



CIRCULAR ECONOMY MODEL FOR PLASTIC POLLUTION MANAGEMENT CONCEPT NOTES

Introduction

Over a hundred years since plastic invention, plastic has become an important material used in various products from medical equipment to food containers. Plastic is used everywhere for many purposes. As the world tries to curb its usage of single-use plastic, COVID-19 pandemic has reversed the efforts. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the usage of single-use plastic were the choices made; resulting in an increase in municipal plastic packaging wastages.

Medical and contaminated municipalities' plastic waste management was inadequate and mismanaged. Large and sudden changes left workers disrupted and many were unable to do their regular waste collection. The steps for treatment, recovery & recycling, safe disposal intensified the plastic pollution load since municipal offices were not prepared. Environmental health, social wellbeing, and economic health were all affected by the increase in plastic pollution. Challenges of proper waste management existed before COVID-19 and were exacerbated after COVID-19 times, this project will focus on how the circular economy model can help and mitigate the plastic pollution problem.

Project Objectives

The objective of this project is to highlight the challenges of managing plastic and plastic packing wastages and how can innovative ideas and solutions can be used to achieve sustainable plastic and packaging waste management.

Topics:

- Plastic and plastic packaging waste regional challenges and its impact on health, economy, and environment.
- Successful management of plastic waste in healthcare

- Innovative methods for plastic waste management
- Issues faced with plastic waste management and recommendations

Expected Results

After completion of the course, attendees are expected to:

- Attendees will understand where plastic waste management issues are most dire, and issues faced by management and policymakers
- Attendees will be able to use innovative practice, data, and sustainable planning for circular economy models
- Technical paper: Use of disposable plastic and COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific: Impact on plastic pollution in waterways and rivers which covers: Plastic Value Chain, E-commerce, Food Service, Health Care, and Municipal Waste.

Webinar:

Webinar Series:

Webinar Topic 1: Assessment of COVID-19 plastic waste flow in South Asia

Webinar Topic 2: Plastic & plastic packaging waste from online food delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic

Webinar Topic 3: Plastic waste management in the health care sector during COVID-19 pandemic in Sri Lanka: Success stories, issues, and concerns

Webinar Topic 4: Health care waste management during COVID-19 pandemic – observed trends, challenges, and recommendations for policy and practice

Webinar Topic 5: COVID-19 & E-commerce plastic packaging