



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK PHILIPPINES

c/o Ateneo Institute of Sustainability
Selga Hall, 2/F Manila Observatory, Fr. Masterson Drive
Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Ave., 1108 Quezon City
☎ (+63)02 8426-6001 loc. 4851 | ✉ sdsnph@gmail.com | 🌐 bit.ly/sdsnph

“Circular Economy in Higher Education: Our Pact for the Future”

Joint SDSN Philippines 2024 Public Plenary and ProSPER.Net 2024 Sustainability Forum

Date: 25 September 2024 (Wednesday)

Venue: Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, the Philippines
Escaler Hall (250 people)
+ Online via Zoom and YouTube streaming

Time: 1:30–5:00pm (GMT+8, MNL)

Registration: <https://go.ateneo.edu/CircularEconomyinHE>

Introduction

As the global community reaches the looming cutoff for attaining the 2030 Agenda, the concept of circular economy continues to gain traction as a model of production and consumption. Circularity refers to maintaining products in circulation for a prolonged period of time as much as possible, such that utilization of additional resources and production of new materials are minimized if not eliminated. It is often posited as a concrete solution to preserving the natural resources and minimizing carbon emissions, which are essential in meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement.

In recent years, governments worldwide have been pushing for a circular economy as a path moving forward. For example, in the Philippines, Republic Act No. 11898 or the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Law of 2022 holds companies accountable for the plastic packaging they generate or use in their operations. While the law focuses on plastic packaging, it has motivated key players to conduct life cycle analyses and end-of-life studies regarding their various products.

As circularity exists in a system of systems, it can be achieved solely through cross-linking mechanisms and multilateral cooperations of various key sectors in the society. The necessity for synergies to meet the 2030 Agenda is the core of the much anticipated 2024 Summit of the Future, where nations will convene to discuss the emerging challenges and opportunities, as well as the way forward in meeting the SDGs.

In this light, while heavily tackled in the industry and business context, circular economy needs to permeate and be integrated in other sectors in the society including universities. For one, higher education institutions play an integral role in advancing circularity through its inherent functions in the areas of teaching, research, outreach, and stewardship, as well as its unique position to form the future leaders of nations and the global community. Recently, leaders of universities worldwide, including Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University in the Philippines, released a [statement](#) in support of UN member states as they prepare for the Summit of the Future. Even with numerous exemplar case studies on universities mainstreaming circular economy, the framework on how this can be done still needs to be further mainstreamed.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK PHILIPPINES

c/o Ateneo Institute of Sustainability
Selga Hall, 2/F Manila Observatory, Fr. Masterson Drive
Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Ave., 1108 Quezon City
☎ (+63)02 8426-6001 loc. 4851 | ✉ sdsnph@gmail.com | 🌐 bit.ly/sdsnph

Thus, this public plenary shall delve into the pivotal role of higher education and multisectoral cooperations in advancing the circular economy as a mindset and a lifestyle. Punctuating the role of higher education institutions and in the spirit of SDG17 Partnership for the Goals, this public plenary shall witness the synergy between two networks of universities committed to sustainable development, namely the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Philippines (SDSN PH) and the Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network (ProSPER.Net). This forum shall serve as the 2024 SDSN PH Public Plenary and the 2024 ProSPER.Net Sustainability Forum.

Jointly organized by the Ateneo Institute of Sustainability (AIS) of the Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU, Philippines), United Nations University - Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), De La Salle University (DLSU, Philippines), Sustainable Development Solutions Network Philippines (SDSN PH), and Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network (ProSPER.Net), the half-day forum will feature the plenary talk by Prof. Usha Iyer-Raniga of Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. This will be followed by two panel discussions on successes and challenges in circularity in universities and the greater community in Asia-Pacific.

