



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update

November 2020

ESBN related news and activities

ESBN Executive Council, 29 October 2020

This 4th meeting of the ESBN Executive Council adopted the revised TOR of the ESBN and discussed suggested areas of collaboration between ESBN and ESCAP divisions, focusing on climate action, plastics, digitalization and tsunami monitoring. Follow-up discussions will now be organized in preparation for and during the next ESBN meeting to decide how to move proposed initiatives forward.

APBF, 30 October 2020



www.apbf2020.com



Business leaders addressing the APBF 2020 expressed strong support for multilateralism and regional cooperation as well as increased public-private partnerships to build back better and more sustainably. They also underscored that as countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic impacts, this is no time for nationalism and protectionism; further highlighting the importance of reviving international trade and investment to allow businesses to grow and access world markets. The meeting was organized in close

collaboration and with substantial involvement of the ESNB. <https://www.unescap.org/news/business-leaders-express-support-multilateralism-global-value-chains-build-back-better-post>

B20 Trade & Investment Policy Paper 2020: Transforming for Inclusive Growth

An ESNB member facilitated/initiated a discussion with HSBC and ICC, which resulted in having a reference of the ESCAP Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific in the B20 Trade and Investment Taskforce: policy paper 2020.

<https://www.b20saudiArabia.org.sa/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/B20-Trade-and-Investment-Policy-Paper-27092020.pdf>

Video Message on the UN Day: Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations

Prof. Barbara Meynert, a member of the ESNB Executive Council, participated in a set of videos launched on UN Day in celebration of the organization turning 75 years. <https://youtu.be/-vRMJuwTqHs>

Full playlist at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8hsAvmkSSmh2DxfjJDOPo4RJDMK9Xpge>

ESNB expansion and conversion to corporate/organizational membership

With the conversion to corporate membership of ESNB, we encourage ESNB members to submit their company/ organization's application/commitment form as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding the conversion please contact us at esbn@un.org.

Upcoming ESNB related events

3-4 November: Cyberport Venture Capital Forum (CVCF) 2020

Dr. Lee George Lam, Chair of the ESNB Executive Council and ESNB, will speak at the [Cyberport Venture Capital Forum \(CVCF\) 2020](#) on 3-4 November 2020. CVCF 2020 will discuss the latest tech venturing trends and outlook. For more info, and to register to attend, see: <https://cvcf.cyberport.hk/>

3 November: Fintech For SDG and ESG Excellence, Hong Kong FinTech Week

Dr. Lee George Lam, Chair of the ESNB Executive Council and ESNB, and Mr. Albert Oung, Chair of the ESNB Task Force on Green Economy will participate in the Fireside Chat session: Fintech For SDG and ESG Excellence hosted by ESG Matters Asia on 3 November 2020, held as part of the Hong Kong FinTech Week. The event is to highlight the crossover between FinTech and sustainability. For more info, see: <https://esgmatters.asia/zh/hkftw2020-esgsdg/>

23 November 2020: 3rd ESNB Augmenting Tsunami Monitoring Steering Committee Meeting

The 3rd SC will discuss the draft action plan of the project, aimed at augmenting the capacity of tsunami early warning systems. This initiative brings together the maritime private sector, academia, government and international agencies to further enhance and promote disaster risk management and its integration (future) in regional policies. <https://esbn.unescap.org/events/3rd-esbn-augmenting-tsunami-monitoring-steering-committee-meeting>

25 November 2020: ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESNB), 8th Meeting

The next meeting of the ESNB will be held virtually on 25 November. Please register at: <https://forms.gle/kEkTRXr2biZMUPom6>

<https://esbn.unescap.org/events/escap-sustainable-business-network-esbn-8th-meeting>

Other events of interest to ESBN members

24 November 2020: GO ESG ASEAN Corporate Sustainability Virtual Summit 2020

Organized by the Global Compact Network Malaysia, this forum aims to be ASEAN's Premier Virtual Corporate Sustainability Conference and Exhibition Focusing on ESG and Sustainable Development.

<https://www.goesg.org/>

GO ESG | ASEAN
CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY VIRTUAL SUMMIT 2020

ASEAN's Premier Virtual Corporate Sustainability Conference and Exhibition Focusing on ESG and Sustainable Development.

