



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update

June 2021

ESBN news and updates

Online survey: Engagement of private sector in capacity-building activities for climate action in the ASEAN, Deadline: 10 June 2021

This survey, which is conducted by the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre Bangkok, aims to identify capacity building gaps and opportunities on climate change for MSMEs/SMEs in the ASEAN, to support the development of a comprehensive capacity building strategy for MSMEs and SMEs. UNFCCC would like to reach out to more SMEs and MSMEs in ASEAN. To respond to the Survey, please go to:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe_OOZqbPbSv1Xa_uXlitAYKcwrGhtzUTGMATWmOI7ZGbA5Fw/viewform?>

Reminder to convert to corporate membership

ESBN members who earlier joined in a personal capacity are kindly reminded of the need to convert to corporate membership before the end of 2021, by submitting the commitment form earlier shared, and to become signatories of the UN Global Compact. Please contact the ESBN secretariat for more information: esbn@un.org

Upcoming ESBN related events

11 June 2021: Expert Panel Discussion on The Future of Sustainability Reporting

This panel discussion will be the first of a webinar series covering sustainability reporting, including the harmonization of reporting standards. It will share knowledge of global climate reporting, such as the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), and CDP. Expert panelists from PwC, CDP, Monetary Authority of Singapore, and CSRWorks International will also share their insights on global ESG trends and green financing. The session is organized by City Developments Limited (CDL) and the Singapore Sustainability Academy, and supported by Singapore Exchange, Global Compact Network Singapore, Singapore Institute of Directors, the Centre for Governance and Sustainability at NUS Business School and the ESBN. Register [here](#).

THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

11 June 2021, 4 PM – 5 PM

Is the harmonisation of reporting standards the solution to more transparent, consistent and comparable ESG disclosure? Are Asian reporters ready for this transformation? What are the challenges and opportunities that can be expected? What exactly is climate reporting, such as TCFD, SBTi and CDP? Join this panel of experts as they share their insights on evolving sustainability reporting standards, global ESG trends and green financing.

Expert Panellists



Mr Jon Williams, TCFD expert member and Partner, Sustainability and Climate Change, PwC



Ms Pratima Divgi, Regional Director, CDP Hong Kong



Mr Rajesh Chhabara, Managing Director, CSRWorks International



Ms Abigail Ng, SID ESG Committee Member and Executive Director, Monetary Authority of Singapore



Moderator: Ms Esther An, Chief Sustainability Officer, CDL

Simply register at bit.ly/CDLVSSA21 to join the exciting session. You may also email sustainability@cdl.com.sg for clarifications.

Presented by:



Supporting partners:



Recently issued sustainability reports

Infosys issued its ESG report for FY2021 entitled “Sharing an Equitable and Sustainable Digital Future”. which also spells out its ESG Vision and Ambitions for 2030, including maintaining carbon neutrality across Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, maintaining 100% wastewater recycling, and ensuring zero waste to landfill. [Infosys ESG Report 2020-21](#).

City Developments Limited (CDL) issued its [Integrated Sustainability Report 2021](#), “Advancing Change Resilience”, communicating CDL’s progress towards material Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) goals and targets aligned with global climate goals and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Other activities by the ESNB members

Climate Action Exhibition: City Developments Limited (CDL), in partnership with NParks, is organizing a climate action exhibition in Singapore. Entitled "Change the Present, Save the Future.", the exhibition will be held at CDL Green Gallery@Singapore Botanic Gardens from May to end-November 2021. The exhibition will reach out to a broad audience of visitors from all sectors, including international visitors attending the upcoming World Cities Summit in June, the World Economic Forum Special Annual Meeting

in August, International Built Environment Week in September, and other prominent business conferences and meetings in Singapore.

Recently concluded

1-4 June 2021: UN Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum: The New Decade of Action?

