



2022-2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

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Prepared By:

International Council for Circular Economy

The International Council for Circular Economy is an independent think tank in India. We are a thought leader with a global outlook to help the India transition from current Linear to a Circular Economy.

The council engages in advocacy, promoting research and innovation to influence the future. We work with our partners to conduct experiments and pilot projects that strengthen the reform and resilience in society globally.

We envisage a fair, sustainable and inspiring future that ensures recreating mother earth for people's well-being within the limits of the earth's carrying capacity.

Our office is registered in New Delhi, India with our corporate office in Gurgaon. The council engages in work in India and internationally with our partners.

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# MANAGING DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear colleagues, partners, and stakeholders,

It is with a profound sense of gratitude and excitement that I share this Director's message for our third annual report. First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who has contributed to our success. Together, we have made tremendous strides in advancing the principles and practices of the circular economy. Our collective efforts have fostered a global community dedicated to sustainable and resource-efficient development.

Over the past three years, ICCE has successfully championed the circular economy agenda, bringing together industry leaders, policymakers, researchers, and civil society organizations. Through collaborative initiatives, impactful events, and knowledge-sharing platforms, we have created a vibrant ecosystem that nurtures innovation, collaboration, and transformative change.

We have witnessed the power of collective action in driving circular economy practices. Our accomplishments include the establishment of circular hotspots, which have become catalysts for regional transformation. These hotspots have brought stakeholders together, facilitating collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the replication of successful circular initiatives.

Our flagship programs, such as the Circular Labs, India Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform have fostered innovation and empowered the younger generation to become agents of change. By nurturing talent and providing platforms for creative problem-solving, we have unleashed the immense potential of our youth to shape a sustainable future.

The launch of the Journal on Circular Economy and our partnership with academia and industry have further elevated the importance of research and knowledge dissemination in the circular economy domain. By amplifying cutting-edge research and best practices, we have facilitated learning, informed decision-making, and inspired further exploration.

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, I am filled with enthusiasm for the present and unwavering optimism for the future. The global momentum for the circular economy is growing, and we are at the forefront of this transformation. Our work has the potential to reshape industries, economies, and societies for the better.

Looking ahead, we must seize the opportunities that lie before us. We will continue to advocate for supportive policies, collaborate with key stakeholders, and expand our reach to new regions and sectors. Together, we will push the boundaries of innovation, drive the adoption of circular practices, and build a resilient and regenerative future.

I invite each one of you to join us on this exciting journey. Your dedication, expertise, and unwavering support have been instrumental in our success so far, and your continued engagement will be crucial in shaping the future of the circular economy.

Thank you for your commitment to the International Council for Circular Economy. Let us embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead with renewed vigor and determination. Together, we will create a world where sustainability and prosperity go hand in hand.

With warm regards,

Shalini Bhalla  
Managing Director,  
International Council for Circular Economy



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## ICEF2022

First edition of India Circular Economy Forum sees overwhelming response from all sectors

1

JUNE  
2022

JUNE  
2022

2

## Annual Report

Our Second Annual Report was released by My Sudhir Kumar, Adviser, NITI Aayog

## Smart India Hackathon

ICCE partners with world's biggest open platform for the innovators or entrepreneurs

3

AUGUST  
2022

SEPTEMBER  
2022

4

## ISO/TC 323/WG4

Represented India and Indian interests at the global level at the international ISO meet.

## Addressing sustainability in standards

Developing SMART (Standards that are Machine Applicable, Readable and Transferable) for quick implementation of the sustainability vision through standards

5

SEPTEMBER  
2022

SEPTEMBER  
2022

6

## Circular Chat-Season 4

Turning ESG into action: ICCE brings Season4 officially live on Youtube

## Launch of India's first Circular Lab at MET, Mumbai

The lab prepare & equip students with the core principles of Circular Economy, sustainability, Climate Change and Mission Life

## Training in Saudi Arabian for SMEs

ICCE conducted training in Saudi Arabia with MODON

7

NOVEMBER  
2022

DECEMBER  
2022

8

## HCEF2022

ICCE hosted Himalayan Circular Economy Forum, supported by Hon'ble CM of #Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami ji, to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in Circularity.

