



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update: October 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

25 October 2022: Taxation of the Digital Economy in Asia and the Pacific

The emergence of the digital economy has challenged the core of existing international taxation norms and left growing shares of the economy untaxed or undertaxed. The international community has made encouraging progress in taxing the digital economy at both national and international levels. However, significant gaps remain. Smaller and poorer developing countries, in particular, are still marginalized in international taxation reforms and lack effective but easy-to-use tax options for tapping into the digital economy revenue base. The workshop serves to better inform governments of Asia-Pacific developing countries in their exploration of policy options for taxing the digital economy and solicit country feedbacks on how the United Nations can better support them on this front. For more information, [CLICK](#).

26 October 2022: The Digitalization of Tax Administrations in Asia and the Pacific

Recent innovations in tax administration include digitalization, automating tax reporting and compliance processes, which can benefit from recent technological developments like AI, machine learning, and customer assistance chatbots. This workshop aims to share information and experiences among Asia-Pacific tax administration departments on the current level of digitalization to identify obstacles and solutions. Focus areas of discussion will revolve around ICT technologies such as e-filing and e-payments to help collect taxes, tax compliance digital tools, big data analytics, AI, and machine learning applied to tax administration. The workshop will also review good practices in using e-taxation tools in the region and will help identify activities governments may undertake to improve tax compliance using e-taxation technologies. For more information, [CLICK](#).

26 - 27 October 2022: Fifth ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit

The Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation, Government of Cambodia, the United Nations ESCAP, the Inclusive Business Action Network (iBAN), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and OXFAM will co-organise the Fifth ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit in a hybrid format, in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The Summit will focus on supporting the implementation of the Guidelines for the Promotion of Inclusive Business in ASEAN; particularly on policy recommendations, and policy instruments and mechanisms of IB investment incentives. The discussions include reviewing the progress made in promoting a better enabling environment for IB enabling environment (IBee) in ASEAN countries and globally; discussing opportunities for collaborating on policy promotion instruments such as business coaching and accreditation; exploring means to encourage women economic empowerment and climate adaptation through inclusive business. Visit the [Fifth ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit](#) for more information. For more information, [CLICK](#).

FIFTH ASEAN INCLUSIVE BUSINESS SUMMIT

Together ASEAN IBee

26-27 October 2022

Hybrid Event, Siem Reap, Cambodia, Time Zone (GMT+7)



2022 ORGANISERS



Recently concluded

22 September 2022: Session 5: Scaling up Business Action for Net-Zero: Harnessing the levers of change, Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum

This session engaged stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region in a moderated discussion on the possibility of achieving the required emissions cuts and the role of policy and other levers (regulatory, financial, advisory) in driving the decarbonization of company operations. It also shared good practices and lessons learned and discussed how states and investors can ensure the proper incentive structure is in place to drive rapid emissions reductions. Mr. Asif Ibrahim, Chair of the ESNB Task Force on Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction and ESNB Executive Council Member, joined the panel discussion. More information can be found at: <https://www.rbhrforum.com/businessactionfornetzero>.

