



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Newsletter: February 2024

Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

The ESNB Executive Council adopted the Green Deal for Business at its 7th Meeting in May 2022. The Green Deal for Business was officially launched at the Asia Pacific Business Forum held 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 ESNB interest

20-23 February 2024: [Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2024 and Side Events](#)

The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) is an annual, inclusive intergovernmental forum to support follow-up and review of progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional level. The 11th APFSD will be organized from 20-23 February under the theme: “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific” at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand.



15-23 February 2024: [APFSD11: Associated and Pre-Events](#)

Associated and pre-events take place on the week before and on the week of the 11th APFSD. These events complement the main programme by providing additional space for Member States, UN agencies, civil society, youth, and other stakeholders to convene and discuss topics relevant to the Asia-Pacific region. Major pre-events include the annual **APFSD Youth Forum** and **Peoples' Forum**, which serve as inclusive preparatory meetings for the APFSD and [the Youth Climathon](#), an opportunity for young people from the Asia-Pacific region to develop innovative solutions for the acceleration of climate action. Other pre-events include a meeting on "New frontiers on social protection in a changing world" on 19. February, which will be jointly hosted by ESCAP and the Issue-based Coalition on Inclusive Economic Growth and Recovery and elaborate on challenges and opportunities in building comprehensive social protection systems in the context of megatrends.

For in-person events, please register by February 6th at: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007683/>

For virtual events, respective registration details can be found under the Programme tab.

Additional details and concept notes can be found under the Documents tab.

Recently concluded

31 January 2024: [Official Launch of the Strategy to Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Businesses to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Sri Lanka](#)

On 31 January, the Government of Sri Lanka launched its *Strategy to Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Businesses to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*. The Strategy was designed by the Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and United Nations Sri Lanka, to serve as a strategic roadmap for a strong and dynamic ecosystem where inclusive and sustainable businesses can not only emerge but thrive.

2 Feb 2024: [Stakeholder Consultation Workshop: Climate Risks to the Financial Sector](#)

Climate change can pose significant risks to the banking and financial system, making it essential to measure its impact and manage risks effectively. The Bank of Mongolia (BoM) aims to introduce sustainable financing principles, identify, and assess climate change risks, and strengthen the financial system's resilience. ESCAP is working with BoM, with financing support from the NDC Partnership, to conduct research to assess climate risks and their potential impact on the financial system by engaging with financial sector participants, evaluating their perceptions of risks, and identifying key challenges.

Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

6-27 February 2024: [United Nations E-learning Course on Blockchain in Trade Facilitation](#)

This is a course about the pivotal role that blockchain is having and will have in trade facilitation. Discover how this technology, alongside digitalization and automation, optimizes supply chain efficiency. The course will be offered in English and is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how blockchain is reshaping global trade. With self-paced activities and live webinars with experts, the total duration is approximately 10 hours. This course is part of the UN project "Blockchains for facilitating trade and enhancing competitiveness". It is the result of an effort across several UN agencies. UNCTAD has developed it with support from the UN regional commissions for Africa (ECA), Europe (ECE), Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Western Asia (ESCWA). For more details and enrollment: <https://lnkd.in/d5XwcrRe>

15 February 2024: **Inclusive Business in Agriculture and Food Systems Telangana Workshop**

Invest India and ESCAP, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, are exploring ways to promote inclusive business models in India, particularly in Telangana and Haryana. Currently, a Landscape Study of Inclusive Business is underway. Twenty inclusive businesses are receiving coaching services, and various forums are being organized to raise awareness and facilitate connections between businesses, investors, and support

organizations. The "Inclusive Business in Agriculture and Food Systems Telangana Workshop" is organized by the Telangana State Food Processing Society, in collaboration with the Telangana State Government, Invest India, and ESCAP, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It will provide an opportunity for sharing experiences and best practices, aiming to identify concrete actions that can contribute to the development of inclusive business models in Telangana and beyond.

15 February 2024: [Launch of the Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2024](#)

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

LAUNCH OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC SDG PROGRESS REPORT 2024
Showcasing Transformative Actions

15 February 2024
11:00 - 12:00 hrs (UTC +7)

Foreign Correspondent's Club of Thailand, Bangkok and Online via Zoom

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC SDG PROGRESS REPORT 2024

SPEAKERS:

ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

RACHAEL BEAVEN
Director, Statistics Division ESCAP

- As of 2024, how has the Asia-Pacific region progressed for each of the 17 SDGs?
- How does sex, age, and income influence the chances of being left behind?
- Are there examples of evidence-based actions taken to achieve the SDGs?

REGISTER HERE:
https://bit.ly/register_SDG2024

LAUNCH WEBSITE:
<https://bit.ly/Launch-AP-SDG-Report2024>

MODERATOR:
MITCHELL HSIEH
Chief
Communications and Knowledge Management Section, ESCAP

19 February-1 March 2024: [Optimizing trade agreement text analysis: How to use ESCAP's Trade Agreement Text Analysis Tool](#)

The number and complexity of trade agreements has boomed. In addition to traditional trade-related provisions, there is a proliferation of provisions addressing other issues, which do not necessarily directly regulate trade, yet have a significant impact on it. In this context, ESCAP developed a web-based tool that allows users to efficiently map topics or provisions in texts of trade agreements. Currently, there are 463 trade agreements in the searchable database, including 237 involving at least one economy from the Asia-Pacific Region. The algorithm is based on detection of keyword combinations in the articles of trade agreements. It allows to accommodate for the variability of the natural language, as well as to map multiple categorized provisions or topics. As the final output, it generates datasets (spreadsheet format) that can be used in quantitative research or to create insightful visualizations. The objective of this course is to teach how to use the online tool so that researchers can make the best use of what it has to offer by conducting automated text analysis and generating quantitative datasets.

1-5 April 2024: [Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2024](#)

The Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) is the leading regional platform for the exchange of good practices and knowledge on trade facilitation. The APTFF has been organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in cooperation with a growing number of partners, since 2009. The Forum attracts over 250 participants from over 30 countries, and offers extensive opportunities for capacity building and cooperation. The 11th APTFF is co-organized by ADB and ESCAP with the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade of Uzbekistan, and will be held in Samarkand on 1-5 April 2024.

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

[Business licensing in Samoa : a review of the business license process from the perspective of women entrepreneurs \(26 January 2024\)](#)

[Voluntary national review brief : Samoa MICS 2019 \(15 January 2024\)](#)

[Voluntary national review brief : Fiji MICS 2021 \(15 January 2024\)](#)

[Manual for inclusive business accreditation in Viet Nam \(11 January 2024\)](#)

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