



Towards Resource Efficient Asia-Pacific through Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth

Organizers: Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, Korea Environment Corporation (K-eco), and ESCAP

12:50-14:00, Friday, 8 September 2017
Conference Room 04, United Nations Conference Centre
Bangkok, Thailand

Background

The Asia and the Pacific region possess higher degree of vulnerability to complex environmental challenges, including water pollution, resource depletion, biodiversity loss, and land degradation. This region has emerged as the main driver of global resources use over the last two decades. For example, Asia-Pacific region has used resources three times more to produce \$1 of GDP, compared to the rest of the world.¹ Such unsustainable resource management represented by landfilling and the disposal of waste at sea is regarded as the main factor of exacerbating environmental degradation, which includes deteriorating ecosystem and biodiversity loss.

To address the identified issues, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea has operated the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth (SINGG) in cooperation with ESCAP since 2005. Under the SINGG framework, Korean Ministry of Environment has contributed to disseminating green growth strategies and its strong policy frameworks in areas of resource efficiency in Asia-Pacific region. The importance of resource efficiency has been recognized and highlighted through the twelve years of SINGG activities including four of the total twelve sessions of annual policy consultation forum as well as twelve of the total twenty-eight pilot projects conducted in member states.

In this context, the side event will share experiences of the Korean government in developing and implementing its resource efficiency policy framework while discussing SINGG activities and their contribution to member states on the ground. By doing so, the event will help SINGG find the best way towards supporting a resource efficient future across Asia-Pacific.

Scope

The proposed side event will target government officials from ESCAP member states, environment-related authorities and other ministries dealing with sustainable development. The event is to be jointly organized by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, K-eco, and ESCAP. Research institutes and other international organizations will be also invited to make contributions to the event, to build partnerships in mainstreaming resource efficiency and green growth into national strategies and policies in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Key Questions

- What are the key methodologies of disseminating green growth policy tools and emerging innovative instruments to achieve environmental sustainability in Asia-Pacific?
- How does the programme outcomes of SINGG contribute to regional capacity development in resource efficiency?
- How can the lessons learned from ROK's resource policies be effectively duplicated in Asia-Pacific countries?

¹ ESCAP, ADB and UNEP (2012). *Green Growth, Resources and Resilience: Environmental Sustainability in Asia and the Pacific*.



Tentative Programme

Moderator: Dr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP

Time	Agenda
	Opening segment
12:50-13:00	Opening Remarks by Dr. Minh Lee, Deputy-Minister, Ministry of Environment of ROK Welcome Address by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary, ESCAP
13:00-13:20	Keynote Presentation by Prof. June-Woo Park, Sangmyung University <i>Title: Resource Efficiency Policies in Republic of Korea - Application in Asia-Pacific Region</i>
	Presentations
13:20-13:40	SI Pilot Project; Best Practice – Bhutan (Mr. Phub Tshering) <i>Title: Glass Waste Recycling in Thimphu</i> SI Pilot Project; Best Practice – Maldives (Mr. Ahmed Murthaza) <i>Title: Provision of Waste Resource Efficient Management Plan in Maldives</i>
	Discussions
13:40-13:55	Panel Discussion and Q & A
	Closing segment
14:00	Wrap-up

Panelists

- Prof. June-Woo Park, Professor, Sangmyung University, ROK
- Mr. Phub Tshering, Environment officer, Thimphu City, Bhutan
- Mr. Ahmed Murthaza, Director General, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Maldives
- Ms. Eujin Kwon, Director, K-eco
- Ms. Aliya Shalabekova, Director, Green Economy Department, Ministry of Energy, Kazakhstan

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