2 DAY VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
Register & Get Limited Complimentary Passes For Each Day

DAY 1	DAY 2
23rd Nov. 2020 SME Focus 9am - 5.30pm (Kuala Lumpur Time)	24th Nov. 2020 Corporate ASEAN Focus 9am - 5.30pm (Kuala Lumpur Time)

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION
Register & Get Free Pass

29 DAYS
2nd - 30th Nov. 2020

www.goesg.org

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- His Excellency Mr Ban Ki-moon**
The 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations
- YB Dato Sri Dr Haji Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar**
Minister of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Malaysia
- YBhg Datu Haji Sharbini Suhalli**
Group CEO Sarawak Energy Berhad
- Mr Elliott Harris**
Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, United Nations
- Mr Hiroshi Komori**
Senior Director, Stewardship & ESG, Public Market Investment Government Pension Investment Fund, Japan

FEATURED SPEAKERS & PANELIST

- Ms Saida Qibicho, CEO and Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)
- Mr Farooq Reeder, Lead and Director, Global Center, Network, Malaysia (GCN)
- Ms Sarimah Taha, Lead - Sustainable Management, Finance
- Mr Rizal Nering, Chief Executive Officer, SME Corp, Malaysia
- Ms Dungen Berti, Chief Executive Officer, EALORA
- Ms Corina Tap, Director, ASEAN, Indonesia
- Ms Nurita Jendar, Chief Executive Officer, ITR
- Ms Maria Victoria Tan, Head of ESG, Public Market Investment Government Pension Investment Fund, Japan Corporation
- Mr Saah Kian Hoe, Founder & Managing Director, HONG HOO HOLDINGS (SIN), Malaysia
- Mr Ayman Doukhal, Head of Strategy & Research, HSBC Amanah Bank, Malaysia Branch
- Mr Gaurav Khara, Head of Strategy & Research, JPASSIST
- Ms Esther An, Chief Executive Officer, City Development Limited, Singapore
- Ms Josephine Palmyra, Executive Director, Global Compact Network, Indonesia (GCNI)
- Ms Esther Chang, Executive Director, Global Compact Network, Singapore (GCNS)
- Ms Thanyaporn Kitchayawatt, Executive Director, Global Compact Network, Thailand (GCNT)
- Ms Cynthia Arce, Executive Director, Global Compact Network, Philippines (GCNP)

A range of other speakers and panelist comprising of CEO's and leaders from top ASEAN corporations and organisations.

20 October-10 November 2020: Webinar series on science-based targets for business

This webinar series, organized by CDP Hong Kong, WWF Singapore, WRI Indonesia, UN Global Compact Malaysia (GCMY) and UN Global Compact Network Singapore (GCNS) provides a region-focused discussion, guidance and deep dive into setting emission targets in line with a 1.5 degree trajectory (science-based targets - SBTs). To register, see: [link](#)

- 20 October 4:00pm: The business case for setting Science Based Targets (SBTs)
- 27 October 10:00am: Technical guidance on setting and achieving SBTs
- 3 November 4:00pm: Demystifying SBTs, featuring companies with committed/approved targets
- 10 November 4:00pm: SBTs for Financial Institutions

3-4 November 2020: North-East Asia Multistakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals

This sub-regional forum on sustainable development will bring together stakeholders from the Governments of East and North-East Asia, academia, international community, and civil society to share experiences in implementing the 2030 agenda and provide subregional perspectives to the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). To register, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/north-east-asia-multistakeholder-forum-sustainable-development-goals>

5 November 2020: ARTNeT Webinar: How Trade Wars Disrupt Global Supply Chains: The Effective Rate of Spillover Protection

The COVID-19 pandemic has overshadowed the fact that the US-China trade war is more than two years old with no end in sight. This presentation explains how a relatively small tariff on Chinese exports to the US (or vice-versa) can disrupt global supply chains (GSCs) by developing the concept of the effective rate of spillover protection (ERSP). To register, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/artnet-webinar-how-trade-wars-disrupt-global-supply-chains-effective-rate-spillover>

10-11 November 2020: 13th Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum in Asia

Held prior to the Sixth session of the Committee on Transport under the theme "*Changing the course of Asia's transport sector through transformational change*", this virtual forum will deliberate on policy, technological and institutional aspects of environmentally sustainable transport that will foster transformational changes in overall transport system and contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and other global commitments.

