

GP and the 3Rs

The APO has promoted Green Productivity (GP) since 1994. The 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) are an important GP tool for resource conservation/minimization of waste and adopted worldwide as an easy, effective method to protect the environment. Projects on the 3Rs have been organized by the APO since 2006.

Recognizing the role of the APO in promoting the 3Rs in the Asia-Pacific, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) has invited Secretariat officers to participate in its annual regional 3Rs forums since 2010. Industry Department Senior Program Officer K.D. Bhardwaj attended the sixth, 17–19 August, in Male, Maldives. The theme was 3Rs as an Economic Industry: Next-Generation 3R Solutions for a Resource-Efficient Society and Sustainable Tourism Development in Asia and the Pacific. It was opened by Maldives Vice President Ahmed Adeb Abdul Gafoor, with some 250 from 30 countries present. Bhardwaj moderated the Round Table on Economic Opportunities from the 3Rs and acted as a rapporteur for presentations on 3R developments. Other topics included exploring the 3R science-policy-business interface to turn waste into resources and provide economic opportunities at national and local levels. Supported by the Government of Japan, the forum was an opportunity to publicize APO activities in the 3Rs and GP.



Bhardwaj (R) during a panel discussion chaired by Bangladesh Minister of Industries Alhaz Amir Hossain Amu (3rd R). Photo courtesy of UNCRD.

Ninety-nine of 106 resorts in Maldives signed the Declaration by Resorts in Maldives for the Promotion of the 3Rs and Resource Efficiency towards Protection of the Local Environment and Marine Ecosystem. Tonga Minister of Environment Siasia Ofa Ki Vahafolau Sovaleni led a mass planting of 300 trees on Hulhumalé Island, which made the forum carbon neutral. 🌱