Building a Sustainable Finance Ecosystem in Asia-Pacific and Beyond: Sustainability Reporting, Data Readiness, and Digital Solutions

Co-Organizers: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the International Capital Market Association (ICMA)

Date & Time: 12:00 PM Wednesday, 14 October 2026, followed by a networking luncheon

Venue: Pinnacle Room 4-5, InterContinental Bangkok (Ratchaprasong / BTS Chit Lom) near Queen Sirikit National Convention Center (QSNCC), 971, 973 Phloen Chit Road, Lumpini, Pathum Wan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand

Background

Asia-Pacific stands at a critical inflection point in its sustainable finance journey. The region accounts for over half of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and faces an estimated annual financing gap of USD 1.5 trillion to meet its climate and development commitments under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

However, as the ESCAP Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2026 underscores, fiscal pressures, rising debt burdens, and declining official development assistance are converging to constrain the region's capacity to mobilise climate-aligned finance at the speed and scale required. Bridging this gap calls for a fundamental transformation of the financial system, grounded in credible sustainability disclosure, robust ESG data infrastructure, and fit-for-purpose digital solutions.

Across the region, momentum for sustainability reporting and disclosure is accelerating. As of 2026, the International Sustainability Standards Board's (ISSB) IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 standards have been adopted or are under active consideration by jurisdictions spanning a significant share of Asia-Pacific capital markets. Significant divergence in implementation timelines, institutional capacity, and data infrastructure nonetheless persists, creating structural barriers to the comparable, credible, and actionable sustainability disclosures that financial markets and policymakers urgently need. Financial institutions continue to grapple with inconsistent ESG data standards, limited third-party data providers, and the methodological challenges involved in meeting supervisory expectations.

The digital infrastructure dimension of sustainable finance is also pressing. Supervisory Technology (SupTech), Regulatory Technology (RegTech), Digital Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (D-MRV) systems, and artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled ESG analytics are increasingly recognised as strategic enablers for closing the gap between disclosure ambition and data infrastructure reality.

The 2026 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group (WBG) in Bangkok, bringing together central bankers, ministers of finance and development, private sector executives, representatives from civil society organizations and think tanks, and

academics from 191 member States, under the theme "Thailand's New Horizons: Empowering People, Building Resilience", provide a powerful platform to advance the sustainable finance agenda in Asia-Pacific and beyond. By bringing together senior policymakers, international financial institutions, regulators, and private sector actors at this global gathering, this regional workshop aims to generate actionable insights on how to build the reporting frameworks, data readiness capacities, and digital solutions that Asia-Pacific's sustainable finance ecosystem requires, and to consider what these priorities mean for the broader global sustainable finance agenda.

Objectives

1. Facilitate a candid, high-level dialogue on the state of sustainability reporting and disclosure framework adoption in Asia-Pacific, covering the trajectory of ISSB/IFRS S1/S2, as well as the emerging work on public-sector climate-related disclosures under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB), the role of relevant standards such as GRI and diverse taxonomies, and the interoperability challenges facing financial institutions and corporates operating across multiple regulatory jurisdictions, and examine what these dynamics mean for finance ministries, central banks, and financial regulators.
2. Discuss best practices on the use of the digital solutions landscape for sustainable finance in Asia-Pacific, including SupTech and RegTech applications, AI-enabled ESG analytics, digital MRV systems, and Scope 1, 2 and 3 GHG calculations, and identify the most promising pathways for scaling these solutions across the region with the support of international financial institutions and development partners.
3. Generate actionable insights on ESG data readiness and GHG calculation methodologies in the region, with particular focus on the application of relevant standards for financed emissions such as Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF), the steps financial institutions can take to build credible emissions baselines, and the priority interventions needed to close the data gap in emerging markets and developing economies across Asia-Pacific.
4. Catalyse regional and international cooperation on sustainable finance ecosystem-building, drawing on ESCAP, ADB and ICMA's capacity-building and technical assistance engagement with member States, in order to identify shared priorities and actionable next steps for strengthening the region's sustainable finance architecture in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