The forum shall be held under the shadows of UN General Assembly (September 10–24) and the 2024 Summit of the Future: Our Common Agenda (September 22–23). With the said Summit having discussions on multilateral solutions at its core, holding the forum in the shadow of this broader global context signifies universities' affirmation to enhancing cooperation toward the 2030 Agenda.



“Circular Economy in Higher Education: Our Pact for the Future”

25 September 2024 (Wednesday) | 1:30-5:00pm (GMT+8:00)
Escaler Hall, AdMU & via Zoom

Registration link: TBA

Working Program Flow

Moderator: Ms. Ma. Margarita Christina A. Lacdao
Program Head for Sustainable Development Goals
Ateneo Institute of Sustainability (AIS)

Time	Segment	Speakers (TBC)
1:00-1:30pm	Registration	
1:35-1:40pm <i>[5 mins]</i>	National anthem Invocation	
1:40-1:45pm <i>[5 mins]</i>	Welcome remarks	Fr. Roberto C. Yap, S.J. <i>President,</i> <i>Ateneo de Manila University</i>
1:45-1:50pm <i>[5 mins]</i>	Opening remarks	Dir. Shinobu Yume Yamaguchi <i>Director, United Nations University –</i> <i>Institute for the Advanced Study of</i> <i>Sustainability</i>
1:50-1:55pm <i>[5 mins]</i>	Inspirational remarks	Ms. Tokie Izaki <i>Deputy Director of Office of</i> <i>Environmental Education,</i> <i>Ministry of the Environment, Japan</i>
1:55-2:00m <i>[5 mins]</i>	Session introduction	
2:00-2:20pm <i>[20 mins]</i>	Keynote Lecture (in-person) “Multilateral cooperations towards circular economy in the Asia-Pacific”	Prof. Usha Iyer-Raniga <i>Professor, Royal Melbourne Institute of</i> <i>Technology (RMIT University)</i>
2:20-2:35pm <i>[15 mins]</i>	Keynote Open forum	
2:35-3:05pm <i>[30 mins]</i>	Panel Discussion 1 (in-person/hybrid) “The changing landscapes of circular economy in the Asia-Pacific”	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have different sectors and industries changed their operations in response to call for circular economy? • What contributes to the creating an enabling environment to advance circularity? • What are the challenges towards multilateral cooperation for sustainability in the Asia-Pacific context? 	<p>Ms. Sandy Tiu <i>Founder & CEO, I am Sustainable Studio</i></p> <p>Mr. Joseph Chan <i>Deputy Director Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Office The Chinese University of Hong Kong</i></p> <p>Mr. Albert Park <i>Chief Economist and Director General of the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, Asian Development Bank</i></p>
3:05–3:20pm <i>[15 mins]</i>	Panel 1 open forum	
3:20–3:30pm <i>[10 mins]</i>	Wellness break	
3:30–4:00pm <i>[30 mins]</i>	<p>Panel Discussion 2 (in-person/hybrid)</p> <p>“Successes and challenges of universities in circularity”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do universities play a pivotal role in advancing circularity in the Asia-Pacific? • How are the universities heeding the call for circular economy? • What are the challenges and opportunities being faced by universities? 	<p>Ms. Nuntinee Malanon <i>Deputy Director, SDG Move TH & Instructor, Thammasat University</i></p> <p>Dr. Anupam Khajuria (Zoom) <i>Research Fellow and Academic Associate, United Nations University - Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)</i></p> <p>Dr. Leland Joseph R. Dela Cruz <i>Assistant Vice President for Social and Environment Engagement for Development and Sustainability, Ateneo de Manila University</i></p>
4:00–4:15pm <i>[15 mins]</i>	Panel 2 open forum	
4:15–4:25pm <i>[10 mins]</i>	Acknowledgement of speakers	
4:25–4:35pm <i>[10 mins]</i>	Invitation to SDSN PH & Launch of SDSN Philippines Network Projects	<p>Dr. Emmanuel D. Delocado <i>Country Manager, Sustainable Development Solutions Network Philippines & Director, Ateneo Institute of Sustainability</i></p>



