



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update

August 2021

ESBN news and updates

Reminder to convert to corporate membership

ESBN members who earlier joined in a personal capacity are kindly reminded of the need to convert to corporate membership before the end of 2021, by submitting the commitment form earlier shared, and to become signatories of the UN Global Compact. Please contact the ESNB secretariat for more information: esbn@un.org

Activities by ESNB members

Climate Action Exhibition: City Developments Limited (CDL), in partnership with NParks, is organizing a climate action exhibition in Singapore. Entitled "Change the Present, Save the Future.", the exhibition will be held at CDL Green Gallery@Singapore Botanic Gardens from May to end-November 2021. The exhibition will reach out to a broad audience of visitors from all sectors, including international visitors attending the upcoming World Cities Summit in June, the World Economic Forum Special Annual Meeting in August, International Built Environment Week in September, and other prominent business conferences and meetings in Singapore. Digital tour is available at <https://chio.space/virtual-tour/cdl-green-gallery>

CDL webinar series on sustainability reporting: Proudly presented by City Developments Limited and the Singapore Sustainability Academy, "The Future of Sustainability Reporting" is a new webinar series covering sustainability reporting standards, global ESG trends and green financing. Featuring a global panel of experts, the series also includes tips for businesses looking to kickstart their sustainability reporting journey or take it to the next level. It is supported by various partners, including the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, Global Compact Network Singapore, and Singapore Exchange. The links to first session can be found [here](#) and the link to the second session on Challenges and Opportunities for SME reporters held on 26 July can be found [here](#).

Recently concluded

23 June 2021: UNESCAP - CLA Training-of-Trainers (TOT) Capacity Building Workshop; 25-26 May 2021: UNESCAP - BRUFA Logistics Service Providers Capacity Building Workshop and 12-13 April 2021: UNESCAP - ALFI/ILFA Logistics Service Providers Capacity Building Workshop

With the overarching objective to enhance the efficiency of the transport and logistics sector, ESCAP Transport Division undertake various initiatives to provide assistance to countries for developing effective transport logistics policies and for enhancing the professionalism and competence of transporters and

logistics service providers, notably through supporting human resource capacity development activities through organizing the Training-of-Trainers (TOT) Workshops. In this regard, ESCAP Transport Division, in collaboration with Indonesia Logistics and Forwarding Association (ALFI/ILFA), Brunei Freight Forwarders Association (BRUFA) and the Cambodia Logistics Association (CLA), organized Training-of-Trainers (TOT) Workshops in the respective countries aforementioned.

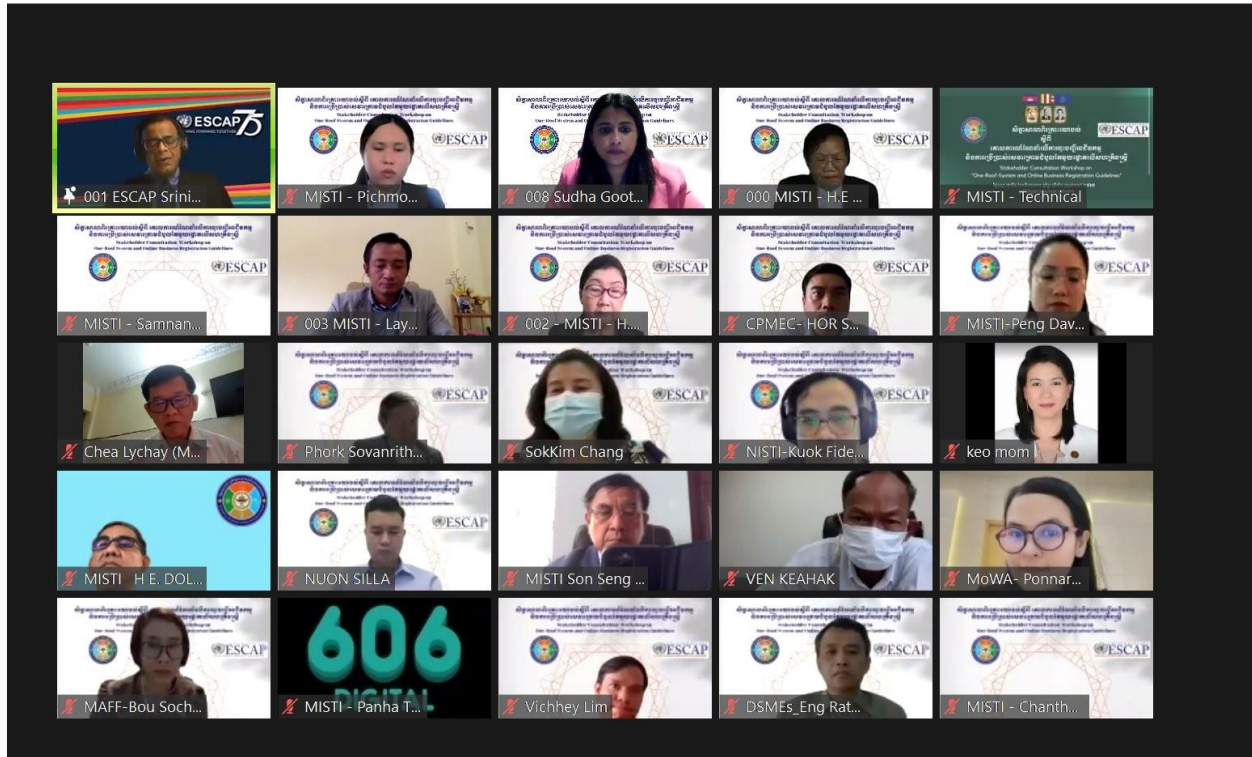
8 July 2021: Building SME's Capacity on Climate Action - Experiences from South-East Asia, A side event at the Thematic Sessions of the Asia Pacific Climate Week

