



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update: April 2022

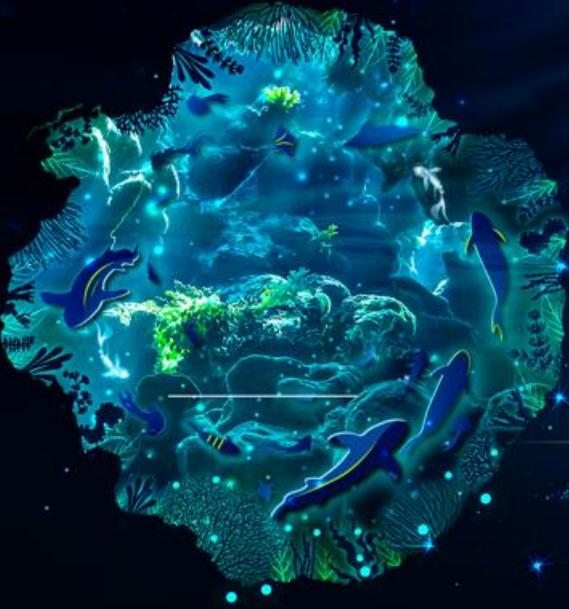
ESBN news and updates

ESBN members who earlier joined in a personal capacity are kindly reminded to convert to corporate membership as soon as possible, by submitting the commitment form shared earlier, and to become signatories of the UN Global Compact, the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (for investors), the Principles for Responsible Banking (for banks), or equivalent globally recognized standards for socially and environmentally responsible business as determined by the ESCAP Secretariat. Please contact the ESNB secretariat for more information: esbn@un.org

Activities by ESNB members

City Developments Limited (CDL): CDL has recently launched the [Integrated Sustainability Report 2022](#) entitled “Zero in on Future Value”. In February 2021, CDL became the first real estate conglomerate in Southeast Asia to sign the WorldGBC Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment. Setting net zero goal accelerates their longstanding commitment to decarbonisation.

City Developments Limited (CDL): City Developments Limited (CDL), the National Parks Board (NParks) and Ocean Geographic (OG) are organizing the opening of the “Change the Present. Save the Ocean.” Climate Action Exhibition. The opening ceremony will be graced by Mr. Desmond Lee, Minister for National Development, held on Monday, 11 April 2022, 4:30pm to 6:30pm, at the Singapore Botanic Gardens’ Function Hall. The opening event will feature Dr Sylvia Earle, world renowned marine biologist and oceanographer, on her passion and journey in marine conservation. The exhibition will be open to the public from 12 April, it aims to rally greater awareness and action to build a more sustainable future for all. Please register via bit.ly/CDLGG2.



EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN FROM 12 APRIL

A Climate Action Exhibition Jointly Presented By:

CITY DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED Singapore Botanic Gardens OCEAN GEOGRAPHIC

CHANGE THE PRESENT, SAVE THE OCEAN.

CLIMATE CRISIS IS AN OCEAN CRISIS

Invitation to Opening Reception (Virtual)

Monday, 11 April 2022, 4.30pm
(Zoom webinar starts at 4.15pm)

Guest of Honour
Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for National Development

Programme
Arrival of Guests at Function Hall
Opening Remarks by CDL
Keynote Address by GOH
Sharing by Dr Sylvia Earle
Chat with GOH and Dr Sylvia Earle



Register at bit.ly/CDLGG2 or by scanning the QR code

For more information, please email angelim@cdl.com.sg

www.cdlsustainability.com

Fugro: Fugro has accepted an invitation from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (IOC-UNESCO) to join the Ocean Decade Alliance (the 'Alliance'). Comprising an eminent network of global leaders and institutions, the Alliance aims to catalyse support for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 (the 'Ocean Decade') through targeted resource mobilization, networking and influence. As a member of the Alliance, Fugro will collaborate and coordinate with other Alliance members in leveraging existing commitments to raise awareness about Ocean Decade objectives and activities worldwide; create a platform for demonstrating the role and power of science in providing solution for ocean sustainability; and establish a broad international network that stimulates additional actions and commitments in the framework of the Ocean Decade across all levels of society. Read more, [CLICK](#).

Unilever: Unilever is inviting innovators and entrepreneurs to pitch their big ideas for biodegradable and sustainable solutions for hair care, skin care and deodorant products and packaging to a panel of Unilever experts. Selected businesses will be invited to explore partnerships or potentially pilot their concepts within Unilever’s Beauty & Personal Care business. See more, [CLICK](#).

