

Short Course: Circular Economy Pathways in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Region – Barriers and Opportunities

PRESENTERS

Dr. Nidhi Nagabhatla, The United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS), Belgium



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Nidhi Nagabhatla is a Senior Fellow and Cluster Coordinator: Nature, Climate and Health at United Nations University - CRIS Belgium. As a sustainability science specialist and a systems analyst with >20 years of work experience, she has led, coordinated, and implemented transdisciplinary projects in various geographical regions of Asia, Africa, Europe, and Americas working with international organizations and leading research and capacity development initiatives. She is also affiliated with Oxford University (UK) and Leibniz University (Germany) in various roles, mostly related to sustainability research, science-policy interfacing and mentoring young professionals. She serves as Adj/Professor at the School of Earth, Environment & Society McMaster University, Canada, and a Guest Professor at Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, Bolivia. She also served as the Chair of The Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (UNEP) and co-leads the 'Water and Migration Working Group' of The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. She was a lead author in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment Report. Currently, she is actively involved with three expert working committees of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).

Website: <https://cris.unu.edu/nidhi-nagabhatla>

Dr. Cecilia Soto, Mayor de San Andres University, Coordinator of Postgraduate Unit of Chemical Engineering (UPG-IQPAA, UMSA), Bolivia



Cecilia has a degree on environmental engineering, and she was fortunate to obtain MEXT scholarship to do her Master and PhD in Japan at Tohoku University where she gained wide-range experience in Ecological engineering. Currently, she is Chair of the International Water Association in Bolivia, professor, and coordinator of Postgraduate Programs in Chemical Engineering at Mayor de San Andres University in La Paz, Bolivia. She has been doing research to use biosorbents for water treatment for indigenous communities in order to remove heavy metals from water. She has received two international awards as researcher. She also gained knowledge in resolution of environmental issues in international organizations and NGOs. She is affiliated to other Bolivian Universities as Lecturer Escuela Militar de Ingenieria and Catholic University in the ePC Master Program.

Dr. Brenda Acevedo, Guadalajara University, Researcher Professor (UDG), Mexico



Brenda obtained her PhD and Master in water and Environmental Engineering at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain. She had received the Best Doctoral Thesis Award FACSIA Chair at Universidad Jaime Primero, Spain. She has her degree in Biochemical Engineering at the Technological Institute of Celaya. She has been participating in research projects and joint research with Mayor de San Andres University and collaborative classes with Escuela Militar de Ingenieria in Bolivia. She was administrative Coordinator of the Company AVON S.A. Currently she is member of the National System of Researchers level 1. Her research is focused on the development and optimization of sustainable and biotechnological processes by applying materials for water treatment based on the circular economy model.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Since The workshop will present a regional overview of planning, designing, and operations in infrastructure showing pathways away from linear towards circularity/circular economy (CE) trends and patterns in the region. in >10 countries (Bolivia, Mexico, Ecuador, Chile, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic). In addition, the participants will learn about:

- The key points from selected projects on 'resource use' (from > 100 interventions by public and private sectors that are either completed, ongoing, or funded as an effort to support the Circular Economy agenda interventions/projects during the past 10 years.
- Demonstrate a case study from Mexico and Bolivia to explain and discuss barriers and opportunities that position the circularity momentum as an increased priority alongside the sustainability-orientated networks, plans, and programs. And steer discussion on how assessing circularity can integrate informal resources (land, water, minerals, waste, materials, etc.) related to economic systems and support the transitional civil society formation process.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The existing roadmaps and strategies of Circular Economy Pathways in the region/countries highlight the context-specific narratives in the implementation of a circularity-oriented sustainability framework. Participants will also learn how 'Circular Economy Pathways' is currently integrated (or integration is proposed) in policymaking, advocacy, science community, and businesses and how critical gaps and crucial needs towards better and operation addition of this agenda into sectoral directives is addressed.

We will discuss how barriers including the lack of information, limited knowledge

or/and various interpretations of operational mechanisms associated with a concept or framework are limiting regional agencies, actors, and approaches to developing sustainable economies while aligning with the 2030 Agenda and

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and what opportunities can be leveraged by countries to embrace circularity in implementing or planning new and innovative interventions, policies, and programs taking note of interlinkages and applying the nexus thinking and 'use and reuse' value chains/systems.

Furthermore, how research and development commitments by the public and private entities and financing agencies could continue to support drivers and enablers of this integrated sustainability vision, pathway boosters to integration, and critical stages in circularity-oriented resource nexus.

AGENDA

Day 1, Tuesday, August 23, 2022

8:15-10:10 AM Atlantic Time

8:15		Welcome Remarks and workshop Introduction
8:30	Prof. Nidhi Nagabhatla	Talk 1: Global and Regional Trends in Circular Economy Systems (CES) with Focus on Water/Wastewater Sector
8:50	Prof. Cecilia Soto	Talk 2: Current state of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Region on CE
9:10	Prof. Brenda Acevedo	Workshop: Case of México Jalisco of Valles Region Jalisco, Mexico
9:40	Nidhi, Cecilia and Brenda	The Interactive Dialogue
10:00	Prof. Nidhi Nagabhatla	Closing Reflections