



Report

XIV International Sustainability Symposium

Towards a sustainable production and consumption model:



Centro Regional de Colaboración – Panamá
Promoviendo la acción frente al cambio climático

Panama, 2019.

Introduction:

The Regional Collaboration Center of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (RCC Panama) received the cordial invitation from the Panama Industrial Union (SIP) to participate in the XIV edition of the International Sustainability Symposium. RCC Panama organized session 3 under the theme, “How do we achieve decarbonization of the economy?”. This report summarizes the sessions during the entire symposium.

This report has been prepared by representatives of the Panama Climate Change Youth Network (RJCCP) for the RCC Panama.



General data

Place: Hotel Riu Plaza.

Location: City of Panama

Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2019.

Start time: 6:30 a.m.

Ending time: 17:30 p.m.

Organizers: Industrial Union of Panama (SIP for its acronym in Spanish)

Ministry of Environment of Panama (MiAmbiente, for its acronym in Spanish))

Addressed to: Guilds, Members, Students and General public

Note: Symposium logo is property of the Industrial Union of Panama (SIP) and RJCCP logo is property of the Panama Climate Change Youth Network

Background

The sustainability symposium is an event that it has been held by the Industrial Union of Panama (SIP), for 14 consecutive years. The SIP was founded on August 10th 1945, since then, it is the institution that groups, represents and defends the interests of the national industry. In addition, it serves as a communication, information and education entity among its affiliates, by helping in the orientation of the Panamanian industry in today's changing world and improving its competitive advantages.

The SIP seeks to promote the socio-economic development of the country, through the defense and promotion of industrial activity while positioning itself as a leading organization, both nationally and internationally, to discuss and solve the issues inherent in the industrial sector, ensuring its sustainability.

Justification

The XIV version of the International Sustainability Symposium was held in the context of the Circular Economy, with the purpose of strengthening the process of implementing this model and gradually replacing the “take, use and discard” linear model. It was proposed the search for viable alternatives that manage to ensure products and resources that maintain their usefulness at all times, through a continuous cycle that promotes sustainable development.

Industries and factories, government representatives, real estate, banks, hotels, energy sector, companies with services focused on environmental sustainability, international organizations, multinationals and students participated in the symposium. Though this way, it was possible to transmit to all key sectors, interested in the environmental issue, the importance of unifying efforts to achieve a low emission economy.

Goals

- ✓ Promote the competitive development of the national industry.
- ✓ Raise the environmental challenges facing the country through conferences.
- ✓ Promote a new model of low emission economy while maintaining a cycle of continuous use.
- ✓ Address climate change from a decarbonized economy.

Methodology

Conferences

Conferences and panels were held that brought knowledge and experiences to the audience on how the resources, products and wastes that maintain their usefulness and value at all times, in a continuous cycle of positive development, which preserves and improves natural capital and optimizes and minimizes the System risks when managing a limited amount of resources.

Trade show

It was shown, the exhibition of equipment and services that contribute to environmental sustainability such as:

- Efficient use of energy and water.
- Adequate waste disposal services.
- Plans to finance environmental responsibility programs.
- Spaces to advertise sustainable programs and projects.

Golden Palm Award

It is an initiative that recognizes the work of those companies that apply Cleaner Production (C + P) practices and processes. These awards were presented at the opening events, carried out by the Minister of Environment, the SIP board of directors and the VIP media and guests.

Only large, medium, small and micro enterprises of the industrial and services sector that have implemented sustainable practices can participate in this contest.

The Golden Palm contest is open to all companies in the country, affiliated and not affiliated with the SIP, and it is free.

Panel 1

Circular cities, the route to follow.

Summary:

The concept of Sustainable Development introduced since 1992 progressed slowly, so a simple approach is required at the level of the local context of each country.

Cities present great challenges such as the integral management of solid waste, the population growth that demands a greater amount of resources; this in turn represents a greater generation of CO2 emissions. Therefore, new technologies must be implemented in the city that reduce the environmental impacts generated by anthropogenic activities.

It is very important that cities implement measures of design, evaluation and calculations of the circulation of materials (primary and secondary) that define the best circular design based on indicators, to ensure that these designs are economically profitable. In addition, the principles of sustainable circular economy must be demonstrated.

Cities are experiencing a transition mainly, the energy one, which represents or it has been adopted as the largest measure to deal with climate change. It have been implemented designs of Mobility, renewable energy based on a new energy matrix. However, the technologies and innovations used represent a challenge for the industry as they pose a problem at the end of their life cycle due to the lack of innovative processes for their final disposal.

Cities have also provided the right environment to call for action and increase businesses that seek to make a change in industry solutions based on social, economic and environmental considerations, in their own context.

Capacity development is essential to participate in the implementation and execution of sustainability in cities, considering the feasibility and scenarios that merit being progressive towards sustainable development.

