



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

## ESBN Monthly Update: August 2023

### Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

The ESNB Executive Council adopted the Green Deal for Business at its 7<sup>th</sup> 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

*1 November 2023:* [Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business Roundtable: Building smart, low carbon, climate-resilient infrastructure in developing countries](#)

The upcoming Roundtable will provide a forum for discussing the challenges of developing sustainable infrastructure in LDCs and LLDCs. The meeting will be held as part of the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business initiative, which seeks to promote a green transformation of the economy for the well-being of all people in the region. The meeting will focus on the infrastructure pillar of the Green Deal and will gather representatives from LDCs, LLDCs, experts in public-private partnerships, and major private sector stakeholders. The objective is to develop some recommendations and mutual understanding on how the private sector can work with public sector entities to deliver the sustainable infrastructure necessary for a green transformation. By engaging multiple stakeholders, the meeting aims to leverage the unique strengths of both sectors creating green and climate-resilient infrastructure for sustainable growth.

### Recently Concluded

*12-13 July 2023:* [Ninth Meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships \(PPP\) Network of Asia and the Pacific](#)

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) co-organized the "Ninth Meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific". The primary objective of this meeting is to foster investment in sustainable infrastructure development across the Asia and Pacific region by leveraging effective infrastructure financing and PPP mechanisms. ESCAP remains committed to facilitating its member states in promoting sustainable infrastructure development within our region, thereby accelerating progress towards the SDGs and attaining the 2030 Agenda. Against this backdrop, this meeting will serve as a valuable platform for governments to showcase their infrastructure projects that are financially viable and align seamlessly with the SDGs.



## Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

### [9-10 August 2023: Regional Meeting on “Enhancing energy efficiency of the freight transport sector in Asia and the Pacific”](#)

ESCAP secretariat is currently undertaking a study project on “Enhancing energy efficiency of the freight transport sector in Asia and the Pacific”. The study aims to enhance the capacity of policymakers and other stakeholders in ESCAP region to formulate and implement effective policies and plans to promote energy-efficient future for freight transport sector, notably road transport in achieving SDGs 7, 9 and 11. This Regional Meeting is organized to present and discuss the final study findings of the project.

### [15 August 2023: ADB-ESCAP seminar on the Survey 2023 | Rethinking Public Debt for the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Rising government debt levels, higher financing costs and uncertain economic outlook mean that the risk of public debt distress in Asia and the Pacific remains elevated. Against this background, the ESCAP Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2023 examines new perspectives on fiscal and public debt analyses and policies that help the region effectively pursue the SDGs. Meanwhile, a recent working paper by a staff of the ADB's Economic Research and Development Impact Department finds evidence of widening pockets of sovereign debt vulnerability in Asia and the Pacific. This ADB-ESCAP seminar on the Survey 2023 is jointly organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) to promote knowledge sharing and policy discussion.

*16-17 August 2023: [Feminist Finance Forum](#)*

ESCAP is hosting the Feminist Finance Forum in Bangkok, Thailand from 16-17 August 2023. The in-person Forum will convene women entrepreneurs, investors, financial service providers, policymakers, thought leaders, ecosystem enablers, representatives from civil society and women grassroots organisations, and academia. The interactive event will include a diverse mix of plenaries, concurrent sessions, as well as side-events and networking spaces. The Forum will allow participants to:

- Expand their networks of women entrepreneurs, investors, financial service providers, policymakers, and other ecosystem actors.
- Learn from and share experiences, tools and opportunities for improving gender-responsive financing in Asia and the Pacific with leaders in this field.
- Contribute to tangible outcomes, meaningful actions, and a regional vision for closing the gender finance gap in Asia and the Pacific.

The objective of the Forum is to foster meaningful dialogue and generate concrete action towards closing the gender-finance gap in Asia and the Pacific.

Attendance at the forum is by invitation only. However, expressions of interest in participation, particularly from financial service providers and investors in the region, are welcome. To learn more, please contact Ms. Mara Favis (email: [mara@tandemic.com](mailto:mara@tandemic.com)).

*23 August 2023: [Inclusive Business in Agriculture and Food Systems Regional Investment Forum](#)*

United Nations ESCAP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs of Indonesia and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will co-organize the Regional Investment Forum on Inclusive Business in Agriculture and Food Systems on August 23rd, 2023, in Bali, Indonesia. The event will be organized back-to-back with the 6th ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit, which is being held in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia, the ASEAN Secretariat, United Nations ESCAP, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

*23-25 August 2023: [Sixth ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit](#)*

The Sixth ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit will be organised by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat, the United Nations ESCAP, and, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) from 23 to 25 August 2023, Bali, Indonesia. The Summit will focus on three main activities, namely a High-Level Ministers Meeting overseeing MSME, economic, and investment development. multi-stakeholder dialogues on the promotion of IB practices, MSMEs Business and Financial Matching, and IB Showcase and Site Visit in Bali, Indonesia. To advance the promotion, adoption, and implementation of IB in ASEAN, the Sixth ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit commissions dialogue to explore opportunities to prepare an enabling environment to incentivise businesses for a sustainable future, such as through the establishing the ASEAN IB Acceleration Programme to support and finance inclusive business models. For more information, visit the [ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit](#) webpage. In alignment with the Summit, ESCAP has initiated a campaign where interested investors, businesses, and development partners can pledge their commitments and willingness to support inclusive business endeavors. Pledges may be submitted until August 15th, using the designated [form](#).

*28 August-11 September 2023:* [ESCAP, UNEP & UNCTAD Course on Climate-smart Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development](#)

While globalization has lifted billions of people out of poverty in the Asia-Pacific region alone, the economic growth supported by existing trade and investment policies has come at a steep environmental cost. The latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change unequivocally concludes that a human-made climate crisis is unfolding and that we are on the verge of a tipping point. All possible avenues need to be considered in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including in the policies governing trade and investment. The links between trade, investment and climate change are complex. The key is to ensure that the positive effects of trade and investment are maximized, such as by promoting trade and investment in renewable energy and low-carbon technologies, while minimizing the adverse effects, such as by digitalizing trade and transport systems. As such, this course seeks to explain the relationship between climate-change and trade and investment, and provide recommendations on how trade and investment policies can be more “climate-smart”.

*29 August 2023:* [3rd International Forum on Low Carbon Cities: City-led climate actions in North-East Asia](#)

The 3rd International Forum on Low-Carbon Cities will be jointly organized by ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office and Incheon Metropolitan City on 29 August 2023 during the Korea Global Adaptation Week, in collaboration with Green Climate Fund, Incheon Carbon Neutrality Center, ICLEI, innovative Green Development Program, CityNet, Climate Change Center and Local Government Association for Climate and Energy Transition. The Forum is expected to facilitate information sharing and strengthen partnership and peer-learning among cities and city networks in North-East Asia and beyond, by bringing together local governments, international and regional organizations, national and regional city networks and various stakeholders.

*2 September 2023:* [ASEAN Investment Forum](#)

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic upended Southeast Asia’s long period of economic growth and consequently affected the capacity of ASEAN Member States (AMS) to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Achieving the SDGs is still possible for the region, however, it will require a significant upswing in private investment. The ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF), ASEAN’s consolidated exit strategy from the crisis, recognizes that properly managed and implemented sustainable investment will improve economic and social resilience to future shocks, this includes foreign direct invest (FDI). