

Course on Climate-smart Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development

28 August – 11 September 2023 (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 conducted as a facilitated online e-learning course. **The course 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. The participants are then expected to take online quizzes associated with the course material and attend the two live sessions. 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.**

Tentative programme¹

(as of 17 August 2023, all time are in Indochina Time (UTC+7))

28 Aug - 3 Sep	<i>Go through Modules 1 to 3, complete readings, and attempt quizzes (see Annex, expected time allocation: 3-4 hours)</i>
	Live session 1: Course material discussion, Q&A and feedback
	Panel:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Celine Bacrot, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Section, Trade Logistics Branch, Division of Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD• Luisa Rodriguez, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Section, Trade Logistics Branch, Division of Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD• Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, Trade Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP
1 Sep 16:00 - 17:30	
2 Sep - 11 Sep	<i>Go through Modules 4-7, complete readings, and attempt quizzes (expected time allocation: 3-4 hours)</i>
	Live session 2: Q&A and panel discussion
	Panel:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Badri Narayan, Fellow NITI Aayog (and former Head, Vision India@2047 Development Unit)• Salamat Ali, Economic Advisor, Trade Policy Analysis, International Trade Policy, the Commonwealth Secretariat.• Mushtaq Memon, Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency and SWITCH-Asia RPAC Project Manager, UNEP• Alexey Kravchenko, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, Trade Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP
8 Sep 16:00 - 17:30	

¹ For the version of the latest programme, please go to <https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/escap-unep-unctad-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**
- 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
- 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)