



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update: March 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): To celebrate International Women's Day 2022 and support its theme #BreaktheBias, City Developments Limited (CDL), the Singapore Sustainability Academy and Women4Green are pleased to present Forging Gender Equality on Wednesday, 9 March, 3.00pm SGT – a conversation with Ms. Herry Cho, Managing Director and Head of Sustainability and Sustainable Finance at SGX, moderated by Ms Esther An, Chief Sustainability Officer at CDL. Join the event to hear how Ms Cho built a career in sustainable finance, and continues to break new ground as a pioneer and leader in a male-dominated industry. Registration for this session, [CLICK](#).

The poster is for an event titled "Forging gender equality #BreaktheBias". It is organized by Women4Green in support of Sustainable Development Goals. The event is on Wednesday, 9 March at 3:00pm, with registration via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/CDLIWD2022>. The speaker is Ms Herry Cho, Managing Director and Head of Sustainability and Sustainable Finance at the Singapore Exchange. The moderator is Ms Esther An, Chief Sustainability Officer at City Developments Limited. The event is part of International Women's Day 2022.

Logos: City Developments Limited, Sustainability, Women4GREEN, In support of Sustainable Development Goals, and the International Women's Day logo.

Text:

Forging gender equality
#BreaktheBias

Wednesday 9 March | 3.00pm
 Register online via Zoom <https://bit.ly/CDLIWD2022>

To celebrate this year's International Women's Day, Women4Green is proud to spotlight Herry Cho, a passionate sustainability leader with a pioneering spirit. She set up the first Singapore team in sustainable finance with global management responsibilities at ING and has played a key role in promoting green financing in the region.

She joined SGX in February 2021 as its first Managing Director, Head of Sustainability and Sustainable Finance to drive sustainability initiatives across SGX Group. Hear about her journey as she continues to break new ground in sustainable finance and ESG best practices.

As a young woman leader, her experience working across different countries will inspire more women to overcome challenges and to #BreaktheBias as they pursue their personal and career development.

Join us as we deep dive into the importance of challenging misconceptions to create a more safe, equitable, and inclusive environment. Collectively, we can all #BreakTheBias, the theme of IWD 2022.

Moderator



Ms Esther An
 Chief Sustainability Officer,
 City Developments Limited

Special Guest



Ms Herry Cho
 Managing Director,
 Head of Sustainability
 and Sustainable Finance,
 Singapore Exchange

International Women's Day #BreakTheBias #IWD2022

Upcoming events of ESNB interest

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

The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) is an annual intergovernmental forum and a regional platform for supporting countries, in particular those with special needs, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development while serving as a regional preparatory meeting to the high-level political forum. The theme of the 9th APFSD is "Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific". The 9th APFSD will play a unique role as a catalyzer of solutions and peer learning on how to accelerate transformations for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda while recovering from COVID-19. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/apfsd9>



Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

7-8 March 2022: A national workshop - Building forward better: Securing inclusive, resilient and green development in Indonesia

This national workshop is organized by ESCAP and UN Country Team as part of the capacity building project that aims to further integrate sustainable development into macroeconomic modelling in Indonesia. The workshop aims to (a) discuss ideas on public policy options that help Indonesia build forward better (Day 1); and (b) strengthen the technical capacity of government officials in conducting macroeconomic analysis that duly considers the social and environmental aspects of development (Day 2). Participation on Day 1 of the workshop is open to the public, while Day 2 targets government officials who work on economic modelling to support long-term development planning. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/national-workshop-indonesia-building-forward-better>

9-10 March 2022: A national workshop - Building forward better: Securing inclusive, resilient and green development in Nepal

This national workshop is organized by ESCAP and UN Country Team as part of the capacity building project that aims to further integrate sustainable development into macroeconomic modelling in Nepal with the aim to (a) discuss ideas on public policy options that help Mongolia build forward better (Day 1); and (b) strengthen the technical capacity of government officials in conducting macroeconomic analysis that duly considers the social and environmental aspects of development (Day 2). Participation on Day 1 of the workshop is open to the public, while Day 2 targets government officials who work on economic modelling to support long-term development planning. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/national-workshop-nepal-building-forward-better>

14 March 2022: Policy Guidebook Launch Event: Harnessing Digital Technology for Financial Inclusion in Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP, in collaboration with the Griffith Asia Institute (GAI), have developed a Policy Guidebook to support the region's policy makers and regulators to capitalize on the opportunity to harness digital technology as an effective means to advance financial inclusion and enhance the wellbeing of those at the BoEP, including women. This webinar will examine the policy tools and case studies outlined in the Policy Guidebook to demonstrate specific actions governments can take to enable effective digital financial inclusion. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/policy-guidebook-launch-event-harnessing-digital-technology-financial-inclusion-asia>

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>.

23 March 2022: UNESCAP-ICAO-ICC-ADB Webinar on Digitalization of Multimodal Supply Chains

As recent trends/studies see a substantial increase in the use of air freight, this webinar takes a closer look at air cargo as one of the critical transport modes, including need for its closer interaction with other modes of transport. To accelerate efforts in developing integrated multimodal transport, transit systems, and corridors, while also ensuring system interoperability, all stakeholders of multimodal supply chains need to work together. The webinar will review recent achievements and discuss challenges ahead in the push for increased interoperability between multiple modes of transport in supply chains. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/unescap-icao-icc-adb-webinar-digitalization-multimodal-supply-chains>

23 March 2022: Regional Conversation Series 2021/2022: Promoting Regional Cooperation for Enhancing Access to Essential Health Products

Many countries have significantly benefited from the rapid development and production of novel COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics. However, gross inequities in the availability of these health products across different countries and regions have left much of the developing world without access to these vaccines. The objective of this Regional Conversation is to highlight the significance of trade, investment, and research and development in enabling equitable and affordable access to essential health products in Asia and the Pacific and the possibilities for regional cooperation to facilitate this access. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/regional-conversation-series-20212022-promoting-regional-cooperation-enhancing-access>

30 March 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>

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>.

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>

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

[Discussion Paper – Barriers and Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in Samoa \(2 March 2022\)](#)

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

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

[Policy Guidebook: Harnessing Digital Technology for Financial Inclusion in Asia and the Pacific \(1 March 2022\)](#)

[Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs, and especially women-led MSMEs in Viet Nam \(28 February 2022\)](#)

[Discussion Paper on Innovation and Good Practices on One-Stop Hubs to support Women Entrepreneurs \(28 February 2022\)](#)

[The SME Law and Its Impact on Women Entrepreneurs in Viet Nam \(28 February 2022\)](#)

[Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda: SDG7 Roadmap for Fiji \(25 February 2022\)](#)

[Sustainability Assessment of Urban Transport System in Greater Jakarta \(24 February 2022\)](#)

[Sustainability Urban Transport Index \(SUTI\) for Twin Cities: Islamabad & Rawalpindi, Pakistan \(24 February 2022\)](#)

[SUTI Assessment of urban transport and impacts of COVID-19 on mobility for Phnom Penh City \(16 February 2022\)](#)

[Building Back Better Passenger Transport in Asian Cities after COVID-19 \(15 February 2022\)](#)

[Study on port-hinterland sustainable transport connectivity for LLDCs of ESCAP region \(9 February 2022\)](#)

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