## Partner Meet with ABFRL, GIZ and CEE

Develop PPP project that aims to introduce material innovation, reduce inputs of harmful substances, increase textile-to-textile recycling, develop alternatives to plastic packaging, and foster traceability.

9

JANUARY  
2023

FEBRUARY  
2023

10

## Second issue of Journal

ICCE releases second issue of Journal on Circular Economy

## Circular Economy Coalition

ICCE becomes a Founding Member of Circular Economy Coalition, a Norwegian initiative

11

MARCH  
2023

# FACT SHEET



**20K**  
views on Youtube

**3500+**  
watchtime hours



**4,500**  
Course enrollments



**5200**  
**Active New Accounts**  
3 of 5 new accounts are currently active and engaged



**14**  
Papers published so far in  
**2**  
issues of Journal on Circular Economy



**Circular Chats**  
Climate Change and Circular Economy  
ESG and Sustainability reporting

# 5 FOCUS AREAS

Developing interventions around our core values **resilience, respect and responsibility** by being **a hub of action** around Circular Economy in India and around the world



To promote the stable **quantitative and qualitative economic growth**, and to explore future development options with focus on India, Africa, and EU



Developing **new workstreams and collaborative partnerships** with members and potential organizations



Enhancing **thought leadership** around cutting edge research/ surveys and publications



Leading initiatives in **Circular practices, climate change, sustainability** and economic growth



# RESEARCH

## TAKING ACTION AGAINST TAKE-MAKE-WASTE ECONOMY



The **Journal on Circular Economy** provides a dedicated platform for scholars, researchers, and practitioners to publish their findings and insights on various aspects of the circular economy. By showcasing cutting-edge research, case studies, and innovative approaches, the journal has contributed to the expansion of knowledge and understanding in this evolving field. It has encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration and facilitated the exchange of ideas among experts worldwide.

Several **call for papers** with our partners has further stimulated research in the circular economy. By inviting academics, researchers, and industry professionals to submit their research papers and proposals, we have actively encouraged the exploration of novel concepts, methodologies, and practical applications to today's issues.

ICCE has played a significant role in elevating the profile of circular economy research, contributed as a **growing body of knowledge, promoted interdisciplinary research,** and strengthened the research ecosystem in the circular economy domain.



# CAPACITY BUILDING

Our specialized trainings designed for youth have helped them nurture a deep understanding of circular economy principles and practices. Our trainings are focussed on topics such as sustainable design, waste management, resource optimization, innovative business models and have equipped participants with knowledge that empowers them to become change agents and future leaders.

The capacity-building initiatives at ICCE have been crucial in enhancing the knowledge and skills of professionals, policymakers, and practitioners. These programs have offered specialized training, workshops, seminars, and certifications to individuals and organizations. Our programs help participants gain insights into the practical implementation of circular economy principles, including circular supply chains, product life extension, remanufacturing, and recycling. We build their capacity, create a pool of experts and practitioners who can drive the adoption of circular practices across industries.

Sharing best practices is a vital element in creating knowledge, identifying and showcasing successful circular economy initiatives, projects, and case studies from different sectors and regions. By disseminating these best practices, we inspire and inform others about the potential benefits and challenges of implementing circular economy strategies.

Our efforts have empowered individuals, organizations, and policymakers with the necessary skills, tools, and inspiration to adopt circular practices, drive innovation, and contribute to the transition towards a more sustainable and resource-efficient future.

# INNOVATION

Activities like the **Smart India Hackathon** are initiatives that have provided platforms for students, entrepreneurs, and innovators to come together and tackle real-world challenges through creative problem-solving. It facilitated collaborative competitions, encouraging participants to develop innovative solutions that promote circularity across various sectors.

The **Circular Economy Catalyst** has supported startups and budding entrepreneurs in ideating and implementing circular business models, providing them with mentoring, resources, and networking opportunities. Circular Labs have served as innovation hubs, facilitating research, experimentation, and knowledge exchange in the field of circular economy.

