



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update

December 2021

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. Please contact the ESNB secretariat for more information: esbn@un.org

Activities by ESNB members

KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific: the KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific invites all ESNB members to the World Chinese Economic and Technology Summit which will take place on 16 December 2021 as a hybrid event with a physical forum in Penang, Malaysia and online via Zoom. For registration or enquiry, please contact Radhi at +6013 757 2395, email: mradhi@kasi.asia or Wani at +6017 405 0102, email: wani@kasi.asia.

WCET
世界华人经济和科技峰会
WORLD CHINESE ECONOMIC
& TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT

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**WORLD
CHINESE ECONOMIC
& TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT**

推广商业、文化及数码经济合作与外交关系
Promoting Business, Cultural & Digital Economy Cooperation and Diplomacy

Upcoming events of ESNB interest

9 December 2021: **Sixth Meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific: SDG Infrastructure Investment Fair**

There is an urgent need to mobilize commercial finance and private investment on a vast scale to achieve the SDGs, especially in Asia and the Pacific. At the same time, mobilizing private investment, a fundamental tenet of any country's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) strategy, is challenging for many developing countries. Essential investment projects in developing countries need additional support to develop green and bankable infrastructure project proposals. To address this challenge, ESCAP is co-organizing the sixth meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific with the Public and Private Infrastructure Investment Management Center (PIMAC) under the Korea Development Institute (KDI) with the support of the China Public-Private Partnerships Center (CPPPC) under the Ministry of Finance. This meeting will serve as an SDG Infrastructure Investment Fair by providing an opportunity for participating member States to present their infrastructure project proposals to potential investors for financing support. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/sixth-meeting-infrastructure-financing-and-public-private-partnerships-ppp-network-asia>

Sixth Meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific

SDG Infrastructure Investment Fair

Thursday, 9 December 2021

12:00 – 16:00 GMT +7

Virtual Meeting, MS Teams



RSVP



MORE INFO



10 December 2021: **South Aral Sea: Bringing Back Blue Infrastructure – ESNB Expert Group Pre-meeting (Sustainable Agriculture)- (by invitation only)**

Before its shallowing, the Aral Sea was the fourth-largest lake in the world, creating its own microclimate benefiting the communities around it. At one time there was also a vibrant fishing industry and a resort area. Today, the once great Sea is mostly an arid desert and a major source of toxic dust and sandstorms. However, Hydro-resource technologies exist that can now source water that most likely lies beneath the surface of the dried-up Aral basin and which may be tapped to replenish portions of the Aral Sea basin. The Sustainable Business Network (ESNB) aims to bring the private sector and public sector to address this challenge. For more information, see:

<https://unescap.org/events/2021/south-aral-sea-bringing-back-blueinfrastructure-expert-group-pre-meeting-sustainable>

Recently concluded

18 November 2021: *Women's Entrepreneurship Day: Opportunities and Solutions for Women Entrepreneurs in Asia and the Pacific*

Across the Asia-Pacific, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the world of work. Amidst the government lockdown measures and mobility restrictions, the Micro Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (MSME) sector has been hit hard, and women-led businesses are specially facing aggravated challenges given the additional barriers they face compared to their male counterparts. In celebration of Women's Entrepreneurship Day 2021, ESCAP and the ILO jointly organized a high-level event bringing together diverse stakeholders, such as government representatives, private sector partners, financial institutions, and women entrepreneurs to share expertise on women entrepreneurs' recovery from COVID-19 and discuss innovative opportunities and scalable solutions for their long-term resilience. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/womens-entrepreneurship-day-opportunities-and-solutions-women-entrepreneurs-asia-and-0#> and <https://www.unescap.org/news/enabling-opportunities-and-solutions-women-entrepreneurs-asia-and-pacific>

29 November 2021: *Executive Council of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, 6th Meeting and ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, 9th Meeting*

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and building back better will require active engagement and participation of the private sector. The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network which is made up of executives from leading businesses in the Asia-Pacific region, was set up to drive businesses in working towards the 2030 Sustainable Agenda. Amid the ongoing travel restrictions, the Executive Council of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network held its 6th meeting virtually to review the work of its task forces and to discuss the Asia Pacific Green Deal for Business. This was followed by the 9th meeting of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, where members reviewed the preparations for the Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) 2022. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2021/executive-council-escap-sustainable-business-network-esbn-6th-meeting> and <https://unescap.org/events/2021/escap-sustainable-business-network-esbn-9th-meeting>



