



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

## ESBN Monthly Update: December 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 get in touch with 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 was held during the Asia Pacific Business Forum 2022 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, on 26 August 2022.

Pledge your support to the Green Deal for Business at: <https://www.unescap.org/projects/gd>

### Upcoming events of ESNB interest

#### 18- 20 January 2023: Eighth Meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP will co-organize the Eighth Meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific, with the Istanbul Public-Private Partnership Center of Excellence (Istanbul PPPCoE) on 18-20 January 2023, Istanbul, Türkiye. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the 7th Istanbul PPPCoE Week 2022, focusing on climate-resilient and gender-inclusive infrastructure development. Additionally, it will serve as a venue to discuss in-depth, Türkiye's recent PPP experience and achievements with featured infrastructure site visits. Experts from international development banks and the private financing sector will share their perspectives on green infrastructure development and the way forward. [CLICK](#)

**ISTANBUL PPP WEEK**  
16 - 19 JAN 2023

PPP: INVEST IN  
PEOPLE CLIMATE ECONOMY

Logos at the bottom: UN Women, DEIK (The Economic Dialogue Board), Ministry of Investment, Ministry of Trade, IsDB (Islamic Development Bank), Istanbul PPP Week.

## 22-24 February 2023: Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation, First Session

The first session of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation will be held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 22 to 24 February 2023. The Committee will discuss policy issues relating to: (a) strengthening regional integration and competitiveness through sustainable and inclusive trade; (b) advancing partnerships with the public and private sectors to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change; (c) mobilizing investment for sustainable development; (d) enabling business innovation for inclusive and sustainable development; and (e) promoting regional cooperation in innovation and technologies for achieving sustainable development. For more information, [CLICK](#).



### Recently concluded

#### 28 November – 2 December 2022: Public Debt and Sustainable Financing in Asia and the Pacific

Removing obstacles for the attainment of the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific, thus, requires a concrete effort on the macroeconomic front, to address challenges related to excessive public indebtedness, and on the financial front, to take advantage of new opportunities for sustainable financing. This 5-day expert group meeting considered both elements as complementary policy strands to support developing countries in the region in the way forward towards achieving the SDGs. In addition to presentations by expert on both public debt and sustainable finance, the expert group meeting peer-reviewed draft chapters of two ESCAP publications that will be published in 2023: The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, which will focus on rethinking public debt for achieving the SDGs, and the Financing for Development Series No. 5, which will discuss the rise of sustainable finance in Asia and the Pacific. [CLICK](#)

### 1-2 December 2022: Third Sustainable Investing and ESG Conference 2022

The Third Sustainable Investing and ESG Conference, organized by ESCAP and World Green Organisation, was held on 1-2 December 2022, in Hong Kong, China in a hybrid format. Investing in sustainability has become a topic of much interest among governments, banking networks, and investors more generally across the globe. Successful sustainable investing, however, places large demands on businesses to provide appropriate sustainability information, and on investors and banks to assess the suitability of that information. At this conference, experts in the field presented current research on these issues, including sustainable banking, carbon markets, and ESG reporting requirements. The discussions enable all participants to develop an up-to-date understanding of trends, successes, and challenges in these areas. Furthermore, ESCAP presented the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business: a call on businesses to scale up their ambitions for a transformative green economy. For more information, [CLICK](#).



### Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

#### 12-15 December 2022: First session of the Standing Committee of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific

The Standing Committee of the Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia-Pacific (CPTA) will meet for the first time in 2022 to initiate implementation of the treaty, following entry into force of the treaty in 2021 and as required under CPTA Article 11. It will in particular review the draft implementation roadmap of the CPTA developed earlier by the interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade and decide which articles and actions may be prioritized. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**12-16 December 2022: E-learning course on using UNESCAP Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Advisor (TINA)**

ESCAP's Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Adviser (TINA – <https://tina.trade>) is an online tool designed to assist trade policymakers and researchers in carrying out analytical tasks commonly conducted as part of trade agreement negotiations. Many of the intense tasks undertaken for trade agreement negotiations require specialized analytical and data management skills and are time-consuming when performed manually. This course will provide the participants with the theoretical understanding of TINA's algorithms, as well as hands-on examples and guided exercises. Those who completed the course will be able to independently come up with offensive/defensive interests, gauge competitiveness of individual commodities and examine trends, run partial equilibrium simulations of bilateral tariff liberalization and LDC graduation. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**13 December 2022: Capacity Building Workshop – Conducting a feasibility study on cross-border paperless trade: framework and case studies**

