

Recent Events



DAKSHIN - Global South Centre of Excellence organized an online workshop on April 11, 2025, titled "*Enabling Circular Economy for a Sustainable Global South*," in association with the International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE), India. This event, the tenth in the DAKSHIN workshop series, focused on the critical role of circular economy practices in advancing sustainability within the Global South. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General of RIS, inaugurated the session by stressing the need for stronger South-South collaboration in light of rising barriers to technology transfer and financing, which hinder progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He highlighted the immense potential of circular economies to drive sustainable growth and urged collective action in areas such as reuse, recycling, and repair throughout the Global South. Ms. Shalini Goyal Bala, Managing Director of ICCE, shared various initiatives promoting circular economy principles, including decentralized waste management, the integration of the informal sector, and the creation of industry-specific frameworks. She underscored ICCE's role in supporting the Global South through knowledge-sharing and emphasized the importance of ensuring equitable development. A panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Piotr Barczak from the ACEN Foundation, Netherlands, addressed key issues such as regulatory frameworks, knowledge gaps, product design, and recycling infrastructure. The following panelists contributed valuable insights:

- Mr. Wekesa Zablon, Circular Economy Expert at ACEN (Kenya), discussed challenges in waste recovery, particularly due to knowledge gaps and technological limitations. He called for improved recovery infrastructure, greater investment, tax incentives, and better product design and supply chains to enhance recycling viability.
- Mr. W. Awa, CEO of Xperien (South Africa), highlighted trade challenges, focusing on the continued reliance on Western markets despite Africa's access to 55 nations. He urged reflection on why Global South businesses continue to be drawn toward Western trade networks.
- Ms. Ni Lu Putu Yunari, CEO of Aludra Impact & SIWA Impact (Indonesia), addressed the regulatory challenges in Indonesia, particularly the lack of cross-country recognition, and called for reform in regulatory frameworks and greater stakeholder awareness to enable the adoption of circular solutions.
- Mr. Pravashen Naidoo, Founder & Managing Director of EWaste Africa (South Africa), emphasized the Global South's potential to manage e-waste locally, drawing attention to the importance of utilizing regional expertise.

Following the panel discussion, Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, Chief Coordinator at DAKSHIN, led thematic presentations. He highlighted the center's efforts to foster partnerships across 86 countries to tackle global challenges related to climate change, agriculture, health, and digital solutions. He stressed the significance of responsible product design in reducing waste and promoting sustainable consumption. Ms. Neha Vyas, Senior Environmental Specialist at the World Bank emphasized the importance of collaboration between governments and the private sector to adopt circular strategies. She pointed out that such strategies are essential not only for meeting climate goals but also for mitigating economic risks and fostering sustainable development. Mr. Reza Bath, an e-waste management expert from Indonesia, discussed the technological gaps in rare metal extraction from e-waste and the prevalence of unsafe recycling practices. He introduced Redonic, an app designed to ensure safe resale and recycling of electronics and shared innovative, eco-friendly metal extraction techniques utilizing bacteria. Prof. Shannon Olsson, Founder and Global Director of The Echo Network, introduced the concept of "knowledge circularity," which involves the sharing and reuse of knowledge among stakeholders. She highlighted that while physical resources can be recycled, knowledge is unique and non-renewable, and its effective sharing requires collaboration and trust-building. Dr. Biljana Matevska, Program Manager at the Centre for Research and Policy Making (CRPM), North Macedonia, presented a case study on repurposing biomass waste from Macedonian wineries into products such as pellets, fertilizer, and oil. She emphasized that the initiative aims to reduce pollution and stimulate local economic growth. Dr. Glenn Aguilar, from Costa Rica, explored the challenges and opportunities related to circular economies in Latin America and the Caribbean. He noted commonalities with the Global

South and emphasized the importance of strong policy frameworks, effective monitoring systems, and financial investment to enable circular economies. Dr. Myriam Blin, Head of the Charles Telfair Centre, Mauritius, outlined Mauritius's circular economy strategy, which includes initiatives such as source segregation, recyclable exports, improved governance, data transparency, regional partnerships, and financial incentives. The workshop provided critical insights into the role of circular economy initiatives in the Global South. It underscored the importance of collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and the development of robust policy frameworks to foster sustainable development and address pressing challenges in waste management and resource efficiency.