

The road to climate neutrality: experiences, challenges, and support.

Regional Webinar for Asia, the Pacific, Middle East and North Africa marking the launch of the revamped Climate Neutral Now initiative

Time: 19 May 2021

09:00-11:00 CEST, 11:00-13:00 GST, 14:00-16:00 ICT (GMT+7)

Register here: <https://indico.un.org/event/1000100/>

Background:

The Climate Neutral Now Initiative is one of several initiatives launched by the UNFCCC secretariat to enhance climate action by engaging non-Party stakeholders (sub-national governments, companies, organizations, individuals). It was launched in 2015 based on a mandate to promote the voluntary use of carbon market mechanisms recognized under the Convention. It has since evolved to become a much wider tool for awareness-raising, capacity building, promoting and facilitating the estimation of carbon footprints, the reduction of those footprints, as well as voluntary compensation and contribution.

With the revamp, Climate Neutral Now introduces new criteria for participation, where signatories are graded at three different levels; bronze, silver and gold; for each area – measure, reduce and contribute. These new criteria, and additional information on the Climate Neutral Now process, will be presented during the Launch Event. Additionally, two panel discussions will be held to exchange views from companies and non-party stakeholders, as well as governments, on how we can all work towards climate neutrality.

This Regional Event is co-organized by UNFCCC-IGES Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RCC Bangkok), UNFCCC-WGEO Regional Collaboration Centre for Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (RCC Dubai), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) and the UNFCCC Secretariat.



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Agenda:

Time (CEST)	Agenda Item	Speakers
09:00	Introduction and Housekeeping	Master of Ceremonies: Björn Fondén, UNFCCC/IGES Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific, RCC Bangkok
09:05	Opening Remarks	Ken O’Flaherty, COP26 Regional Ambassador for Asia-Pacific and South Asia Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development Policies Division, UNESCWA Stefanos Fotiou, Director, Environment and Development Division, UNESCAP
09:20	Presentation of the Revamped Climate Neutral Now initiative: <i>What does Carbon neutral and Net-zero mean? What are the criteria for participation in the revamped Climate Neutral Now initiative?</i> Live Q&A from participants in Teams	Miguel Naranjo, Programme Officer, UNFCCC Secretariat
09:40	Company Panel Discussion: <i>This engaging panel discussion will explore what activities companies in the region are undertaking to move towards climate neutrality, as well as the benefits of doing so. It also aims to shed a light on the difficulties and challenges that exist, to help and inspire other companies in their sustainability journey.</i>	Moderator: Rachel Panaino, World Green Economy Organization Andrew Buay, Vice President, Group Sustainability, Singtel Lauren Blasco, Director of Sustainability, Potato Head

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		Soud Khalifa Al-Thani, Sustainability Director, Qatar Foundation
10:10	Interactive Mentimeter Poll on target setting and climate neutrality.	Moderator
10:20	<p>Policy Roundtable: <i>This interactive policy roundtable will invite government and non-party stakeholders to discuss what enabling environment and policies are needed to support private sector organizations in their journey to reach climate neutrality. The roundtable will start off by questions asked by the moderator and will later open up for questions from the audience through the Teams Q&A function. The roundtable will conclude with some key recommendations and ideas from the participants on how to better involve the private sector in climate action.</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Marit Nilses, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Bose Varghese, Head, Green Initiatives, Infosys</p> <p>Supanut Chotevitayatarakorn, Legal Officer (Specialist), Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization, TGO</p> <p>Corinne Schoch, Head of Programmes Global Compact Network Australia</p>
10:50	Closing Remarks - Call to Action	Janet Rogan, COP26 Regional Ambassador Middle East and North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia
11:00	End of Webinar	

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