Within the cities there are also individual challenges that can be achieved through collective actions using tools such as social networks.

Participants

1. Olaf Blaauw, Delta Development Group.
2. Maarten Schaffner, Witteveen en Bos.
3. Ken Alston, Circular Economy Platform of the America.

Moderator

S.E. Ilse Smits, Embajadora de Reino de los países bajos.

Panel 2

The future of plastic, how do we close the cycle?

Summary:

Plastics represent an aggravating factor for proper environmental management, since their degradation is very slow and it depends on components such as specific conditions for microorganisms to digest or convert into CO₂ and also the type of microorganism (anaerobic or aerobic).

The economic properties of plastic have advantages, so they have not been completely replaced by other types of materials such as glass or cardboard. Even plastic has a lower environmental footprint due to its lower energy and water consumption.

The plastic approach must be holistic and involve all sectors and not only the industries that produce it, so it is recommended to do a deep technical analysis, which involves innovation to redesign the processes of the production cycle until disposal of the final product.

In the last five years, regulations have been established in the countries of the region, which sometimes omit detailed analyzes, mainly, in order to suppress waste pollution that affects aquatic ecosystems. Some regulations adopted by the countries are the following:

- Elimination of plastic bags.
- Reduction or prohibition of single-use plastics.
- Reduction trend to more visible products.
- Product accreditation.

The creation of intelligent public policies that meet consumer needs and environmental design studies are necessary.

All the key actors must be involved under a sustainable vision, where in addition, communication spaces and the necessary tools for decision making are provided.

Encouraging education and the exchange of technical information is necessary to promote sustainable development based on scientific research.

There are solutions for plastic where it is used as a pleasure in the concrete used in some constructions and its implementation depends on the profitability or the existing regulations.

Participants

1. Ana Beatriz López, Business Development Manager, COSALCO Group.
2. Jordi Pon, Regional Coordinator of Chemicals and Waste, UN Environment.
3. Fernando López Fernández, POLYTEC Director.
4. Carlos Andrés Naranjo Meriño, President of the Colombian Life Cycle Network.

Moderator

Alberto Pacheco Capella, Regional Ecosystem Coordinator, UN Environment.

Panel 3

How do we achieve decarbonization of the economy?



Summary:

The Paris Agreement provides the necessary tools to boost a decarbonised economy through mitigation, adaptation and financing actions. However, it is important to strengthen the capacities of decision makers.

For countries to make a decision focused on decarbonization, it is essential that there is no barrier between the public and private sectors, so that emission reduction strategies that seek to address climate change are achieved within the established time frame.

Countries must work on their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) as from 2020 they must be published every five years and these plans must be increased and increasingly ambitious.

Decarbonization can focus on an economy that uses a clean energy matrix.

Some of the areas that show great progress in climate action are renewable energy, energy efficiency, electric mobility, the calculation of carbon footprint in industry and eco-labeling. Even the circular economy is a climatic action that reduces the carbon and water footprint.

In Panama, public transport should be promoted as a mechanism to reduce emissions, evaluate agroclimatic systems and efficient water use.

In addition, the country can obtain greater financing that is accompanied by greater capacity, such financing can be incentives for investment in ways that address industrial processes and the chain, emission credits which are maintained in the second period, green bonds stock exchange in Panama and even voluntary forest certification systems.

Countries that it has implemented a decarbonized economy like Colombia when establishing a carbon tax and Brazil in terms of green bonds. The United Nations Secretary for Climate Change helps to promote the exchange of good practices with advanced countries such as Costa Rica or Chile through the Good Practices Platform, with the carbon recovery project, identifying priority areas of emissions to work in the emission registration system where the private sector can make to use of this tool and gradually reduce its emissions.

Through the national secretary of science and technology, the different sectors of the country can present financing proposals for innovation and research.

Panama must evaluate its NDCs and establish the commitments it will propose shortly since carbon neutrality is the result of NDC processes. For the Ministry of Environment of Panama, carbon neutrality is a large structure but the efforts are being made to achieve it and they make special focus on the registration of emissions of the sectors in the National Inventory of Greenhouse Gases.

Undoubtedly at the Conference of the Parties (COP) 25 in Chile the transition will be determined and special discussion will be made to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

COP 25 is an excellent opportunity to target as a region, it makes decisions, further convey the competitive advantages of each country and to inform society of the great commitments that they are being acquired worldwide to face the climate crisis.

Participants

1. Mirta Benítez, Director of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment.
2. Ligia Castro, Associate Consultant to the Imaginari Foundation.
3. Carlos Ruiz-Garvia, Coordinator of the Regional Center of the United Nations Secretariat for Climate Change (UNFCCC) for Latin America.

