Title: <u>Achieving SDG 6 Goals: The need for circular economy approaches</u>

Date: 29th January, 2020

Time: 14:30 - 16:30

Venue: TERI IHC

Event Mode: Keynote address followed by a Panel Discussion.

<u>Background</u>

The 2019 edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report demonstrates how improving the management of water resources, providing access to quality water and sanitation for all, contribute to the goals that underpin the 2030 Agenda. The proposed Thematic Track on "**Achieving SDG 6 Goals: The need for circular economy approaches**", attempts to sustain a conversation with focus on Indian Cities about achieving SDG 6 of the 2030 agenda with focus on circular economy principles and use cases.

The major cities in India are facing the twin issues of the steady loss of water bodies and increasing dependence on water sources from adjacent districts creating water stressed condition at the source (as in the case of Bengaluru and Chennai). In addition to that, they grapple with the unsustainable utilization of groundwater along with the problem of wastewater which is produced by the city.

These issues converge at a point, which demands reimagination of wastewater treatment that includes encouraging the use of reclaimed water from wastewater treatment plants for non-potable and potable use. Here, it also involves situating the evolved practice of the use of wastewater for agriculture/horticulture within the framework of closing the water loop in cities, which also involves rejuvenation of shrinking water bodies in urban and peri-urban areas with reclaimed water enabling recharge of groundwater aquifers.

With the looming question of the Indian Cities' water security, the focus on the reuse of wastewater hence requires to get situated amidst the overlapping circumstances that

undermine the water security. With the increasing water stress in Indian Cities, mainly due to perturbations in monsoon, population growth and urbanization, it is now essential to sustain a conversation on the comprehensive knowledge and experience gained from the previous decades via implementation in all segments of water reuse (agricultural, municipal, industrial and potable reuse).

This track would focus on the technology and policy ecosystems across the world which pilots 'out of the box' solutions and embraces philosophies that promote a more circular approach, where used-water is recycled and reused and where nutrients and energy are recovered. It brings together various stake holders and involves a Keynote address focussing around the current status of SDG 6 and circular economy approaches needed to achieve 2030 Goals; followed by a panel discussion on various issues contextualized around the SDGs.