initiatives, including sustainable infrastructure and circular economy approaches.

Providing a regional perspective, **Mr. Chanon Chamnankit** from Thailand's Ministry of Finance shared insights on the implementation of Thailand's Green Public Procurement (GPP) Framework, which aligns procurement practices with national environmental targets set by relevant ministries. He explained that the framework covers procurement of goods, construction, and services, with a focus on promoting environmentally friendly products and materials across all categories. He also highlighted the importance of monitoring systems and data collection to track GPP implementation, as well as the role of pilot initiatives, such as those undertaken with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, in supporting scale-up to other local authorities. His intervention emphasized the importance of shared ownership and partnerships among stakeholders to ensure the success of green procurement initiatives.

Across the panel discussion, several common challenges were identified, including limited technical capacity at the local level, lack of awareness among procurement officials, insufficient availability of certified sustainable products, and difficulties in balancing cost considerations with sustainability objectives. Participants also highlighted the need for harmonized standards, clear policy guidance, and stronger coordination between national and local governments. At the same time, the discussion reinforced that sustainable public procurement does not necessarily lead to higher costs when lifecycle costing and long-term benefits are considered.

In conclusion, Session 5 demonstrated that sustainable and green public procurement is a powerful and practical tool for implementing climate policies, particularly when effectively operationalized at the decentralized level. The session highlighted the importance of strengthening institutional frameworks, building local capacity, enhancing market readiness, and fostering partnerships among governments, businesses, and development partners. It reinforced that scaling up SPP across ASEAN requires coordinated efforts, knowledge sharing, and continued support to ensure that procurement systems contribute effectively to low-carbon, resource-efficient, and climate-resilient development pathways.

Tools for Climate and Resource Efficiency Action: GPP, EPR and Business Innovation

Summary of Day 1 – Presented by Raquel (DENR Philippines)

Ms. Raquel Smith Ortega of the Climate Change Service, DENR Philippines provided a synthesis of Day 1, highlighting the key messages and learning points across sessions. She emphasized that the discussions established a strong foundation by framing SCP and CE as essential components of climate action, moving beyond the traditional focus on energy to include materials, resource use, and production systems. The sessions underscored that addressing climate change requires a systems approach, integrating policies across sectors and value chains.

She highlighted that presentations and country exchanges demonstrated both progress and challenges across ASEAN, particularly in integrating SCP and circular economy into climate policies and national strategies. Key gaps identified included policy fragmentation, limited coordination, and insufficient data,

while opportunities lie in strengthening regional collaboration, enhancing policy coherence, and engaging stakeholders more effectively. Rachel concluded that Day 1 set the stage for deeper discussions by reinforcing the need for integrated, cross-sectoral approaches and stronger alignment between policy frameworks and implementation to advance climate-resilient and resource-efficient economies.



Session 6: Cost-Neutral Sustainable Public Procurement for Climate Change Goals



Session 6, led by resource person **Mr. Sanjay Kumar**, GPP Senior Expert, SWITCH-Asia PSC, focused on demonstrating how sustainable public procurement (SPP) can be implemented in a cost-neutral manner while supporting climate and circular economy objectives. In his presentation, Mr. Kumar focused on how Green Public Procurement (GPP) can be implemented as a cost-effective and scalable tool to support climate action and circular economy objectives. He challenged the common perception that sustainable procurement is more expensive, demonstrating that when approaches such as Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) and lifecycle costing are applied, GPP can deliver long-term cost savings alongside environmental benefits. The presentation highlighted practical mechanisms including energy performance contracting, product-as-a-service models, and demand aggregation, which enable governments to reduce upfront costs while improving resource efficiency and sustainability outcomes.

He also emphasized the importance of strategic procurement planning and market engagement, noting that governments can play a catalytic role in shaping markets by creating demand for sustainable products and services. Drawing on international examples, the presentation illustrated how GPP can drive innovation, improve energy and resource efficiency, and support the transition to circular economy systems. Sanjay Kumar underscored that successful implementation requires capacity building, standardized tools and

criteria, and strong institutional support, particularly at the subnational level. Overall, the presentation highlighted GPP as a practical, financially viable, and high-impact policy instrument for advancing SCP and climate objectives.