ICCE has developed a culture of innovation driving the development of sustainable solutions, promoting resource efficiency, and advancing India's circular economy agenda.



SMART INDIA  
HACKATHON  
2022



CIRCULAR ECONOMY  
C A T A L Y S T

# ADVOCACY



We advocate for supportive policies and regulations that enable and incentivize circular economy practices. We create collaborative initiatives that bring multiple stakeholders, including businesses, civil society organizations, research institutions, and policymakers, to collectively advocate for policy changes that promote the circular economy. This collaboration strengthens the voice and influence of stakeholders, increases the likelihood of policy adoption, and creates an enabling environment for circular economy initiatives to thrive.

The council works with policy makers to explore innovative policy approaches and learn from successful policy experiments. By showcasing case studies, policy experiments, and research outcomes, we inspire policymakers to adopt new strategies and ideas in their policymaking processes. They can gain insights into effective policy interventions and learn from the experiences of other regions or countries..

# INDIA CIRCULAR ECONOMY STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM (ICESP)

## Fostering the Circular Economy Mission through a Collaborative approach!

India Circular economy stakeholder platform **facilitates collaboration, knowledge sharing, and collective action among diverse stakeholders**. It brings together various actors, including businesses, governments, civil society organizations, researchers, and consumers and create spaces for dialogue fostering collaboration and joint initiatives that drive circular economy principles and practices.

It is hub that contributes to the collective understanding and advancement of circular economy concepts. It also provide opportunities for stakeholders to co-create solutions through working groups, task forces, and collaborative projects, where stakeholders can pool their expertise, ideas, and resources to develop **innovative approaches, frameworks, and strategies**.

It facilitates the **establishment of networks and partnerships** that extend beyond traditional boundaries. They connect stakeholders from different sectors, regions, and disciplines, fostering relationships and collaborations to leverage each other's strengths, resources, and expertise, leading to collective action and accelerated progress. It help in monitoring and evaluating the progress and impact of circular economy initiatives through established frameworks, metrics, and indicators to track the adoption of **circular practices, resource efficiency, waste reduction**, and other relevant factors.

# INDIA CIRCULAR ECONOMY STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM (ICESP)

## SECRETARIAT



Dr. Naresh Tyagi



Prof S S Marwaha



Mr Anirban Ghosh



Pooran Chandra Pandey



Ravinder Dahiya



Dr Pankaj Mittal



Shalini Goyal Bhalla

A sector-agnostic platform that explores cross-sector opportunities to convert waste to wealth. The purpose is to create a point of national convergence on initiatives, experiences, critical issues, perspectives, and expectations on the circular economy that our country needs and can represent India with a single voice, promoting the Indian way of adapting the economy through specific actions dedicated to the economic, social and environmental pillars.



# CIRCULAR LABS



## LABS

Circular labs play a vital role in promoting the circular economy by serving as hubs of innovation, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. They bring together various stakeholders, including businesses, policymakers, researchers, and NGOs, fostering collaboration and networking. By creating a physical or virtual space for interaction, these labs have facilitated the exchange of ideas, best practices, and expertise that has encouraged cross-sector partnerships, joint initiatives, and knowledge sharing, enabling stakeholders to work together towards common circular economy goals.

Circular labs provide incubation and support to circular startups and entrepreneurs. They offer mentoring, access to funding, infrastructure, and technical support, helping startups turn their circular economy ideas into viable businesses. By nurturing and promoting circular startups, labs contribute to the growth of the circular economy ecosystem, driving innovation and creating economic opportunities.

Circular labs serve as living laboratories, showcasing and demonstrating circular solutions in action. They often pilot and implement circular projects, demonstrating the feasibility and benefits of circular economy practices. These real-life examples inspire and encourage other businesses and organizations to adopt similar approaches, leading to the replication and scaling up of circular initiatives.