Held annually since 2016, the 2021 Forum explored how existing vulnerabilities have been exposed and amplified by the ongoing pandemic and discuss the need to use the crisis as an opportunity to drive change for improving responsible business practices and human rights in the region. ESNB members who spoke in the event included: Asif Ibrahim, Vice-Chair Newage Group of Industries, and Director Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association; Krittika Wuttipat Aree, Executive Vice-President for Strategic Initiatives, Compliance and Sustainability, Li & Fung Limited; and Esther An, Chief Sustainability Officer, City Developments Limited. For more information, see: www.rbhrforum.com and for recordings, see: <https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCOb7SVzoWSpXtOQW2lYsQqA>

19 May 2021: Climate Neutral Now – Regional Launch Webinar

The Climate Neutral Now Initiative is one of several initiatives launched by the UNFCCC secretariat to increase climate action by engaging non-Party stakeholders (sub-national governments, companies, organizations, individuals). Created in 2015, the revamped initiative will be launched at this regional webinar. Bose Varghese, Head, Green Initiatives, Infosys (ESBN member) participated on the policy roundtable to discuss enabling policies needed to support private sector in reaching climate neutrality. The recording of the event is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPOoHwwcXI>

ESCAP activities and events

8 June 2021: World Oceans Day – launch of eLearning course on Cities and Marine Plastic Pollution: Building a Circular Economy

ESCAP's [Closing the Loop](#) project is using innovative technologies—such as AI, machine learning and satellites to combat plastic waste in urban waterways. By measuring and monitoring marine plastic litter, Closing the Loop's goal is to support the implementation of science-based action plans to end marine plastic litter. With so much learned, a new eLearning course, [Cities and Marine Plastic Pollution: Building a Circular Economy](#), developed with partners through the project will be launched on [World Oceans Day](#). This solution-based learning resource will give critical insights to Closing the Loop's work and how this project is achieving local, national and regional goals related to sustainable development. For more information and to register, see: <https://sdghelpdesk-elearning.unescap.org/thematicarea/detail?id=24>

9-10 June 2021: Regional Meeting on the “City and Transport: Safety, Efficiency, and Sustainability”

The high-level meeting will exchange regional and global best practices which address sustainable urban transport systems in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 3, 11 and 13). <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/regional-meeting-asia-pacific-city-and-transport-safety-efficiency-and-sustainability>

10 June 2021: Asia Pacific regional food systems dialogue

The Asia Pacific regional food systems dialogue is being organized virtually on 10 June 2021 from 13.00 to 15.30 (BKK time, UTC +7) in preparation of the Global Food Systems Summit. It will provide insights from

the national dialogues that are currently being convened on the five action tracks and identify opportunities for regional and subregional collaboration. It will also consider cross-cutting issues such as digitalization, data, urban agriculture, and women and other vulnerable groups that have emerged as priority areas for action during the recent Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. The registration will be closed on 4 June 2021 at 23.30 (BKK time, UTC +7). For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/asia-pacific-regional-food-systems-dialogue>

15 June 2021: Addressing COVID-19 for the Environment

The UN Environment Management Group, in close collaboration with UNEP, UNEP-FI, UNESCAP, UNECE, UNECA, ECLAC, ESCWA, and RCNYO, will organize a 3-part series of virtual Nexus Dialogues on Addressing COVID-19 for the Environment. The third dialogue “Regional Nexus Approaches to Building Back Better” to be held on 15 June 2021 presents case studies on “Regional Acceleration of Climate Action and Decarbonization” and exchanges surrounding nexus thinking and integrated policy-making tools. For more information, see: <https://unemg.org/addressing-covid-19-for-the-environment/>. To participate, please register at : https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_D0ZpldP5TAqhsfNCw1GTRA.