The moderated group discussions provided an opportunity for participants to share country experiences and practical challenges in implementing sustainable procurement. Countries highlighted varying levels of progress, with some having established policy frameworks and guidelines, while others are in earlier stages of adoption. Common challenges identified included limited technical capacity among procurement officers, lack of standardized tools and criteria, insufficient availability of certified green products, and difficulties in applying lifecycle costing in practice. Participants also noted constraints at the subnational level, where implementation often depends on local capacities and resources.

At the same time, countries shared emerging good practices, including pilot initiatives, sector-specific procurement guidelines, and efforts to integrate sustainability criteria into existing procurement systems. The discussions underscored the importance of capacity building, clear policy guidance, market readiness, and knowledge sharing to support implementation. Overall, Session 6 highlighted that cost-neutral sustainable public procurement is both feasible and impactful, provided that governments adopt strategic approaches, strengthen institutional capacity, and foster collaboration across stakeholders to advance climate and circular economy goals.

Session 7: Regional Synergy on Green Public Procurement (GPP)



Mr. Sanjay Kumar's presentation highlighted the importance of strengthening regional synergy on Green Public Procurement (GPP) in ASEAN to accelerate sustainable consumption and production and climate action. He emphasized that while several ASEAN countries have made progress in developing GPP policies, implementation remains fragmented, and greater alignment is needed to scale impact. He outlined the benefits of regional cooperation, including harmonized standards, shared tools and methodologies, and coordinated market signals, which can help create economies of scale and improve access to sustainable products and services.

The presentation also identified key priorities for advancing GPP in the region, including capacity building for procurement officials, development of practical guidelines and monitoring systems, and integration of lifecycle costing approaches. Sanjay Kumar stressed that regional collaboration can support countries at different stages of implementation, facilitate knowledge exchange, and strengthen institutional capacities. Overall, he positioned GPP as a strategic policy instrument that, when aligned regionally, can drive market transformation and contribute to low-carbon, resource-efficient, and circular economies across ASEAN.

The interactive discussion consisted of **Mr. Meng Eang Taing**, Director of Department of Green Economy, General Directorate of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Environment Cambodia, **Mr. Wandi Try Karya Utama** from the Environmental Control Agency of Indonesia and **Mr. Nakhalin Vorasarn** Deputy Director of Planning and Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Environment Lao PDR. and moderated discussions, led by Sanjay Kumar, explored practical steps at both national and regional levels. At the national level, participants highlighted the need for clearer policy frameworks, standardized criteria, capacity building for procurement officers, and stronger monitoring systems. At the regional level, discussions emphasized the importance of harmonizing standards, developing common tools and guidelines, facilitating knowledge sharing, and strengthening collaboration among ASEAN Member States. **Dr. Nam So**, Senior Environment Officer, ASEAN Secretariat, provided feedback on the document, emphasizing the need for a practical guideline to support national implementation and harmonization. They highlighted the importance of consultation across sectors and the need for clearer objectives and terminology. The discussion also touched on the challenges faced by member states in implementing GPP, including a lack of expertise and market readiness for green products. The session concluded that enhanced regional coordination can help address common challenges especially in supporting the implementation of the ASEAN SCP Framework, create economies of scale, and support the effective implementation of GPP as a driver for sustainable and climate-resilient development.

In conclusion, Session 7 focused on strengthening regional cooperation and alignment on Green Public Procurement (GPP) across ASEAN, highlighting it as a key mechanism to advance sustainable consumption and production and climate goals. The session introduced current developments in GPP within ASEAN and explored a “way forward” for scaling and harmonizing approaches across countries. It emphasized that while many Member States have initiated GPP policies, progress remains uneven, and greater regional synergy is needed to accelerate implementation and maximize impact.

