

This event is hosted in partnership with Ministry of Investment and Economic Development, Poland.



MINISTRY
OF INVESTMENT
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Asia-Europe Pathways to Responsible Consumption and Production: From Linear to Circular Economy

23-24 October 2018 | Warsaw, Poland

CONCEPT NOTE

ABSTRACT

The Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) “*Asia-Europe Pathways to Responsible Consumption and Production: From Linear to Circular Economy*” is a 2-day international conference which will take place on 23-24 October 2018 in Warsaw, Poland.

The conference objectives are:

- To contribute to a better understanding on SCP and circular economy
- To support multi-stakeholder, regional and international dialogues on integrating SCP and circular economy into national development planning
- To enhance discussions on sustainable development issues among ASEM Partners

BACKGROUND

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined in “*Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”¹ presents multiple challenges for countries to implement SDGs. One of the central issues impeding the success of the 2030 Agenda are unsustainable consumption and production patterns.

Consumption and production are the building blocks of economy, and thus essential to economic growth and development. However, with the projected world population to reach 9.8 billion by 2050,² current consumption and production patterns are detrimental to our environment. At this rate, the magnitude of natural resources required to meet the demands of the projected population is equivalent to almost three planets.³ As shortage of natural resources looms, it is imperative to achieve SDG 12 “*Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production*” and transition from linear to circular economy.

The **Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum)** aims to contribute to this global agenda by providing a platform to strengthen knowledge exchange among officials, experts and businesses from Asia and Europe under the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

Established in 2003, the ENVforum is a partnership of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center (ASEIC), and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). Since its inception 15 years ago, the ENVforum has organised over 70 high-level international meetings, roundtables, conferences and workshops, bringing together over 1,700 selected participants from civil society, NGOs, academia, governments, international organisations, and the private sector. The ENVforum has produced 14 publications addressing essential issues related to sustainable development.

¹ *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* can be found at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

² “World population projected to reach 9.8 billion in 2050, and 11.2 billion in 2100,” <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/population/world-population-prospects-2017.html>, (June 21, 2017)

³ “Facts and figures,” <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-consumption-production/>, (accessed April 10, 2018)

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This international conference is a 2-day event taking place in Warsaw, Poland. It will gather key representatives of governments, civil society and private sector from Asia and Europe. The conference titled “Asia-Europe Pathways to Responsible Consumption and Production: From Linear to Circular Economy” is organised by the ENVforum consortium in partnership with the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development of Poland.

The conference will provide a platform for officials, experts, and businesses to exchange experiences, including challenges and best practices, on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and the transition into circular economy. In doing so, it will explore existing frameworks, including the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (10YFP), and policy instruments of SCP. The conference is designed to promote exchanges on regional and international levels and highlight different multi stakeholder initiatives or partnerships promoting the adoption of SCP practices. It will also build on contributions from experts in the field of private sector engagement.

The conference will consist of several interactive sessions allowing for the exchange of presentations showcasing national progress and achievements by representatives from ASEM partners as well as plenary discussions on several aspects of SCP and circular economy.

The conference, organised by ASEF, will provide:

- Knowledge on existing frameworks and policy instruments of SCP and circular economy
- Guidance on role of public and private sector in integrating SCP and circular economy into national policies
- A follow-up on the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2018 outcomes on SDG 12
- An Asian-European dimension by linking Asian and European viewpoints

Conference participants will benefit from the expertise of regional and international experts by gaining better understanding of current sustainable development challenges in Asia and Europe. All attendees will be strongly encouraged to interact with one another to test their ideas and develop a common dialogue.

OBJECTIVES

- To contribute to a better understanding on SCP and circular economy
 - To support multi-stakeholder, regional and international dialogues on integrating SCP and circular economy into national development planning
 - To enhance discussions on sustainable development issues among ASEM Partners
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SPEAKERS & PARTICIPANTS

This conference will gather approximately 100 participants and speakers, including:

- Countries’ representatives from relevant ministries working on SDGs’ implementation in the ASEM region
 - International experts, civil society, academia and business representatives working on SDGs’ implementation, with focus on SCP and circular economy
 - Sustainable development experts and practitioners based in Poland
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TANGIBLE OUTCOMES

- An international conference enabling stakeholders to exchange ideas on SDGs implementation, with a focus on SDG 12
 - A report detailing conference proceedings and summarising expert presentations
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OBJECTIVES

The event will:

- Contribute to Asia-Europe dialogue on SDG 12 implementation
 - Facilitate exchange between Asian and European experts on the role of public and private sector in SCP and the transition into circular economy
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ABOUT THE PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health.

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

ASEF runs more than 25 projects a year, consisting of around 100 activities, mainly conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, publications, and online platforms, together with about 125 partner organisations. Each year over 3,000 Asians and Europeans participate in ASEF's activities, and much wider audiences are reached through its various events, networks and web-portals.

For more information, please visit www.ASEF.org



The **Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF)** is an official German Political Foundation. It is entrusted by the German Parliament with a mandate, which lies at the core of the task of promoting democratic and sustainable structures worldwide. This mandate involves the strengthening of the relevant institutions and persons, procedures and norms and the requisite attitudes enabling such development to take place.

For more information, please visit www.hss.de or www.hss.de/southeastasia



ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center (ASEIC) was established in 2011 with the principal mandate of promoting Asia-Europe cooperation to create and enhance eco-innovation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in both regions.

For more information, please visit www.aseic.org/main.do



Established in 1998, the **Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)** is an independent, not-for-profit think tank, based in Japan. It goes beyond research to provide practical ways to protect the earth's environment and to realise greater sustainability and equity in the global community.

For more information, please visit www.iges.or.jp

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This conference is hosted in partnership with the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development of the Republic of Poland.

The Ministry of Investment and Economic Development is a government administration office providing services to the Minister of Investment and Economic Development in the field of government administration departments: construction, spatial planning and development as well as housing and regional development. The Ministry is active in different areas of international co-operation, e.g. through the presence in international organisations or regional co-operation structures.

For more information, please visit <http://www.mii.gov.pl/en/>