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK PHILIPPINES

c/o Ateneo Institute of Sustainability
Selga Hall, 2/F Manila Observatory, Fr. Masterson Drive
Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Ave., 1108 Quezon City
☎ (+63)02 8426-6001 loc. 4851 | ✉ sdsnph@gmail.com | 🌐 bit.ly/sdsnph

4:35–4:45pm <i>[10 mins]</i>	Invitation to ProSPER.Net	Mr. Jerome Silla (Zoom) <i>Research Associate, United Nations University - Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)</i>
4:45–4:50pm <i>[5 mins]</i>	Closing remarks	Dr. Benjamin Gerardo T. Tolosa, Jr. <i>Vice President for Mission Integration, Ateneo de Manila University</i>
4:50–5:00pm <i>[10 mins]</i>	Group photo Evaluation	



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK PHILIPPINES

c/o Ateneo Institute of Sustainability
Selga Hall, 2/F Manila Observatory, Fr. Masterson Drive
Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Ave., 1108 Quezon City
☎ (+63)02 8426-6001 loc. 4851 | ✉ sdsnph@gmail.com | 🌐 bit.ly/sdsnph

About the organizers

Forum conveners:

Emmanuel D. Delocado, Ph.D.
Director, AIS
Country Manager, SDSN PH

Ms. Ma. Margarita Christina A. Lacdao
Program Manager for Sustainable Development Goals, AIS
Events and Communications Coordinator, SDSN PH

Contact details: sdsnph@gmail.com

Organizing institutions:

Sustainable Development Solutions Network Philippines (SDSN PH)
Ateneo Institute of Sustainability (AIS), Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU, Philippines)
De La Salle University (DLSU, Philippines)
Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network
(ProSPER.Net)
United Nations University - Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

Collaborating networks:

Sustainable Development Solutions Network Philippines (SDSN PH)

<https://www.unsdsn.org/our-networks/philippines/>
<https://www.ateneo.edu/ais/sdgprogram/sdsnph/home>

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) works under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General to mobilize the world's universities, think tanks, and national laboratories for action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement; empower societies through free online education; and translate scientific evidence and ideas into solutions and accountability.

Since 2018, the Secretariat of SDSN PH has been housed at the Ateneo Institute of Sustainability in Ateneo de Manila University. This year, two leading Philippine universities, Ateneo and De La Salle University, entered into an agreement to co-host SDSN PH. Serving as the national chapter of the global UN SDSN network, SDSN PH is composed of 28 universities, research centers, and civic society organizations working together in leveraging resources for sustainability initiatives. Interested institutions may [apply](#) to join the continuously growing Philippine network.

Annually, SDSN PH hosts a public plenary that brings together at least 200 local participants and numerous foreign attendees.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK PHILIPPINES

c/o Ateneo Institute of Sustainability
Selga Hall, 2/F Manila Observatory, Fr. Masterson Drive
Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Ave., 1108 Quezon City
☎ (+63)02 8426-6001 loc. 4851 | ✉ sdsnph@gmail.com | 🌐 bit.ly/sdsnph

Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network (ProSPER.Net)

<https://prospernet.ias.unu.edu/>

ProSPER.Net is an alliance of leading universities in the Asia-Pacific region that are committed to integrating sustainable development into postgraduate courses and curricula. The network, dubbed ProSPER.Net: Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network, is developing a new generation of leaders who can best tackle global sustainability challenges in the face of rapid environmental degradation. By changing the way higher education institutions teach students about sustainability, ProSPER.Net improves the ways in which future professionals manage sustainability issues across a wide variety of disciplines.

The Ateneo de Manila University, through the Ateneo Institute of Sustainability, is a member of the Expert Advisory Panel (EAP) on Circular Economy of ProSPER.Net. Previously, Ateneo hosted the 2021 Sustainability Forum with focus on planetary health.