Session 8: Market Transformation for Climate Resilience

Mr. Ranga Pallawala’s presentation highlighted the importance of market transformation as a critical pathway to achieving climate resilience, emphasizing that policy frameworks alone are insufficient without corresponding shifts in investment and market behavior. He underscored the need to mobilize green finance, carbon markets, and private sector investment to support the transition toward low-carbon and resource-efficient value chains. The presentation emphasized that aligning financial flows with sustainability objectives is essential to scale up circular economy and SCP solutions.

He also highlighted key enablers for market transformation, including clear policy signals, regulatory frameworks, and incentives that reduce risks and attract investment. Ranga stressed the importance of developing bankable project pipelines, strengthening collaboration between governments, financial institutions, and businesses, and integrating sustainability into value chains. Overall, the presentation positioned market transformation as a systemic process that requires coordinated action to unlock investments and accelerate the transition toward climate-resilient and circular economies.

Discussions highlighted the importance of mobilizing both public and private finance, including the use of blended finance mechanisms, carbon pricing, and innovative financial instruments to de-risk investments and attract capital. Participants also emphasized the need to strengthen policy frameworks, improve market incentives, and build pipelines of bankable projects, particularly in key sectors such as agriculture, industry, and waste. The session concluded that coordinated efforts across governments, financial institutions, and businesses are essential to drive market transformation and accelerate the transition toward sustainable and climate-resilient economies.



In summary, Session 8 focused on market transformation as a key enabler of climate resilience, highlighting the role of green financing, carbon markets, and investments in sustainable value chains. Through an expert dialogue moderated by Ranga Pallawala, the session emphasized that achieving large-scale impact requires shifting market systems to support low-carbon, resource-efficient, and climate-resilient production and consumption patterns.

Session 9: Hybrid Financing Models for ASEAN's EPR Infrastructure – Detailed Discussion



The panel discussion, moderated by **Mr. Sachin Joshi** of SWITCH-Asia PSC, provided an in-depth exploration of how hybrid financing models can support the development and scaling of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) infrastructure across ASEAN. The discussion brought together perspectives from development finance and private sector implementation, highlighting both strategic and operational considerations for financing circular economy systems.

Ms. Christine P. Chan from the Asian Development Bank emphasized the importance of blended finance in addressing the financing gap for waste management and EPR systems. She highlighted that large-scale infrastructure investments—such as recycling facilities, waste collection systems, and material recovery facilities—require significant upfront capital, which is often beyond the capacity of public budgets alone. She stressed that development finance institutions can play a catalytic role by de-risking investments, providing concessional financing, and supporting governments in structuring projects that are attractive to private investors. Ms. Chan also underscored the importance of policy and regulatory clarity, noting that investors require predictable frameworks, clear mandates, and enforceable EPR schemes to ensure long-term returns. She further highlighted the need to develop bankable project pipelines, supported by robust data and feasibility assessments, to unlock financing at scale.

Ms. Stefanie Beiten from PCX Solutions provided a private sector perspective, focusing on the practical implementation of EPR systems, particularly in the Philippines. She highlighted that while EPR policies are increasingly being adopted, one of the key challenges is ensuring financial sustainability and operational efficiency. She emphasized that EPR schemes must be designed to ensure cost recovery, with clear mechanisms for producer contributions and transparent use of funds. Ms. Beiten also pointed out the importance of building trust among stakeholders, including producers, waste management companies, and government agencies, to ensure effective collaboration. She highlighted the role of aggregated financing models and collective action among producers to achieve economies of scale and reduce transaction costs.

A key point raised by Ms. Beiten was the importance of integrating the informal waste sector, which plays a significant role in waste collection and recycling in many ASEAN countries. She emphasized that inclusive models that recognize and support informal workers can improve system efficiency while delivering social benefits. Additionally, she highlighted the need for digital tools and traceability systems to improve transparency, track material flows, and ensure compliance with EPR targets.

