ESCAP SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS NETWORK: Towards the Green Deal for Business

Tientip Subhanij
Chief of Sustainable Business network

1 November 2023
Vientiane, Lao PDR
ESCAP’s mechanism to engage with the business sector: the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN)

- Created in 2004, originally the ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC)
- In 2012, EBAC transited to ESBN to promote more active business sector engagement in sustainable development
ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) (cont.)

OBJECTIVES:

- Drive business actions and contributions to the SDGs
- Increase availability of peer learning and inspiration for more sustainable business activity
- Offer private-sector insight and collaboration to ESCAP’s other activities
ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) (cont.)

COMPOSITION:

- Business leaders, CEOs, and Heads of Sustainability of companies from the region or those with substantial operations in ESCAP economies
- Led by an Executive Council of 15 members
- Current chair is Mr. George Lam, President of the Hong Kong-ASEAN Economic Cooperation Foundation

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

- Biannual Executive Council Meeting
- Oversee the work of the ESBN
- Discuss business perspectives on sustainable development issues
- Provide private sector insights and perspectives on the work of ESCAP’s Secretariat
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

CHAIR: Dr. Lee George Lam
President, Hong Kong-ASEAN Economic Cooperation Foundation, Hong Kong, China

VICE-CHAIR: Ms. Shinta Kamdan
Chief Executive Officer, Sintesa Group, Indonesia

ESCAP SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS NETWORK Executive Council
https://www.unescap.org/esbn/executive-council
OVERVIEW OF ESBN MEMBERS

• Total number of ESBN members as of 20 October 2023 is 153.
• Up to now, there are 64 corporate members; from both existing members and new members.
• There are 18 new members in 2023.
• 89 of the existing members not yet converted.
ESBN HIGHLIGHTS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE ESCAP SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS NETWORK (ESBN), 9TH MEETING

The Executive Council of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) met on 17 May 2023. The meeting discussed the realignment of the ESBN taskforces with the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business and related developments. The meeting also reviewed the preparations for the Asia Pacific Business Forum 2023.

ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM (APBF) 2022

The Asia-Pacific Business Forum has been held annually since 2004. APBF 2022 was held in Bangkok and online on 26 August 2022 in cooperation with the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN).

The Forum had over 300-500 participation multi-stakeholders, in particular governments, businesses, civil society, and academics from all over the region to foster dialogue and identify innovative solutions and recommendations to advance the Asia Pacific Green Deal for Business in the region.

PUBLICATIONS

The former task force on Sustainable and Inclusive Finance published a study entitled “The 3 Cs of Responsible banking in Asia and the Pacific, Corporate Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility and Corporate Sustainability” a handbook that aims to identify and promote best practices in responsible and sustainable banking and finance, specifically in the fields of corporate governance, corporate social responsibility and corporate sustainability.
The event organized on the sidelines of the first session of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation, discussed how networks such as the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, the UN Global Compact Network, and Chief Sustainability Officer networks could be utilized to empower MSMEs to increase their ambitions to meet the SDGs and decarbonization requirements to meet the Paris climate change goals? Given that MSMEs make up 90 per cent of firms, action will be required not only from large multinational corporates but also from the smaller companies that make up the economy and support global supply chains.
BENEFIT OF JOINING ESBN

Join a network of sustainability leaders

ESBN members get to network and partner with a range of businesses and sustainability champions in diverse industries. Members can share best practices and learn from other industry leaders.

Access the Green Deal platform

ESBN members can pledge their support to the Asia Pacific Green Deal for Business and gain access to the Green Deal platform, where companies and their supply chains can submit data on their decarbonization efforts and demonstrate efforts to reducing their carbon footprint through a regional platform.

Access to ESCAP Intergovernmental platforms

ESBN members participate in ESCAP events such as the ESCAP Commission session, the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and sessions of the Committee on trade Investment Enterprise and Business Innovation, where they can present the private sector view on the 2030 agenda and showcase private sector-led initiatives on sustainable development.
REFORMING ESBN: Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

OBJECTIVES:

- An ESBN initiative
- Agreed upon at the Executive Council meeting in May 2022
- Calls on businesses to commit to align their operational strategies with ESG principles
- Recognizes the urgent need for action to mitigate climate change
- Proposes new partnerships between governments, private sector and communities
- Calls for action aligned with five pillars
NEW TASK FORCES HAVE BEEN CREATED TO ALIGN WITH THE 5 GREEN DEAL PILLARS