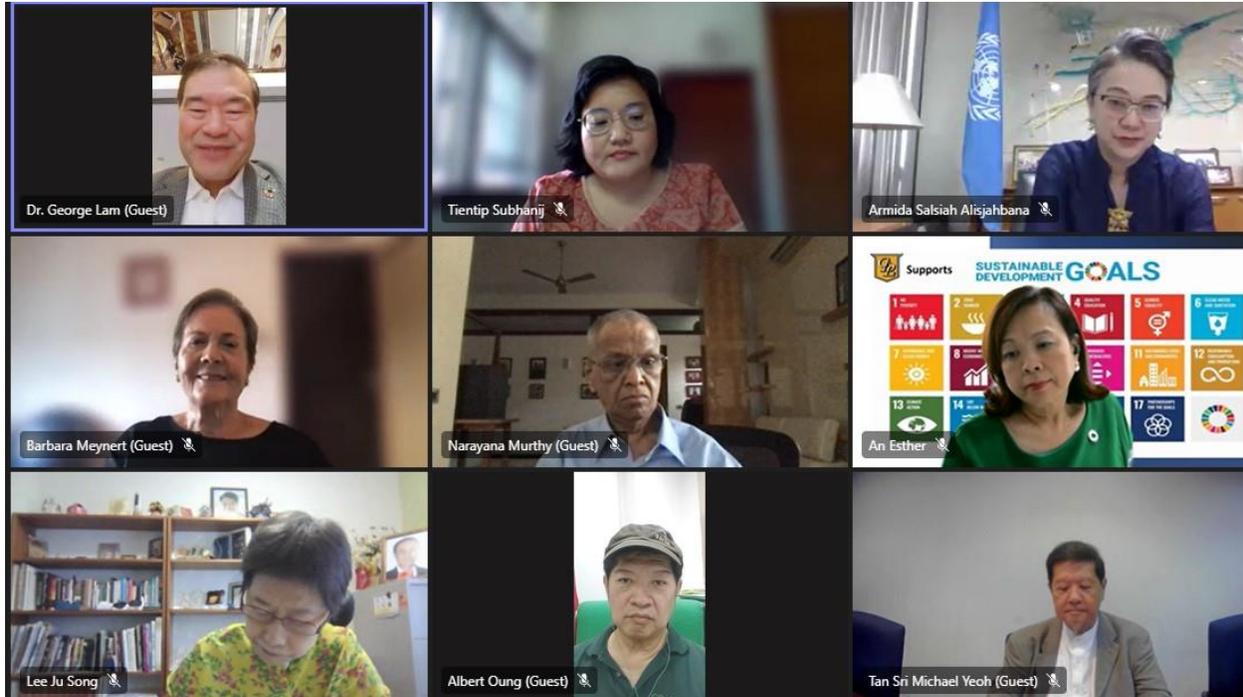


30 September 2022: Cross-border e-payments: Side event at the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration

The objective of this side event was to inform participants at the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific on the experience of Thailand and Singapore in linking their payment systems, to discuss how other countries, such as Pakistan, can extend the development of their e-payments systems to connect with other countries' e-payments systems, and to explore the extent to which bilateral or multilateral approaches are suitable for other countries and subregions of Asia and the Pacific. For more information and a recording of the event, please visit <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/side-event-cross-border-e-payments-third-ministerial-conference-regional-economic>.

5 October 2022: ESNB Executive Council, 8th Meeting

The Executive Council of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) met on 5 October 2022 virtually and discussed action plans to roll out the Green Deal for Business and the alignment of the ESBN task forces' work with ESCAP division work and the Green Deal for Business. For more information, [CLICK](#).



6 October 2022: ESCAP-UNGC Webinar: Guiding Your Sustainability Journey

ESCAP and the United Nations Global Compact partnered to organize a webinar on how the private sector can scale up sustainability initiatives on Thursday, 6 October 2022. The participants will learn how the initiative can help cut through the complexity by enabling company to build trust and transparency, achieve sustainability objectives and help shape the world's sustainability agenda. For more information, [CLICK](#).

6-7 October 2022: Sixth North and Central Asian Multistakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

ESCAP is organizing the Sixth North and Central Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Forum is a unique platform for policymakers and other key stakeholders to share subregional perspectives, discuss collaborative measures to address subregional priorities and exchange good practices to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its conclusions and recommendations will feed into the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) of ESCAP and the 2023 UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Mr. David Morris, ESNB Vice Chair joined the panel discussion and presented the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business at session 6: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (SDG 17). For more information, [CLICK](#).

Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

17 October 2022: 1st Annual Forum on Connectivity: Side Event to the 22nd Meeting of the GTI Consultative Commission

The 1st Annual Forum on Connectivity will be utilized as a platform for sectoral dialogues in line with the theme of the 22nd Meeting of the Consultative Commission (CC) chaired by Mongolia, “Framework for Agriculture Development and Food Security in the Greater Tumen Region”. In particular, the Forum will aim to: 1) inform of the agriculture and food security landscape of GTI member countries; 2) share global developments and practices in addressing food security challenges and promoting agriculture development; 3) encourage knowledge sharing and regional cooperation on agriculture development, including through digital transformation and innovation; and 4) highlight key cross-sectoral linkages supporting food security and agriculture development. For more information, [CLICK](#).

