



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update

September 2021

ESBN news and updates

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

Your Views Are Needed! Survey on Investment Facilitation

ESBN members are kindly requested to [complete a short survey on the importance of investment facilitation measures](https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90337379/Investment-Facilitation-Index-2021). Investment facilitation measures are practical measures governments can implement to improve transparency and predictability of investment frameworks. They are important for boosting both foreign and domestic investment. Currently, 100+ WTO member States are negotiating a treaty on investment facilitation for development. Several international organizations, including ESCAP, are developing various workstreams to build the capacity of negotiation member States in this area, however, it must be designed to meet stakeholder needs, especially in the private sector. We therefore would be grateful if you could kindly complete this 2 question-survey. All responses will be kept confidential. <https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90337379/Investment-Facilitation-Index-2021>

Activities by ESNB members

Pacific Basin Economic Council: PBEC inviting you to participate in their [annual survey](#) on the State of the Region, deadline: 10 September. Through this survey the PECC is seeking to understand regional opinion-leaders views on climate change; the key sources of emissions, policy responses and their drivers and priorities for regional cooperation. The results of this survey will go into PECC's annual State of the Region report which informs PECC's recommendations to APEC leaders, ministers and officials.

Pacific Basin Economic Council: PBEC warmly welcome you to "Save the Date" – November 11th & 12th (NZ, Asia)/November 10th & 11th (N. & S. America) 2021 – for the first hybrid Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit. Live attendees in Auckland, New Zealand will join virtual participants from around the world who will be attending the event through the online event platform. It is expected that more than six world leaders will also present at the Summit this year, with an audience of up to 1000 in the live venue, and several thousand online. Registration is strictly by invitation only. ESNB members are invited to express interest to the PBEC secretariat to join. Limited complimentary passes are available,

with preference for PBEC members. For PBEC non-members and those of you who wish to request and secure an invitation directly can [please click here](#). For more information on this year's event, please click [here](#), or [watch a short video](#). If you have any questions, please send an email for the attention of Michael Walsh at email pbec@pbec.org

CDL webinar series on sustainability reporting: Proudly presented by City Developments Limited and the Singapore Sustainability Academy, "The Future of Sustainability Reporting" is a new webinar series covering sustainability reporting standards, global ESG trends and green financing. The third session of the webinar: ESG Reporting to Meet Changing Investor Expectations will be held on 17 September 2021 with three prominent ESG investing experts to share their insight and advice about the rising expectations of investors and what they wish to see in a corporate sustainability report. It is supported by various partners, including the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, Singapore Exchange, Global Compact Network Singapore, Singapore Institute of Directors, and Centre for Governance and Sustainability at NUS Business School. Free registration at bit.ly/vssa3.

Upcoming events of ESNB interest

22 September 2021: Fourth ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit

Darussalam Enterprise (DARe), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Inclusive Business Action Network (iBAN) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will co-organise the 4th ASEAN IB Summit on 22 September 2021 as an online event. The Summit will explore how governments can put into practice the Guidelines for the Promotion of Inclusive Business in ASEAN. It will discuss in detail two of the core measures suggested in the Guidelines: 1) the establishment of an inclusive business accreditation and registration system, and 2) the provision of business coaching services for firms to develop inclusive business models. Join the conversation! [Fourth ASEAN IB Summit](#).

28-30 September 2021: 5th South-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development

The South-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals provides governments, development partners, civil society, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders opportunities to share subregional perspectives, discuss collaborative measures to address subregional priorities and exchange good practices to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The outcomes and recommendations derived from the Forum will feed into regional and global processes, including the annual Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The Forum will highlight salient points emanating from the discussions and aims to develop partnerships and concrete action plans for the subregion's sustainable and resilient recovery. Please [register online](#) by no later than 24 September 2021. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2021/5th-sea-multi-stakeholder-forum-sustainable-development>

Recently concluded

14-15 September 2021: UNESCAP - GFPN Regional Workshop: The role of fiscal policies in a green COVID-19 recovery: Experience, best practice and next-steps in the Asia-Pacific region

