



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update: November 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 get in touch with the ESBN secretariat for more information: esbn@un.org

Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

The ESBN Executive Council adopted the Green Deal for Business at its 7th Meeting in May 2022. A soft launch of the Green Deal was held during the Asia Pacific Business Forum 2022 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, on 26 August 2022.

Pledge your support to the Green Deal for Business at: <https://www.unescap.org/projects/gd>

Upcoming events of ESBN interest

November 2022: SDG Ambition Month 2022

SDG Ambition Month is a call to action for companies to engage in sustainable actions for business resilience. This month-long event organised by UN Global Compact Network Malaysia & Brunei offers a series of sustainability-focused conference, forum, workshops and exhibition catered to various industries such as Corporates, Micro and Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The events that are presented to the public during the month includes the [SME SDG Festival](#), the [SDG Investment Forum](#) on 23 November and the [GO ESG ASEAN 2022 Summit](#) on 24 November, which aims to ignite awareness, enable networking, identify best practices and showcase innovative approaches in sustainability investment via an engaging and interactive virtual event platform. For more information, see: <https://www.sdgambitionmonth.com/>

Recently concluded

26-27 October 2022: Fifth ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit

The Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation of the Government of Cambodia, organised the Fifth ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit, with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat, ESCAP, the Inclusive Business Action Network (iBAN), the OECD and OXFAM. The Summit discussed progress and means to support the implementation of the Guidelines for the Promotion of Inclusive Business in ASEAN. Mr. Luhur Pradjarto, Senior Advisor to Minister for Inter-institutional relations, Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs, Indonesia confirmed that the Government of Indonesia confirmed it will carry the torch of promoting inclusive business in 2023 during its ASEAN chairmanship with the support of ESCAP and other development partners. For more information, [CLICK](#).



Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

9-10 November 2022: The first Asia-Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference 2022: Shaping Our Common Future and the **Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Forum** will be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, to serve as a prime opportunity to discuss the status, challenges, and pathways to advance digital transformation and to strengthen regional digital cooperation with the ICT and Digital Ministers of the Asia-Pacific region towards building an inclusive digital society and economy. The Ministerial Conference will also consider the adoption of the Seoul Declaration (tentative title) and the endorsement of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Action Plan 2022-2026, as part of the pathways to advancing digital transformation in the Asia-Pacific region. More information is available at: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/asia-pacific-digital-ministerial-conference-2022-shaping-our-common-future>

14-28 November 2022: ESCAP-ARTNet Course on Trade and SDGs

This course aims to enhance the general public and policymakers' understanding of the relationship between trade and SDGs. It gives a broad perspective on trade's enabling and disabling roles in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/escap-artnet-course-trade-and-sdgs>

14 November-2 December 2022: Course on Value-chain Analysis for the BIMSTEC Region

The learning objectives of the workshop are: 1) to establish an appreciation of frameworks and methodologies to measure and analyze trade in value added and trade policy to address the hyper-dependent economic environment, 2) to familiarize participants with sources of data and tools for analyzing trade in value added and 3) to build practical skills in using the data and tools in policy-oriented research and develop policy recommendations to promote value chain for sustainable development. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/course-value-chain-analysis-bimstec-region>

15 November – 2 December 2022: Facilitated Online Course on Next Generation Trade Facilitation

The facilitated online course on “Next Generation Trade Facilitation” will be held between 15 November and 2 December, offered virtually. Taking the course is free and is expected to involve approximately 3-6 hours of self-paced learning, plus 4.5 hours of interactive live sessions. Participants will receive a UN course certificate upon successful completion. This introductory course will guide through digital, sustainable and resilient trade facilitation measures and emerging issues for efficient trade facilitation, based on the topics and measures included in the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (UNTF Survey), a joint initiative by all UN Regional Commissions - ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**Online Course on
Next Generation Trade Facilitation**

15 November - 2 December 2022

Live session 1 - Digital Trade Facilitation: 24 November, 15:00 - 16:30 hrs.

