



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update

May 2021

ESBN news and updates

ESBN Executive Council appointed for 2021-2022

The ESNB Executive Council held its fifth meeting on 22 April 2021. The meeting discussed ESNB strategy and decided on ESNB taskforces for the coming two-year period. A new Council was appointed for a two-year period, with George Lam and David Morris re-appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair for a second two-year term, and three new members welcomed on the council: Esther An, Chief Sustainability Officer, City Developments Limited (CDL), Singapore; Anirban Ghosh, Chief Sustainability Officer, Mahindra Group, India, and Constant van Aerschot, Director, Asia Pacific, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). The council also bid farewell to three long-serving members, thanking them for their substantial contributions over the years: Akash Bhavsar, Managing Director, Skyquest Technology Group, India; Tariq M. Rangoonwala, Chairman, Rangoonwala Group of Companies, Pakistan; and Kosala Wickramanayake, President, International Business Council, Sri Lanka.



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 ESNB secretariat for more information: esbn@un.org

Upcoming events of ESNB interest

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. To participate at the event, please register here: <https://indico.un.org/event/1000100/>

For more information, see: <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/climate-neutral-now/climate-neutral-now-events-2021#eq-1>

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

Held annually since 2016, the Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum convenes governments, civil society organizations, human rights defenders, trade unions, academia, national human rights institutions, business enterprises and industry associations for constructive dialogue and peer-learning on how to strengthen responsible business and human rights in the region. The 2021 Forum will explore 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. For more information, see: www.rbhrforum.com

Save the Date | 1-4 June 2021

UN Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum, Asia-Pacific

The New Decade of Action?



Recently concluded

20 April 2021: ESNB Roundtable: Strategies on Reducing and Utilizing CO2 for Cost Effective Business

UN ESCAP through its Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNEPs Climate Technology Centre and Network, and the Global Concrete and Cement

Association organized a virtual Roundtable on Utilizing CO2 for Cost Effective Business on 20 April 2021, 14:00-17:45 Bangkok time (GMT+7). The objective of the ESNB Roundtable is to bring together and engage the textiles sector and apparel & fashion industry and the cement industry to discuss CO2 reduction via Carbon Capture and Utilization (CCU). The Roundtable also introduced a project proposal. For more information, see: <https://esbn.unescap.org/events/esbn-roundtable-strategies-reducing-and-utilizing-co2-cost-effective-business>



Other ESCAP events

18 May 2021: Launch event for: ESCAP-UNEP Report ‘SDG7 Localization: affordable and clean energy in ASEAN cities’ & REN21’s Renewables in Cities 2021 Global Status report

This workshop will bring together representatives of national and city governments, business and academic society to discuss good practices, trends and recent developments on sustainable energy in cities in ASEAN and other countries in Asia and the Pacific. To participate at the event, please register here <https://forms.office.com/r/MG6Cn7KD5e>. For more information, see:

<https://www.unescap.org/launch-event-escap-unep-report-sdg7-localization-and-ren21-renewables-global-status-report>

20 May 2021: ARTNeT Webinar: Trade and Gender: A Framework of Analysis

This talk will be based on the recent [OECD Trade Policy Paper No. 246](#) with the same title and co-authored by Jane Korinek, Economist, Trade in Services Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD, Evdokia Moïsé and Jakob Tange. A framework is proposed for analysing the impacts of trade and trade policies on women that policy makers can use in order to ensure that trade and trade policies in their country support women’s economic empowerment. [Short clip about the paper](#). For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/artnet-webinar-trade-and-gender-framework-analysis>

9-10 June 2021: Regional Meeting for the Asia-Pacific 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>

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.

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

[Stats Brief, March 2021 \(Issue no. 28\): Big data for economic statistics \(30 March 2021\)](#)

[Inequality in Access to Information and Communication Technologies \(ICTs\): Strengthening the Evidence Base to Leave No One Behind \(30 March 2021\)](#)

[Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021: Towards post-COVID-19 resilient economies \(30 March 2021\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific countries' COVID-19 policy responses \(29 March 2021\)](#)

[Methodology: Strengthening the Evidence Base to Leave No One Behind \(29 March 2021\)](#)

[The state of social enterprise in South East Asia \(29 March 2021\)](#)

[Beyond the pandemic: Building back better from crises in Asia and the Pacific \(26 March 2021\)](#)

[Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Leaving No Country Behind \(23 March 2021\)](#)

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