This workshop explored the potential role of Green fiscal policies (GFPs) in greening the COVID-19 recovery with the aim of supporting public health efforts, reducing environmental and climate change

risks, and strengthening resilience to future crises by embedding inclusive and sustainable socio-economic considerations in national economic planning. This is one of a series of workshops implemented by the Green Fiscal Policy Network (GFPN) with regional partners to raise awareness and promote policy dialogue on the potential of GFP to support countries in their efforts to foster a green recovery, achieve the SDGs, and meet their NDC targets. Carson Wen from the ESN Executive Council participated as a speaker in the workshop. For more information and registration, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2021/green-fiscal-policy-workshop>

26-27 August 2021: The future of FDI: Reaping the benefits of FDI 4.0 for Mongolia

For more information on the workshop in Mongolia, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/future-fdi-reaping-benefits-fdi-40-mongolia>

26 August 2021: Meeting of the Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels: Towards the High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021

On the 26th of August, the Expert Working Group (EWG) on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels met to discuss the upcoming High Level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE) to be convened by the UN Secretary General at Summit level on 24 September 2021. The Expert Working Group reports to and seeks guidance from the Committee on Energy. This meeting was co-organized by ESCAP and Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL). The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the High-level Dialogue on Energy, update the key outcomes of the HLDE thematic working groups and discuss opportunities for member States and other stakeholders to develop Energy Compacts. Energy Compacts are voluntary commitments and are open to Member States and non-state actors, such as companies, regional/local governments, NGOs, and others. These stakeholders commit to an Energy Compact that includes the specific actions they will take to support progress on SDG7. The meeting allowed both governments and private sector companies to share perspectives on the energy transition and developing energy compacts. Representatives from China, Brazil and Nauru highlighted their national experiences in energy transition while Brazil and Nauru outlined the development of their Energy Compacts. Perspectives of private sector companies on the energy transition were offered through NPTC-India and Google. Avenues of support for countries and organizations wishing to develop Energy Compacts were shared by SE4ALL. <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/expert-working-group-SDG7-towards-high-level-dialogue-energy>

Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

21 September 2021: Sustainable Energy Transition in Cities

This workshop will bring together representatives of national and city governments, business and academic society to discuss good practices, trends and recent developments on sustainable energy in cities. The topic of SDG 7 localisation will be discussed in light of the role of cities in achievement of Agenda 2030, specifically Sustainable Development Goal 7 to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. An online tool on SDG7 Localisation Assessment and an E-learning program on Sustainable energy transitions in cities through SDG7 Localisation will be launched during this workshop. Cities supported by ESCAP on development of Sustainable Energy Transition Roadmaps will share their views on importance of related implementation actions. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/sustainable-energy-transition-cities>

The future of FDI: Reaping the benefits of FDI 4.0 for Pakistan (22-23 September 2021) and Bhutan (27-28 September 2021)

The workshop will address the following issues: Most recent trends in FDI globally and in the Asia-Pacific region, including the rise of digital FDI; Impact of FDI in general and digital FDI in particular can have on sustainable development; The changing landscape and context for FDI: where are the opportunities?

Introduction to Industry 4.0: what is it and what are the implications? How does Industry 4.0 relate to digital FDI? What is digital FDI and what kinds of strategies and tools can IPAs use to attract and promote it? Which ones are most important to investors? How will Industry 4.0 fundamentally change FDI – creating FDI 4.0? How to develop a roadmap for your country in terms of attracting FDI 4.0 in the future?. Participants will get the latest insights into FDI trends and changes in the global and regional context for FDI, learn more about Industry 4.0 and how this impacts the economy, sustainable development and FDI. Finally, the workshop participants will jointly develop a skeleton roadmap for FDI 4.0 for their country that can be further developed in detail outside of the workshop. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/future-fdi-reaping-benefits-fdi-40-pakistan> and <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/future-fdi-reaping-benefits-fdi-40-bhutan>