Live session 2 - Sustainable Trade Facilitation: 29 November, 15:00 - 16:30 hrs.

Live session 3 - Way Forward: 30 November, 15:00 - 16:30 hrs.

Hybrid event (Zoom), Bangkok time zone (UTC+7)

More information and registration
<https://bit.ly/3N1oYfr>

16-17 November 2022: 2022 SPECA ECONOMIC FORUM “GREENER AND SAFER FUTURE”

The 2022 SPECA Economic Forum will discuss and identify the opportunities for regional cooperation to support a greener and safer future. It aims to support implementation of internationally agreed goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries. For more information, [CLICK](#).

16-18 November 2022: Follow-up Workshop on Trade Agreement Negotiations

This follow up workshop is a second in series, following a [national workshop conducted in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia 10-13 October 2022](#), designed to help trade officials in Mongolia to better understand these issues, so that they can more effectively deal with them during trade negotiations. For more information, [CLICK](#).

21 November 2022: Policy Dialogue on Achieving Universal Access to Clean Cooking in Asia and the Pacific

The Policy Dialogue aims to; 1) provide guidance and direction to identify priorities for enhanced international and regional cooperation to achieve universal access to clean cooking in the region; and 2) explore opportunities on how ESCAP may support countries developing strategies, policies and plans as well as building national and regional capacities. For more information, [CLICK](#).

21 November -2 December 2022: Trade Agreement Text Analysis Tool: A user guide for automated text analysis with UNESCAP Trade Agreement Text Analysis Tool

The objective of this course is to teach how to use the online tool so that the researcher can make the best use of what it has to offer by conducting automated text analysis and generating quantitative

datasets. This course consists of 3 modules consisting of video lectures, quizzes, and 2 live sessions. For more information, [CLICK](#).

22 November-9 December 2022: BIMSTEC Course on Negotiating Regional Trade Agreements for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic

This course, co-organized by ESCAP and USAID, aims to build capacity of stakeholders in selected member countries of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) on developing trade agreements that can promote greater preparedness and resilience of parties when faced with future pandemics and crises. The course is based on material developed as part of the UN global [Initiative on Model Provisions for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic in Regional and Other Trade Agreements \(IMP\)](#), notably the UN [Handbook on Provisions and Options for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic](#). For more information, [CLICK](#).



Organised by  ESCAP
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

In partnership with  USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**BIMSTEC COURSE ON NEGOTIATING
REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS FOR
TRADE IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND PANDEMIC**

**22 November - 9 December 2022
ONLINE**

MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION
<https://bit.ly/3U5zMLQ>

23-25 November 2022: Committee on Transport, Seventh Session

The seventh session of the Committee on Transport will be held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 23 to 25 November 2022. The Committee session will be held in a hybrid format including in-person participation and virtually via videoconference. The Committee will discuss matters of strategic importance to regional transport development, regional cooperation and the formulation of regional policies to advance sustainable transport development in the region in line with existing regional and global mandates such as the newly adopted Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022-2026), related ESCAP resolutions and the Decade of Action for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, among others. The Committee will also provide participants with a forum to exchange views and discuss policies to advance economic, environmental and social sustainability of the transport sector in the region. For more information, [CLICK](#).

28 November 2022: Information Session "Looking into the issues of regional integration and sustainability: Application of Regional Integration Analyzer"

This information session focuses on applying a newly developed tool and datasets to help policymakers and analysts track economic integration progress from a conventional and sustainable lens: the Regional Integration Analyzer in the RIVA (Regional Integration and Value Chain Analyzer) platform. For more information, [CLICK](#).

29 November-1 December 2022: Committee on Environment and Development, Seventh Session

The Committee will be organized on the theme of “Protecting our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific” from 29 November – 1 December 2022. For more information, [CLICK](#).

