Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

The ESBN Executive Council adopted the Green Deal for Business at its 7th Meeting in May 2022. The Green Deal for Business was officially launched at the Asia Pacific Business Forum held in Bangkok Thailand on 26 August 2022.

**Pledge your support to the Green Deal for Business** at: [https://www.unescap.org/projects/gd](https://www.unescap.org/projects/gd)

Upcoming events of ESBN interest

**3-7 June 2024: Paperless Trade Week 2024**

The Paperless Trade Week 2024 will be held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand from 3 to 7 June 2024. It will feature the third session of the Standing Committee of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA) and the third session of Paperless Trade Council of CPTA. Furthermore, the secretariat of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in collaboration with partners, will organize a series of capacity building side events to complement Standing Committee and Paperless Trade Council sessions. See [Schedule of the Week](#) which includes links to each event for further information.
Recently concluded

7-8 May 2024: Feminist Finance Forum
UNESCAP’s second edition of the Feminist Finance Forum convened more than 350 key players in the regional financial ecosystem – governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, development partners, international organizations, and women business leaders – from across the Asia Pacific region to address the gender finance gap. The Forum highlighted the need to invest in women to foster sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous economies. Advancing economic equality for women could add as much as $4.5 trillion - a 12 per cent increase – to the region’s GDP annually by 2025. The Forum was organized in the context of the Catalyzing Women’s Entrepreneurship programme, which, since 2018, has unlocked over $90.3 million in capital and directly supported more than 178,080 women entrepreneurs through access to finance and enhanced skills to grow their businesses.

13-14 May 2024: Stakeholder Workshop and Capacity Building: Climate Risks Impacts to Mongolian Financial Sector
Mongolia is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its geographical position, landscape, and continental climate. It ranks 22nd out of 180 countries in the Global Climate Risk Index 2019. Climate scenario analysis is an important tool to manage future long-term risks, especially for financial sector risks. The Bank of Mongolia and ESCAP are developing a report that examines climate-related risks in key sectors, including Power/Energy, Agriculture, Industry and Processes, and Mining, in the Mongolian context over the next three decades. The report presents best practices on climate scenario analysis and assessment of climate change-related financial risks. ESCAP hosted a stakeholder feedback workshop on the 13th of May to share the research on the climate risk impacts on the Mongolian financial sector. On the 14th of May, a capacity-building session was organized for the economists at the Bank of Mongolia to train them on NGFS scenarios, modeling techniques, available
data, and limitations of the framework. This marks the first step towards piloting a climate scenario analysis exercise in the Mongolian Financial sector.


Bhutan remains highly exposed to climate change impacts and natural disasters, which pose a significant threat to Bhutan’s economic stability with potential impacts seen to citizen’s livelihoods, particularly those working in the agricultural sector. The workshop is designed to support government stakeholders in understanding the broader macroeconomic context of sustainable development financing and operationalizing the necessary elements for Bhutan’s future Sustainability Bond issuance. The workshop walks stakeholders through the next steps of sustainability bond issuance and supports the development of strong project pipelines.


Impact Harvest Forum: Investing in Inclusive Businesses was a regional investment forum organized by the United Nations ESCAP, with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and in collaboration with ANGIN, Endeva, Impact Hub, India Impact Investors Council (IIC), Global Impact Investors Network (GIIN), the Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise (raiSE) and Value for Women. Focusing on inclusive businesses, which provide goods, services, and livelihoods to those at the base of the economic pyramid, the Impact Harvest Forum recognizes their potential to achieve the commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by driving both commercial viability and social impact. The forum welcomed 150 participants including business leaders, impact investors, government agencies, financial institutions, development partners, and inclusive business facilitators. The objective of the forum was to identify investment opportunities and financing mechanisms to support the growth and impact of inclusive businesses, ultimately fostering sustainable development and economic inclusion in the region.

**Upcoming ESCAP activities and events**

7-8 June 2024: **International Conference on Sustainable Inland Waterway Transport Development**

Maritime Logistics and Free Trade Islands Research Center and UN ESCAP are jointly organizing an international conference on Sustainable Inland Waterway Transport Development (hereinafter IWT Conference), which will be held in Zhoushan China, from 7 to 8 June 2024 to review the business environment in the inland waterway transport sector, consider cooperative partnership for maximizing its potential and discuss concrete measures to promote sustainable inland waterway transport in Asia and the Pacific. Interested participants are kindly invited to register by Monday, 29 May 2024 at registration link.

11-13 June 2024: **Review of the Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific: Future Proofing Social Protection**

An Expert Group Meeting (EGM) will be held with an objective to review and discuss the findings and conclusions of ESCAP’s upcoming flagship publication, Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific, produced every two years on social development issues. This year, the publication focuses on future proofing social protection for inclusive and sustainable development amidst complex global shocks and evolving megatrends such as climate change, demographic shifts including population ageing and the emergence of digital technologies. The EGM will be organized virtually over three days on 11-13 June 2024 at 14:00pm-16.00pm (GMT+7) and consist of five sessions, each focusing on one chapter of the report.