Moderator

Ivana Cepon, Director General SOA.

Panel 4

The photovoltaic Solar-Roof revolution, a business model aligned with circular economy.

Summary:

It is important to consider renewable energy and identify the advantages that Panama may have for innovation.

The country is carrying out sustainable lines of corporate strategies, cleaner production, biogas energy efficiency projects and renewable energy to mitigate climate change.

It is important that the industry knows the innovative assets to know how to reach private equity funds. However, in the context of the circular economy, a percentage is provided for the processes that they are required in final disposal such as pyrolysis, cable dismantling and thus eliminating conventional disassembly. They even provide awareness funds and technical assistance for clients

Regulations and incentives in customs spaces, climate change consultancy, emission reduction certification and sustainability strategies should be studied.

A problem identified was final disposal of panels due to the lack of companies or innovations that it can close the clinic and offer treatment to solar panels. In addition, a collaborative environment between the customer, the manufacturer and the supplier must be promoted. This pole should expand the entrepreneurship opportunity for the collection and final disposal of the panels.

Policies must be implemented to sell energy to the end user. Although negotiation mechanism can be used to obtain special operation permits with certain commitments evaluating national and regional regulations.

Some disadvantages to align business with circular economy is that there are many barriers with network operators, under financing for residential investments.

Participants

1. Stephany Siu, Operations Manager, General Plastics.
2. Beatriz Castillo Rodríguez, Commercial Director of the Business and Government Banking, Banistmo.
3. Alejandro Paz Cortes, Investment Director, MGM Innova Capital LLC.
4. Alejandro Diez, Director of Management, National Solar Energy Engineering Company.

Moderator: Susana Del Granado, Environmental and Social Officer, IDB Invest.

Panel 5

Solar thermal energy at the Service of Industry and Environment.

Panama has great growth potential that it can boost sustainability in the region.

Today, the world is experiencing an energy transition and the region takes positive steps, such as through private banks that participate in the promotion of solar thermal energy.

For initiatives such as these to be successful, public energy policies that they are necessary to achieve the objective of the Paris Agreement on emission reduction must be promoted. In addition, capacities must be strengthened and specialists created while new technologies are implemented, including targeting the establishment of regional manufacturing in Panama.

In the country there are many potential actors involved in solar thermal energy, such as the health sector, agribusiness, processes that only require heat, hotels and hostels, homes that eliminate small-scale use of electricity and gas heaters.

Currently, in the country, it implements the low-temperature solar thermal energy project called Termo Solar Panamá, through an inter-institutional coordination that involves actors such as GEF, UNEP, SNE, PGBC, INADEH, ITSE, UTP, the Ministry of Environment of Panama and other authorities. This project seeks to create opportunities for companies and workers, train professionals, technicians, include 100 funded pilot projects, create and propose the standard and plants.

Participants

1. Roselina Lindo, Thermosolar Project Manager, UN Environment.
2. Monica Escalante, Co-Founder, Neo Digital Inc.
3. Marta Bernal, Engineer National Secretary of Energy.
4. Carlos Rivas, Environmental, Social and Reputation Risk Manager, Banco General.

Moderator

William Holness, Technical Expert on Demand, UN Environment.

Annexes:



Figure N ° 1: Panel 1
Circular cities, the route to follow.



Figure N ° 2: Panel 2
The future of plastic, how do we close the cycle?



Figure N ° 3: Panel 3

How do we achieve decarbonization of the economy?



Figure N ° 4: Panel 3, intervention of the panelists.



Figure N ° 5: Panel 4

The photovoltaic Solar-Roof revolution, a business model aligned with circular economy.



Figure N ° 6: Panel 5

Solar thermal energy at the Service of Industry and Environment.

