



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

## ESBN Monthly Update

July 2021

### ESBN news and updates

#### **Application open: the 2021 UN Women Asia-Pacific Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Awards**

The Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) are a set of Principles offering guidance to business on how to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace, marketplace and community. Established by UN Global Compact and UN Women, the WEPs are a primary vehicle for corporate delivery on gender equality dimensions of the 2030 agenda and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Launched in 2020, the Asia-Pacific focused WEPs Awards is the only regional awards initiative that recognizes private sector action for gender equality aligned to the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs). The WEPs Awards are open to applications from all Asia-Pacific countries. Organizations do not need to be a WEPs signatory at the time of application, and eligible organizations include multi-nationals, local corporations, stock exchanges, chambers of commerce, industry associations, SMEs and even individual entrepreneurs. National WEPs Awards ceremonies will take place in the WeEmpowerAsia implementing countries – China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. The top Winners in each category will then be put into the pool with other APAC applicants for selection at the Regional WEPs Awards Ceremony on November 18th, 2021. Applications are open now through July 31st at <https://www.asiapacificwepsawards.org/> for the 2021 UN Women Asia-Pacific WEPs Awards.

A promotional banner for the 2021 WEPs Awards. The background is dark blue with a blurred image of a woman smiling. On the right, there is a golden trophy with a female symbol and an equals sign inside a circle. The text is white and yellow.

**THE 2021**  
**WEPs**  
**AWARDS**

For exemplary practice embracing the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) in Asia-Pacific

**APPLICATIONS OPEN MAY 31-JULY 31, 2021**

### 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](mailto:esbn@un.org)

### Recently concluded

#### 22 June 2021: Fifth Meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific

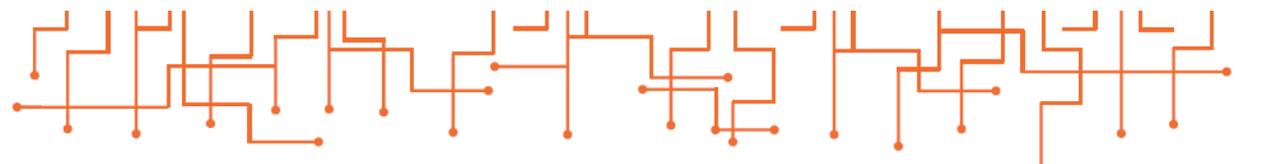
ESCAP co-organized the Fifth Network Meeting with the China Public-Private Partnerships Center (CPPPC) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 22 June 2021. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP, Mr. Xiaoping Jiao, Director General, CPPPC, and Mr. Bruno Carrasco, Director General of Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB. The virtual event gathered the heads of PPP units, infrastructure financing specialists, development partners, ESNB members, and academic institutions to enhance knowledge and capacity of PPP units on the effective use of PPP mechanisms as well as other infrastructure financing strategies to support the pursuit of sustainable and resilient infrastructure development.

<https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/fifth-meeting-infrastructure-financing-and-public-private-partnership-network-asia-and>



## 29 June 2021: Second InnovaTea: Why Social Media Based Businesses Fail to Scale? Opportunities to support the growth of women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh

The United Nations ESCAP, ARTNETonSTI Policy & Dnet organized the second InnovaTea Conversations on Innovation Policy which will explore “Why Social Media Based Businesses Fail to Scale? Opportunities to support the growth of women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh” on 29 June 2021. This session launched the preliminary findings of the ESCAP-Dnet joint research on women social media-based entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. The session engaged industry leaders and decision makers in Bangladesh to discuss these findings and what solutions are needed to support women entrepreneurs to scale-up in Bangladesh’s online marketplace. <https://artnet.unescap.org/sti/events/second-innovatea-why-social-media-based-businesses-fail-scale-opportunities-support>





**InnovaTea**  
Conversations on Innovation Policy

**Why Social Media Based Businesses Fail to Scale?**  
Opportunities to support the growth of women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh



**MODERATOR: Jonathan Wong**  
Chief of Technology & Innovation  
United Nations ESCAP

**11am-12pm Bangkok Time (Online)**  
**29 June 2021**



**Deanna Morris**  
Programme  
Management Officer  
United Nations ESCAP



**Kazi Lamiyah Daraksha**  
Deputy Manager,  
Technology  
Dnet, Bangladesh



**Alokananda Datta**  
Assistant Manager  
Dnet, Bangladesh



**Md. Ashrafal Alam**  
General Manager  
Bangladesh Bank



**Md. Nazeem Satter**  
General Manager  
SMEF, Bangladesh



**Nasima Akter Nisha**  
President  
Women and e-Commerce  
forum, Bangladesh



**Afsana Zarin**  
Chief Of Staff  
ShopUp Bangladesh



**dnet**  
Innovations for Impact



**ARTNET on STI**  
Science, Technology  
& Innovation Policy



**UN ESCAP**  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

[Register here](#)

## Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

### 6-9 July 2021: Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2021: Thematic Sessions

2021 is a historic year for global climate action at COP26. The Asia-Pacific Climate Week is part of a series of regional Climate Weeks 2021 to build momentum towards success at COP26. The Virtual Thematic Sessions will take the pulse of climate action in the region, explore climate challenges and opportunities, and showcase ambitious solutions. Private sector participation in the week is welcome. To register, click [here](https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/asia-pacific-climate-week-2021-thematic-sessions#). For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/asia-pacific-climate-week-2021-thematic-sessions#>.

### 7 July 2021: Accelerating Cross Border Paperless Trade Facilitation: Interoperability of National Single Window systems

The webinar series, comprising several independent webinars, covers emerging issues and trends related to facilitation of cross-border paperless trade, intelligent information sharing, use of advanced

technologies for procedural harmonization and simplification, enhanced private-public sector cooperation under digital trade environment, etc. The webinar series will be organized from July to December 2021. Each webinar will feature several speakers and panelists to share their expertise and experience in topics being covered. On 7th July 2021, it starts with one of the most efficient tools for enabling trade facilitation at national level as well as across the borders: **Interoperability of National Single Window systems.** <https://www.unescap.org/event-series/paperless-trade-2021>. To register: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vQN5RDvRzmY\\_NrjyKySw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vQN5RDvRzmY_NrjyKySw)

**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 will present 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, discuss the support provided to SMEs by different stakeholders in the region and identify areas for future collaboration to take meaningful steps on climate engagement of SMEs. To register: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_JGxwS1OKQ2a\\_2YZHR45CTA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JGxwS1OKQ2a_2YZHR45CTA)

**14 July 2021: Global Launch for the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2021**

The United Nations Regional Commissions (UNRCs) have been conducting the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation since 2015, in cooperation with UNCTAD, ICC, OECD and many other organizations. The Survey tracks progress on measures specified in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement as well as more advanced paperless trade measures, and trade facilitation measures in support of more inclusive and sustainable trade facilitation. The [2021 Survey](#) also covers 2 new groups of measures: Trade finance facilitation measures and Trade facilitation in times of crisis. At this Global Launch event, the 2021 Survey results will be made available on its interactive website at [unftsurvey.org](http://unftsurvey.org), which can generate customized reports based on the Survey results. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/global-launch-un-global-survey-digital-and-sustainable-trade-facilitation-2021>

**15 July 2021: Webinar on Establishing Science and Technology (S&T) Parks and the Lessons the Philippines Can Learn from Other Asian Countries**

The Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) currently manages 32 technology business incubators hosted in different universities. To further support technology-based enterprises and boost the innovation ecosystem of the country, PCIEERD is embarking on a new program which aims to prepare a network of the universities for the establishment of science and technology parks through the program "Science and Technology Parks to Accelerate Research and Knowledge (SPARK)". For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/webinar-establishing-science-and-technology-st-parks-and-lessons-philippines-can-learn>

**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>

**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**

[Blog: Why investing in women is key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, Kaveh Zahedi](#)

[A primer on quantifying the environmental benefits of cross-border paperless trade facilitation \(May 2021\)](#)

[Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for commercial contracts covering the transportation of goods in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond \(23 June 2021\)](#)

[Toward Sustainable E-waste Management in Asia and the Pacific \(22 June 2021\)](#)

[Policy Brief: Asia and the Pacific’s Progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 7 \(21 June 2021\)](#)

[Proposals for crisis-response provisions in regional and bilateral transport agreements of the ESCAP member States \(18 June 2021\)](#)

[Bolstering East Asian-Latin American value chains through digitally deliverable services \(11 June 2021\)](#)

[Strengthening Energy Security and Building Resilience in the Asia-Pacific \(3 June 2021\)](#)

[Mending the Broken Relationship with Nature: Tackling the Biodiversity, Ecosystems, Health and Climate Change Nexus Post-COVID-19 \(1 June 2021\)](#)

**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](mailto:esbn@un.org)

Best regards,  
ESBN Secretariat