

Course on Climate-smart Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development

18 July – 2 August 2022 (virtual)

Introduction

While globalization has lifted billions of people out of poverty in the Asia-Pacific region alone, the economic growth supported by existing trade and investment policies has come at a steep environmental cost. The latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change unequivocally concludes that a human-made climate crisis is unfolding and that we are on the verge of a tipping point. All possible avenues need to be considered in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including in the policies governing trade and investment. The links between trade, investment and climate change are complex. The key is to ensure that the positive effects of trade and investment are maximized, such as by promoting trade and investment in renewable energy and low-carbon technologies, while minimizing the adverse effects, such as by digitalizing trade and transport systems. As such, this course seeks to explain the relationship between climate-change and trade and investment, and provide recommendations on how trade and investment policies can be more “climate-smart”.

Course format

The course is jointly developed by ESCAP, UNEP & UNCTAD and conducted as a facilitated online e-learning course. **It consists of 7 pre-recorded modules (approximately 15 min each) and two interactive sessions.** For each module, the participants are expected to complete the readings first, then watch the recorded video presentations (see Annex). The participants are then expected to take online quizzes associated with the course material and attend the two live sessions. Note that this course is offered for the first time on a pilot basis and participants are requested to kindly note down any feedback to the content of the course and quizzes for improvement. Two live interactive sessions to discuss the content and ask any clarification questions are offered to participants *who will have gone through the pre-recorded sessions and attempted all quizzes.* **Upon attending the live sessions, providing feedback and passing the quizzes, participants will get a certificate of completion for the course.**

About the course facilitator

Professor Mao Xianqiang is a professor at the School of Environment, Beijing Normal University. He has been working on trade, investment and environment for over 15 years. Prof Mao has led many research projects regarding, e.g., the environmental impact assessment of trade policies, accounting embodied carbon in trade flows, providing environment friendly trade policy suggestions to MEP, supporting APEC environmental goods list making, among others. He led case studies to the Best Practice of Sustainable Investment in the APEC Region, and hosted an APEC regional Workshop on the Best Practice of Sustainable Investment, as part of the 2014 APEC Beijing Summit activities, supported by the APEC secretary and Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

Tentative programme¹

(as of 30 June 2022, all time are in Indochina Time (UTC+7))

18 Jul-25 Jul	<i>Go through Modules 1 to 3, complete readings, and attempt quizzes (see Annex, expected time allocation: 3-4 hours)</i>
26 Jul 16:00 – 17:30	Live session 1: Course material discussion, Q&A and feedback
26 Jul- 1 Aug	<i>Go through Modules 4-7, complete readings, and attempt quizzes (expected time allocation: 3-4 hours)</i>
2 Aug 16:00 – 17:30	Live session 2: Q&A and panel discussion

¹ For the version of the latest programme, please go to <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/course-climate-smart-trade-and-investment-sustainable-development>

Annex – Course Modules and Readings

- Module 1. Trade, investment, climate change and the SDGs: Why trade and investment need to be climate smart**
- a. Core Readings:
 - i. Chapter 1, ESCAP, UNEP & UNCTAD (2021). Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2021: Climate-smart Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development.
 - b. Additional / optional resources:
 - i. Case study on fossil fuel subsidies by UNEP
- Module 2. State of play: How climate smart is trade and investment in Asia and the Pacific?**
- a. Core Readings:
 - i. Chapter 2, ESCAP, UNEP & UNCTAD (2021). Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2021: Climate-smart Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development.
 - b. Reference materials:
 - i. Case study on eco-labelling by ESCAP
- Module 3. Climate-smart business and investment**
- a. Core Readings:
 - i. Chapter 3, ESCAP, UNEP & UNCTAD (2021). Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2021: Climate-smart Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development.
- Module 4. Regional trade agreements: a tool to promote climate-smart trade**
- a. Core Readings:
 - i. Chapter 4, ESCAP, UNEP & UNCTAD (2021). Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2021: Climate-smart Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development.
 - b. Supplementary materials:
 - i. Case study on using text-analysis in RTAs
- Module 5. Climate-smart trade and transport facilitation**
- a. Core Readings:
 - i. Chapter 5, ESCAP, UNEP & UNCTAD (2021). Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2021: Climate-smart Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development.
 - b. Supplementary materials:
 - i. Case study on Trade Facilitation by ESCAP
 - ii. Case study on Trade Information Portals by UNCTAD
- Module 6. Estimating the impact of a switch to climate-smart trade and investment**
- a. Core Readings:
 - i. Chapter 6, ESCAP, UNEP & UNCTAD (2021). Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2021: Climate-smart Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development.
 - b. Supplementary materials:
 - i. Lecture on CGE modelling by Prof Anna Strutt (University of Waikato)
- Module 7. Conclusion and recommendations**
- a. Core Readings:
 - i. Chapter 7, ESCAP, UNEP & UNCTAD (2021). Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2021: Climate-smart Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development.
 - b. Supplementary materials:
 - i. Lecture on modelling climate policies in CGE by Prof Anna Strutt (University of Waikato)