Across the discussion, both speakers emphasized that successful EPR financing requires a combination of strong policy frameworks, well-designed financial mechanisms, and multi-stakeholder partnerships. While Ms. Chan focused on enabling large-scale investment through blended finance and institutional support, Ms. Beiten highlighted the importance of practical, on-the-ground implementation and stakeholder coordination. The discussion reinforced that hybrid financing models—combining public funding, private investment, and producer responsibility—are essential to building sustainable, scalable, and inclusive EPR systems across ASEAN.

The session concluded that advancing EPR infrastructure requires not only financing solutions but also integrated approaches that align policy, finance, and implementation, supported by regional collaboration and knowledge exchange. Insights from the panel underscored key challenges, including high upfront costs, fragmented waste management systems, limited revenue streams, and investment risks, particularly in developing markets. The discussion also highlighted the need for clear regulatory frameworks, stable policy signals, and well-designed EPR schemes to attract private sector participation. Experiences shared pointed to the importance of structuring financing models that ensure cost recovery while maintaining affordability and efficiency.

The session further emphasized the role of partnerships among governments, financial institutions, producers, and development partners in building viable EPR systems. It also highlighted the need to integrate the informal sector, improve data systems, and develop bankable project pipelines. The Q&A reinforced that hybrid financing models can unlock investments and accelerate the development of EPR infrastructure, provided that enabling conditions and coordinated approaches are in place to support implementation across ASEAN.

Regional Pathways through Collaboration Objective Link: Strengthen Regional and National Collaboration



Mr. Gregorius Gilang Nugroho from the ASEAN Secretariat presented a summary of Day 2, which highlighted the shift from policy discussions to practical implementation tools and mechanisms for advancing SCP and circular economy in support of climate action. He emphasized key sessions on sustainable public procurement, financing mechanisms, and market transformation, noting that these are critical levers for translating policies into tangible outcomes. In particular, discussions on cost-neutral green public procurement demonstrated that sustainability can be achieved without increasing costs when lifecycle approaches are applied, while sessions on financing underscored the importance of blended finance and enabling policy environments to mobilize investments.

He also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and knowledge sharing, particularly in scaling up GPP and aligning approaches across ASEAN. Discussions on market transformation and EPR financing further emphasized the need for strong partnerships among governments, private sector, and development partners, as well as the importance of building bankable projects and improving data systems. Overall, Day 2 reinforced the need for practical, coordinated, and well-financed approaches to accelerate the transition toward circular and climate-resilient economies.

Session 10: Peer Exchange on Supporting Circular and Climate-Resilient Supply Chains

Session 10 facilitated a structured peer exchange through country breakout groups, enabling participants to assess challenges and opportunities in advancing SCP and circular economy within key supply chains. Each group examined sector-specific issues—such as plastics, agri-food, manufacturing, and tourism—and reflected on how circular approaches can strengthen resilience, reduce environmental impacts, and support climate goals. The exercise encouraged countries to identify both systemic barriers and practical entry points for implementation, drawing on national experiences and regional perspectives.

During the plenary presentations, several country-specific insights emerged. Countries such as Indonesia and Thailand highlighted progress in integrating circular economy principles into priority sectors, including plastics, agriculture, and manufacturing, supported by national roadmaps and sectoral strategies. However, they noted ongoing challenges in aligning policies across ministries and ensuring consistent implementation along supply chains. The Philippines emphasized efforts to strengthen circularity through policies such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), while identifying gaps in infrastructure, financing, and coordination

between national and local levels. Vietnam pointed to increasing private sector engagement in circular practices, particularly in manufacturing and export-oriented industries, but highlighted the need for clearer standards and incentives to scale these efforts.

Participants from Lao PDR and Cambodia highlighted that while awareness of SCP and circular economy is growing, implementation remains at an early stage, with key challenges including limited institutional capacity, lack of technical expertise, and insufficient access to financing. These countries emphasized the importance of capacity building, technical assistance, and knowledge transfer to support the development of enabling frameworks and pilot initiatives.



Across all group presentations, several common challenges were identified, including fragmented policy frameworks, weak coordination across supply chain actors, limited data and traceability systems, and insufficient market incentives for circular products and services. Financing constraints, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises, were also highlighted as a major barrier to scaling circular solutions.

