



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update: September 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

Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

The ESNB Executive Council adopted the Green Deal for Business at its 7th 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

22 September 2022: Session 5: Scaling up Business Action for Net-Zero: Harnessing the levers of change, Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum

This session will engage companies in the Asia-Pacific region in a moderated discussion on the possibility of achieving the required cuts and the role of policy and other levers (regulatory, financial, advisory) in driving the decarbonization of company operations. It will share good practices and lessons learned and discuss how states and investors can ensure the proper incentive structure is in place to drive rapid emissions reductions. Mr. Asif Ibrahim, Chair of the ESNB Task Force on Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction and ESNB Executive Council Member, will join the panel discussion. More information can be found at: www.rbhrforum.com

25 October 2022: Taxation of the Digital Economy in Asia and the Pacific

The emergence of the digital economy has challenged the core of existing international taxation norms and left growing shares of the economy untaxed or undertaxed. The international community has made encouraging progress in taxing the digital economy at both national and international levels. However, significant gaps remain. Smaller and poorer developing countries, in particular, are still marginalized in international taxation reforms and lack effective but easy-to-use tax options for tapping into the digital economy revenue base. The workshop serves to better inform governments of Asia-Pacific developing countries in their exploration of policy options for taxing the digital economy and solicit country feedbacks on how the United Nations can better support them on this front. For more information, [CLICK](#).

26 October 2022: The Digitalization of Tax Administrations in Asia and the Pacific

Recent innovations in tax administration include digitalization, automating tax reporting and compliance processes, which can benefit from recent technological developments like AI, machine learning, and

customer assistance chatbots. This workshop aims to share information and experiences among Asia-Pacific tax administration departments on the current level of digitalization to identify obstacles and solutions. Focus areas of discussion will revolve around ICT technologies such as e-filing and e-payments to help collect taxes, tax compliance digital tools, big data analytics, AI, and machine learning applied to tax administration. The workshop will also review good practices in using e-taxation tools in the region and will help identify activities governments may undertake to improve tax compliance using e-taxation technologies. For more information, [CLICK](#).

Recently concluded

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” was held on 25 August 2022, the [Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships \(PPP\) Network of Asia and the Pacific](#) organized a session on Scaling up investment in climate infrastructure projects through Public Private Partnerships (PPP). The focus of this session was on showcasing sustainable infrastructure projects that are bankable and aligned with their respective national SDG and climate-resilient strategy. For more information, [CLICK](#):



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

The tenth meeting of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) was held in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2022, in Bangkok and online on 26 August 2022. The ESBN was provided

updates by the Task Force chairs on the task force's activities and discussed the action plan for the roll out of the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business. For more information, [CLICK](#):



26 August 2022: Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2022

The Asia-Pacific Business Forum has been held annually since 2004. APBF 2022 was held in Bangkok and online on 26 August 2022 in cooperation with the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN). The Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business was successfully launched and opened to businesses across the region. Businesses and Organizations can **pledge their support** at www.unescap.org/projects/gd. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2022/asia-pacific-business-forum-2022>



29 August 2022: Sixth session of the Asia Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee and Regional Review of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), access at:

<https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/sixth-session-asia-pacific-information-superhighway-ap-steering-committee-and-regional>

The sixth session of the AP-IS Steering Committee on 29 August 2022 adopted the AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand from 30 August to 1 September 2022. The secretariat supported member States in development of an Action Plan for implementation of the AP-IS initiative, adopted earlier by the AP-IS Steering Committee at its fifth session on 25 November 2021. The Action Plan serves as a blueprint for regional cooperative actions to bridge the digital divide and accelerate digital transformation. It consists of 25 actions centred on three pillars: “Connectivity for all”; “Digital technologies and applications”; and “Digital data”. Three Working Group (WG) Bureaus have been established to implement each pillar.

30 August-1 September 2022: CICTST14, access at: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/committee-information-and-communications-technology-science-technology-and-innovation>

The Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, Fourth Session was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 30 August to 1 September 2022. YouTube link for '**Floor language**': <https://youtu.be/XuTuVTMqGBQ>; YouTube link for '**English**': <https://youtu.be/ha5GfPmi5AA>

31 August 2022: Enabling Women’s Entrepreneurship through Smart Legislative and Policy Reforms

The Regional Dialogue on “*Enabling Women’s Entrepreneurship through Smart Legislative and Policy Reforms*” was held on 31 August 2022. It was jointly organized by UN ESCAP’s *Catalysing Women’s Entrepreneurship* (CWE) project and the World Bank Group. Evidence from the recent reports on the legal and policy challenges faced by women entrepreneurs was presented by the World Bank. This was complemented with examples of successful reforms from the CWE project countries and beyond concluding with concrete actions on the way forward. For more information, please [CLICK](#):



Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

12-14 September 2022: Global South-South Development Expo 2022

The Government of Thailand, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) will jointly organize the eleventh Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) at the United Nations Conference Centre

(UNCC) in Bangkok Thailand, from 12 to 14 September 2022, in conjunction with the 2022 UN Day for South-South Cooperation. For more information, [CLICK](#).

