

MEXICO CITY 2021
GLOBAL SOCIAL
ECONOMY FORUM

WORKSHOP SESSION INFO

- **Session title:** How can Social and Solidarity Economy contribute to achieving ecologically Just Transition for Local Communities?
- **Date / Duration:** October 6th, 2021 / 18:00-19:30
- **Session format / Language :** Workshop Sessions / English

○ **Target audience:** local governments, social enterprises, researchers, environmental organizations, community organizations and enterprises

○ **Session Objectives/ Descriptions:**

· **Background**

The great challenge posed by the "economic growth" originated by current development models is materializing in an unprecedented environmental crisis, which mainly affects the most disadvantaged social sectors of the world's countries. A different future is in sight where there is an increase in the consumption of natural resources and, therefore, in polluting emissions. It is clearer than ever: our greatest challenge is not directed towards exacerbated economic growth, but towards the harmony of human beings with nature and environmental regeneration.

The social-ecological transformation is a space of reference to identify the necessary and viable transitions towards a more adequate balance between the different ecosystems and societies, it requires an integral vision where production and responsible consumption, sustainability, the participation of all social actors through the formation of solidarity networks, mutual aid and cooperation are prioritized. For an ecology without social vision biases the action and strategy falling into bad practices and initiatives that do not necessarily contribute to the quality of life and the collective welfare of people, but rather fall into radical extremes that make unfeasible axes of action not appropriate to the social reality.

In this context, appealing to the conscience of each person and demanding moderation is important, but it is definitely not enough, the solution must be approached from a collective



perspective, the objective of a new environmental policy is to build and promote a new way of doing economy, a green, inclusive, solidarity economy, that requires raising awareness about the role of different organizations and sectors in global decision making and strengthening the pillars that technology, finance, business management, individual actions, communication and the commitment of society in general have been building. On this path, the social and solidarity economy represents one of the routes to achieve this and is integrated with other initiatives, such as ecofeminism and actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

As humanity we have reached a turning point, either we act now or there is no turning back. What to do to reverse it is only in our hands. The history of our civilization has meant a continuous emancipation from the imperatives of nature and the exploitation of its resources. Consequently, our possibilities have been increased from generation to generation at the expense of environmental conservation, but this trend cannot continue in the same way. It is now a matter of preserving our existence with a deep respect for natural ecosystems, coexisting in harmony and not considering them to be at our service.

· Objectives

- To reflect on the challenges and risks posed by the current development model.
- To make visible the importance of environmental regeneration and its coexistence with societies.
- To glimpse the possible routes and strategies of action to follow, which are necessary for a change of course.

· Main question to all the speakers and participants

How can the different sectors and actors of the SSE co-create, from the local level, solutions to global challenges?

· Guiding questions

- How does the SSE contribute to a real solution for the preservation of natural ecosystems?
- How to design positive environmental impact strategies that consider the human rights of societies in situations of violation?
- How to promote and engage all sectors of society in strategies, from the local level, to solve the environmental problems afflicting the planet?

o **Moderator and Speakers**

· **Moderator** : Sohee Eom / Kijami Table

· **Speakers** :

	Organization (Country)	Name	Presentation Description
1	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (Japan)	Akiko Hiratsuka-Sasaki	<p>How Social and Solidarity Economy can contribute to promote a just transition for local communities?</p> <p>As the climate crisis emerges, the world is increasingly required to take urgent actions for GHG reduction. Due to the need for quick responses, we also face a risk that governments promote policies without sufficient consideration for social justice. Just transition, the concept of moving towards a decarbonised society in a just and equitable manner, has gained momentum since the 2015 Paris Agreement. The current just transition movements mainly focus on the fossil fuel industries and are led by national governments seeking to coal phase-out. For instance, countries like Germany and Canada have set coal phase-out policies to provide support for the affected communities, businesses, and workers. While the short- and medium-term measures like compensation and reskilling/upskilling of workers are much focused, there is limited attention to the strategies in the longer term on the revitalization of the local communities. How can they diversify the local economy and also protect the livelihoods of the residents once the fossil fuel-based industries leave? While the national initiatives are important, a bottom-up approach is required on the local side to build sustainable and resilient communities that do not depend on subsidies. In this context, local initiatives of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) would contribute to redress injustice, build a non-hierarchical relationship among the actors, and also bring reciprocity within the community. By drawing on cases in Asia, particularly in Japan, this presentation will discuss the role of locally initiated SSE organisations in the movement of just transitions. Like SSE, just transitions also contain diversity and contestation among the different initiatives. The presenter also attempts to explore how a local just transition can seek a transformative change by connecting with SSE.</p>

