With 54% of the world’s population living in cities, cities consume 75% of natural resources and are responsible for over 70% of greenhouse gas emissions and waste. By 2050, it is expected more than 6.5 billion residents will be living in cities. With such a great amount of resources consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, cities play a vital role for the human society to achieve the SDGs.

Transiting from the linear ‘take-make-dispose’ pattern towards the circular cities is a pathway to reach the Sustainable Development Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities), Goal 12 (responsible consumption and production), and Goal 13 (climate action). The traditional linear development pattern has made cities suffer from adverse impacts on the environment and the economy, including the insufficient space of landfills, the increasing cost of waste management, and the loss of competitiveness. By adopting the circular approach, cities can get out of the pitfall and be prosperous again. The circular approach is to close the loops of materials and to retain the values of resources in the urban system. Waste and the use of raw materials will be minimized. Greenhouse gases emission and energy consumption will be reduced. The circular approach will encourage innovation and alternative business models in cities. New and green jobs will be created, and the economic growth will decouple with resource overuse.

ICLEI defines a Green Circular City is a sustainable urban ecosystem in which the loops of materials will be closed, and the value of resource is efficiently utilized through applying the circular approach—redesign, reuse, repair, remanufacture, recycle, and recover—which will benefit the environment, prosper the economy, and thrive the society. Cities all over the world are taking actions and searching for solutions to become Green Circular cities. By learning and sharing good practices and experiences with peers, cities can speed up the transition and duplicate with resource overuse.

In light of the above, this Forum convenes ambitious cities and partners which have the interest in facilitating circular cities transition to discuss effective ways to mainstream the circular approach in the urban planning and implement. The high-level representatives of national and local governments, international organizations, businesses and institutes will share their experiences, good practices and insights to overcome the challenges and barriers.

**MAIN TOPICS**

- Circular cities and the relationship with sustainable development
- Good policies and strategies on the circular cities transition
- The challenges and opportunities of the transition toward circular cities, and solutions
- The role of international partners in facilitating cities’ circular transition
AGENDA

14.30-14.45 OPENING
Moderator | Shu ZHU, Director, ICLEI East Asia

Yan CHEN Mayor, City of Guiyang, China
Monika ZIMMERMANN Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI—Local Governments of Sustainability
Alex ZHANG Director, Eco-forum Global

14.45-15.55 GOOD POLICIES & STRATEGIES ON CIRCULAR CITIES
Moderator | Merlin LAO, Program Manager, ICLEI East Asia

Cities are the driver to the transition toward the circular society. With dense population and potentials of innovative initiatives, cities are the best living labs to test, implement, and monitor the circular economy practices. In this session we invite cities around the globe to demonstrate the immense potential and good practices, aiming to inspire more cities to take actions on the circular transition.

Gang LI Mayor, City of Liupanshui, China
Minna ARVE Mayor, City of Turku, Finland
Hui LUO Deputy Mayor, City of Suining, China
Hiroshi YAKUWA Director of Waste Disposal Facilities Division, Proper Disposal Planning Department, Resources and Waste Recycling Bureau, Yokohama, Japan
Qiang ZHOU Deputy Director, Development and Reform Commission, City of Shanghai, China
Hisao NAKAMURA Director of the Environmental Industry Promotion Division, Environment Bureau, Kitakyushu, Japan
Jing YU Deputy Director, Development and Reform Commission, City of Shenzhen, China

15.55-16.00 SIGNING CEREMONY

16.00-16.10 COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING

16.10-16.25 INTRODUCTION OF THE INITIATIVE OF GREEN CIRCULAR CITIES COALITION
Moderator | Merlin LAO, Program Manager, ICLEI East Asia

ICLEI, as a leading global network of more than 1,500 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future, recognizes the crucial role of cities in the circular transition. To accelerate the transition, ICLEI is planning a new initiative—Green Circular Cities Coalition, which will present opportunity for cities across the world to become global leaders in urban circular economy transition.

Shu ZHU Director and China Representative, ICLEI East Asia

16.25-17.00 PRATICAL STRATEGIES TOWARDS CIRCULAR CITIES
Moderator | Konrad OTTO-ZIMMERMANN, Senior Advisor, ICLEI East Asia

Businesses and research institutes are the backbones of circular cities development, as the solutions and innovative strategies support cities to make the circular vision a reality. In this session we invite experienced solution providers from private sectors and academia to share practical strategies which are already being implemented in cities worldwide, and to discuss the possibility of upscaling and replicated the success.

| THEMATIC SPEECH |
Harald FRIEDL CEO, Circle Economy, the Netherlands
Huanzheng DU Professor, Tongji University, China
Jet CHANG Vice President, Circular Economy, TOMRA Group, Norway

| INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION |

17.00-17.30 PANEL DISCUSSION
Moderator | Merlin LAO, Program Manager, ICLEI East Asia

The journey towards the circular cities is only just started. All cities, partners, and stakeholders are in the process of exploring the pathway to implement the circular approach—redesign, reuse, repair, remanufacture, recycle, and recover. Cooperation and collaboration between different stakeholders will be the key to a successful transformation. In the panel discussion, we invite stakeholders from cities, private sectors, and national and international organizations to discuss the opportunities and solutions of potential barriers.

Hiroshi YAKUWA Director of Waste Disposal Facilities Division, Proper Disposal Planning Department, Resources and Waste Recycling Bureau, Yokohama, Japan
Hisao NAKAMURA Director of the Environmental Industry Promotion Division, Environment Bureau, Kitakyushu, Japan
Yi Yang LIU Head of Department of Development and Strategies, Trinabess
Ya Jie SONG Global Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (GIESD at Yale University)
Yue XIAN Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Sitech

17.30-17.35 CLOSING
Shu ZHU Director and China Representative, ICLEI East Asia