



United Nations
Global Compact

Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development –

The ESBN Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

Side event at the Seventy-ninth session of the Commission

Concept note

As of 4 April 2023

17 May 2023, 15:00 – 17:00 (UTC +7)

Synopsis

The Report by UN ESCAP on [Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2022: Widening Disparities amid Covid-19](#) highlighted that not only is the region not on track to meet any of the UN SDGs, but also that it has regressed on two key goals, namely, Climate Action (SDG13) and Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12). The discussions at the COP27 meeting on Climate Change highlighted the pressing reality that Asia is where the fight against climate change will be won or lost. Throughout the region, businesses, large and small, need to take action. Given that MSMEs make up 90 per cent of firms, action will be required not only from large multinational corporates but also from the smaller companies that make up the economy and support global supply chains.

The necessary green transformation and role of business networks

The Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business, launched at the Asia Pacific Business Forum on 26 August 2022, recognizes that a green transformation of the economy is necessary for the well-being of all people. In order to bring about the necessary transformation, the private sector will need to work hand-in-hand with the public sector to ensure that goals around decarbonization, green infrastructure and urbanization, and green finance are aligned. The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) can serve as important drivers to help the business world to move forward, through the identification of networks, platforms, and methods to support improved sustainability practices and outcomes, in the cause of “Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development”.

The 5 pillars of the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business are:

1. **Advancing a zero carbon, affordable and resilient energy system.** The energy system must be decarbonized in accordance with the commitments of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while providing reliable and affordable access to zero carbon energy for all.

2. **Building smart, low carbon, water-secure and climate-resilient cities, infrastructure and mobility.** Greenhouse gas emissions from construction and operations of urban infrastructure and its activities, including buildings and transport infrastructure, must be reduced further, while water security and resilience to future crises are strengthened.
3. **Mobilizing public and private finance for green transformation.** New investment must be directed to sustainable energy, infrastructure, logistics, food production, water supply and other innovations for the new green economy.
4. **Accelerating and scaling up innovations for sustainable development.** Now is the time to implement new business models and solutions to improve efficiency, lower costs and reduce environmental impact from the way we produce, consume, transport, work, trade and conduct business.
5. **Changing towards a more circular economy.** New circular production and consumption practices will bring new business and employment opportunities, to maximize resource efficiency and minimize environmental impacts.

This session provides an opportunity for participants to understand how the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business brings together private sector sustainability champions like leading corporates and financial institutions. Participants at the event will learn about how businesses can use the Green Deal digital platform and tools to track, report, and analyze their business sustainability initiatives, and in turn creating change in the real economy. Participants will gain a broad perspective of how the Green Deal can link together private sector sustainability champions and technological solutions, and generate synergies and positive results.

The role of Businesses

In the face of increasing regulations and consumer demand, multinational companies are increasingly being required to report on the emissions and environmental impacts of deeper links in their supply chain. Smaller companies that wish to continue to succeed in business or to newly engage with international supply chains should therefore keep up with the increasing requirements to establish their sustainability actions. Representatives from leading corporates will speak about how their businesses have implemented supply chain sustainability to reduce carbon footprint and comply with upcoming regulations, and how they leverage on initiatives like the Asia-Pacific Green Deal to enable progress on sustainability and decarbonization in MSMEs across the region.

The role of Green Finance

To achieve the climate goals in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development, a significant increase in private sector capital finance is needed. Representatives from leading financial institutions will share about the landscape of available sustainability-linked financing/supply chain financing products. They will share about how the Green Deal and its digital platform can support the improved mobility of green capital throughout the region, particularly in enabling more corporates and MSMEs to qualify for green finance.

The role of enabling technology

Technology tools enable companies, both large and small, to monitor the carbon intensity of their supply chains, and promising innovations in the region that are enabling the transition to a greener and more sustainable economy. As the requirements for businesses to report on climate actions grow, it will be of increasing importance for both large and small businesses to benefit from understanding and applying the available tools in this regard. Leveraging on a digital ESG data platform to support the Asia Pacific Green Deal for Businesses, MSMEs and corporates in Asia and the Pacific regions can streamline their sustainability efforts, receive insights on how to improve, and get services from a supporting ecosystem of various large corporates, financial institutions, and NGOs in the Asia-Pacific region.

This section of the event highlights how the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business digital platform is now live and available to be used. Attendees can instantly learn how to use, participate, engage with the platform's digital tools, submit pledges for any number of the 5 Green Deal pillars, and instantly better understand and analyze their own environmental footprints and insights on how to improve. A demo, live walkthrough and simple training will be provided to allow attendees to immediately use and benefit from the Green Deal digital platform.

Objectives of the event

Following this event, attendees will better understand:

- How to strengthen Corporate Sustainability especially among businesses, including MSMEs, in Asia-Pacific countries, with the Asia-Pacific Green Deal program and digital platform.
- Developments in technologies and how to use the live Green Deal platform that is now available to better serve businesses trying to understand their sustainability footprint and successfully decarbonize, with an ecosystem of MSMEs, large corporations and financial institutions providing tangible support towards decarbonization

Target audience

This meeting will be held in hybrid mode, with participants joining both via Microsoft Teams and in person at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. The intended audience is primarily businesses, financial institutions, and sustainability NGOs, but may also be of interest to public sector stakeholders with responsibility for policy in the area, such as representatives from Ministries of Commerce or Trade.

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The ESNB Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

17 May 2023

15:00 - 17:00 hours, Bangkok time (UTC+7)

Hybrid meeting at UNCC and via MS Teams

Programme

15:00 - 15:05	<p>Introduction to the event</p> <p><i>Tientip Subhanij</i> – Chief of Investment and Enterprise Development; Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP</p>
15:05 – 15:15	<p>Introduction of the ESNB Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business</p> <p><i>To be confirmed</i> – ESNB ExCo Member</p>
15:15 – 15:40	<p>The role of Businesses and the value they bring as sustainability champions in the region, and how they leverage on initiatives like the Green Deal</p> <p>Representatives from 2-3 Corporate Champions (<i>To be confirmed</i> – 2-3 corporate champions)</p>
15:40 – 16:05	<p>The Role of Green Finance in accelerating climate action in Asia-Pacific, leveraging on the Green Deal</p> <p>Representatives from 2-3 Banking Champions (<i>To be confirmed</i>)</p>
16:05 – 16:20	<p>How the Green Deal digital platform works, Live Demo, and an eye on the future milestone of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2023</p> <p>Benjamin Soh - ESNB Member and Managing Director, STACS</p>

16:20 – 16:45	Putting into action – Live participation with guided usage of the Green Deal platform, getting started, FAQ Benjamin Soh - ESNB Member and Managing Director, STACS
16:45 – 17:00	Questions & Answer session and discussion from the floor <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>All participants</i>