As part of the Asia-Pacific Climate Week, this side event hosted by UNFCCC/IGES Regional Collaboration Centre in Bangkok (RCC Bangkok) in collaboration with ESCAP, IDRC and UNIDO presented the initial findings from a UNFCCC/IDRC mapping study of capacity building gaps and needs in relation to climate action of SMEs in South-East Asia, discussed the support provided to SMEs by different stakeholders in the region and identified areas for future collaboration to take meaningful steps on climate engagement of SMEs. <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/building-smes-capacity-climate-action-experiences-south-east-asia-side-event-thematic>



16 July 2021: Stakeholder Consultation on Online Business Registration and One-Roof Service for Women Entrepreneurs in Cambodia

As a part of its Catalyzing Women's Entrepreneurship Programme, the Social Development Division of ESCAP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry Science Technology and Innovation (MISTI) in Cambodia hosted a stakeholder consultation on 16th July 2021. The objective of the consultation was to enhance women entrepreneurs' access to the one-roof service (ORS) platform and improving business registration process in Cambodia. Initial findings from ESCAP/MISTI guidelines on making the digital ORS and business registration platform more gender-responsive were presented. The consultation facilitated a diverse dialogue amongst more than 90 participants from policymakers and other stakeholders, including the National Bank of Cambodia, Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia Women Entrepreneurs Association.



16 August 2021: Webinar on Blockchain for Cross-Border Paperless Trade

A webinar on Blockchain for Cross-Border Paperless Trade was organized by ESCAP, ICC, and ADB to facilitate exchange of experience and new applications on the use of digital ledger technologies to facilitate trade, developed by both public and private sector organizations. This was the second event in the webinar Series on Accelerating Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation, attended live by over 250 participants. The next webinar in the series will focus on electronic exchange of sanitary and phytosanitary certificates on 8 September. <https://www.unescap.org/event-series/paperless-trade-2021>

Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

18 August 2021: Asia-Pacific Regional Community Networks Summit 2021 - Innovating policymaking to connect the unconnected

ESCAP and the Internet Society are jointly organizing this webinar in support of the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) initiative, to reflect on progress that has been made in the use of Community Networks as a complementary access solution in the Asia-Pacific region. The webinar will also facilitate discussions on the role of policymakers in further accelerating the use of Community Networks in under and un-served areas and what innovative policy measures that can be employed. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2021/asia-pacific-regional-community-networks-summit-2021-innovating-policymaking-connect>

23-26 August 2021: ESCAP Disaster Resilience Week

ESCAP will hold the third Disaster Resilience Week from 23-27 August 2021 under the theme “Building forward better after COVID-19: addressing cascading risks and systemic gaps for resilient peoples and

economies.” Under the Asia Pacific Disaster Resilience Network- ESCAP’s partnership network for disaster resilience, the resilience week will comprise of a series of virtual webinars that will showcase various pathways to build systemic resilience to address multi-hazard risks from both natural and biological hazards. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/escap-disaster-resilience-week>

25-27 August 2021: Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, Seventh Session

Organized by Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the seventh session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction will be held from 25 to 27 August 2021. As a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction is the intergovernmental legislative forum on disaster risk reduction. The Committee is charged with addressing the following issues: (a) emergence of cascading risks and extension of the disaster riskscape; (b) scaling-up multisectoral cooperation frameworks to manage cascading risks; and (c) status of regional co-operation efforts. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/committee-disaster-risk-reduction-seventh-session>

Workshop series on “The future of FDI: Reaping the benefits of FDI 4.0”: *Mongolia (26-27 August 2021), Pakistan (15-16 September tbc) and Bhutan (26-27 September).*

