



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 586

Date of Issue	12 May 2025
Project Code	25-CP-33-GE-CON-A
Title	Conference on Global Trends in Policies on Marine Debris and SMEs
Timing	17 July 2025
Hosting Country(ies)	APO Secretariat
Venue City(ies)	Not Applicable
Modality	Online
Implementing Organization(s)	APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	100
Local Participants	Not Applicable
Closing Date	2 July 2025
Remarks	Not Applicable

Objectives	Share the latest global trends in addressing marine debris and its implications for businesses and the environment; provide insights on policies and regulations on marine debris from members and beyond; and highlight success stories of SMEs that have made positive contributions to the environment.
Rationale	SMEs account for over 90% of businesses in all member economies and are key drivers of employment and economic growth. However, their environmental footprint, particularly in relation to marine debris, warrants closer attention. In line with APO efforts to promote productivity and environmental protection through the Green Productivity (GP) Program, it is crucial to enhance SMEs' awareness of global trends and policies related to marine debris.
Background	<p>Marine debris, including plastic waste, microplastics, and abandoned fishing gear, poses a serious threat to oceans, marine life, and global ecosystems. Governments around the world have been strengthening their efforts to address marine debris, with growing emphasis on national action plans, plastic reduction strategies, and the engagement of businesses including SMEs (UNEP, 2022).</p> <p>SMEs, as both contributors and potential innovators, are central to these efforts. Governments are expected to implement effective rules and extended producer responsibility schemes that also support SME engagement (OECD, 2021). This conference highlights global trends in marine debris policies and their business implications, focusing especially on the role of SMEs.</p>
Topics	Introduction to GP; Marine debris and its global impact on the environment; International and regional policies to address marine debris; and Introducing examples of effective, innovative practices undertaken by SMEs to address the issue of marine debris and contribute to environmental sustainability.
Outcome	Raised awareness of the impact of marine debris on the environment, enhanced knowledge of global trends and regulations on marine debris, and benchmarking against the good practices of SMEs.
Qualifications	Government officials, representatives of industry associations, SME owners and entrepreneurs, and professionals from NPOs working to develop SME sustainability policies.

Please refer to the implementation procedures circulated with this document for further details.



Dr. Indra Pradana Singawinata
Secretary-General