2	Taipei City Government - Chief Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection, Taipei City Government (Taiwan)	Wei-Shiou Yang	<p>Recycling and Circulation of Furniture Regeneration</p> <p>Since 2002, the Department of Environmental Protection has been working on the collection and repair of waste furniture of our citizens and providing the upcycled furniture to those in need, to achieve effective recycling and circulation of resources, reduce the volume of garbage, and raise public awareness to cherish objects. Since then, we have greatly reduced the amount of large waste discharged, cut the cost of waste disposal, and benefited the general public, with the aim of effectively reduce the volume of waste and enhance the recycling and reuse of materials.</p>
3	University of Helsinki and HELSUS (Finland)	Geethanjali Mariaselvam	<p>Who pays for conservation? How to design just models for conservation of wildlife and biodiversity?</p> <p>In the present times, there are many conflicts between human development and bio-diversity conservation. Having worked in the Indian Forest Service for 20 long years, I have been facing these issues in my sphere of work, while trying to motivate people for conservation and carryout just conservation. People can no longer be forced to conserve through the command and control mechanisms. They need to be fully involved in the planning process and own the process of conservation. For this, they need to understand the importance of conservation and should be motivated for it internally. Various stake holders are involved in the process - local people, managers of protected areas and policy makers. Framework of ecosystem services will be an useful tool in the process. Valuation of ecosystem services, makes people aware of the real worth of those areas. It will help policy makers to change their orientation and local people more willing for the process. But, for conservation to be just, the cost of conservation should not be borne only by the local people. Mechanisms such as Payments for Ecosystem Services(PES) can be a viable option since people may get motivated to conserve if they get some benefits out of the conservation process. Valuation of ecosystem services, identifying the potential buyers and sellers of these ecosystem services are necessary to tailor such PES schemes. PES, ecotourism, incentivized organic farming etc., can be the nature based solutions as well as social and</p>

			<p>solidarity economic (SSE) practices which can motivate people for conservation of Protected Areas. It's now clear that the economy and wellbeing of humans rest on the base of biodiversity (as per the model of strong sustainability). Hence we need to find suitable SSE modalities to motivate just biodiversity conservation for long term sustainability of humans on this planet earth.</p>
4	the Seed:s (South Korea)	Seung Yeon Lee	<p>Global Solution Lab for Climate Change through Local Circular Economy</p> <p>The COVID-19 has allowed the social economy to demonstrate its true capacity. Due to its locally anchored networks and resources, the social economy's role and responsibility became more evident: to address the failure of the system and contribute to transforming the system in order for local societies to be resilient and responsive to a variety of ecological risks. Also one of the lessons from the pandemic is the importance of collaboration and solidarity among various groups in the local society. The Seed:s, a non-profit social enterprise incubator/accelerator and one of the starting members in the Social Enterprise boom in Korea, has been working with Korean youth actively engaged in social economy and social innovation. For the last 10 years since its establishment, the incubated enterprises through various Seed:s programs counted over 200 and they grew up as a leading group in the Korean Social Economy sector. Based on these experiences and the urgency of responding to environmental crisis, Seed:s and the young entrepreneurs seeking for a new form of collaboration and mutual learning platform. Global Solution Lab for Climate Change through Local Circular Economy is the Seed:s' new initiative with Seoul Youth Hub, Seoul Metropolitan Government's center for supporting young citizens to provide a solution exchange platform for social innovators across territories to freely learn from each other. Also, we ambitiously expect to make this forum to be an incubator for future collaboration. Through the series of webinars, workshops, and independent research projects under the name of "Solution Lab", various domestic and international attempts of reducing carbon emissions in our everyday lives will be introduced. The solution we are seeking for should be community-based, collaborative actions among various stakeholders, and also should be following the principle and values of social and solidarity economy. We believe these solutions also could create local green jobs</p>