



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

## ESBN Monthly Update: August 2022

### ESBN news and updates

ESBN members who earlier joined in a personal capacity are kindly reminded to convert to corporate membership as soon as possible, by submitting the commitment form shared earlier, and to become signatories of the UN Global Compact, the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (for investors), the Principles for Responsible Banking (for banks), or equivalent globally recognized standards for socially and environmentally responsible business as determined by the ESCAP Secretariat. Please contact the ESNB secretariat for more information: [esbn@un.org](mailto:esbn@un.org)

### Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

The ESNB Executive Council adopted the Green Deal for Business at its 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting in May 2022. A soft launch of the Green Deal will take place during the Asia Pacific Business Forum in 2022. An action plan for promoting the Green Deal among businesses in the Asia Pacific region is under development.

### Activities by ESNB members

**KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific:** KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific organized the World Women Economic and Business Summit on 14-15 July 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The World Women Economic and Business (WWEB) Summit aims to bring together Women Leaders, Entrepreneurs, Educationists, Technologists and Opinion Leaders to discuss the changing role of women in economic development and in the world of business. For more information, see: <https://kasi.asia/events/world-women-economic-and-business-summit-2022/>.

### Upcoming events of ESNB interest

#### 25 August 2022: Climate Finance Roundtable

As part of the Asia Pacific Roundtable “Catalyzing climate finance and investment flows to ramp up climate action and advance the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific” to be held on 25 August 2022, the *Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific* is organizing a session on Scaling up investment in climate infrastructure projects through Public Private Partnerships (PPP). The focus of this session will be on showcasing sustainable infrastructure projects that are bankable and aligned with their respective national SDG and climate-resilient strategy. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/asia-pacific-forum-catalyzing-climate-finance-and-investment-flows-ramp-climate-action>

### **26 August 2022: The Tenth meeting of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN)**

The tenth meeting of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) will be held in conjunction with Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2022, in Bangkok and online on 26 August 2022. The ESBN will hear the updates from the Task Force chairs on the task force's activities and will discuss the action plan for the roll out of the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/escap-sustainable-business-network-10th-meeting-0>

### **26 August 2022: Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2022**

The Asia-Pacific Business Forum has been held annually since 2004. APBF 2022 will be held in Bangkok and online on 26 August 2022 in cooperation with the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN). The Forum is expected to witness the participation of 300-500 multi-stakeholders, in particular governments, business, civil society and academics from all over the region to foster dialogue and identify innovative solutions and recommendations to advance the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business in the region. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2022/asia-pacific-business-forum-2022>



## Recently concluded

### **22-23 June 2022: Universal Service Fund (USF) Modernization in a Post-COVID19 World.**

ESCAP delivered a capacity-building workshop through Zoom platform for the bureau members and partner organizations of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) initiative, responsible for implementation of the AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026. The workshop enhanced knowledge of participants on the progress of Universal Service Fund programmes, shared lessons learned and research materials, facilitated dialogue on how to follow-up on consultations with member States that are seeking to improve USF programming on digital connectivity. More information is available at: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/universal-service-fund-modernization-post-covid19-world-capacity-building-workshop#>

**19-20 July 2022: The Expert Group Meeting on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development** was held back-to-back with the **SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development (ITSD)**, to discuss priorities and mechanisms for implementation of the SPECA work plan on ITSD 2022-2023 in coherence with the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Action Plan 2022-2026. Both events were organised by ESCAP in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and hosted by the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry (MDDIAI), in Almaty at the SONCA premises and online through Zoom platform, and also supported from the JSC ICT Holding Zerde of Kazakhstan. Both events reviewed the progress, best practices, and the common institutional potential of the SPECA countries on digital transformation processes and solutions. More information is available at: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/expert-group-meeting-innovation-and-technology-sustainable-development>; <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/third-session-speca-working-group-innovation-and-technology-sustainable-development>. The sideline interviews of experts can be viewed here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v\\_3m-sQUKbrJESbhr1YKkDV1VJ7KdJGR/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v_3m-sQUKbrJESbhr1YKkDV1VJ7KdJGR/view?usp=drivesdk)

## Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

### **29-30 August 2022: Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2022**

The Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APFFF) is the leading regional platform for the exchange of good practices and knowledge on trade facilitation. The APTFF has been organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in cooperation with a growing number of partners, since 2009. The Forum attracts over 250 participants from over 30 countries and offers extensive opportunities for capacity building and cooperation. The 10th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum will focus on how trade facilitation should evolve to enhance the resilience of international supply chains in times of pandemic and to better support sustainable economic recovery and development in the Asia-Pacific region. For more information, [CLICK](#).

### **29 August -1 September 2022: 10th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) and APTFF Trade Facilitation Innovation Awards 2022**

The Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) is the leading regional platform for the exchange of good practices and knowledge on trade facilitation. The Forum attracts over 250 participants from over 30 countries and offers extensive opportunities for capacity building and cooperation. The 10th APTFF, to be held in Singapore, will focus on how trade facilitation should evolve to enhance supply chain resilience and better support sustainable economic recovery and development in the Asia-Pacific region. In relation, the APTFF Innovation Awards 2022 is welcoming submissions of cases of innovative trade facilitation

implementation. Award winners will be invited to participate and present their cases during the Forum. For more information, see <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/asia-pacific-trade-facilitation-forum-2022> and <https://www.unescap.org/news/call-cases-aptff-trade-facilitation-innovation-awards-2022>

