United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

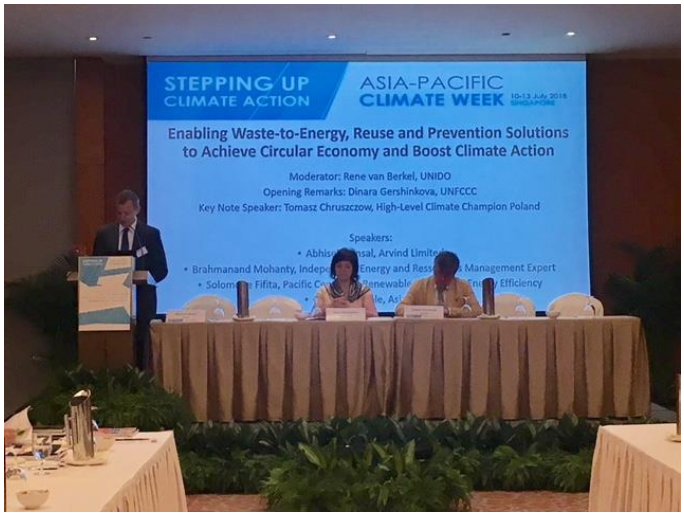
UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

TEC

Marrakech Partnership

Asia-Pacific Regional Technical Expert Meetings on Mitigation: Brief Summary Report

The secretariat of **the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, **the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**, **the Technology Executive Committee (TEC)** and **the Marrakech Partnership** organized the regional technical expert meetings during the Asia-Pacific Climate Week, which took place between 11 and 13 July 2018 in Singapore. The expert gathering took place as part of the **technical examination process on mitigation**, which aims to identify and facilitate the implementation of activities that present high potential for emission reductions in order to boost climate action before 2020.



The session, titled: "**Enabling waste-to-energy, industrial waste reuse and prevention solutions to achieve circular economy and boost climate action**", was held to discuss how waste-to-energy, industrial waste reuse and prevention solutions are integral parts to achieving a circular economy and its associated economic and environmental benefits.

The meetings brought together members from the civil society, UN agencies and financial institutions. The experts presented high-impact case studies to serve as a basis for discussion on the vision/goal in terms of harnessing mitigation potential and co-benefits of innovative approaches to waste-to-energy and waste reuse/prevention that are actionable in the short term for the region. The experts shared not only their hands-on experience but also ideas and suggestions for Parties and non-Party stakeholders (cities and businesses, and organizations) to replicate and upscale innovative approaches on waste-to-energy solutions, including policy, partnerships and the need of financial, technical and capacity building resources.

Notably, the expert meeting was aligned with the format of the year-long Talanoa Dialogue, an important international conversation around ambition now and in the future. The technical expert meeting discussions were structured around the three questions of the Talanoa Dialogue (Where are we? Where do we want to go? How do we get there?) to ensure that expert inputs can easily be fed into the Talanoa Dialogue as well as into other high-level events and the pre-2020 stock take.

All information on the regional technical expert meetings (including programmes, speakers, presentations) can be found at https://unfccc.int/topics/mitigation/workstreams/technical-expert-meetings.

Key message derived from the session

- The basic idea of circular economy is to transform the currently prevailing linear model of take-make-use-throw into a one based on closed cycles ultimately powered by renewables.

- Circular economy is not to be straightjacketed into recycling economy, but one that firstly maximizes use of renewable resources, secondly minimizes resource use intensity in products, services and processes, and thirdly perpetually recycles and recovers residual wastes.

- It delivers real time benefits for climate, environment and development, as evidenced by the case studies presented. At the national level, for the case of India, The Ellen McArthur foundation, found that the circular economy presents by 2030 an economic opportunity of USD218 billion (approximately 7% of the country's current GDP) and can reduce GHG emissions by 23% (approximately 2/3rd of the country's Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreements).

- It starts with application of established technologies, including organic waste to energy as well as for example use of alternative fuels in cement making, and opens opportunities for new cleantech solutions, for example for conversion of plastics into diesel-substitute or use of waste fibers for sanitary pads, as demonstrated under the Global Cleantech Programme of GEF and UNIDO.

- Waste to energy is an important concept but need to be deployed in the context of sustainable world the Paris Agreement envisages. The technological solutions are available, but their deployment are generally dictated by not only economic benefits but also social ones. The deployed technologies should be compatible to the local context and contribute towards new jobs creation.

- Biogas technology, currently being implemented in the region, is very simple and quite adaptable to the climate and amount of organic waste available in the region. Carbon market revenue, in particularly from Clean Development Mechanism, was instrumental to boost this kind of technology in the region. In the absence of such revenue, this technology may not survive in the long run.

- Co-benefits of using biogas technologies are enormous but they are not factored in while determining feed-in-tariffs. Because of this, the private sectors don't find the business model profitable.

- In order to transit towards the circularity, it requires policy and implementation to prevent waste materials being dumped as well as innovative business models, such as the five suggested by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development: product lifetime extension; sharing platforms; resource recovery; product as service; and circular supplies.

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