Recently concluded

16 March 2022: Debt for climate swaps: Are they feasible in the Pacific? And what do debtors need to know?

ESCAP, in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) is organizing a workshop on debt for climate swaps, with a focus on the Pacific small island developing States. This workshop will present the results of an assessment on the feasibility of debt for climate swaps in the Pacific SIDS, undertaken by ESCAP, and it will discuss the experience of selected countries that have implemented or are negotiating with their creditors a debt for climate swap deal. The workshop will also discuss the experience and plans of the Pacific on related financing instruments, such as green bonds and the Pacific Resilience Facility, which can be useful for the implementation of debt for climate swaps. For more information and to register, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/workshop-debt-climate-swaps>

28-31 March 2022: Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2022

The 9th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) was held from 28 to 31 March under the theme “Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific”. Dr. George Lam, Chair of the ESN Executive Council, gave a statement at the APFSD on 30 March, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oui1yiwE2Hw> (time 30:30 – 34:00).



The 9th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (Day3)

29 March 2022: Assessment of progress in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17 Roundtable)

Mr. Anirban Ghosh, ESN Executive Council Member and Chief Sustainability Officer at Mahindra joined the panel and spoke on Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals.



29 March 2022: Assessment of progress in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 14 (SDG 14 Roundtable)

On 29 March, Ms. Nattinee Netraumpai, Head of Corporate Affairs at Unilever Thailand and ESN member gave a presentation on “The Vision for a Waste Free World” with an urgent call to action to address marine debris and accelerate circular economy.



29 March 2022: Assessment of progress in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 15: SDG15 Life on Land

On 29 March. Ms. Esther An, ESN Executive Council Member and Chief Sustainability Officer at CDL gave a presentation during the session highlighting strategic integration of sustainability which is key to care for Life on Land urging businesses to integrate sustainability into their business strategies which is critical

to building resilience and being ready for unprecedented challenges. CDL also stresses their commitment to continue the green building efforts to intensify decarbonisation towards a net zero future.



31 March 2022: APFSD Side Event: Asia Pacific Green Deal Declaration and Green Waste Pledge

APFSD side event organized by ESNB, the Green Economy Taskforce on 31 March.

The ESNB network organized a side event on the Asia Pacific Green Deal Declaration in support of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The event briefed participants on the Green Deal and how it can serve as an opportunity to contribute and develop innovative ESG actions and commercially viable recommendations.



5-8 April 2022: Pacific Regional Debt Conference: Addressing Debt Sustainability in the Pacific in the Aftermath of COVID-19"

The Conference is co-convened by Fiji, the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, and Tuvalu, the Chair of the Pacific Island Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM), and co-hosted by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and ESCAP. will include presentations, panel discussions, and *talanoa* sessions between debtors, creditors, and development partners to discuss mutually agreeable solutions to increased fiscal deficits and debt sustainability challenges in the Pacific Small Island Developing States as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information and to register, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/pacific-regional-debt-conference-addressing-debt-sustainability-pacific-aftermath-covid>.

Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

12 April 2022: Virtual launch of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2022

The 2022 edition of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific Survey will be launched on Tuesday, 12 April 2022, from 09: 00 to 10:30 (Bangkok time). Published annually since 1947, the Survey provides analyses to guide policy discussion on the current and emerging socio-economic issues and policy challenges to support sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. The event is open to media, policymakers, civil society, academics, researchers, and all other stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region as well as outside of the region. [Please register here to join us during the virtual launch](#). For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/survey2022-launch>

25 April 2022: Workshop on Rethinking MSME finance: A Post-Crisis Policy Agenda in Bhutan

ESCAP and the Government of Bhutan are co-organizing a workshop on “Rethinking MSME finance: A Post-Crisis Policy Agenda in Bhutan” that will be held on Monday, 25 April 2022, from 9:30am to 12:30pm (Bhutan time). The hybrid event will bring together a range of stakeholders to discuss several policies to foster a supportive ecosystem for financial inclusion and sustainability in Bhutan, mainly through strengthening digital financial solutions for MSMEs. The workshop will also provide a platform to engage collectively on issues of mutual interests, serving as springboards for further action in digitalization, governance and green financing. For more details, access: <https://unescap.org/events/2022/workshop-rethinking-msme-finance-post-crisis-policy-agenda-bhutan#>

