

PROVISIONAL CONCEPT NOTE

Eighth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific

9-12 April 2018

Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India

Theme: Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency- A 21st Century Vision for Asia-Pacific Communities

1. BACKGROUND

The Asia-Pacific region is the most populous (with approximately 60% of the world population), the fastest-growing and most dynamic production hub among the regions in the world. The region faces a number of socio-economic and environmental challenges due to rapid urbanization, growing volume and diversification of waste streams with presence of new emerging waste streams (plastics, e-waste, chemicals, toxic and hazardous wastes), inadequate provision of infrastructure and basic services, among others. Many of such challenges are deep-rooted in resource and waste management. Due to lack of effective waste management system and associated infrastructures that support 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle), illegal open burning and dumping have been common phenomenon in many parts of the region.

It is estimated that the total global generation of municipal solid waste (MSW) is around 2 billion tonnes per annum, whereas the 'urban' wastes, which include MSW, commercial and industrial waste, and construction and demolition waste is estimated at around 7 to 10 billion tonnes per annum.¹ Urban areas in Asia-Pacific region generate about 1.21 million tonnes of MSW daily. By 2025, this amount is expected to be doubled, to 2.65 million tonnes daily.² Between 2010 and 2015, e-waste from East and South East Asia grew by 63%.³ Rising incomes and lifestyle changes are expected to further compound the problems of unsustainable consumption and waste generation in the region. Though highest potential resource-efficiency gains, green growth and circular economy development exists in developing countries of the region, they are constrained with inefficient, resource-intensive consumption and production patterns.

The deteriorating biological, chemical and physical characteristics of water, land and air in the region are in many ways attributed to unsustainable resource and waste management, including open dumping and burning. The cost of inaction in waste management has been significant in terms of land pollution, freshwater, ground water and sea pollution, local air pollution and climate change, and public health impacts. Economic burden to society in terms

¹ UNEP and ISWA. Global Waste Management Outlook. 2015

² UN ESCAP. Valuing Waste, Transforming Cities. 2015.

³ S. Honda et. al. Regional E-waste Monitor. 2016.

of healthcare, lost productivity, flood damage, damage to businesses and tourism often exceed the financial costs per capita of proper waste management by a factor of 5-10⁴.

Clean land, clean water and clean air are critical components of any conceivable 21st century vision of the Asia-Pacific communities. However, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) report on 100 most polluted cities, nearly 70 of them are in Asia-Pacific.⁵ A considerable proportion of wastewater in the region is not treated before being discharged or reused. Between 80% and 90% of the wastewater generated in the region's developing countries is discharged directly into water bodies without any treatment.⁶ Persistent organic pollutants and other hazardous chemicals are making their way into freshwater resources, like rivers, lakes and groundwater. Solid wastes are often collected and disposed on the top of the land surface as uncontrolled open dumps which not only serves as the main source of pollution, but also as breeding grounds for mosquitoes, flies and other disease carriers. The land pollution has a number of adverse effects on the physical, chemical and biological properties of the land that reduces its productivity. Open burning of waste including biomass waste has been one of the major sources for air pollution in many developing countries. Most of the open burnings are unregulated and unmonitored contributing to increase level of air pollutants such as suspended particulate matters (SPM), carbon monoxide, and mercury, etc. which are linked to serious health issues of the local community. Most of the biomass wastes in the region are either left unutilized or open burned. Studies shows the circular economic utilization of biomass in Asia-Pacific could worth trillion of dollars. Similarly, prevention of food wastes and diversion of disposal of bio-degradable wastes could significantly prevent GHG emissions.

Well-designed 3R and resource efficiency policies, strategies and programmes are fundamental to transition from a linear to a circular economy with positive environmental implications. The circular economy aims to reduce the waste before it is produced and at the same time treats waste as a resource. The circular economy works towards prevention of wasteful use of raw materials, water and energy from the manufacturing process and throughout the various life cycles of the products. Waste recovery, as secondary raw materials, provides opportunities for new economic models that can drive economic growth and green jobs. The worldwide potential for new jobs in the circular economy is estimated to be 9 to 25 million. Transitioning to a resource efficient or circular economy provides a unique opportunity for the Asia-Pacific countries to achieve a number of benefits such as decrease in local environmental burdens, economic competitiveness, energy security, water security, reduction of GHG emission, creation of new business and green employment opportunities, minimization of disposal costs (a sunk cost), avoidance of resource conflicts and conservation of natural capital, among others. A circular economy is also based on the use of services and intelligent digital solutions, and the design and production of more durable, repairable, reusable and recyclable products.