At the same time, participants identified key opportunities for strengthening circular and climate-resilient supply chains, including enhancing regional cooperation and knowledge sharing, promoting private sector innovation and investment, and leveraging policy instruments such as green public procurement and EPR systems. The importance of integrating circular economy into sectoral policies and value chain strategies was emphasized, alongside the need for stronger partnerships among governments, businesses, and development partners.

Overall, Session 10 highlighted that while countries are at different stages of implementation, there is strong potential to advance circular and climate-resilient supply chains through coordinated, multi-stakeholder approaches, supported by regional collaboration, capacity building, and enabling policy environments.

Session 11: Collaboration on Regional SCP and Circular Economy Policy Coherence and Climate Ambition



Session 11 served as a culminating discussion to consolidate key insights from the programme into priority actions and next steps for strengthening regional collaboration on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), circular economy (CE), and climate ambition. Through a participatory whiteboard exercise, participants identified and clustered actions across thematic areas such as policy integration, financing, private sector engagement, capacity building, and regional cooperation. This was followed by a plenary where countries presented their key priorities and interventions, reflecting both national contexts and shared regional challenges.

Country presentations highlighted a strong emphasis on improving policy coherence and implementation mechanisms. Thailand underscored the importance of scaling up Green Public Procurement (GPP) and strengthening monitoring systems to align with national environmental targets. Indonesia emphasized advancing circular economy roadmaps and strengthening private sector engagement, particularly through partnerships with industry associations and regional platforms. The Philippines highlighted the role of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and sustainable procurement in driving circular economy outcomes, while stressing the need to enhance implementation at the local government level through capacity building and technical support. Vietnam pointed to the need for clearer standards, certification systems, and incentives to support private sector participation, especially in export-oriented industries. Meanwhile, Lao PDR and Cambodia emphasized the importance of capacity building, technical assistance, and access to finance to move from policy development to implementation.

Across all interventions, common priorities emerged, including strengthening cross-sectoral policy alignment, enhancing institutional coordination, improving access to finance, and developing robust data and monitoring systems. Participants also highlighted the need for regional tools, harmonized standards, and knowledge-sharing platforms to support implementation and scaling of circular economy practices. The importance of engaging the private sector and fostering public-private partnerships was consistently emphasized as a key driver of progress.

The session concluded with agreement on immediate next steps, including advancing pilot initiatives, strengthening capacity-building efforts, and leveraging regional cooperation mechanisms to support implementation. Overall, Session 11 reinforced the importance of moving from dialogue to action, highlighting that achieving SCP and circular economy objectives—and enhancing climate ambition—requires coordinated, multi-stakeholder approaches supported by sustained regional collaboration and shared commitment across ASEAN+3 countries.

Closing Session

The Closing Session provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on key learnings and outcomes from the programme. Participants highlighted the value of the discussions in strengthening their understanding of the linkages between SCP, circular economy, and climate action, as well as the practical tools and approaches needed to support implementation. Many emphasized the importance of peer learning, regional cooperation, and multi-stakeholder engagement, noting that the programme created a strong platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration across ASEAN+3 countries.



In the closing remarks, the **Ms. Maria Cristina Francisco**, Chief, Environmental Education and Information Division (EEID) DENR Philippines, reaffirmed its commitment to advancing sustainable consumption and production and circular economy as part of its climate and development agenda. The remarks underscored the importance of translating insights from the programme into concrete actions at national and local levels, particularly through strengthened policy implementation, capacity building, and partnerships.

On behalf of the SWITCH-Asia PSC, **Ms. Loraine Gatlabayan** provided the closing remarks, highlighted the European Union's continued support to ASEAN in advancing SCP and circular economy initiatives. The programme was recognized as an important step in fostering regional dialogue and collaboration, with a strong call to sustain momentum beyond the event. The session concluded with a shared commitment among participants to continue working together to drive the transition toward resource-efficient, circular, and climate-resilient economies across the region.



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