



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update: May 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

ESBN Taskforce on Sustainable and Inclusive Finance: The ESNB Taskforce on Sustainable and Inclusive Finance will organize a virtual side event at the 78th session of the ESCAP Commission, entitled “Promoting and facilitating ESG investment and FinTech development: some recent developments and trends” on 24 May 2022, 12.45-13.45 hrs Bangkok Time. The event will increase awareness of and mobilization for ESG investment and FinTech development among the business sector, particularly financial institutions, publicly listed companies, family offices and tech investors. For more information, please refer <https://www.unescap.org/events/commission78>.

World Green Organisation: WGO has established the “Asian Corporate Coalition for Climate Change Resilience” (A4CR) with Arup and PwC as their key technical advisers. It is the first Asian coalition ever formed for the purpose of building business resilience based on scientific research and data. [Read more.](#)



World Green Organisation: WGO together with the Think-ESG and International Chamber of Sustainable Development have organized a webinar session on “How to enhance your ESG Report?” as part of the 2022 ESG – ESG Club Free Online Promotion Webinar Series on 3rd May 2022 (Tuesday). For more information, please [CLICK](#).

Recently concluded

25-29 April 2022: Intergovernmental meetings and side events on cross-border paperless trade

Among several other events on paperless trade, ESCAP organized the first session of the Paperless Trade Council, which marks the formal beginning of the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. Full implementation of the treaty is expected to reduce trade costs by more than 13%, also reducing CO2 emissions. To date, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Iran, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste have acceded to the treaty. Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan are expected to become parties in 2022. This enabling treaty is open to all ESCAP members. More information at: <https://www.unescap.org/kp/cpta>

26-29 April 2022: North and Central Asia Subregional Training on GHG Emissions Inventories and Paris Agreement Reporting Requirement and the follow up discussions of the scope of digital solutions, Almaty Kazakhstan

ESCAP in collaboration with the UNDP country team and the Institute of Global Climate and Ecology has delivered a training seminar for North and Central Asian technical experts on GHG Emissions Inventories and Paris Agreement Reporting Requirements from 26 to 29 April 2022, at the UN Conference Centre in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Additional information can be found at: <https://unescap.org/events/2022/north-and-central-asia-subregional-training-ghg-emissions-inventories-and-paris>.

5 May 2022: ARTNeT Webinar: Gender Impact Analysis of Trade - What Is It and Why Do We Need It?

Trade and trade policy used to be labelled as gender-blind until just a few years back. Now increasingly they are seen as gender-responsive. One of the key factors contributing to this transformation (or, rather, awakening) is capacity of researchers to provide evidence about gender-differentiated impacts of trade and trade policy changes, including those incorporated in the free trade agreements (FTAs). This session of ARTNeT webinar presented two initiatives developed to increase quality of research and their findings and thus contributing to better (more effective) policies towards women’s economic empowerment through trade. For more information, [CLICK](#).

9 May 2022: Executive Council of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN), 7th meeting

The Executive Council of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) met on 9 May 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting discussed the work and focus of the ESBN and officially adopted the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business declaration and the roll out plan. The meeting also reviewed the preparations for the next Asia-Pacific Business Forum that will be held in 2022. For more information, [CLICK](#).

7th Meeting of the Executive Council of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network
9 May 2022



11 May 2022: Fourth Thematic Workshop of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP co-organized the Fourth Thematic Workshop of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific with the China Public-Private Partnerships Center (CPPPC) under the Ministry of Finance and Asian Development Bank. For more information, [CLICK](#).

Fourth Thematic Workshop of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships Network of Asia and the Pacific
Sustainable PPP Development in Landlock Central and North-East Asia Countries
11 May 2022



Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

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>

17 May 2022: Kickoff for the 78th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and commemoration of its 75th anniversary

28 March 2022 marked the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. To commemorate the occasion, a yearlong campaign was launched in April 2021 at the 77th session of the Commission to highlight the achievements of ESCAP since 1947 and its role in shaping the future of regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific. The event to kickoff the 78th session of the Commission is expected to bring together an audience of all ages from around Asia

and the Pacific to: Reflect upon the work of ESCAP over the past 75 years; Raise further awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals and emphasize a fairer recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises; and Inspire young people to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and to build a more inclusive and resilient “new normal.” For more information, [CLICK](#).



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-meeting-asia-pacific-foreign-direct-investment-fdi-network>

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>

19 May 2022: 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>

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 1947, 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>

2 June 2022: Workshop on Rethinking MSME finance: A Post-Crisis Policy Agenda in Bangladesh

ESCAP and the Small and Medium Enterprise Foundation are co-organizing a workshop on “Rethinking MSME finance: A Post-Crisis Policy Agenda in Bangladesh” that will be held on Thursday, 02 June 2022, from 10:00am to 13:00pm (Bangladesh 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 Bangladesh, 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 regulation. For more details, access: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/workshop-rethinking-msme-finance-post-crisis-policy-agenda-bangladesh>

15 June 2022: Training Workshop on Breaking Down Barriers to Payments: The Evolution of Regulation and Winning Solutions in the Digital Age

ESCAP is organizing a workshop on “Breaking Down Barriers to Payments: The Evolution of Regulation and Winning Solutions in the Digital Age” that will be held on Wednesday, 15 June 2022, from 13:00pm to 16:00pm (Bangkok time). The virtual event will bring together policymakers, regulators, and private sector stakeholders to discuss the accelerated adoption of electronic and digital payment solutions across the ESCAP region due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The event will specifically explore how the adoption of such services have supported MSMEs, private sector development and how digital payment solutions can support the acceleration of progress towards the SDGs. Additionally, regulatory considerations and best practices to enable innovation while balancing client protection and financial stability will be discussed.

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 Operational Aspects of Multimodal Transport \(27 April 2022\)](#)

[How to Design Inclusive Old Age Pension Systems in Asia and the Pacific \(21 April 2022\)](#)

[Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda: SDG7 Road map for Kyrgyzstan \(20 April 2022\)](#)

[Readiness Assessment for Cross-Border Paperless Trade: Lao People's Democratic Republic \(20 April 2022\)](#)

[Inequality of Opportunity on Asia and the Pacific: Financial Inclusion \(15 April 2022\)](#)

[Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2022: Economic policies for an inclusive recovery and development \(12 April 2022\)](#)

[Mind the Gender Gap in workforce, including transport and logistics: the perspective from Sri Lanka and beyond \(4 April 2022\)](#)

[Leveraging Science, Technology and Innovation for Low Carbon and Resilient Cities \(4 April 2022\)](#)

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