⁴ UNEP and ISWA. Global Waste Management Outlook. 2015.

⁵ J. Vidal. Air Pollution: A dark cloud of filth poisons the world's cities. The Guardian. 16 Jan 2016.

⁶ UN ESCAP, UN-Habitat and AIT. Policy Guidance Manual on Wastewater Management with a Special Emphasis DEWATS. Bangkok. 2015.

The Heads of State and Government and High-Level Representatives of 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the post-2015 development agenda – *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the UN Sustainable Development Summit held in New York in September 2015. Through adoption of the Agenda, the Member States called for, among others, a world which ensured sustainable consumption and production patterns (Goal 12) and efficient use of all natural resources for sustainable development. SDG 12 also calls to achieve by 2020 the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.⁷ 3R and resource efficiency are at the heart of circular economy which calls for an economic model that decouples economic growth from resource use and works as a means to achieve SDGs and clean environment – clean land, clean water, clean air and clean ocean.

Furthermore, the New Urban Agenda (NUA) adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) from 17 to 20 October 2016 in Quito, reinforces and provides additional means of implementation of SDGs, such as SDG 11 which aims to make cities and human settlements safe, resilient, inclusive and sustainable, by addressing strategic spatial and governance frameworks essential within urban areas such as national urban policies, legislation, spatial planning and local finance frameworks. In the context of sustainable urban development, NUA reinforces the key principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and sets transformative commitments which are covered under three overarching themes: (a) sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty; (b) sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all; and (c) environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development. Under the environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development theme, the NUA calls for, among others, to strengthen the sustainable management of resources, including land, water (oceans, seas and freshwater), energy, materials, forests and food, with particular attention to the environmentally sound management and minimization of all waste, hazardous chemicals, including air and short-lived climate pollutants and GHG, and to transition to a circular economy while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.⁸ In this regard, sound 3R policies and programmes, including 3R infrastructure development and advanced technological interventions could provide many tangible solutions in achieving clean water, clean land and clean air and at the same time the international development agendas and goals.

With this background, the Eighth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific will be organized from 9 to 12 April 2018 in Indore city, Madhya Pradesh, India, with an overall theme of “*Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency – A 21st Century Vision for Asia-Pacific Communities*”. The Forum aims to address how 3R and resource efficiency measures can provide many complementary benefits in making cities and countries clean, smart, liveable and resilient. The Forum also aims to gain policy, institutional and technological insights towards effective implementation of 3R and

⁷ UN. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. 2015.

⁸ UN. *The New Urban Agenda*. Habitat III. 2016.

resource efficiency to foster circular economic development, sustainable change in current use of natural resources and ultimately achieve a zero waste society. In addition, the Forum seeks to engage the public and private sector to explore various partnership opportunities in areas of 3R and waste management for moving towards a zero waste society. The Forum further provides an opportunity to establish insightful linkages between the principles of 3R and resource efficiency and the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Mission).

2. OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

The objectives of the Eighth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific are to –

- discuss 3R policy implementation in the context of achieving clean land, clean water and clean air;
- identify and discuss 3R and circular economic development strategies for improving water quality and water security (contribute to SDG 6);
- identify and discuss potential opportunities of implementing 3R and circular economic development strategies to prevent physical and chemical degradation of land (contribution to SDG 15);
- identify and discuss potential opportunities of implementing 3R and circular economic development strategies to achieve reduction of air pollution and GHG emissions (contribution to SDG 11 and SDG 13);
- to discuss contribution of 3R and resource efficiency in terms of sustainable urban development (contribution towards SDG 11);
- to discuss inter-municipal partnerships and cooperation in expanding 3R and waste management services for local communities (contribution towards SDG 17);
- to identify and discuss technological options to deal with new emerging waste streams (e-waste, chemicals and hazardous wastes, plastics, etc.) (contribution to SDG 11, SDG 12);
- to discuss role of 3R and circular economy in greening SMEs and enhancing national productivity;
- identify and discuss various domestic and international financing options and investment opportunities for 3R implementation, including infrastructure development; and.
- review and evaluate countries' progress, initiatives, achievements and best practices in implementing the Ha Noi 3R Declaration – Sustainable 3R Goals for Asia and the Pacific for 2013-2023.