Sixth session of the Executive Council of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN)

29 November 2021
Group Photo



Ninth Meeting of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN)

29 November 2021
Group Photo



Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

7-10 December 2021: Capacity Building Workshop Trade and trade policy analysis for the Post COVID-19 Recovery

This online workshop aims to build the capacity of researchers and policy analysts in developing countries to analyse trade issues and to consider the long-running impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on value chains and digital trade flows. The online workshop, organized by UNESCAP, brings together in-

house as well as partner expertise from Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Organisation for Economic-Cooperation and Development (OECD). For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2021/capacity-building-workshop-trade-and-trade-policy-analysis-post-covid-19-recovery>

8 December 2021: Impact of COVID-19 on progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in South Asia: Challenges and Way Forward for Regional Cooperation

The ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia will bring together experts from South Asia, in an interactive session, to share their perspectives on the implications of COVID-19 pandemic for achieving the SDGs and the potential of regional cooperation for accelerating SDG progress and in building back better from the crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic which began as a health crisis, has become a monumental human and socio-economic crisis. The ongoing pandemic has devastated South Asian economies, exposing the systemic weaknesses and common challenges faced by the subregion. The COVID-19 pandemic poses serious challenges for the achievement of the SDGs in the subregion. <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/impact-covid-19-progress-towards-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-south-asia>

8 December 2021: UNESCAP-IPCSA-ICC-ADB Webinar on Digital Mobile Apps facilitating cross border paperless trade

Mobile apps, along with advanced technologies and sometimes as their extension, play a facilitating role in cross-border activities such as transactions involving commodities, management of logistics, services provided to travellers, economic operators, customs, and other border agencies. The webinar aims to identify how mobile apps can be used for facilitating cross border trade and movement of goods, including practical use cases with discussions on their implementation, opportunities as well as limitations. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2021/unescap-ipcsa-icc-adb-webinar-digital-mobile-apps-facilitating-cross-border-paperless>

10 December 2021: ARTNet Webinar - Forward-looking conversation on “Trade for Peace”

This webinar session aims to explore the complex intersection of trade, as part of sustainable development, and peace, addressing the theoretical foundations, empirical evidence, and practical applications. In an interactive discussion, experts and practitioners in this subject area will discuss the opportunities, challenges and dimensions involved in pursuing greater cooperation and partnership between different actors in the field. The webinar will begin by introducing the WTO Trade for Peace Programme in harnessing trade as a vehicle for peace across its various pillars. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2021/artnet-webinar-forward-looking-conversation-trade-peace>

14 December 2021: Webinar Series on Next Generation Trade Facilitation

This webinar series will discuss how sustainable trade facilitation measures are crucial in supporting groups and sectors with special needs, specifically related to agriculture, SMEs and women, especially how these measures could support the recovery from the pandemic and build back better. Experts from governments, international organizations and private sectors will share good practices in implementing relevant trade facilitation measures towards a more inclusive and resilient global trading system. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2021/webinar-series-next-generation-trade-facilitation>

17 December 2021: ARTNeT Webinar - Conversation with authors of “Six Faces of Globalization: Who Wins, Who Loses and Why it Matters”

Conversation with Professors Anthea Roberts and Nicolas Lamp, the authors of “Six Faces of Globalization: Who Wins, Who Loses and Why it Matters,” recently published by Harvard University Press. The authors look at complex issues through dragonfly eyes, allowing us to see many facets of debates and challenges that globalization has faced for some time and intensely since the start of the pandemic. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2021/artnet-webinar-conversation-authors-six-faces-globalization-who-wins-who-loses-and-why>

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

[Preferential Trade Agreements in Asia and the Pacific 2021/2022 \(18 November 2021\)](#)

[Public-Private Partnerships for Reducing Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean: the cases of Colombia and Mexico \(17 November 2021\)](#)

[Trade in Commercial Services Outlook in Asia and the Pacific 2021/2022 \(17 November 2021\)](#)

[Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No.91 “Gender and social dimensions of transport \(16 November 2021\)](#)

[Achieving the SDGs in South Asia: An Integrated Approach to Accelerate SDG Progress and COVID-19 Recovery \(15 November 2021\)](#)

[Trade in Goods Outlook in Asia and the Pacific 2021/2022 \(15 November 2021\)](#)

[ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for Adaptation to Drought 2021-2025 \(11 November 2021\)](#)

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