**MISSION OF THE APBF**

The Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) is the flagship regional business forum organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The APBF’s mission is to provide the best platform for continuous regional multi-stakeholder dialogue on the role and needs of business in achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable development.

**WHAT ESCAP CAN BRING**

With its 53 Member States plus nine associate members, ranging from least developed countries and small island developing states to countries with emerging market and advanced economies, ESCAP secretariat is the driving force behind APBF. Given its regional convening power, ESCAP has been and will continue to attract participants from governments, business, academia and civil society throughout the region. Results and recommendations from the APBF would be presented at intergovernmental meetings of ESCAP, such as the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and Commission sessions.

**ESBN – CONTINUING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUES**

Through the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN), ESCAP engages with representatives from the business sector and relevant organizations in addressing the issues of environment, sustainability and social inclusiveness in business in the region. ESBN acts as a force of change for businesses in the region through public-private partnerships and voices the perspectives of the business sector on inclusive, resilient and sustainable development issues. ESBN organizes a number of meetings and activities, such as multi-stakeholder’s dialogues and studies on emerging issues, in between and building upon the APBF sessions. In collaboration with the public authority, one of ESBN’s main objectives is to create an enabling policy and regulatory environment for the adoption and implementation of corporate sustainability.

**APBF – THE HISTORY**

The APBF was first organized in 2004 in Shanghai, where it attracted over 2,000 participants. Over the course of over 15 years, the annual Forum was hosted in such diverse locations such as Almaty, Colombo, Dhaka, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Kunming; Hong Kong, China, Port Moresby, and of course, Bangkok.

**UPCOMING: APBF 2020**

The next APBF will be hosted virtually on 30 October 2020, under the theme of “The Future of Global Value Chains and Implications for SMEs”. It will be organized by ESCAP in cooperation with the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN).

For more information and past sessions:  
http://apbf.unescap.org/