Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

The ESBN Executive Council adopted the Green Deal for Business at its 7th Meeting in May 2022. The Green Deal for Business was officially launched at the Asia Pacific Business Forum held in Bangkok, Thailand on 26 August 2022.

Pledge your support to the Green Deal for Business at: https://www.unescap.org/projects/gd

Upcoming events of ESBN interest

22-26 April 2024: 80th session of the Commission

The eightieth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will be held from 22 to 26 April 2024 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. Guided by the theme “Leveraging digital innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”, the eightieth session will be an opportunity to strengthen region-wide cooperative action on leveraging digital innovation for the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The session will bring together government leaders and ministers from across Asia and the Pacific and other key stakeholders to discuss how digital innovation can more inclusively contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals across multiple disciplines.

24 April 2024: 11th ESBN Executive Council Meeting

The Executive Council of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) will meet on 24 April in Bangkok. The meeting will review the progress of the ESBN Task Forces activities, and the update in implementing the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business and the Green Deal digital platform.
24 April 2024: **Accelerating Corporate Sustainability in Asia Pacific and Empowering SMEs to navigate the evolving ESG landscape**

2024 sees a rise in mandatory ESG reporting regulations and requirements, extending to not just listed companies but also non-listed smaller companies. With SMEs making up 90% of businesses globally, this calls for collective action across the sustainability value chain, from SMEs in supply chains, to corporates, and financial institutions. Join this Roundtable session as esteemed leaders of various backgrounds in the sustainability space in the APAC regions dive into the intersection of green, finance, and technology to drive Corporate Sustainability. As a follow-up on the official launch one year ago, the session will showcase the actualisation of the ESBN Asia-Pacific Green Deal through the ESGpedia digital platform in bringing about real-world benefits, with real case study examples including Sustainable Financing and greening supply chains across Asia.

![ESGassandra_PowerPoint slide 3](image)

**Recently concluded**

28 March 2024: **Co-creation Workshop to develop a National Action Plan for Inclusive and Sustainable Business Capacity Development**

The Government of Sri Lanka is seeking to promote Inclusive and Sustainable Businesses (ISBs), that is, businesses that generate profit while also contributing positively to society and the environment. To support this, the Ministry of Industries as the lead government agency responsible for developing and implementing capacity building, in partnership with the National Enterprise Development Agency (NEDA) and the Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka, with the technical support of the ESCAP and United Nations Sri Lanka, organized a one-day workshop aimed at bringing together stakeholders from various sectors to develop an action plan for building capacities within the private sector. In line with Government priorities for economic recovery and development, the first phase will primarily target export-oriented medium and large enterprises, in developing inclusive and sustainable business models.

1-5 April 2024: **Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2024**

The Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) is the leading regional platform for the exchange of good practices and knowledge on trade facilitation. The APTFF has been organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in cooperation with a growing number of partners, since 2009. The Forum attracts over 250 participants from over 30
countries, and offers extensive opportunities for capacity building and cooperation. The 11th APTFF is co-organized by ADB and ESCAP with the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade of Uzbekistan, and will be held in Samarkand on 1-5 April 2024.

2 April 2024: Advancing Inclusive Businesses in Thailand: Breakfast with Executives
Advancing Inclusive Businesses in Thailand: Breakfast with Executives event in Thailand offered a unique platform for stakeholders to delve into the transformative potential of inclusive business models. Participants explored how these models can drive economic growth while benefiting marginalized communities. With a focus on sharing insights and generating recommendations, this event aimed to shape the future landscape of inclusive business in Thailand, fostering a more equitable and sustainable economy.

4 April 2024: Meeting of the ESBN Task Force on Circular Economy
The ESBN’s new task force on Circular Economy held its inaugural meeting on 4 April 2024. Participants at the meeting discussed the current pressing challenges that businesses face as they try to reorient their production and consumption processes toward more circular models. The Task Force deliberated on a program of work that will bring Circular Economy topics to the forefront of common practice among its members, and also to the attention of policymakers and other interested parties.

Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

7-8 May 2024: Feminist Finance Forum 2024
The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is hosting its second edition of the Feminist Finance Forum in Bangkok, Thailand from 7 – 8 May 2024. The in-person Forum will convene women entrepreneurs, investors, financial service providers, policymakers, thought leaders, ecosystem enablers, representatives from civil society and women grassroots organizations, and academia. The interactive event will include a diverse mix of plenaries, concurrent sessions, as well as side-events and networking spaces.

9 May 2024: Advancing Inclusive Businesses in Thailand: Breakfast with Executives
The second “Advancing Inclusive Businesses in Thailand: Breakfast with Executives event in Thailand” will offer a unique platform for stakeholders to delve into the transformative potential of inclusive business models. Participants will explore how these models can drive economic growth while benefiting marginalized communities. With a focus on sharing insights and generating recommendations, this event aims to shape the future landscape of inclusive business in Thailand, fostering a more equitable and sustainable economy.

There are valuable models of inclusive business – including many agribusinesses - across Asia and the Pacific that are commercially viable and have social impact at scale. Inclusive business models are effectively supporting smallholder farmers, providing them with technical assistance, access to finance, and facilitating integration into regional and global value chains. Inclusive businesses are harnessing technologies and business innovations to improve productivity and create entrepreneurship opportunities. Access to finance remains an issue for many inclusive businesses seeking to expand their operations or deepen their impact. Business faces multiple challenges including the cost of capital and the scarce availability of affordable finance beyond the early stage. Investment readiness is also an issue, with companies facing difficulties in measuring and
demonstrating impact. The Impact Harvest Forum will identify opportunities to invest in and finance inclusive business models and facilitate their scaling up.

For a short overview of ESCAP related news, please see https://www.unescap.org/news or subscribe: https://unescap.us10.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=c0fdb6e03fa08a5e575b433c0&id=e318af22fc

All ESCAP upcoming events: https://www.unescap.org/events

Recently published by ESCAP

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Digital and sustainable trade facilitation in Asia and the Pacific 2023 (26 March 2024)

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Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us to provide input, questions or suggestions for the monthly update: [esbn@un.org](mailto:esbn@un.org)

Best regards,
ESBN Secretariat