25-26 April 2022: Seventh Meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation

The Seventh Meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation will be held online on 25 and 26 April 2022. The interim intergovernmental steering group on cross-border paperless trade facilitation was established following ESCAP Commission Resolution 70/6 adopted in 2014. Following finalization of the treaty text of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific in 2016, the steering group now focuses on preparation of a draft implementation roadmap of the agreement and related supporting documents. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/seventh-meeting-interim-intergovernmental-steering-group-cross-border-paperless-trade>

26 April 2022: Towards Globally Harmonized Standards for the Digital Trading System

On the margins of the Seventh Meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation, the Digital Standards Initiative (DSI) of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is pleased to present the hybrid event: 'Towards Globally Harmonized Standards for the Digital Trading System'. The importance of international standards and guidelines are specified in the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (Article 9). Participants to the Interim Steering Group, as well as interested policy makers, private sector stakeholders and academia, will benefit from this event. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/towards-globally-harmonized-standards-digital-trading-system#>

26-29 April 2022: North and Central Asia Subregional Training on GHG Emissions Inventories and Paris Agreement Reporting Requirements

ESCAP and IGCE jointly with the UNDP are organizing this second subregional training on GHG emissions inventories and Paris Agreement reporting requirement in the hybrid format (in person and online) from 26 to 29 April 2022 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The training is designed for up to three technical experts who will be involved in developing national GHG emissions inventories and those who will be developing national MRV systems in their respective countries. The countries that can benefit from this training are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/north-and-central-asia-subregional-training-ghg-emissions-inventories-and-paris>

27 April 2022: UNESCAP-WCO-ICC-ADB Webinar on Digitalizing Certificates of Origin - Trends and Challenges for Advancing Paperless Trade

Join this webinar to learn more about recent developments and achievements in the efforts to digitalize Certificates of Origin. High-level stakeholders from the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) as well as practitioners will present case studies and discuss the latest trends and challenges for the digitalization of Cos. To visit the webinar series on accelerating cross-border paperless trade facilitation, please [CLICK](#). For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/unescap-wco-icc-adb-webinar-digitalizing-certificates-origin-trends-and-challenges>

27-29 April 2022: First session of the Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific

The first session of the Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific will be held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 27 to 29 April 2022. The Paperless Trade Council is established in accordance with Article 11 of the Framework Agreement for the purpose of its implementation. The Paperless Trade Council, in its first session, will discuss development of action plans for implementation of the Framework Agreement. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/first-session-paperless-trade-council-framework-agreement-facilitation-cross-border>

28 April 2022: Advancing cross-border paperless trade: Nurturing a digital trade environment

Paperless trade supports the post-pandemic recovery of countries. The session will introduce tools for advancing cross-border paperless trade and conducting readiness assessments for cross-border paperless trade. Based on a newly developed toolkit for cross-border paperless trade and experiences from 9

country assessments completed and 7 ongoing assessments, it will share experiences on how readiness assessment may be conducted and how it offers a comprehensive framework for countries to take the agenda forward, to develop and update their national policies, strategies and planning and ultimately nurture environments for e-commerce and digital trade. The meeting is co-organized by ESCAP, UNCITRAL, EIF and WTO, as part of the eCommerce Week 2022 - please register [here](#). For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/advancing-cross-border-paperless-trade-nurturing-digital-trade-environment>

11-25 May 2022: ARSET- Atmospheric CO2 and CH4 Budgets to Support the Global Stocktake

To support the 2023 Global Stocktake (GST), Parties to the Paris Agreement are compiling inventories of anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals to assess their collective progress towards the long-term objectives of the Agreement. The Global Stocktake is the process of monitoring the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The outcome of the GST will provide Parties the information needed to update and enhance their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the global response to climate change and strengthen international cooperation for climate action. This three-part webinar series will introduce bottom-up and top-down methods for tracking emissions and removals of carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane (CH4) from the atmosphere. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/arset-atmospheric-co2-and-ch4-budgets-support-global-stocktake>

TBC: High-Level Regional Roundtable on Investment Facilitation for Development: How Asian and Pacific Economies Will Benefit

The Roundtable, co-organized by the International Trade Centre (ITC), the German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), ESCAP and the World Economic Forum (WEF), will offer a platform for a strategic exchange among government officials on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations on an Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement, launched in September 2020 after over two years of preparatory discussions. High-level policy makers, government officials, private sector representatives, and eminent academic scholars will participate in the Roundtable, to be updated on the negotiations and to raise awareness on their progress and reflect on how countries may best make use of the IFD Agreement to enhance their business climate, attract higher value-added investment and boost economic growth, digital economy innovations and sustainable development, see <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/high-level-regional-roundtable-investment-facilitation-development-how-asian-and> .