**30 August-1 September 2022: Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, Fourth Session**

The Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, Fourth Session will be held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 30 August to 1 September 2022. The Committee will review the Asia-Pacific digital transformation landscape and the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative 2022-2026. In addition, the Committee will assess the ICT capacity building needs and the use of the digital technology and geospatial information systems to enhance resilience and promote sustainable development. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**31 August 2022: Workshop on International Standards for Trade Facilitation**

The purpose of the workshop is to increase awareness of existing international standards relevant to trade facilitation. Standards related to electronic identifications of products along the supply chain will be a key area of focus, including those by GS1. This will be followed by updates by UN/CEFACT and other standards developers on on-going work related to inclusive and sustainable trade facilitation. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**31 August 2022: UNCTAD/ESCAP Workshop on NTFCs and Sustainable Trade Facilitation**

The event will provide an insight in good practices and lessons learned regarding the role of National Trade Facilitation Committees in the implementation of sustainable trade facilitation reforms. Various panelists will share their experiences on the issue. The interventions and discussion are expected to contribute towards an enhanced understanding for all relevant stakeholders of the important role that national trade facilitation committees can play in trade facilitation implementation. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**31 August 2022: Seventeenth session of the SPECA Working Group on Trade**

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) are organizing the seventeenth session of the SPECA Working Group on Trade on 16 November 2022, back-to-back with the tenth session of the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum: Next Generation Trade Facilitation for Sustainable Development (29-30 August 2022). The event will review national and regional plans and strategies of the SPECA countries for sustainable trade development and facilitation and strengthen cooperation among trade diplomats of the SPECA countries. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**31 August-1 September 2022: APTFF 2022 Capacity Building Workshop on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation**

The workshop intends to bring relevant regional stakeholders of cross-border paperless trade to share experiences and lessons learned in its facilitation. The workshop will refer to the pilot and live implementation of cross-border trade digitalization from the region and beyond, highlighting issues and challenges faced and actions and measures for further advancement. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**1 September 2022: APTA Promotion Session**

The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), established in 1975, still retains its vitality and the fifth round is under negotiation with new chapters in trade facilitation, services, and investment. To strengthen the potential of the Agreement, the current members are willing to invite new members. Join this session and talk with colleagues from APTA member countries, namely Bangladesh, China, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**1 September 2022: Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF) Meeting**

The Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation, or ROC-TF, is a cooperation mechanism between the subregional, regional, United Nations and other international organizations involved in trade facilitation activities in the Asia and Pacific region. The overall goal of the mechanism is to facilitate the exchange of information, identify synergies and promote collaboration for effective implementation of trade facilitation initiatives. The informal mechanism was established on the recommendation of ESCAP member States in July 2011. Following the recommendations made at the dialogue in 2011, electronic newsletters are published bi-annually, and meetings are organized back-to-back with the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**1 September 2022: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation: Way Forward**

The objective of the event is to present the 2021 survey instrument and receive feedback for possible update and changes to the instrument for 2023, including possible extension of scope of the survey and inclusion of new trade facilitation measures. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**6-8 September 2022: Committee on Social Development, Seventh Session**

The Committee on Social Development, Seventh Session will be held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 6 to 8 September 2022. The Committee session will be held virtually via videoconference. Bangkok-based representatives from member States and international organizations are welcome to participate in person at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**7-8 September 2022: 6th North-East Asia Multistakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals 2022**

ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office jointly organizes the SDG Forum with subregional stakeholders. The Ministry of Economy and Development of Mongolia is the host Ministry of the SDG Forum 2022. The overarching objective of the SDG Forum 2022 is to foster an inclusive dialogue among multistakeholder groups in North-East Asia across the SDG targets in focus, which include: clean water and sanitation (Goal 6); affordable and clean energy (Goal 7); industry, innovation, and infrastructure (Goal 9); sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11); and partnership for the goals (Goal 17). For more information, [CLICK](#).

9-10 November 2022: The first **Asia-Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference 2022: Shaping Our Common Future** and the **Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Forum** will be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, to serve as a prime opportunity to discuss the status, challenges, and pathways to advance digital transformation and to strengthen regional digital cooperation with the ICT and Digital Ministers of the Asia-Pacific region towards building an inclusive digital society and economy. The Ministerial Conference will also consider the adoption of the Seoul Declaration (tentative title) and the endorsement of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Action Plan 2022-2026, as part of the pathways to advancing digital transformation in the Asia-Pacific region. More information is available at: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/asia-pacific-digital-ministerial-conference-2022-shaping-our-common-future>

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>

### Recently published by ESCAP

[ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami Disaster and Climate Preparedness 2021 Annual Report \(25 July 2022\)](#)

[Ministerial Declaration and Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific \(2022–2026\) \(22 July 2022\)](#)

[Framework for disability policies and strategies in Asia and the Pacific \(19 July 2022\)](#)

[Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Energy Transition Road Map for Chiang Rai Province, Thailand \(15 July 2022\)](#)

[Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Energy Transition Road Map for Udon Thani Province of Thailand \(15 July 2022\)](#)

[Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Energy Transition Road Map for Surat Thani Province, Thailand \(15 July 2022\)](#)

[ESCAP-World Bank trade cost database \(4 July 2022\)](#)

[Inequality of opportunity in Asia and the Pacific : pandemic preparedness \(29 June 2022\)](#)

### Working paper series

Macroeconomics: Click [here](#)

Trade: Click [here](#)

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us to provide input, questions or suggestions for the monthly update: [esbn@un.org](mailto:esbn@un.org)

Best regards,

ESBN Secretariat