This workshop will provide insights regarding the conducting of feasibility studies on cross-border paperless trade. It will introduce a framework that could be used for carrying out such studies, and interim findings from studies that are being conducted. The sharing of lessons is expected to contribute to an enhanced understanding among participants on how feasibility studies can be utilized to identify opportunities, and move towards piloting and advancing implementation of cross-border paperless trade. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**13 December 2022: Second Workshop on North-East Asia Green Power Corridor Modelling Scenarios**

The objective of this workshop is to bring together relevant stakeholders from North-East Asia, as well as select experts from other parts of the world, to inform the development of the modelled Green Power Corridor scenarios. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**13 December 2022: Expert Group Meeting Follow-up on Scaling Up Sustainable Finance and Investment in the Global South**

The Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division (MPFD) is pleased to host the Expert Group Meeting Follow-Up on Scaling Up Sustainable Finance and Investment in the Global South with Professor Ulrich Volz from the Centre for Sustainable Finance at SOAS, University of London. This Expert Group Meeting is intended for ESCAP staff, member States, other UN staff, development partners and other stakeholders. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**13-14 December 2022: Business Innovation for the SDGs Forum**

This forum will bring together policymakers from Asia-Pacific and Latin America with the private sector and other stakeholders working to accelerate the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through private sector action. The Forum will explore what the private sector is doing to contribute to gender equality, empower young people, and protect the planet, and more, as well as what policymakers are doing to support such business innovation for the SDGs. It will be a hybrid event, taking place in Bangkok, Thailand and is organised by UN ESCAP in collaboration with the Government of Colombia. For more information and to register to participate (in person or online), click [here](#).

**14 December 2022: Capacity Building Workshop – Navigating Digital Trade Law Landscape**

The workshop will discuss how to support digital trade law reform at the outset of cross-border trade digitalization. Examples will be provided of regional and national cases and of their underlying policy options. Illustrations will be given of how ESCAP and UNCITRAL may assist countries in setting up an efficient and effective legal environment. For more information, [CLICK](#).

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

[Blog: Green Deal for Business and technology in accelerating sustainable development \(12 December 2022\)](#)

[Foreign direct investment trends and outlook in Asia and the Pacific 2022/2023 \(6 December 2022\)](#)

[ESCAP-OSJD joint document on potential of electronic information exchange to streamline customs formalities in international railway transport \(1 December 2022\)](#)

[Capacity building courses for energy regulators in North-East Asia \(30 November 2022\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific sustainable development journal. Vol. 29, No. 2, November 2022 \(30 November 2022\)](#)

[Trade trends in goods and services in Asia-Pacific 2022/2023 \(29 November 2022\)](#)

[Strengthening women's entrepreneurship in national micro, small and medium enterprise policies and action plans: toolkit for policymakers \(23 November 2022\)](#)

[Operationalizing the environment-health nexus in Asia and the Pacific: a policy guide on opportunities for enhancing health, biodiversity, food system and climate action \(11 November 2022\)](#)

[Protecting our planet through regional cooperation and solidarity in Asia and the Pacific \(11 November 2022\)](#)

[Energy transition pathways for the 2030 agenda: SDG 7 roadmap for Pakistan \(10 November 2022\)](#)

[Trade agreements in Asia and the Pacific: Bigger, deeper, digital and more supportive of sustainable development? 2022/2023 \(10 November 2022\)](#)

[Digital and sustainable trade facilitation in Pacific Island Developing Economies \(PIDEs\) 2021 \(08 November 2022\)](#)

[Climate champions' extended compendium of climate related initiatives: regional project list for Asia and the Pacific \(07 November 2022\)](#)

[2022 review of climate ambition in Asia and the Pacific: raising NDC targets with enhanced nature-based solutions with a special feature on engagement of children and youth in raising national climate ambition \(01 November 2022\)](#)

['Advanced Draft' of Green and Sustainable Financial Market Analysis: Financing Cambodia's Future \(26 October 2022\)](#)

### 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