22 June 2021: Fifth Meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnership Network of Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP through its Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnership Network of Asia and the Pacific in partnership with the China Public Private Partnerships Center (CPPPC) under the Ministry of Finance, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will host the Fifth Meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnership Network of Asia and the Pacific virtually on 22 June 2021 from 12:00 PM to 3:30 PM, Bangkok time, GMT+7. The objective of the Meeting is to bring together and engage Heads of PPP units, infrastructure financing specialists, development partners, and academic institutions to enhance knowledge and capacity of PPP units on the effective use of PPP mechanisms as well as other infrastructure financing strategies to support the pursuit of sustainable and resilient infrastructure development. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/fifth-meeting-infrastructure-financing-and-public-private-partnership-network-asia-and>

23 June 2021: Forum on Strengthening capacity for operationalizing sustainable transport connectivity along the China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic (CCWA) Corridor to achieve the 2030 Agenda

In line with ESCAP’s objective to strengthen the intra- and inter-regional transport connectivity, the secretariat is undertaking a study project on “Strengthening capacity for operationalizing sustainable transport connectivity along the China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic (CCWA) Corridor”, to identify main transport routes connecting Asia and Europe through the CCWA Corridor. This Forum is organized to present study findings and discuss the way forward for the improvement of connectivity along the CCWA Corridor. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/forum-strengthening-capacity-operationalizing-sustainable-transport-connectivity-0>

24 June 2021:

South-East Asia Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Finance: Innovating Finance for the 2030 Agenda

This virtual dialogue will discuss mainstreaming the green/SDG-linked bonds in the South-East Asian region, with a focus on identifying additional needs, tools, and operational frameworks to enable enhanced and accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda in times of crisis. For more information:

<https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/south-east-asia-policy-dialogue-sustainable-finance-innovating-finance-2030-agenda>

29 June 2021: Innovatea webinar: Why Social Media Based Businesses Fail to Scale?

Over the past 6 months the ESCAP has partnered with Dnet Bangladesh to undertake primary research on women social media-based entrepreneurs in Bangladesh to understand why they are failing to scale. The research sheds light on the situation, challenges, and support requirements for online women entrepreneurs to start and scale their business and provides recommendations and actions to support women entrepreneurs in overcoming these challenges. This session will launch the preliminary findings of the report. The session will also engage industry leaders and Bangladesh innovators to discuss the findings and what solutions are needed to support entrepreneurs to scale-up in Bangladesh's online marketplace. Please register [here](#).

30 June 2021: Regional Conference for Logistics Service Providers

This annual Conference provides an enabling platform for freight forwarders, multimodal transport operators and logistics service providers in Asia and the Pacific to share knowledge and experience, discuss emerging issues and promote the development of their services. The Conference will be held virtually on 30 June 2021 and will review the latest developments in freight forwarding, multimodal transport and logistics services in the region, aiming to identify and promote good practices and innovative solutions to shared challenges. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/regional-conference-logistics-service-providers>

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: Why investing in women is key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, Kaveh Zahedi](#)

[A primer on quantifying the environmental benefits of cross-border paperless trade facilitation \(May 2021\)](#)

[The Future is Equal: Gender Equality in the Technology Industry \(26 May 2021\)](#)

[Outward Foreign Direct Investment and Upgrading by Emerging Market Firms in Global Value Chains, Studies in Trade, Investment, and Innovation No. 94 \(25 May 2021\)](#)

[Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises' Access to Finance in Cambodia \(19 May 2021\)](#)

[Inequality of Opportunity: Who Are Those Left Behind? Maldives and other Asia-Pacific SIDS \(19 May 2021\)](#)

[SDG 7 Localization Affordable and Clean Energy in ASEAN cities \(18 May 2021\)](#)

[Study on Efficient Operations of International Passenger Trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Network \(17 May 2021\)](#)

[Smart Railway Solutions for Trans-Asian Railway Network in the Times of COVID-19 Pandemic \(14 May 2021\)](#)

[ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami Disaster and Climate Preparedness: 2020 Annual Report \(14 May 2021\)](#)

[Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises' Access to Finance in Bangladesh \(10 May 2021\)](#)

[The shrinking Asia-Pacific middle class: trends and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic \(28 April 2021\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2021: Strengthening the resilience of least developed countries in the wake of the coronavirus disease pandemic \(27 April 2021\)](#)

[Water and Waste Accounts Reports \(22 April 2021\)](#)

[Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda SDG 7 Roadmap for Tonga \(14 April 2021\)](#)

Working paper series

Macroeconomics: Click [here](#)

Trade: Click [here](#)

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