The COVID-19 pandemic has both considerably disrupted FDI flows and accelerated the digital transformation globally. Both of these developments have are pushing investment policy makers and investment promotion agencies to rethink traditional approaches to FDI promotion and facilitation. In particular, many are exploring new models to encourage more investment in the digital economy. This series of capacity building workshops will introduce participants to the FDI 4.0 approach to investment promotion which is centered on building a digitalization-friendly investment climate, targeting country-specific digital investment goals and asset-light FDI, and supporting collaboration and partnerships between companies and countries. Participants will create a skeleton roadmap for integrating the FDI 4.0 approach into their investment promotion work at the end of the workshop. For more information on the workshop in Mongolia, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/future-fdi-reaping-benefits-fdi-40-mongolia>

7-9 September 2021: Regional Consultation on Harnessing Trade for Sustainable Development for WTOMC12 (2021)

This Regional Consultation is organized in response to a request from ESCAP’s Committee on Trade and Investment held in January 2021. The objective of the Regional Consultation is to strengthen capacity in the region to position the interests of developing countries, including least developed countries, through the multilateral trading regime, especially ahead of the 12th Ministerial Conference of the WTO to be held on 30 Nov- 3 Dec 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland. The regional consultation will provide a non-negotiating environment for stakeholders from Asia and the Pacific to exchange views and discuss prospects and priorities in the run-up to the conference. It will provide a platform to informally discuss, in a transparent and inclusive manner, the state of play on preparation of the WTO MC12 and its relevance for all developing and least developed countries, especially graduating least developed countries. Participation by Government officials, representatives of civil society and selected business representatives will facilitate capturing the current dynamics of negotiations and possible innovative options for reforming the global trade regime and accelerating progress towards the SDGs. The Regional Consultation will be

held in English only. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2021/regional-consultation-harnessing-trade-sustainable-development-wtomc12-2021>

22 September 2021: Fourth ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit

Darussalam Enterprise (DARE), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Inclusive Business Action Network (iBAN) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will co-organise the 4th ASEAN IB Summit on 22 September 2021 as an online event. The Summit will explore how governments can put into practice the Guidelines for the Promotion of Inclusive Business in ASEAN. It will discuss in detail two of the core measures suggested in the Guidelines: 1) the establishment of an inclusive business accreditation and registration system, and 2) the provision of business coaching services for firms to develop inclusive business models. For more information: [Fourth ASEAN IB Summit](#).

30 September 2021: Third Thematic Workshop of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific: Increasing access to cost-effective digital healthcare through ICT infrastructure in rural and remote areas: The role of Public-Private Partnership

To realize the promise of telemedicine in rural and remote areas via more resilient Information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure development, ESCAP, the China Public-Private Partnerships Center (CPPPC) under the Ministry of Finance and Asian Development Bank (ADB) will kickstart work via the Third Thematic Workshop of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific: Increasing access to cost-effective digital healthcare through ICT infrastructure in rural and remote areas: The role of Public-Private Partnership. Based upon the interests and suggestions raised by the member States during the Second Thematic Workshop, ESCAP is organizing the subsequent Third Thematic Workshop with a more specific focus on the digital healthcare sector and telecommunications sector on strategies to uptake cost effective telemedicine innovations in rural, remote and disaster-prone areas in Asia and the Pacific region. It will also provide capacity building to PPP units to advance pilots and projects to build more resilient ICT infrastructures to ensure that no one is left behind. <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/third-thematic-workshop-infrastructure-financing-and-public-private-partnerships-ppp>

5-7 October 2021: Fifth North and Central Asian Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

The North and Central Asian Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (Subregional SDG Forum) is an annual event organized since 2017 by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and partners from within and outside the United Nations system. The Subregional SDG Forum will provide an opportunity to discuss the current situation of implementation of the SDGs in North and Central Asian countries and possible actions and solutions for the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2021/fifth-north-and-central-asian-multi-stakeholder-forum-implementation-sustainable>

20-22 October 2021: Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development, Third session

The third session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development, to be convened virtually from 20 to 22 October 2021, will discuss a range of economic

policies and innovative financing strategies that are needed to cope with such multifaceted challenges. Enhancing availability of financial resources and improving the alignment of available public and private investments with Sustainable Development Goals are critical in helping policymakers to transform their economies towards an inclusive, resilient and sustainable development pathway. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2021/committee-macroeconomic-policy-poverty-reduction-and-financing-development-third>

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

[Training Manual on Logistics Information System \(19 August 2021\)](#)

[Enhancing shift towards Sustainable Freight Transport in Asia and the Pacific- Opportunities through railway decarbonization \(2 July 2021\)](#)

[Rethinking MSME Finance in Asia and the Pacific: A Post-Crisis Policy Agenda \(18 July 2021\)](#)

[National Cooling Action Plan Methodology\(13 July 2021\)](#)

[Water and Waste Accounts Reports \(8 July 2021\)](#)

[Transforming Food Systems \(8 July 2021\)](#)

[ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database \(01 July 2021\)](#)

Working paper series

Macroeconomics: Click [here](#)

Trade: Click [here](#)

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

Best regards,
ESBN Secretariat