# INDIA FIRST CIRCULAR LAB LAUNCH



**WASTE TO WEALTH | REFUSED TO REUSED | LINEAR TO CIRCULAR**

## AREAS OF Action

**Agriculture | Innovation | Energy | Environment | Food | Water | Climate | Health | Built environment |  
Plastics | Textiles | Oceans | Biodiversity**

ICCE launched India's first Circular Lab in collaboration with Institute of Management under the Mumbai Educational Trust, MET League of Colleges in Nov'22. The lab was inaugurated by Dr. Ramesh Unnikrishnan, Adviser AICTE. Mr. Pankaj Bhujbal, Hon. Trustee, Bhujwal Knowledge City, MET, Dr. Swati Lodha, MET IOM, Mr Ravinder Dahiya, Co-Director, ICCE and Ms. Shalini Goyal Bhalla, Managing Director, ICCE graced the occasion with other prominent personalities.

It an open space where mentors, advisers, students, experts, professionals, investors, policymakers, researchers, campuses, incubators and accelerators from around the world engage to help solve pressing social and environmental challenges through Circular Economy practices. It is a circular ride that takes its partakers from a challenge they need to decipher to pitching a circular solution.

# SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

A cooperation document between 7 organizations was signed at WCEF2023. The collaboration will contribute to increased value creation in local and regional business and industry by providing companies with knowledge and expertise on circular economy and assistance in implementing new solutions on both a pilot scale and an industrial scale. The parties see that the activities can be complementary and will help to strengthen the interactions between the environments.

At the global level, the cooperation would help bridging the Global South and the Global North, breaking cultural and lifestyle barriers through solutions and best practice of mapping circular policies, economic incentives and business models. It also proposes joint planning with North and South partners for a global dialogue.

Lead role-

- Ms Shalini Goyal Bhalla, Managing Director, International Council for Circular Economy, India

Lead Partners-

- Mr Chris Whyte, Director of African Circular Economy Network, Africa
- Petar Ostojic, Founder and Director, Centro de Innovación y Economía Circular – CIEC, Chile

Signing Partners-

- Bonmwa Fwangkwal of African Circular Economy Alliance (ACEA)
- João Nunes of CECOLAB, Latin America
- Beatriz Luz of Exchange4Change of Brazil
- Andree Henriquez of Circular Economy Technological Centre (CircularTec)





## ABOUT THE COOPERATION

The collaboration will include, but is not limited to:

- Strengthening multilateral relations and knowledge sharing between the Global South by bridging bottom-up and top-down circularity;
- Support a Shared Intelligence through data-driven solutions for the mapping of best practice circular initiatives compatible with internationally recognized frameworks;
- Support the development of better policies and economic incentives through research and dissemination;
- Experience sharing and joint development of circular economy projects with stakeholder of all levels

The collaboration will contribute to increased value creation in local and regional business and industry by providing companies with knowledge and expertise on circular economy - and assistance in implementing new solutions on both a pilot scale and an industrial scale. The parties see that the activities can be complementary and will help to strengthen the interactions between the environments.



# GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS



# DELIBERATIONS



## Collaborations

MoU between the International Council for Circular Economy and Circular Regions is targeted to bridge the Global North and South breaking down cultural and linguistic barriers to accelerate the transition to a Circular Economy.



## Policy Lab

International Council for Circular Economy deliberated with other think tanks on "CIRCULAR ECONOMY – Climate change & key role played by cities" for a ensuring policy dialogue in Maharashtra



## Policy Review

Rethinking the design process can accelerate the creation of more regenerative and restorative resources. International Council for Circular Economy was invited to be a knowledge partner at IFAT India , 2022 on 29th Sep at Bombay Exhibition Centre.



## India and Circularity

ICCE is committed to working on Circular Economy in India and its Nordic counterparts to progress on Green Strategic Partnership.



## Greenco Summit

Elaborated and discussed challenges faced by circular economy enterprises in India, and address potential solutions, followed by peer presentations of outcomes.

## Conference on Plastics

ICCE was also a knowledge partner at Plastic Recycling Conference Asia 2.0, a renowned conference for Plastics & Plastic Recycling Industries, organized by AP Industry Conferences at The Leela Ambience.



