

Themes & their brief descriptions

Life Cycle Knowledge for Better Business and Policy

Although the world of policy and business may appear to have separate motives and goals, they share a common, underlying need to have the right information available to make informed decisions. The ability to focus on financials and simultaneously manage environmental, social and developmental impacts of products and services is becoming more important than ever for businesses to thrive. Life Cycle Knowledge can be extremely useful to evaluate, choose, support and validate decisions in policy making, while clearly identifying the inherent trade-offs. This section invites submissions that illustrate the use of Life Cycle Knowledge for better/more informed decisions within government and business. Submissions could, for example, explore the main drivers, costs, benefits, and outcomes achieved from the application of Life Cycle Knowledge, including its use for consumer awareness on environmentally/socially responsible products and services.

Policy Initiatives for Responsible Consumption and Production

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have highlighted the need for responsible consumption and production. For achieving economic growth and sustainable development, it is required that we urgently reduce our ecological footprint by changing the way we produce and consume goods and resources. Life Cycle approaches are critical to ensure that the changes lead to long-term sustainable growth with greater resource productivity and do not merely end up shifting burdens. This session invites submissions that explore linkages between LCA and SDGs bringing out value addition to industry by preparing a broader canvas of SDGs where LCA is recommended and can contribute to their achievement.

Applying Life Cycle Knowledge for Circular Economy

There is a growing recognition of the challenges posed by resource scarcity and a dire need for economy/businesses to think and act differently. Moving a step further, towards circular economy, may provide an important potential solution to this issue but the questions that remain are: can circular economy provide a backbone for more sustainable market, where and how can we translate the idea into practice, and get started on building pathways to a circular economy. Complementing circular economy with LCA helps in critically assessing these issues and aids the emergence of sustainable business models. The session invites submissions on the use/application of Life Cycle approaches as a supporting and validating tool in the context of Circular Economy, especially in the context of India-specific challenges (e.g. energy security, urban waste and its management, sanitation).

Design for Sustainability through Life Cycle Thinking

Effective Design for Sustainability starts with a firm understanding of Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) and how it applies to the product or service. LCT is a necessary component in the SDGs' objective to promote sustainable innovation and business models, particularly through the assessment of products and technologies, product sustainability information, and eco-design. Many companies are now under increasing scrutiny from end-users and customers, and under pressure from legislation, in relation to the environmental performance of their products. Yet, despite these pressures, only a few companies have progressed when it comes to sustainable design implementation. The session invites case studies on innovative approaches and tools being applied by industry to integrate LCT into their R&D system.