18-19 October 2022: Sustainable Connectivity in East and North-East Asia: Technical Consultation Workshop on Dry Ports Development

ESCAP, in coordination with the Investment Research Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mongolia, conducted a technical assessment of dry ports identified by Mongolia in the Agreement (i.e., Altanbulag, Sainshand, Ulaanbaatar, Zamyn-Uud and Choibalsa) as well as possible new dry ports locations. Following the assessment study, a technical consultation workshop will be jointly organized by ESCAP and the Investment Research Center. The workshop aims to: 1) consult with officials and stakeholders involved in dry ports development in Mongolia on the findings of the study towards identifying priority areas for possible technical assistance and capacity building; 2) update parties involved in the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor Program on dry ports development and other projects; and 3) exchange information on dry ports development towards identifying possible areas for collaborations. For more information, [CLICK](#).

19-21 October 2022: High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022

As the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities concludes in 2022, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is organizing the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, pursuant to ESCAP resolution 69/13. The meeting will be hosted by the Government of Indonesia, in Jakarta and online from 19 to 21 October 2022. The meeting will review progress and achievements made in the Decade (2013-2022), foster consensus on new strategic directions, and renew commitments by ESCAP members and associate members to disability rights and disability-inclusive development in the Asia-Pacific region, leading up to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For more information, [CLICK](#).

20 October 2022: Capacity Building Workshop on Strengthening Digital Connectivity Infrastructure and Internet Traffic Management in the Pacific

The objectives of the workshop are: 1) To share with key stakeholders the preliminary findings of the online survey on assessing bandwidth demand for South Pacific Island Countries, 2) To discuss operationalization plan for building the Pacific IXP based on the Pacific IXP Operating Guideline. (<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/pacific-ixp-operating-guideline>) and 3) To discuss and agree on the governance structure for establishing the Pacific IXP. For more information, [CLICK](#).

1 November 2022: The 17th Policy Consultation Forum of the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth (SINGG)

The Forum provides a platform to discuss best practices and facilitate an exchange of experiences among Member States and strengthen collaborative efforts in responding to climate change and moving forward to carbon neutrality by 2050. It will increase the knowledge of member States on policy options for a green, carbon-neutral recovery in the aftermath of COVID-19. For more information, [CLICK](#).

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>

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](#).

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 \(23 August 2022\)](#)

[Green and Sustainable Financial Market Analysis: Financing Cambodia's Future \(18 October 2022\)](#)

[Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals to Address Interlinked Crises in the Post-Pandemic era \(26 September 2022\)](#)

[Regional Trends Report 2022 - Toward Sustainable Energy Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific: Status, Trends, and Opportunities \(22 September 2022\)](#)

[Foreign Direct Investment and Policies in the Health Sector in Asia and the Pacific 2022/2023 \(22 September 2022\)](#)

[POLICY BRIEF: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS - Insights from the Bureau of Working Group 2 of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway \(14 September 2022\)](#)

[MPFD Policy Brief No. 123: Debt for Climate Swaps in the Pacific SIDS \(12 September 2022\)](#)

[National Stakeholder Survey on Maldives capability to implement Central Bank Digital Currency \(09 September 2022\)](#)

[National Study on Central Bank Digital Currency and Stablecoin in The Maldives \(09 September 2022\)](#)

[Trade and Sustainable Development Goals \(08 September 2022\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2022 for ESCAP Subregions - Pathways for Adaptation and Resilience in the Pacific Small Island developing States \(08 September 2022\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2022 for ESCAP Subregions - Pathways to Adaptation and Resilience in South-East Asia \(08 September 2022\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific Report on Population Ageing 2022: Trends, policies and good practices regarding older persons and population ageing \(06 September 2022\)](#)

[The Workforce We Need: Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific \(05 September 2022\)](#)

[Building Urban Economic Resilience During And After Covid-19 \(05 September 2022\)](#)

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