## Innovation

International Council for Circular Economy partnered with MOE's Innovation cell under Ministry of Education to start create innovation in waste management sector.



## Course structure

Need assessment and focused group discussion with stakeholders to develop a course on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency for Architects.

# OUR TEAM



Padmashri  
Dr. Rajagopalan Vasudevan  
Plastic Man of India



Padmashri DR.G.D.Yadav  
Former Vice Chancellor ICT  
Mumbai, India



Pooran Chandra Pandey  
Climate Scorecard, USA



Edward Clarence-Smith  
Sr. Advisor on CE, Austria



Axel Daurt  
CE Advisor, France



Dr. Jayakumar KV  
NIT, Warangal



Dr. Sameer Joshi  
Indian Plastics Institute

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ravinder Dahiya  
Founding Director



Shalini Goyal Bhalla  
Managing Director



Preety Chinda  
Technical Lead



Sandeep Chinda  
Head Strategy

# INSIGHTS FOR FUTURE

## **Pooran Chandra Pandey**

International Visiting Fellow, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan  
Resident Representative, Climate Scorecard, USA  
Advisor, International Council for Circular Economy



The world is currently facing poly-crisis, including intense geopolitical tensions, societal scale issues such as climate change, health emergencies, cost of living crisis, food insecurity and income inequality, among others. Simultaneously, the issue of technology, its deployment and sustainability transition continue to make future more exciting and much more worrying.

At a more human level, poverty, deprivation and lack of representation of opportunities for well-being of the vulnerable around the world forming the corner stone of sustainable development goals continues to regress due to disruptions in supply chains and sustainability check points, slow pace of energy transition and resultant lapse of more than 120 million people back into the poverty cycle raises further questions of efficacy of solutions and measures deployed so far.

In particular, the notion of circularity and its application to solving societal challenges is going to assume transformation and leadership. A broad roadmap is needed. Data, analytics, evidence, original studies, point of view documents and substantive scenario mapping tools and tool kits will much be needed to be developed indigenously and deployed. Critical points for dialogues and discussions in bringing key stakeholders would also require special consideration. India's full view of these macro issues at the international level through its short term (cutting emissions by 50 per cent by 2030) and long term (going carbon neutral by 2070) commitments continue to be appreciated internationally.

International Council for Circular Economy, seized of the opportunity, to support the ongoing efforts of the Indian government, is well placed in addressing the pain points. Its ability to connect at local, regional, bilateral and multilateral levels further augurs well, with its programmatic interventions tightly embedded to national priorities and ongoing international efforts. The Council in its pursuit of critical and long-lasting solutions to the prevalent challenges would need to diligently develop data sets, evidence and robust reports to back the body of work on circular economy that it undertakes in future.

As issues of circular economy, climate change, sustainability transition, and reduction in carbon emissions are interdependent and equally translational and global. It is a common knowledge by now that no one organization, or community, a country or a region would be able to achieve much on their own. Such an undertaking therefore warrants wider cooperation to be able to fully leverage the scale of impact to adequately address the contentious issue of balancing green growth with sustainable development.



# GRATITUDES

Annual report is an opportunity to reflect on our achievements, address important matters, and chart the course for the future.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to our esteemed advisors, whose guidance and wisdom have been invaluable throughout our journey. Their expertise and support have been pivotal in driving our council's success, and we are immensely grateful for their continued mentorship.

To our dedicated members, we extend our sincerest appreciation for your unwavering commitment and contributions to our council's mission. Their passion, hard work, and active involvement has been the driving force behind our accomplishments, and we are grateful for your dedication to our cause.

Last but not least, we extend our thanks to our followers and supporters who have been with us every step of the way. Their encouragement, feedback, and engagement have been crucial in shaping our initiatives and spreading our message to a wider audience.

We are honored to have your unwavering support. As we move forward, we remain committed to our vision and look forward to your continued involvement and partnership. Together, we can create a positive and lasting impact in our community and beyond.

Ravinder Dahiya  
Founding Director  
International Council for Circular Economy

# CONTACT US

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