5 PILLARS

ENERGY

INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS

FINANCE

INNOVATION

CIRCULAR ECONOMY
### Five Pillars of the Green Deal and ESBN Members

1. Advancing a zero carbon, affordable and resilient energy system.

2. Building smart, low carbon, water-secure and climate-resilient cities, infrastructure and mobility.

3. Mobilizing public and private finance for green transformation.

4. Accelerating and scaling up innovations for sustainable development.

5. Changing towards a more circular economy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillar</th>
<th>Number of ESBN Corporate Member Companies</th>
<th>Number of ESBN In-persons Not Yet Converted</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Advancing a zero carbon, affordable and resilient energy system.</td>
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<td>2. Building smart, low carbon, water-secure and climate-resilient</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>cities, infrastructure and mobility.</td>
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<td>3. Mobilizing public and private finance for green transformation.</td>
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<td>34</td>
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<td>4. Accelerating and scaling up innovations for sustainable development.</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>5. Changing towards a more circular economy.</td>
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<td>26</td>
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ESGpedia

Data-Driven Sustainability for Asia-Pacific
One-stop ESG registry empowering industries across Asia-Pacific towards Net Zero

LOWERING THE BARRIERS FOR SMES TO KICKSTART THEIR SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY
UNESCAP works with STACS (ESBN member) to launch and initiate the ESBN APAC Green Deal Program on ESGpedia on 17 May 2023

We need to build up SMEs’ capacities
SMEs may not have the resources and know-how to measure their carbon emissions, fill up 100-page long questionnaires or create a sustainability report.

Purpose of the program:
To encourage SMEs to start their sustainability journey, through providing a digital, self-directed platform for them to assess their ESG efforts.

Target Audience:
SMEs in the APAC Region

About ESBN APAC Green Deal Program
The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) APAC Green Deal advocates for business leadership in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

KEY OUTCOME:
Greater visibility of SMEs’ sustainability efforts along the entire value chain.

Sustainability Data is amplified to a wider audience
Corporates
Investors
Financiers

Greater visibility into supply chains and sustainability efforts to buyers
Financial institutions to scale green financing to more businesses through supply chain financing

ESBN APAC Green Deal Program
The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) APAC Green Deal advocates for business leadership in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
THE ESBN GREEN DEAL DIGITAL PLATFORM IS LIVE TODAY!

- Emission conversion factors are built in to **automatically derive the carbon emissions**
- Conversion factors are **localized** to cater to different countries in APAC
- **Guidance notes** are provided to help companies navigate the self-assessment

Organisations will be awarded with badges through participation in the program

**Green Badge**
- Sign up and declare support for the APAC Green Deal

**Silver Badge**
- To provide at least one year of submission data

**Gold Badge**
- To provide at least 2 years of data & show improvement in latest year

**Incentivising SMEs to improve their sustainability performance...**
Sign up today to attain your badge

ESBN Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

Sign Up

or

Login

Pledge your business support for the ESBN Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business. Achieve your Green, Silver, and Gold badge, starting with signing up and completing the registration process. There are no financial obligations.
LATEST UPDATES OF THE GREEN DEAL SIGN-UPS

**198 COMPANIES WHO RECEIVED GREEN BADGES**

- **57** SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
- **135** LARGE-SIZE COMPANIES

*6 companies did not mention the size

**6 COMPANIES WITH THE SILVER BADGE**

- Green Badge
- Silver Badge

**1 COMPANY WITH THE GOLD BADGE**

- EGAT

**20 COUNTRIES**

- Australia: 4
- Bangladesh: 9
- Brazil: 1
- China: 9
- Denmark: 1
- Hong Kong, China: 49
- India: 8
- Indonesia: 6
- Malaysia: 17
- Mother group is Bertelsmann, based in Germany: 1
- Myanmar: 2
- Pakistan: 1
- Papua New Guinea: 1
- Philippines: 8
- Singapore: 55
- Thailand: 15
- TÜRKİYE: 1
- United Kingdom: 1
- USA: 1
- Vietnam: 8

**Grand Total: 198**

**INCLUDING:**

- Unilever
- maestrocard
- TrustedHub
- Security Bank
- Towngas
- NRF
- uab
- City Developments Limited
- BPMB
- PDS Group

17 AUGUST 2023
REFORMING ESBN: Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business (cont.)

ASIA-PACIFIC GREEN DEAL FOR BUSINESS DECLARATION

The Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business Declaration was soft launched at APBF 2022 held in Bangkok on 26 August 2022.

The Deal is a non-binding document that calls on the private sector to commit to aligning their core operational strategies with environmental, social and governance principles.

As of February 2023, 90 private sector organizations have pledged support to the Declaration.

Pledge support to the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business:

https://www.unescap.org/projects/gd/pledge-support
Useful Guide to signing up

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEW8FVLOSB4
ACCELERATING PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIONS

GREEN DEAL FOR BUSINESS DIGITAL PLATFORM

• Sign-up and voluntary disclosure
• Verification badge
• Green Deal Champions

PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

• Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnership Network
• Side events at IGM
• Green Deal Roundtables
• Asia-Pacific Business Forum
ESBN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

21 November 2023 | Time and Venue: TBC

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana
ESCAP Executive Secretary

Mr. Paul Chan Mo-po
Financial Secretary of Hong Kong SAR

ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM (APBF) 2023

"An Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business: Driving the Green transformation"

22 - 23 November 2023 | Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

500 AUDIENCES ARE EXPECTED