<https://www.unescap.org/events/13th-regional-environmentally-sustainable-transport-forum-asia>

18 November 2020: The Fifteenth Policy Consultation Forum of the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth

Held under the theme "Opportunities for green recovery from the COVID-19 – Green New Deal" this policy consultation forum aims to increase knowledge of member States on green recovery strategies in the aftermath of COVID-19. <https://www.unescap.org/events/SINGG15>

18-19 November 2020: 2020 SPECA Economic Forum

Under the chairmanship of the Kyrgyzstan, representatives from seven SPECA countries - Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will discuss ideas for coordinated actions to respond to the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

<https://www.unescap.org/events/2020-speca-economic-forum>

25 November 2020: 3rd Asia-Pacific Forum for South-South and Triangular Cooperation - The Role of South-South Cooperation in Building Back Better from COVID-19 Pandemic in Asia and the Pacific

The objectives of this Forum are for governments and other key stakeholders in Asia-Pacific to showcase replicable measures and policies countries have adopted in mitigating the COVID-19 crisis that can be exchanged among member States and discuss support mechanisms and approaches that can assist member States in their efforts to build back better from COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.unescap.org/events/third-asia-pacific-forum-south-south-cooperation>

3-4 December 2020: Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2020

This regional forum for the Pacific provides a space for the identification and amplification of the specific situation of small island developing States ahead of discussions within the APFSD and HLPF scheduled for 2021. <https://www.unescap.org/events/pacific-forum-sustainable-development-2020>

9-10 December 2020: Committee on Environment and Development, Sixth Session

The sixth session of the ESCAP Committee on Environment and Development will take place from 9-10 December 2020 virtually. The Committee will deliberate on the region's environmental challenges in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and focus on necessary actions across four key environmental domains critical to the Asia-Pacific region: Raising Climate Ambition, Safeguarding Ecosystem Health, Clean Air for All, and Cities for a Sustainable Future.

<https://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-environment-and-development-sixth-session>

For a short overview of ESCAP related news, please see <https://www.unescap.org/news> or subscribe: <https://unescap.us10.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=c0fdb6e03fa08a5e575b433c0&id=e318af22fc>

All ESCAP upcoming events: <https://www.unescap.org/events/upcoming>

Recently published by ESCAP

[Readiness Assessment Guide for Cross-border Paperless Trade \(12 October 2020\)](#)

[State of the Space Industry in Central Asia: Policy Brief, Achievements, Challenges and Perspective \(15 October 2020\)](#)

[MPFD Policy Brief No. 112: Combating COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific: Measures, lessons and the way forward \(12 October 2020\)](#)

[MPFD Policy Brief No. 113: Coping with COVID-19 and enhancing long-term resilience to future shocks: An assessment of fuel-exporting countries in Asia and the Pacific \(12 October 2020\)](#)

[MPFD Policy Brief No. 114: Can this time be different? Challenges and opportunities for Asia-Pacific economies in the aftermath of COVID-19 \(12 October 2020\)](#)

[An update on Asia-Pacific economies' preferential trade agreements \(ESCAP Trade Insights: Issue No. 29\) \(8 October 2020\)](#)

[SSWA Development Paper 20-03 – Asia's Paths to Industrialization and Prosperity \(5 October 2020\)](#)

[A Study on the Costing, Operational Principles and Modalities of a Proposed South Pacific Internet Exchange \(2 October 2020\)](#)

[COVID-19 and its impact on shipping and port sector in Asia and the Pacific \(2 October 2020\)](#)

Working paper series

Macroeconomics: <https://www.unescap.org/publication-series/mpfd-working-papers>

Trade: <https://artnet.unescap.org/publications/working-papers>

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us to provide input, questions or suggestions for the monthly update: esbn@un.org.

Best regards,
ESBN Secretariat