3. CO-ORGANIZERS

The Eighth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific is hosted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, and co-organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan, and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development of the Division for Sustainable Development /United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The Indore Municipal Corporation, Government of Madhya Pradesh, and Confederation of India Industries (CII) have been designated as the City Partner, Organizing Partner and Industry Partner respectively by the host Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.

5. SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

The Eighth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific is supported by a number of international and donor organizations such as - United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Environment Programme- International Environmental Technology Centre, Institute of Global Environmental Strategies, AIT Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, Global Science, Technology & Innovation Conference / VITO NV and International Solid Waste Association, among others.

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Asia-Pacific countries - Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

7. PARTICIPANTS

Participation in the Forum is by invitation only. It is expected that approximately 500 participants, including high-level government representatives from Asia-Pacific countries, City Mayors, international experts, research institutes and resource persons, and others as listed below will attend the Forum:

- High level government representatives and policy makers from relevant Ministries such as Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Local Government, etc.;
- City Mayors/Local Government representatives;

- Experts and international resource persons, including representatives of scientific and Research and Development (R&D) institutions in the areas of 3R/resource efficiency/waste management/life cycle assessment and management;
- Representatives of UN and international organizations, including international financial institutions, multi-lateral development banks and donor agencies;
- Representatives of the private and business sector and NGOs etc.

Participation in the Forum is free of charge. A limited number of travel support will be available on a priority basis for nominated government representatives from the developing countries and invited experts/international resource persons. Unless otherwise stated in the official invitation, the participants are requested to kindly cover their own travel, accommodation and all other incidental expenses through their organizations or external sponsorships.

8. OFFICIAL PRE-AND PARALLEL EVENTS

The 8th Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific will have several pre and parallel events as follows:

Pre Event

Date: 9 April 2018

Time: 15:00-21:00

Room: The Grand Hall (Ground Floor Level)

Parallel Event- Recycling of Land based Marine Litter: Challenges and Opportunities in South Asia Region

Date: 10 April 2018

Time: 14:20-16:20

Room: Target- I Room (Lower Ground Floor Level)

Parallel Event- Indian Industry Session on 3R and Waste Management

Date: 10 April 2018

Time: 12:00-16:00

Room: Phoenix Hall Room (Lower Ground Floor Level)

Parallel Event- Asian Mayors Policy Dialogue on Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency

Date: 11 April 2018

Time: 09:00-20:15

Room: The Imperial Hall (Second Floor Level)

Parallel Event- Asia 3R Civil Society Event

Date: 11 April 2018

Time: 15:00-18:00

Room: Target-II Room (Lower Ground Floor Level)

Pre Event/ Completed- 7th International Conference on Solid Waste Management, 7th IconSWM 2017

Date: 15-17 December 2017

Room: PJTS Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

9. International 3R Exhibition

Dates: 10-12 April 2018

Venue: Exhibition Hall (Lower Ground Floor Level)

Companies wishing to promote technologies related to 3R and the recycling and resource recovery industry are encouraged to participate in the international exhibition. Representatives from environment departments and organizations are also welcomed to showcase their activities. Participating in the exhibition will provide opportunities for business development and build new relationships on a local, national and global level. Specific guidelines for exhibitors are in preparation and will be provided by the Government of India.

10. CONTACT

Secretariat of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific

United Nations Centre for Regional Development

1-47-1, Nagono, Nakamura-ku, Nagoya 450-0001, Japan

Tel: +81-52 561 9417 / 9416

Fax: +81-52 561 9374

E-mail: 3R@uncrd.or.jp