

SEVENTH REGIONAL 3R FORUM IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Discussion Points of Plenary Session-5

1. What are the critical considerations by the government for greening the SMEs? Why should this matter for a circular economy, as well as for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
2. Required financial capacity, knowledge and technical capacity, high upfront costs and low public visibility are critical challenges for SMEs. Taking into account these constraints, how can governments assist the SMEs to integrate resource efficiency in their operations as well as in their entire supply chain? What could be the policy, institutional, financial and partnership aspects of greening the SMEs for pollution reduction and resource efficiency?
3. What are the key social and physical infrastructures that the governments should consider in creating an enabling environment for greening the SMEs towards resource efficiency?

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4. What type of information-based instruments (e.g. product labels) can governments facilitate in raising the awareness of both consumers and SMEs on the needs and benefits of greening the supply chain?

5. There are several SMEs or firms which proactively pursue green strategies to benefit in many ways, e.g., cost savings, energy savings, better public image, better marketing of products, etc. What are the best examples and experiences where environmental regulations have encouraged firms to innovate and create cost advantages?

6. What are the key enablers to promote government-to-business, business-to-business, and industry-to-industry dialogues or cooperation in harnessing the benefits of green practices and to increase the role of business and trade associations towards greening the operations and supply chain?