30 September 2022: Side event: National Perspectives and Experiences on Cross-Sectoral Infrastructure Sharing for Broadband Connectivity

A side event of the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, 28-30 September 2022. Full inclusion in digital identity systems is essential to ensure that every person has a legal identity, facilitating access to the benefits and protections of the State. As services increasingly transition to digital, disparities in coverage of hard to reach and marginalized populations can further compound disadvantages and exclusion and deepen the digital divide. Many countries experience lower civil registration completeness among certain population groups or geographic areas, and their exclusion prevents people fully accessing services and realizing their legal identity. For more information, [CLICK](#).

30 September 2022: SIDE EVENT: Promoting Intra-regional FDI in ASEAN

A side event of the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, 28-30 September 2022. In line with the objective of the RECI to delve deeper into the specific aspects of regional economic cooperation and integration which can help further our common agenda and attain the SDGs as well as find solutions to challenges arising from recent and ongoing crises, this roundtable will explore the value of intraregional investment flows and how to maximise their potential, including through comprehensive strategies for promoting and attracting investment, towards sustained and inclusive recovery and development. For more information, [CLICK](#).

30 September 2022: SIDE EVENT: Cross-Border e-Payments

A side event of the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, 28-30 September 2022. The purpose of this side event is to understand how PromptPay-PayNow works and to explore the possibilities for other countries to interlink their payment systems to reduce the cost and increase the convenience of cross-border payments. For more information, [CLICK](#).

30 September 2022: SIDE EVENT: The UN Model Chapter on Trade in Crisis Situations in Regional Trade Agreements

A side event of the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, 28-30 September 2022. The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the limitations of existing trade rules in ensuring trade resilience during crises. There are two ways of including more specific and dedicated legal provisions in trade agreements to minimise the impacts from trade disruption in times of crisis: (1) amending existing chapters of trade agreements to incorporate such provisions, or (2) introducing a new and separate standalone chapter. In this side event, a model stand-alone chapter will be presented as a template to be further tailored to meet specific needs of the Parties in actual trade agreements. For more information, [CLICK](#).

30 September 2022: SIDE EVENT: Policy Dialogue on 'Towards a Forward-Looking Agenda for Sustainable Inter-Regional Transport Linkages between Central Asia and Southern Asia'

A side event of the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, 28-30 September 2022. Cross-border transport connectivity is important for any RECI initiative. ESCAP ES has expressed those collaborative efforts are made by SROs on such issues. This event will take stock of important regional transport connectivity initiatives in Central Asia and Southern Asia and identify gaps in implementation of transport infrastructure and policy reforms. It will also explore

key opportunities for promoting and sustaining regional transport connectivity initiatives and trade and transport facilitation reforms in current context. For more information, [CLICK](#).

30 September 2022: SIDE EVENT: Powering Digital Economy –Policy Approach to Foster Innovation

A side event of the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, 28-30 September 2022. This session showcases the updated and emerging policy and regulatory frameworks on digital economy around the world based on the recent advisory work by ADB for the Government of Viet Nam. The event will also house a discussion on what the key considerations would be for developing economies to build a balanced frameworks that address the challenges of the digital age whilst fostering innovation. For more information, [CLICK](#).

30 September 2022: Launch of the 2022 Regional Trends Report Toward Sustainable Energy Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific: Status, Trends and Opportunities

ESCAP's 2022 Regional Trends Report examines the role of power system connectivity in attaining the energy transition. It presents the current status of sustainable development and regional power connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region, pointing out progress and prospects; and it provides insights into where action is most needed, highlighting regional and non-regional examples of successful approaches. The report also discusses challenges to cooperation and cross-border power connectivity and addresses relevant cross-cutting and emerging issues. For more information, [CLICK](#).

6-7 October 2022: Sixth North and Central Asian Multistakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

ESCAP is organizing the Sixth North and Central Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Forum is a unique platform for policymakers and other key stakeholders to share subregional perspectives, discuss collaborative measures to address subregional priorities and exchange good practices to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its conclusions and recommendations will feed into the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) of ESCAP and the 2023 UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). 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

[Blog: Towards the Green Deal for Business: Making infrastructure green \(23 August 2022\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific digital transformation report 2022: shaping our digital future \(30 August 2022\)](#)

[Energy transition pathways for the 2030 agenda : SDG 7 roadmap for the Lao People's Democratic Republic \(24 August 2022\)](#)

[E-learning course on Climate-smart Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development \(22 August 2022\)](#)

[Digital and sustainable trade facilitation in South and South-West Asia 2021 \(16 August 2022\)](#)

[Model chapter on trade in crisis situations in regional trade agreements \(16 August 2022\)](#)

[Digital and sustainable trade facilitation in North and Central Asia 2021 \(16 August 2022\)](#)

[Valuing and Investing in Unpaid Care and Domestic Work - Country Case Study: Cambodia \(05 August 2022\)](#)

[Valuing and Investing in Unpaid Care and Domestic Work - Country Case Study: Philippines \(05 August 2022\)](#)

[Slow advancements in sustainable energy: taking stock of SDG 7 progress in Asia and the Pacific \(04 August 2022\)](#)

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

Best regards,

ESBN Secretariat