17 May 2022: 11th Annual Asia Pacific FDI Network Meeting

The 11th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Network will discuss current developments and challenges in FDI policy making, promotion and facilitation in the region. It will also explore ways to improve the national legal frameworks and international investment agreements (IIAs) system to ensure it better supports the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Network members will discuss national experiences, best practices and challenges see <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/11th-annual-asia-pacific-fdi-network-meeting> .

18 May 2022: Third Meeting of the Asia-Pacific MSME Policymakers Network: Launching the Policy Guidebook for MSME Development in Asia and the Pacific and the ESCAP Online Resource Centre for MSME Policy

The first edition of ESCAP’s “Policy Guidebook for MSME Development in Asia and the Pacific”, in 2012, has proved a valuable resource for improving MSME policy in the region. A new edition of this book, with substantially updated discussions in areas such as sustainability, climate change, gender issues and others, will be launched at this meeting of the Asia-Pacific MSME Policymakers Network. To accompany the Guidebook, ESCAP has developed an Online Resource Centre to present policy information in a different format and also expand on the resources available in the publication. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/third-meeting-asia-pacific-msme-policymakers-network-launching-policy-guidebook-msme>

23-27 May 2022: 78th session of the Commission

The seventy-eighth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will be held in a hybrid modality from 23 to 27 May 2022 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok and online. ESCAP will be commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of its establishment in 2022, and the seventy-eighth session will mark the culmination of the commemorations. Guided by the theme “A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”, the annual session will be an opportunity to discuss and shape the future of regional cooperation centred around a new form of multilateralism and regional cooperation. For more information, see:

<https://www.unescap.org/events/commission78>

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

[Emerging trends in census approaches in Asia and the Pacific \(with country examples\) \(1 April 2022\)](#)

[Readiness Assessment for Cross-Border Paperless Trade: Azerbaijan \(31 March 2022\)](#)

[Building Forward Together: Towards an Inclusive and Resilient Asia and the Pacific \(28 March 2022\)](#)

[Readiness Assessment for Cross-Border Paperless Trade: Kazakhstan \(28 March 2022\)](#)

[Readiness Assessment for Cross-Border Paperless Trade: Georgia \(28 March 2022\)](#)

[Business process analysis: Study of cereal exports from Kazakhstan to Azerbaijan \(28 March 2022\)](#)

[Business Registration in Bangladesh: Constraints Facing Women Entrepreneurs and Recommendations for Action \(28 March 2022\)](#)

[SDG 17 Goal Profile \(24 March 2022\)](#)

[Demographic Dividend with a Gender Dimension in Malaysia \(24 March 2022\)](#)

[Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in East and North-East Asia 2021 \(21 March 2022\)](#)

[Policy Guidelines on Increasing Business Registration and Access to One-Roof-Service for Women-led MSMEs \(17 March 2022\)](#)

[Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2022: Widening disparities amid COVID-19 \(17 March 2022\)](#)

[SDG 15 Goal Profile \(16 March 2022\)](#)

[SDG 5 Goal Profile \(16 March 2022\)](#)

[SDG 14 Goal Profile \(16 March 2022\)](#)

[SDG 4 Goal Profile \(16 March 2022\)](#)

[E-learning course on Analysing Value Chains and Trade Flows \(15 March 2022\)](#)

[Strengthening Digital Connectivity and Digital Finance in Asia and the Pacific - Insights from Samoa \(13 March 2022\)](#)

[Readiness Assessment for Cross-Border Paperless Trade: Philippines \(4 March 2022\)](#)

[Accelerating COVID-19 vaccination roll-out in the Asia-Pacific region: A checklist to facilitate imports of vaccines during a pandemic \(3 March 2022\)](#)

[First Online Talk Show on Recognizing and Managing Stress for Women Entrepreneurs \(2 March 2022\)](#)

[Expert Group Meeting Summary on Psychosocial Ecosystem for Women Entrepreneurs in Vietnam \(2 March 2022\)](#)

Working paper series

Macroeconomics: Click [here](#)

Trade: Click [here](#)

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

Best regards,

ESBN Secretariat