



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

Proposals for ESBN engagement

ESBN, 8th Meeting
25 November 2020

Advancing climate action

Recent and ongoing ESCAP work

- Numerous studies, policy guidance and tools
- Policy dialogues and advocacy through multi-stakeholder forums (Asia-Pacific Climate Week, APFSD, APUF, etc)
- Transformative “Futures” process, to develop scenarios for 2040

Future ESCAP work

- Feasibility study on ASEAN carbon pricing and markets (2021)
- Potential project on carbon capture and utilization
- Project on Integrated Urban Climate Action for Low-Carbon and Resilient Cities

Managing plastic waste for a circular economy

Recent and ongoing ESCAP work

- Theme study on sustainable oceans
- Closing the Loop project funded by Government of Japan supporting cities in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam to produce:
 - new data on ocean bound plastic waste (with International Solid Waste Association)
 - innovative remote sensing tools for plastic in municipal waterways (with Japan Space Systems)
 - city plastic waste action plans and investment strategies (with IGES).

Future ESCAP work

- Proposed project: “Circular Cities Innovation Lab: Channeling circular economy innovations to Asian cities” - Circular Cities Innovation Labs on plastics and waste (tbc)

Proposed ESBN collaboration on green economy

- **Zero plastic pledge campaign**
- **“White paper” on feasibility of carbon pricing, carbon markets, emissions trading schemes for ASEAN.** Members to help develop recommendations for governments
- **Joint research** on the price of plastic for publication/white paper
- **Participate in developing** Asia-Pacific “futures” scenarios
- **Champion the adoption of science-based carbon emission reduction targets**
- **Outreach to membership and wider network** to collaborate on the ASEAN Closing the Loop cities to support:
 - Development of investment strategies for plastic waste management infrastructure;
 - Join regional media campaign on local solutions to marine plastic litter; and
 - Scale remote sensing digital tools which detect ocean bound plastic waste in municipal waterways.

Increasing sustainable and inclusive finance

Recent and ongoing ESCAP work

- Pre-issuance work of sovereign bond and facilitating the launch of (green) sovereign bonds in Bhutan and others
- Regional cooperation through *Infrastructure Financing and PPP network of Asia and the Pacific* and the launch of *InfraPPPnet* web portal
- MSME financing studies in Samoa, Nepal
- Project on Catalyzing women entrepreneurship – supporting launch of a women’s bond, impact investment fund, and digital and fintech solutions for women entrepreneurs

Future ESCAP work

- MSME financing studies in Cambodia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong/Singapore
- Studies on digital finance and remittance
- Sustainability/green bonds guidelines
- Matchmaking of sustainable PPP projects/thematic capacity building

Increasing sustainable and inclusive finance

Recent ESNB activities

- Banking and finance taskforce paper on sustainable financing: *"Catalyst for Change: Sustainable finance developments across Asia Pacific"* (July 2020) <https://esbn.unescap.org/resources/catalyst-change-sustainable-finance-developments-across-asia-pacific>
- SME financing studies in Hong Kong and Singapore

Proposed ESNB roles

- Participate in peer review committee for the Research Challenge studies on Evidence-based Financial Solutions for Women Entrepreneurs
- Participate in *infrastructure financing and PPP network* and *InfraPPPnet* web portal and bring in suitable private sectors.
- Collaborate in providing advisory services on digital and green finance in AP countries

Advancing the digital economy



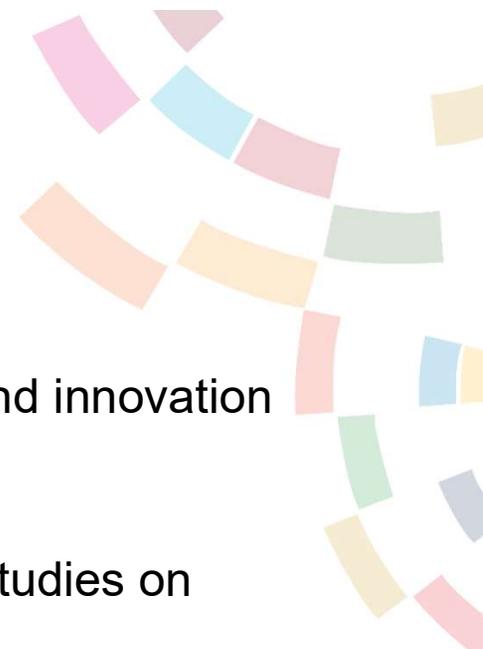
Recent and ongoing ESCAP work

- Development of STI policies in Myanmar and Cambodia.
- Women entrepreneurship - Supporting digital and fintech solutions for women entrepreneurs + Research challenge on “Evidence-based Financial Solutions for Women Entrepreneurs”.
- AI for Social Good
- Digital trade facilitation

Future ESCAP work

- Establishment of SDG Solutions Lab.
- Upcoming Challenge Fund: Women Enterprise Recovery Fund

Advancing the digital economy



Proposed ESN collaboration

- Bringing private sector perspectives to support government tech and innovation policy.
- Provide data to inform ESCAP policy research.
- Participate in peer review committee for the Research Challenge studies on “Evidence-based Financial Solutions for Women Entrepreneurs.”
- Promote the upcoming challenge: Women Enterprise Recovery Fund
- Potential mentoring for FinTech grantees supported by the challenge fund
- Partnership on the SDG Solutions Lab
- Advocate to your governments to join the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific

Thank you

