Virtual Exhibition at the 11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Sustainability & Innovation Corner, United Nations Conference Center, Bangkok, Thailand
Date: Tuesday 20 February – Friday 23 February 2024

APFSD11 Event Background

The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) is an annual, inclusive intergovernmental forum on sustainable development and serves as a regional platform to inform, empower, and support countries in the Asia-Pacific region in their progressive efforts towards realising the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets set out by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Forum provides a regional perspective on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by identifying regional trends and sharing good practices and lessons learned. By convening United Nations system bodies, member States, international organisations, civil society and other stakeholders, the APFSD supports follow-up and review of progress on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional level. The reflections provided during the Forum will inform the 2024 High-level political forum in New York, which reviews sustainable development progress at the global level.

The theme of the 11th APFSD is aligned with the theme of the 2024 HLPF: "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific" and will support an in-depth review of cluster of Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 1 (No Poverty); SDG 2 (Zero Hunger); SDG 13 (Climate Action); SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions); and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The 11th APFSD will be organized from 20-23 February 2024 at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) building in Bangkok, Thailand.
Virtual Exhibition

Objective
The objective of the Virtual Exhibition is to provide a space for civil society, NGOs, UN agencies, and other stakeholders to share their innovations and initiatives related to the Sustainable Development Goals in a virtual modality. The virtual exhibition will take place from 20-23 February 2024 during the 11th annual Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD). The Virtual Exhibition aims to bring visibility to SDG-related initiatives from the region and provides a platform for those unable to attend the APFSD in-person to share their work with high-level government officials, UN agencies and representatives from other international organisations, civil society, the private sector, and other APFSD attendees.

How does it work?
Participants interested in the Virtual Exhibition are invited to share their multimedia content (digital platforms, short video clips, images, mobile/tablet applications, etc.) demonstrating their innovations or initiatives which will be displayed within the Sustainability and Innovation Corner located on Level 1 of the UNCC building (see ANNEX below). We strongly encourage proposals that showcase unique tools, innovations, or solutions for accelerating SDG implementation in the Asia-Pacific region. We especially encourage proposals that address one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals under review: SDG 1 (No Poverty); SDG 2 (Zero Hunger); SDG 13 (Climate Action); SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions); and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Who can exhibit?
ESCAP welcomes the participation of all ESCAP Member States, UN agencies, international organisations, and representatives from ESCAP’s Major Groups, and other Stakeholders (MGoS)¹ from the region whose work is related to one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals. To promote inclusivity and diversity, ESCAP will review and select exhibit proposals based on a representative balance of country, gender, constituency, and area of work. As such, we highly encourage persons or organisations whose work relates to, or is led by, those from underrepresented ESCAP member States, youth, persons with disabilities, women, LGBTQ+, Indigenous peoples, farmers, and other groups to apply. As space is limited, only complete applications will be considered on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Get Involved
To join the Virtual Exhibition, kindly indicate your interest in participating by filling out this application form by 07 November 2023.

Questions?
Please contact Symone McCollin-Norris at symone.mccollin-norris@un.org

¹ Includes CSOs and NGOs whose work relate to children and youth, women, indigenous peoples, farmers and fisherfolk, business and industry, scientific and technological community, workers and trade unions, persons with disabilities, ageing and the elderly, volunteers, local authorities, education and academic, urban poor, and other groups.
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What kind of materials can be displayed in the Sustainability and Innovation Corner?
   ESCAP is looking for short video files (max 1 minute 30 seconds in length) introducing or demonstrating an SDG-related innovation or solution. This could include a demo of how to use your organisation’s tool/digital platform/innovative device or a brief highlight reel showcasing your organisation’s SDG-related initiatives and impact. Kindly note that the video format should be mp4 in 1920x1080 resolution. Other content could include automated image slideshows, virtual 3D models/tours, and virtual flyers.

2. My organisation is planning to participate in-person in the SDG Acceleration Pavilion. Can we also submit materials for the Virtual Exhibition?
   Since space in the virtual exhibition is limited, priority in this space will be given to those unable to attend the UNCC in person. This is to improve accessibility and ensure the visibility of a wider range of regional SDG solutions and innovations in the APFSD.

3. What devices will be used to display materials in the Virtual Exhibition space?
   The Sustainability and Innovation Corner is home to many different types of multimedia devices. The Sustainability and Innovation corner has one 85-inch TV and two 50-inch television screens, one projector, and three tablets. Videos will be displayed on the 85-inch TV and/or the 50-inch TVs and played on a loop during the APFSD week. The three tablets may be used for browsing relevant websites.

4. The final version of my organisation’s video/app/other will not be ready by the 07 November deadline. Can we still apply?
   Yes. Even if the final version of your virtual product is not ready by the 07 November deadline, organisations and individuals may still apply. However, we kindly ask applicants to provide an in-depth description of the proposal and to share any relevant links or resources within their application that may help the selection committee better understand the proposal. The more you share, the better our understanding will be.

5. Do you have any tips for successful virtual exhibition proposals?
   Several criteria will be assessed during the review and selection process of proposals for the virtual exhibition. Proposals should be from the Asia-Pacific region and aim to address at least one of the Sustainable Development Goals. Proposals from outside the Asia-Pacific region or those that are not clearly linked to the Sustainable Development Goals may not be selected. Priority will be given to proposals that address one or more of the SDGs under review.
Proposals from organisations or individuals from underrepresented ESCAP member States, youth, persons with disabilities, women, LGBTQ+, Indigenous peoples, and farmers or fisherfolk will also be prioritised.

Please note that the APFSD is strictly non-commercial. We ask that proposals for the Virtual Exhibition refrain from selling a product or service.

6. **Are there any language and accessibility requirements to be considered?**

   All audio-visual material should include captions in English. If any language other than English is used in audio-visual material, captions should be provided in the spoken language as well as English subtitles. The application form should be filled out in English.

   If you have any accessibility requirements, please contact Symone McCollin-Norris (symone.mccollin-norris@un.org).

7. **When will I be notified of the selection?**

   The selection committee will review applications for the Virtual Exhibition on a rolling basis and expect to make a final selection in December. Due to a high volume of interest, only successful applicants will be notified.

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**ANNEX:** Sustainability and Innovation Corner, UNCC, Level 1
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