Ulsan has historically been reliant on traditional industries such as shipbuilding and petrochemicals. However, these industries are susceptible to economic downturns and technological disruptions, posing challenges for sustainable economic growth. Like many other cities in South Korea, Ulsan is experiencing a decline in population growth and an increase in the aging population. This demographic shift presents challenges in terms of labour force availability, healthcare, and social services. Rapid industrialization has led to environmental degradation in Ulsan, including air and water pollution. Addressing these environmental challenges is crucial for the health and well-being of residents and the attractiveness of the city for investment and tourism. To diversify the economy and attract talent and businesses to the city, PPPs can facilitate infrastructure development, investment in sustainable technologies, and job creation. Encouraging businesses to contribute to the community through CSR initiatives such as environmental conservation, education, and skills development, partnerships with academia and civil society are important to understand the challenges and implement sustainable practices and social impact projects that benefit local residents. Fostering an innovation ecosystem that encourages entrepreneurship, research and development, and technology transfer. Local governments and businesses can create incubators, accelerators, and co-working spaces to support startups and facilitate collaboration between businesses, academia, and government, targeting many key businesses niches and promoting social development and growing the local economy.

20 June 2024: The Landscape of B2C E-commerce Marketplaces in East Asia

The COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures to prevent its spread have strongly impacted many economies of the Forum for East Asia–Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC), altering the activities and business models of companies, especially micro, small, and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs), and shopping habits. In fact, e-commerce showed unprecedented growth as businesses and consumers turned to digital channels to maintain their activities. In this context, there is an urgent need for governments to step up their assistance to businesses, in particular MSMEs, to reap the benefits from the rapidly growing domestic and international e-commerce markets. However, there is a lack of timely data and national statistical capacity that allows for the monitoring of trends in both domestic and international e-commerce marketplaces. To fill this data gap, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the International Trade Center (ITC) and the Amsterdam University of Applied Science undertook a regional study to create a unique database mapping the traffic volumes and characteristics of a selection of Asian marketplaces. During the webinar, speakers will demonstrate the Asian Marketplace Explorer (AME) dashboard and delve into key insights from a regional report and country-specific briefs that were created using this database.

20-21 June 2024: 3rd ESCAP-ASEAN Investment Promotion and Attraction Workshop

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific will be offering a targeted capacity building workshop for ASEAN investment promotion agencies (IPAs) as a part of its work programme with the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI) on investment promotion and attraction. Against this background, the third ASEAN IPA workshop of 2024 will be held in Bangkok at United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) on 20-21 June. The workshop will provide intensive capacity building training on investor identification, creating value to investors and investor negotiations, inter alia, while also featuring an investor dialogue to garner private sector inputs and practical insights to support the training elements as well as the regional action plan development. The workshop will close with a discussion on the progress of the action plan development.
24 July 2024: **SDG For Global Citizenship: A Global Workshop on ensuring access to sustainable, clean and modern energy**

In our rapidly globalizing world, the urgency and significance of achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 have never been more apparent. These goals, which include ending poverty, ensuring clean water and sanitation, promoting sustainable cities and communities, and combating climate change, are all interconnected. However, the shift towards green energy and a just transformation is a key driver for achieving sustainable development on a global scale. Green energy, encompassing renewable sources like solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal power, holds immense promise in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. By reducing greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels, green energy helps combat global warming and promotes environmental sustainability and resilience. Moreover, transitioning towards green energy is not solely about environmental conservation but also social justice and equity. A just transformation acknowledges the interconnectedness of ecological, social, and economic factors, striving to ensure sustainable development’s benefits are accessible to all, particularly marginalized communities and future generations. Collaboration is not only beneficial; it’s crucial. Governments, businesses, civil society, and educational institutions must collaborate to advance the agenda of green energy and a just transformation. As part of the APRU SDG Education for Global Citizenship program the ESCAP subregional office of Southeast Asia is organizing a global workshop to raise awareness about climate action and the green energy transition. Please register your participation [here](#). We will share the zoom link in due course.

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

All ESCAP upcoming events: [https://www.unescap.org/events](https://www.unescap.org/events)

Recently published by ESCAP

Coaching inclusive businesses : a toolkit for business support organizations (29 May 2024)

Inclusive business accreditation system: A manual (23 May 2024)

Growing your inclusive agribusiness : A toolkit for businesses (20 May 2024)

Combating climate change and poverty in Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries : a call for integrated approaches (16 May 2024)

Strengthening Social Protection in Palau (15 May 2024)

Integrated public transport systems : a guidebook for policymakers (14 May 2024)

Decent work solutions at the intersection of climate change and poverty in Asia and the Pacific (14 May 2024)

Asia-Pacific Quarterly Economic Update, May 2024 (08 May 2024)

Working paper series

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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