10th ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
"Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific”

SDG 9 Round Table Concept Note

28 March, 14:15 – 16:15 hours (GMT+7)
[Meeting Room G] United Nations Conference Center (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand
Reporting back to APFSD Plenary: Wednesday 29 March, 14:00-17:00 hours (GMT+7)

Background

The COVID-19 crisis has shown the importance of industrialization, innovation, digitalization, and resilient infrastructure in building back better and achieving all Goals of the 2030 Agenda. Economies with a diversified industrial sector and strong infrastructure better weathered the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and experienced a faster recovery.

The effects of the pandemic were highly heterogeneous across sectors, firms, and workers, both globally and in the Asia-Pacific region. The most vulnerable were small and medium enterprises, sectors highly integrated to global or regional value chains, as well as firms and workers in the informal economy. Women, youth, and low-skilled workers suffered the most losses.

Although economic activity in the region has quickly recovered, reaching in 2021 its highest growth rate since 2010, the recovery remains incomplete and uneven. This has had an impact on progress towards SDG 9. Except for significant advances in two targets (9.a and 9.c), other areas are lagging. Countries in the Asia-Pacific region need to implement actions to accelerate progress on these targets, particularly those relating to manufacturing employment, transition to higher-technology industrial sectors, support to SMEs, and research and development (R&D) activity. Better and more disaggregated data are also needed to guide and monitor policies aiming at
improving infrastructure, promoting innovation, and enhancing green and inclusive industrialization.

Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and SDG 9 Roundtable

The annual Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) is an inclusive and intergovernmental forum and a regional platform for supporting countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 10th APFSD will be organized from 27-30 March 2023 under the theme “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific” in Bangkok, Thailand, at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC).

APFSD will feature multi-stakeholder “roundtables” dedicated to the goals under review at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2023. The roundtable on the review of SDG 9 will be organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The objectives of the roundtable are to:

I. Establish a shared understanding of the outlook/progress on SDG 9 by:
   (a) Providing an update on progress made

II. Jointly develop recommendations on:
   (a) Addressing systemic challenges that are barriers to further progress.
   (b) Priorities for strengthening policy coherence in implementation efforts – including through attention to key leverage points.
   (c) Promising solutions and innovations (policy, social, institutional, technological, or other); and
   (d) Areas for national and regional cooperation.

The Roundtable will provide an opportunity for representatives from governments and local authorities, civil society, academia, and the private sector to review the progress on SDG 9 in the Asia-Pacific region and associated challenges, and to discuss priorities for action. The roundtable discussions will be based on the SDG 9 Goal Profile which was drafted in preparation to the forum and will be available on the APFSD website for reference. Data gaps and how these can be addressed may also be discussed.
The roundtable format includes a presentation on the SDG 9 profile, a panel discussion, breakout discussions, and a plenary session. The agenda is presented below. The report of the roundtable will be presented to the broader APFSD plenary during agenda item 5 (b) scheduled for **29 March 2023 between 14:00-17:00 hours** (GMT +7).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Themes of SDG 9 Roundtable</th>
<th>Priority Targets/Areas for Discussion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Industry, job and greening the industry – the covid aftermath</td>
<td>Data availability, priority action, cross-cutting issues – gender, disaster preparedness, and carbon emissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) Innovation</td>
<td>Data availability, priority action, social, policy, institutional, technology and sustainability</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) Infrastructure and digitalization</td>
<td>Data availability, priority action, cross-cutting issues – gender, and disaster preparedness</td>
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**Tentative Agenda**

**Tuesday, 28 March 2023**

**14:15 – 16:15 hours**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:15 – 14:25 (10 mins)</td>
<td>Welcome and opening remarks</td>
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<td>Ms. Warawan Chitaroon, Director General, the Office of Industrial Economics, Ministry of Industry, Thailand (4 mins)</td>
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<td>Mr. Sanjay Mathur, Regional Director for Asia Region, UNOPS (3 mins)</td>
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<td>Ms. Natalia Mochu, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (3 mins)</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<td>14:15 – 16:15 hours</td>
<td>Moderator: Ms. Sooksiri Chamsuk, Deputy Representative, UNIDO Thailand</td>
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<td>14:25 – 14:35 (10 mins)</td>
<td>Presentation of the Goal 9 Profile</td>
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<td>14:35 – 14:55 (20 mins)</td>
<td>Panel discussion</td>
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| Discussants: | | - Ms. Aisha Humera Moriani, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication Pakistan  
  - Mr. Eddie Chen, Managing Director, Fullerton Fund Management Company Ltd.,  
  - Ms. Janya Chanchaichujit¹, Associate Professor, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand  
  - Dr. Thi Phuoc Lai Nguyen, Assistant Professor, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand  
  - Ms. Rochelle Porras, Executive Director, Ecumenical Institute for Labour Education and Research (EILER), Philippines |
| 14:55 – 15:35 (40 mins) | Breakout groups | Three breakout groups will provide feedback on policy recommendations for action from the SDG 9 Profile and propose new recommendations for action as needed. Breakout groups will remain in the roundtable meeting room. |
| | | - **Systemic challenges** – action to address  
  - **Policy coherence** – priority areas and leverage points  
  - **Regional cooperation** – priority issues and actors  
  - **Innovations** – in social, policy, institutional, technology or other |

¹ Center for Sustainable Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Faculty of Environmental Management
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| 14:15 – 16:15 hours | **Group 1: Industry, SMEs, Job, and Green Industry**  
Mr. Chanchai Chalokkongtavorn, Senior Plan and Policy Analyst, Office of Industrial Economics. Ministry of Industry, Thailand (Chair)  
Moderator and note taking: UNIDO and ILO  
**Group 2: Innovation**  
Ms. Aisha Humera Moriani, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication Pakistan (Chair)  
Moderator and note taking: ITU and UNDP  
**Group 3: Infrastructure and digitalization**  
Prof Indrajit Pal, Associate Professor, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand  
Moderator and note taking: UNOPS & ITU, UNDRR |
| 15:35-16:05 (30 mins) | **Plenary discussion on concrete action for acceleration of the Goal**  
*Moderator to summarize highlights and note that the points identified and presented back by the breakout groups will be used to revise the SDG 9 recommendations for action and be presented to APFSD plenary**  
**Moderator:** Ms. Simonetta Siligato, Senior Advisor to the Regional Director, UNOPS |
| 16:05-16:15 (10 mins) | **Wrap up and closing remarks**  
Wrap up: Mr. Fernando Cantu Bazaldua, UNIDO  
**Closing remarks:** Mr. Stein Hansen  
Director, Special Operations Division, UNIDO HQ, and Officer in Charge, UNIDO Regional Office in Thailand |

**Rapporteur on the Round Table Discussion on SDG 9:** Ms. Aisha Humera Moriani, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication Pakistan

**Microphone** hosted by Ms. Budthree Tiamtiabrat, Senior Plan and Policy Analyst, Office of Industrial Economics. Ministry of Industry, Thailand
For more information, please contact: APFSD Secretariat at escap-apfspd@un.org.

SDG 9 Round Table:

- Ms. Sooksiri Chamsuk, Deputy Representative UNIDO Thailand
  s.chamsuk@unido.org with copy to p.kamngoen@unido.org

Registration link:

Kindly register at: https://indico.un.org/event/1003108/ by 13 March.

#APFSD #GlobalGoals #SDGs #2030Agenda #AsiaPacific