29 September 2021: WTO Public Forum 2021 Working Session: Tailoring Trade Provisions to Crisis to Enhance Resilience

How to develop tailored crisis-mitigation provisions in trade agreements to build resilience and better preparedness for future crises? The Session titled “Tailoring Trade Provisions to Crisis to Enhance Resilience” will answer this question. This session is organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in cooperation with experts from the Asian Trade Centre, CUTS, Georgetown University and Hinrich Foundation. This session will present the results delivered from the global Initiative on Model Provisions for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic launched last year by ESCAP together with UN Regional Economic Commissions, UNCTAD, WTO, and other organizations. The discussion will focus on the role of trade agreements in enhancing trade resilience in times of crisis; and options for incorporating such provisions based on a new handbook for trade negotiators. For more information, see: https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/IMP_Event#

30 September 2021: Third Thematic Workshop of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific: Increasing access to cost-effective digital healthcare through ICT infrastructure in rural and remote areas: The role of Public-Private Partnership

To realize the promise of telemedicine in rural and remote areas via more resilient Information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure development, ESCAP, the China Public-Private Partnerships Center (CPPPC) under the Ministry of Finance and Asian Development Bank (ADB) will kickstart work via the Third Thematic Workshop of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific: Increasing access to cost-effective digital healthcare through ICT infrastructure in rural and remote areas: The role of Public-Private Partnership. Based upon the interests and suggestions raised by the member States during the Second Thematic Workshop, ESCAP is organizing the subsequent Third Thematic Workshop with a more specific focus on the digital healthcare sector and telecommunications sector on strategies to uptake cost effective telemedicine innovations in rural, remote and disaster-prone areas in Asia and the Pacific region. It will also provide capacity building to PPP units to advance pilots and projects to build more resilient ICT infrastructures to ensure that no one is left behind. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/third-thematic-workshop-infrastructure-financing-and-public-private-partnerships-ppp>

30 September 2021: The 16th Policy Consultation Forum of the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth (SINGG)

The Sixteenth Policy Consultation Forum of the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth (SINGG) will take place through the online platform and be organized with the theme "Strengthening Efforts to Achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2050 in Asia and the Pacific." The Forum aims to strengthen networking among member States for sharing of best practices and experiences for 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 and sustainable recovery in the aftermath of COVID-19. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/16thSINGGFORUM>

4-6 October 2021: Online Training of Women Entrepreneurs on Expanding Online Business through E-commerce Platform and Digital Marketing

Though the COVID-19 pandemic has raised unprecedented challenges for South Asia, it has also created opportunities for a greater digital transformation. This training is being organized to enhance the capacity of the women entrepreneurs of South Asia to use digital and online platforms for promoting business through e-commerce and creating awareness on the existing opportunities. Additionally, this training would seek to establish a network amongst the women entrepreneurs by providing an opportunity to showcase their products, services and share their entrepreneurial journey. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2021/online-training-women-entrepreneurs-expanding-online-business-through-e-commerce-1>

5-6 October 2021: Forum on Sustainable Transport Connectivity between Asia and Europe

The Committee on Transport reaffirmed the importance of inter-regional dialogue on sustainable transport connectivity and requested the secretariat to explore, in a cost-effective manner, the possibility of including additional stakeholders from government, the private sector and academia as well as from other regions in the discussions on Euro-Asian connectivity. In line with this decision, the secretariat is organizing this Forum on sustainable transport connectivity between Asia and Europe to discuss and identify priority areas of concerted actions at inter-regional level in the coming years. The outcome of the discussions and main recommendations of this Forum will be reported to the attention of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport in December this year. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/forum-sustainable-transport-connectivity-between-asia-and-europe>

5-7 October 2021: Fifth North and Central Asian Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

