

# DECENT WORK AS BASIS FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY:

*PERSPECTIVE FROM GARMENT FACTORIES IN THE MEKONG REGION*



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This presentation illustrates the decent work as important facts and ideas for the circular economy globally. The concept of circular economy beyond waste, water and energy are not only prioritized as whole abstract of the circular economy. It also delivers decent work contribution to promote circular economy in the society such as i. garment and textile waste, ii. exploitative working condition in garment factories, iii. promoting decent work contributes to circular economy.

Textile waste which are emerging rapidly has degradable environmental effects together with microplastic when synthetic fiber clothes are washed which leads to serious health issues for the society. Many textile factories in Asia have bad working condition with minimum wages to support cheap production of clothes and textiles. Recent Covid-19 pandemic outbreak has been a measure challenge to many of these factory workers who are in the verge of losing their jobs as they rely on daily wage and most of them do not have a permanent job or work contract. Furthermore, advocating use of low-cost materials for longer duration avoiding discarded waste can be helpful to reduce textile waste. Recycling garments goods instead of discarding after few months promotes better longer durability of garment products. Also, change in the consumption behavior leads to more sustainability in such sectors. Upcycling helps to reduce garment waste, environmental effects and raise the wages of garment factory workers too. Reusing contributes to better circular economy through reducing the number of amounts of garment that are being used in day-to-day life. Such activities promote gender equality and women's empowerment as women are more vulnerable.

The presentation describes GET matrix for action, how the circular economy can be utilized in garment business circular society both in global, national, and local level. Promoting decent work together with government, business and individual can contribute for the better circular economy.