1 – 2 December 2022: Promoting Inclusive Business in Agriculture and Food Systems Forum

This forum will be held in New Delhi, India, in collaboration with Invest India, and with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The aim of the forum is to create awareness about inclusive business in agriculture, share knowledge and experiences on this topic and advocate key public and private stakeholders to promote inclusive business. The first day of the Forum will include a series of presentations and panels which have been divided into the policy and business track. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn and share their experiences in topics such as how governments can promote inclusive business, inclusive business accreditation, measuring and managing impact, financing inclusive business and market opportunities for inclusive business, amongst others. Day two of the forum includes a field visit to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), as well as a roundtable with key agriculture business stakeholders. See: <https://artnet.unescap.org/sti/events/promoting-inclusive-business-agriculture-and-food-systems-forum>

6-7 December 2022: 2nd International Forum on Low Carbon Cities

ESCAP and Incheon Metropolitan City are jointly organizing the 2nd International Forum on Low Carbon Cities on 6-8 December 2022, in collaboration with the CityNet, Climate Change Center, Green Climate Fund, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat, Incheon Climate & Environment Research Center, and Innovative Green Development Program (iGDP). As a unique occasion for building a partnership with existing networks on low-carbon, sustainable, resilient cities, the 2nd Forum will discuss solutions and stakeholder engagement towards a low-carbon society, facilitating information sharing and strengthening partnership and peer-learning among cities in North-East Asia and city networks. For more information, [CLICK](#).

7 December 2022: Third Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Network of Energy Think Tanks (APNETT)

ESCAP with supported from the Energy Foundation China has convened a network of academic institutes, think tanks, universities and not-for-profit entities across the Asia Pacific region: the Asia Pacific Network of Energy Think Tanks (APNETT). This initiative is intended to promote research collaboration and information exchange on social, technical, environmental and economic energy issues with the secretariat support of ESCAP. APNETT members are institutes from diverse countries and levels of development with differing areas of expertise. The Third Meeting of APNETT will be held in collaboration with the World Renewable Energy Congress XXI which will be held at Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia on 4-9 December 2022. The meeting will be co-hosted by Murdoch University and will be held in hybrid mode. For more information, [CLICK](#).

12-15 December 2022: First session of the Standing Committee of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific

The Standing Committee of the Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia-Pacific (CPTA) will meet for the first time in 2022 to initiate implementation of the treaty, following entry into force of the treaty in 2021 and as required under CPTA Article 11. It will in particular review the draft implementation roadmap of the CPTA developed earlier by the interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade and decide which articles and actions may be prioritized. For more information, [CLICK](#).

13-15 December 2022: Business Innovation for the SDGs Forum

This forum will bring together policymakers from Asia-Pacific and Latin America with the private sector and other stakeholders working to accelerate the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through private sector action. The Forum will explore what the private sector is doing to contribute to gender equality, empower young people, and protect the planet, and more, as well as what policymakers are doing to support such business innovation for the SDGs. It will take place in Bangkok, Thailand and is organised by UN ESCAP in collaboration with the Government of Colombia. For more information and to register your interest to participate, click here:

<https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/business-innovation-sustainable-development-goals-forum>

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: Towards the Green Deal for Business: Making infrastructure green \(23 August 2022\)](#)

[Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in South-East Asia 2022: A Compendium \(26 October 2022\)](#)

[LNOB Country Brief: Various Countries \(25 October 2022\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2022 for ESCAP Subregions - Pathways to Adaptation and Resilience in East and North East Asia \(12 October 2022\)](#)

[Evaluation of the Implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development \(2018-2030\) in its Phase I \(2018-2022\) \(11 October 2022\)](#)

[Landscape Study of Inclusive Business in Malaysia \(10 October 2022\)](#)

[Social protection and the informal economy: What do we know? \(10 October 2022\)](#)

[White Paper - Bangladesh Startup Ecosystem Assessment Report \(4 October 2022\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific report on population ageing 2022: trends, policies and good practices regarding older persons and population ageing \(30 September 2022\)](#)

[Readiness assessment for cross-border paperless trade: Tonga \(28 September 2022\)](#)

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