The North and Central Asian Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (Subregional SDG Forum) is an annual event organized since 2017 by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and partners from within and outside the United Nations system. The Subregional SDG Forum will provide an opportunity to discuss the current situation of implementation of the SDGs in North and Central Asian countries and possible actions and solutions for the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2021/fifth-north-and-central-asian-multi-stakeholder-forum-implementation-sustainable>

6 October 2021: Webinar on Launch of the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Report 2021: supply chain resilience and trade facilitation amid the COVID-19 pandemic

At the launch of the Asia and the Pacific Trade facilitation Report 2021, trade facilitation issues emerged during the pandemic will be discussed and way forward will be proposed. Experts from ESCAP, ADB, government offices, and other institutions will discuss good practices in implementing digital trade and enhancing international cooperation towards a more responsive global trading system. To visit the webinar series on accelerating cross-border paperless trade facilitation, please [CLICK](#). For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/webinar-launch-asia-pacific-trade-facilitation-report-2021-supply-chain-resilience-and>

11 October 2021: Accelerating climate-smart trade and investment for sustainable development: Global Launch of Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2021

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss accelerating climate-smart trade and investment for sustainable development based on the new Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2021 on this topic, jointly prepared by ESCAP, UNCTAD and UNEP. Climate action has been designated by the UN Secretary General as both a priority and a driver of the decade. To address the worsening climate crisis, there is a need for trade and investment policies that can more directly support reducing GHG emissions, while preserving trade and investment as key engines of growth and sustainable development. For more information, see: https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/APTIR2021_Launch

20 October 2021: Outward Foreign Direct Investment: Policies to support firm investment and maximize home country sustainable development

This session will address these knowledge and policy development constraints by presenting and discussing the first draft of a groundbreaking, innovative OFDI for Home Country Sustainable Development Policy Toolkit that UN ESCAP and the World Economic Forum (WEF) have jointly developed and will launch in early 2021. The presentation of the Toolkit will be followed by an interactive panel discussion with investment policymakers from both developed and developing countries and the private sector. The aim of the panel discussion is to learn from the experiences of these countries in introducing OFDI policies, and the extent to which economies and firms are able to benefit from these policies and measures in support of home country sustainable development. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2021/outward-foreign-direct-investment-policies-support-firm-investment-and-maximize-home>

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

[Rethinking MSME Finance in Asia and the Pacific: Post COVID-19 Crisis: A Policy Agenda \(9 September 2021\)](#)

[Regional Integration and Cooperation of Pakistan in Health-related Sector \(9 September 2021\)](#)

[National Study on Digital Trade Integration of Pakistan \(9 September 2021\)](#)

[Inequality of Opportunity: Who Are Those Left Behind in Turkmenistan? \(3 September 2021\)](#)

[Towards meaningful connectivity: Insights from Asia-Pacific Case Studies \(1 September 2021\)](#)

[Sustainable Cooling in the Asia-Pacific Region: Tackling Climate Change and Enhancing Quality of life \(31 August 2021\)](#)

[Mapping Existing Solutions and Best Practices on Sustainable Cooling Scoping review \(31 August 2021\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2021 \(25 August 2021\)](#)

[SDG 6 & COVID-19: Accelerating Progress Towards SDG 6 in the Asia-Pacific Region in the Context of COVID-19 Recovery \(19 August 2021\)](#)

[The Science, Technology and Innovation Ecosystem of Cambodia \(19 August 2021\)](#)

[Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Energy Transition Roadmap for Jakarta Indonesia \(13 August 2021\)](#)

[Digital Trade Integration of the Philippines with Asia and the Pacific \(13 August 2021\)](#)

[Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Energy Transition Roadmap for Iskandar Malaysia \(11 August 2021\)](#)

[Regional situation analysis: The State of Production, Dissemination, and Use of Disaster-Related Statistics in Selected Countries in Asia and the Pacific \(5 August 2021\)](#)

[Enhancing shift towards Sustainable Freight Transport in Asia and the Pacific- Opportunities through railway decarbonization \(22 July 2021\)](#)

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

Best regards,

ESBN Secretariat