



Side-event to the 8th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Company action on climate - driving decarbonization through target setting

22 March 2021, 14.00-15.30 Bangkok time

Organized by ESCAP, the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN), the Global Compact Networks in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines, CDP, SBTi and the UNFCCC secretariat

Background, objective and expected outcome

To achieve a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19, social and environmental vulnerabilities and risks will need to be addressed, including those caused by climate change. As noted by IPCC, limiting warming to 1.5°C will require greenhouse gas emissions to have been drastically reduced by 2030 and reaching net-zero by 2050. This will necessitate major and rapid transformation of economies, with changes in both technologies and behaviors, as well as substantial investments in low-carbon technologies and efficiency.

Company action will be critical for achieving the required transformation. While Governments are setting Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) detailing how to achieve targets and how to get there, given the urgency and the issues at stake, and the size of the corporate sector, achieving the goals will require companies to align their operations with a 1.5-degree trajectory. Setting targets and reducing emissions in anticipation of this transformation will help companies stay ahead and future-proof their operations.

A number of initiatives have been launched to guide companies along this way. This session will discuss how climate-related commitment, disclosure and reporting frameworks can help drive progress on emissions reductions and facilitate more informed investment decisions. It will discuss the benefits for companies - from a company viewpoint - of setting such goals and targets, showcase what companies in the region are doing in this regard, discuss the links with sustainable finance, and how to expand the uptake of emissions target setting in the region.

Participants

The session will be targeting open to governments, civil society and private sector representatives in the region, including participants of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD). Targeted outreach will be done to private sector participants in the ESCAP Sustainable Business network, Global Compact networks in the region, CDP, SBTi and UNFCCC networks, and national chambers.

Tentative programme

22 March 2021		(Virtual meeting)
14:00-14:05	Introduction and welcome remarks ESCAP	
14:05-14:15	Corporate emissions reporting and target setting – why, what and how? Miguel Naranjo Gonzalez, Programme Officer, UNFCCC	
14:15-14:25	Science-based targets Alberto Carrillo Pineda, Director, Science-Based Targets	
14:25-15:30	Panel discussion Moderated panel discussion with companies who have set targets, focusing on benefits, challenges and lessons learned, followed by investor views on importance of targets for driving sustainable financing, and a government reflection on links with national targets. Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Andrew Buay, Vice President, Group Sustainability, Singtel- Esther An, Chief Sustainability Officer, City Developments Limited- Poom Siraprapasiri, Assistant Vice President, Global Partnership for Sustainability and Communications, Charoen Pokphand Group Co., Ltd.- Tunku Alizakri Raja Muhammad Alisa, former CEO, Employees Provident Fund, Malaysia- Grace Hui, Head of Green and Sustainable Finance at Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX)- Kiatchai Maitriwong, Executive Director, Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization Moderator: Pratima Divgi, Director, Hong Kong, Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand, CDP Q&A Closing remarks	

To register: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qdnln9nRRZmd_Qne7UzEOg