Collaborative Pathways to Net-Zero: Innovations in Sustainable Building for the Asia-Pacific

Side Event at the 81st ESCAP Commission Session

23 APRIL 2025, WEDNESDAY, 14.00 – 15.15

United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

Background:

Buildings decarbonization is fundamental to achieving the Nationally Determined Contributions in Asia-Pacific. Buildings account for nearly 40% of greenhouse gas emissions related to energy. With an expected increase in population, urbanization, and wealth, demand for new buildings in Asia is projected to rise dramatically, potentially accounting for nearly half of all new construction globally by 2040.[1] Additionally, energy consumption for space cooling in Southeast Asia is projected to quadruple by 2040 compared to 2017 levels.[2] This significant growth demands a shift towards climate-sensitive urban development to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and enhance resilience against climate impacts. Initiatives like the Buildings Breakthrough aim to accelerate the transition to net-zero carbon buildings through innovative policies and practices.

Event Description and Objective:

The event will centre on the theme of collaboration, innovation, and fostering an enabling environment to accelerate the transition to net-zero carbon buildings. Participants will be encouraged to exchange best practices, challenges, and solutions from their respective initiatives. This side event aims not only to showcase ongoing efforts but also to inspire collective action toward sustainable building practices in the Asia-Pacific region.

Key focus areas include:

- **International Alliances:** Highlighting the critical role of multi-stakeholder partnerships and international organizations in advancing decarbonization efforts.
- **Multi-level Governance:** Exploring the need for cooperation across different levels of government to effectively implement decarbonization strategies.
- **Urban Planning:** Assessing how integrated urban planning can support the development of net-zero carbon buildings.
- **Innovative and Financially Viable Approaches:** Discussing scalable and cost-effective solutions for sustainable building design, construction, and operations.

Targeted Participants

- Government and Policy Makers
- Academia and Research Institutions
- International and Regional Organizations
- Civil Society and NGOs

[1] Global ABC, IEA, UNEP (2020). Available at: GlobalABC Regional Roadmap for Buildings and Construction in Asia 2020-2050

[2] IEA (2022): Available at: Roadmap towards Sustainable and Energy-Efficient Space Cooling in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations – Analysis - IEA

AGENDA (Draft)

Schedule	Session	Speakers
14:00-14:05	**Opening Remarks**	Mr. Marc-Alexandre Panteris, Alt. Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of France, Bangkok, Thailand
14:05- 14:20	***Context Setting***	Ms Carmen Vogt, Head of CITIES Global Section, GIZ
14:20-15:10	**Panel Discussion and Q&A**	• Ms D. Thara (IAS), Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (*TBC*) • Dr. Shailesh Kr. Agrawal, Executive Director, Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), MoHUA (*TBC*) • Dr. Michael A. Waibel, Build4People (*TBC*) • Ms Romane Delcourt, Regional projects and partnership officer - Southeast Asia, Agence Française de Développement (AFD) • Mr Heinrich Gudenus, Project Director, Integrated Urban Climate Action for Low-Carbon & Resilient Cities Project (Urban-Act), GIZ, Bangkok
15:10-15:15	**Closing Remarks**	Mr. Johannes Kerner, Deputy Permanent Observer to ESCAP, German Embassy Bangkok, Thailand