

Himalayan Circular Economy Forum (HCEF2023)

Transitioning from throwaway culture!

Background

2023 is going to see the second edition of Himalayan Circular Economy Forum (HCEF2023).

The first edition of HCEF in 2022 saw thought leaders, industry experts and practitioners who drove the ambition and action plan for transitioning from a take-make-waste paradigm to a truly circular economy. The recommendation helped to drive sustainable development and to address climatic change. The forum was recognized as India's largest congregation on Circular Economy that focusses on India with a global outlook. Collaboration across different stakeholders is the only option to build a safe and resilient economy in India. HCEF is a forum driven by national & global experts illustrating how circularity in businesses can prove to be a sound strategy, to facilitate access to new markets, drive innovative solutions and save costs.

HCEF will explore the circular economy from a cross-sectoral and gender perspective to understand how the circular transition will impact different people differently. Drawing on diverse voices and perspectives, the sessions aim to enrich current approaches to the circular economy and shed light on new opportunities and ways of thinking for the state as well as at a national level.

The sessions position social, environmental and economic goals as equally important goals that are mutually reinforcing. The forum includes presentations on environmental justice and Indigenous worldviews of circularity, as well as panel discussions to identify innovations that ensure prosperous, inclusive and equitable transitions within communities and sectors. The conclave will be of interest to both experts and learners from all regions and sectors who believe that circular economy policies, practices and programs should be fair and equitable. The conclave will integrate the circular economy into the sustainable development agenda and support a fair circular transition.

SDGs that would be focussed includes: SDG 1, 3 5 8 10 11 12 16 17

Foreword

The Himalayan Circular Economy Forum (HCEF) is the annual knowledge initiative organized by ICCE. Instituted in 2022, the forum introduces Circular Economy at all levels in all industry sectors. The first edition of HCEF in 2022 brought together thought industry leaders, heads of state and government, scholars, corporates, youth groups, not for profit sector and civil society representatives from the state of Uttarakhand. The HCEF has been recognized as a responsible and an effective platform for mobilizing opinion-makers to advance actions to address some of the most relevant issues concerning sustainable development, resource efficiency and climate change.

This HCEF focusses on more Himalayan states and will include active role from several other states like Himachal Pradesh, J&K.

HCEF has emerged as an independent forum on Circular Economy based in Global South, with a global outlook and outreach. The forum will help develop international cooperation and collaborations apart from assembling the world's most enlightened leaders and thinkers. Multiple plenaries, thematic sessions, international dialogues, exhibitions on sustainable production and consumption and innovations highlighted HCEF in the global community. Last edition witnessed the participation of 2 Ministries, 25 speakers, over 50 Business Leaders, and 200 Delegates.

SDG 12 entails decoupling economic growth and environmental degradation and demands more efficient and environmentally friendly management of resources, including improving energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, access to basic services, and providing green and decent jobs to ensure a better quality of life for all. Under this consideration, the deliberations at HCEF2023 would focus on planetary resilience, for benefitting economy as well as Planet Earth.

HCEF2023 will once again play an important role in not just providing a platform for dialogues, but also to create new knowledge outputs, where leaders from various sectors will come together and reflect upon their experiences. Youth will share latest research and innovation in these sectors to enhance the transition from a take-make-waste economy, as per the vision of our hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi.

Why HCEF:

Human race has progressed at a rapid pace in last several decades and that progress has manifested its effect in our life, livelihood, lifestyle, ecosystem and economy. Similarly, any devastating effect human activity has on ecosystem manifests itself into human life, livelihood, lifestyle and economy. This has received global attention and people are recognizing the need for sustainable adaptation of activities to design out waste and pollution and keep products and materials in circular use and then regenerate natural systems.

It has been accepted globally that Circular Economy is more sustainable than the current linear economic system. A Circular Economy is a systemic approach to economic development designed to benefit businesses, society, and the environment. In contrast to the 'take-make-waste' linear model, a circular economy is regenerative by design and aims to gradually decouple growth from the consumption of finite resources and to close the gap between the production and the natural ecosystems' cycles – on which humans ultimately depend upon. This translates to economic gain and ecosystem conservation by eliminating one of the indirect ways of ecosystem devastation which is pollution. According to Circle Economy calculations, 62% of GHG emissions (excluding those from land use and forestry) come from the extraction, processing and production of goods to meet society's needs; only 38% are emitted in the supply and use of products and services. If the principles of circular economy adapted in our current economic structure, GHG emissions will be automatically reduced on a global scale. For example, emissions from industry in the European Union would fall by 56% in 2050 if the circular economy were to become a reality this would in turn have large scale global effect and environmental benefit. Moreover, circular economy offers an estimated economic benefit of \$4.5 trillion by 2030. However, there is a long way to go to attain all these economic and environmental benefit as only 8.6% of the world is circular.

For a wider and rapid adaptation, integration and manifestation we need participation, commitment and understanding and accessibility of alternative ways. Alongside firms, product designers, and manufacturers, government plays an important role in advancing the circular economy. By setting legislative agendas, developing strategic programs and public services, and making smart decisions regarding internal agency operations, government can drive the demand for circular products and influence the way businesses operate. Large municipalities especially, have significant influence over the public and commerce, far-reaching purchasing power, and the ability to impact millions of stakeholders through policies and programs.

The International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE) with the ambition to expedite the momentum towards the adaptation of a circular economy through mainstreaming dialogue, understanding and

deliberation around the topic to yield solutions and integrated action plan that realizes the collective vision of sustainable world through circular economy.

Objectives:

1. Promote prevention, minimize & reuse as method to waste reduction and reduce the necessity to recycle
2. Highlighting sectors that need immediate attention
3. Highlight ambitious plastic policy to enable plastic centred circular economy
4. Highlight policy and regulation making recycled raw material usage economically attractive and replicable
5. Unique innovation & technology to influence Economic production/multiple use of one product to reduce waste
6. Promote eco-design & authentication measure to boost sustainable economy
7. Systemic framework to take lifecycle accounting for any production & manufacturing
8. Greater resource efficiency and optimization of manufacturing processes that allows raw materials to go further, so more can be done with fewer resources and less waste.
9. Capturing value locked in products and materials that are traditionally discarded after a single iteration, either through reuse for the same purpose, or through reincarnations into entirely new and different uses.
10. Promote strategic financial flow & social practices to enable the manifestation of circular economy principles in life, lifestyle & livelihood.
11. Lobby policy framework to regulate and implement global best practices of circular economy for various countries

Expected Outcomes

1. Action Plan for waste prevention, eco-design and re-use
2. Realizing whole benefits of circular economy practice & policy
3. Improving the security of the supply of raw materials.
4. Increasing competitiveness, stimulating innovation.
5. Boosting economic growth (an additional 0.5% of gross domestic product)

HCEF is an opportunity for

- LEADERS: Learn and promote climate neutral & competitive economy
- ENVIRONMENT EXPERTS: Correlate Circular Economy and Climate Change Mitigation
- ENTREPRENEURS: Delivering new innovative business models
- RESEARCHERS: Get insights in the new domain
- POLICYMAKERS: Learn from best practices and models from across the globe
- BUSINESS: Plan a sound strategy for global outreach
- INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORS: Explore business opportunities in Indian market

HCEF will see

- 30+ speakers
- 200+ decision makers
- Several state and central ministries
- Global experts and collaborators
- 4 sectors and 5 cross cutting issues

Proposed Partners

- State Governments
- Department of Forest and Climate change
- DST
- MNRE
- IIM Jammu
- IIM Kashipur
- IIT Delhi

Proposed Date: 17 December 2023, Sunday

Place: Uttarakhand University