Tentative programme

Wednesday, 14 October 2026 | circa 75 minutes	
12:00 – 12:23 [23 mins]	**Welcome & Opening & Special Remarks: Role of the Annual Meetings and this Regional Workshop in Advancing Regional Sustainable Finance Progress** • Moderator:

	○ Mr. Ricco Zhang, Senior Director, Asia-Pacific, International Capital Market Association (ICMA) • Welcome and Opening Remarks: ○ Mr. Shombi Sharp, Deputy Executive Secretary for Partnerships and Coordination, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (5 mins) ○ Mr. Bryan Pascoe, Chief Executive, International Capital Market Association (ICMA) (5 mins) • Special Remarks: ○ Ms. Roberta Casali, Vice President of Finance and Risk, Asian Development Bank (ADB) (10 mins)
12:23 – 13:03 [40 mins]	**Panel Discussion: Building a Sustainable Finance Ecosystem: Reporting, Data Readiness, and Digital Solutions** Moderator facilitates interventions and discussions of panellists, poses follow-up questions, and highlights connections among panellist perspectives • Panellists: ○ Mr. Amgalan Battulga, Director General, Financial Stability Department, Bank of Mongolia (BoM) ○ H.E. Sou Socheat, Director General, Securities and Exchange Regulator of Cambodia (SERC) (Join Online) ○ Ms. Helen M. Hall, Controller, Asian Development Bank (ADB) ○ Mr. Seree Nonthasoot, Chair of Audit Committee, EXIM Bank of Thailand ○ Mr. Mushtaq Kapasi, Managing Director and Chief Representative for Asia-Pacific, International Capital Market Association (ICMA) ○ Mr. Aucky Pratama, Regional Lead Public Affairs, Asia Pacific, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) ○ Mr. Eugene Wong, Chief Executive Officer, Sustainable Finance Institute Asia (SFIA) • Panellists' topics: Framing the three-pillar sustainable finance ecosystem: where Asia-Pacific stands on reporting, data readiness, and digital solutions ○ **Pillar 1: Sustainability Reporting and Disclosure Frameworks** Adoption landscape of the ISSB/IFRS S1/S2 and ICMA ESG Code of Conduct for ESG Ratings and Data Providers: implementation progress and practical steps for finance ministries, central banks, and regulators ○ **Pillar 2: ESG Data Readiness and GHG Calculation Methodologies** Applying relevant standards in data-scarce markets: managing data quality trade-offs, building financed emissions baselines, and integrating results into portfolio-level climate risk management

	○ **Pillar 3: Digital Solutions and Data Infrastructure** SupTech, RegTech, AI-enabled ESG analytics, and digital MRV: building a fit-for-purpose digital sustainable finance infrastructure for Asia-Pacific Moderated Cross-Panellist Dialogue [~15–20 mins] • Potential discussion questions: ○ Reporting Frameworks: How can finance ministries, central banks, and financial regulators in Asia-Pacific accelerate adoption of and manage interoperability between global/regional and domestic frameworks? How can capacity-building be properly calibrated? ○ Data Readiness and GHG Methodologies: What are the most critical institutional and methodological barriers faced by regional issuers, and how has the market progressed to alleviate such barriers? ○ Digital Solutions: What are the most promising digital solutions for closing the sustainable finance data infrastructure gap in Asia-Pacific, and how can market stakeholders work in synergy to advance these solutions?
13:03 – 13:15 [12 mins]	**Audience Q&A and Open Discussion** • Audience members pose questions to panellists; moderator manages discussion. – *Can transition to networking luncheon early if questions are limited*
After the Event 13:15 – 14:00 [45 mins]	**Networking Luncheon** Luncheon and informal conversation enabling continued dialogue among speakers, participants, and guests