Publicity of the XIV International Symposium on Sustainability

Figure N ° 7: AGENDA

PROGRAMA	
Miércoles 2 de octubre de 2019 - Hotel Riu Plaza Panamá	
6:30	REGISTRO
7:00	<p>ACTO INAUGURAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.S. Aldo Mangravita, Presidente del SIP. • S.E. Ramón Martínez, Ministro de Comercio e Industria. • S.E. Milciades Concepción, Ministro de Ambiente. <p>CONFERENCIA MAGISTRAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guillermo Castellá Lorenzo, Representante de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Industrial y Jefe de la Oficina Regional en México. <p>PREMIO PALMA DE ORO EN ECONOMÍA CIRCULAR A EMPRESAS PREMIO PALMA DE ORO AL PERIODISMO DE APORTE AMBIENTAL</p> <p>INAUGURACIÓN DE LA EXHIBICIÓN COMERCIAL</p>
Mediante transmisión en vivo - Área de conferencias	
9:30	<p>PANEL 1: Ciudades circulares, la ruta a seguir.</p> <p>Moderadora: S.E. Ilse Smits, Embajadora del Reino de los Países Bajos.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olaf Blaauw, Delta Development Group. • Maarten Schaffner, Witteveen en Bos. • Ken Alston, Circular Economy Platform of The Americas.
10:45	<p>PANEL 2: El futuro del plástico, ¿Cómo cerramos el ciclo?</p> <p>Moderador: Alberto Pacheco Capella, Coordinador Regional Ecosistemas, ONU Medio Ambiente.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ana Beatriz López, Gerente de Desarrollo de Negocios, Grupo COSALCO. • Jordi Pon, Coordinador Regional de Químicos y Residuos, ONU Medio Ambiente. • Fernando López Fernández, Director, POLYTEC. • Carlos Andrés Naranjo Meriño, Presidente de la Red Colombiana de Ciclo de Vida.
12:00	<p>ALMUERZO / CONFERENCIA: "Economía circular en el envasado de alimentos". CORTESÍA DE TETRA PAK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denise Cisneros, Circular Economy Expert, Tetra Pak.
13:30	<p>PANEL 3: ¿Cómo lograremos la descarbonización de la economía?</p> <p>Moderadora: Ivana Cepon, Directora General SOA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mirta Benitez, Directora de Cambio Climático, Ministerio de Ambiente. • Ligia Castro, Consultora Asociada a Fundación Imaginar. • Carlos Ruiz-Garvía, Coordinador del Centro Regional de la Secretaría de las Naciones Unidas para el Cambio Climático (CMNUCC) para América Latina.
14:30	<p>PANEL 4: La revolución Solar-Roof fotovoltaica, un modelo de negocios alineado con economía circular.</p> <p>Moderadora: Susana del Granado, Oficial Ambiental y Social, BID Invest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephany Siu, Gerente de Operaciones, Plásticos Generales. • Beatriz Castillo Rodríguez, Directora Comercial de la Banca de Empresas y Gobierno, Banistmo. • Alejandro Paz Cortés, Director de Inversión, MGM Inova Capital LLC. • Alejandro Diez, Director de Gerencia, Empresa Ingeniería Nacional de Energía Solar.
15:45	COFFEE / VISITA EXHIBICIÓN COMERCIAL
16:15	<p>PANEL 5: Energía solar térmica al servicio de la industria y el medio ambiente.</p> <p>Moderador: William Holness, Experto Técnico en Demanda, ONU Medio Ambiente.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosilena Lindo, Gerente de Proyecto Termosolar, ONU Medio Ambiente. • Mónica Escalante, Co-Founder, Neo Digital Inc. • Marta Bernal, Ingeniera, Secretaría Nacional de Energía. • Carlos Rivas, Gerente de Riesgo Ambiental, Social y de Reputación, Banco General.
17:30	CONCLUSIONES, CIERRE Y BRINDIS

Publicity of the XIV International Symposium on Sustainability

Figure N ° 8: Official poster with general information about the event.

XIV SIMPOSIO
Internacional de Sostenibilidad
**HACIA UN MODELO DE PRODUCCIÓN
Y CONSUMO SOSTENIBLE:
ECONOMÍA CIRCULAR**

RECICLAR **DISEÑAR** **PRODUCIR**
CONSUMIR **DISTRIBUIR**

**Temas Centrales
ODS:**

- 7 ENERGÍA ASEQUIBLE Y NO CONTAMINANTE
- 9 INDUSTRIA, INNOVACIÓN E INFRAESTRUCTURA
- 11 CIUDADES Y COMUNIDADES SOSTENIBLES
- 12 PRODUCCIÓN Y CONSUMO RESPONSABLES
- 13 ACCIÓN POR EL CLIMA

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Organiza: **SIP** SÍMBOLO DE IDENTIFICACIÓN DE PANAMÁ

Coorganiza: **MINISTERIO DE AMBIENTE**

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Figure N ° 9: poster of collaborating organizations.



Patrocinan

- Tetra Pak®
- Nestlé®
- MELO
- CN CERVECERIA NACIONAL, S.A.
- Coca-Cola FEMSA

Auspician

- REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ GOBIERNO NACIONAL MINISTERIO DE COMERCIO E INDUSTRIAS
- METRO DE PANAMA

Co organiza

- REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ GOBIERNO NACIONAL MINISTERIO DE AMBIENTE

Apoyan

- BID
- ONU medio ambiente Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
- Holland.
- TERMOSOLAR PANAMÁ
- SIP SINDICATO DE INDUSTRIALES DE PANAMÁ

Medios aliados

- CONSTRUYENDO PANAMÁ
- IMPACTO POSITIVO
- La Prensa
- MULTIMODAL & LOGISTIC TRANSPORTS
- NEX CANAL 21
- rpc radio
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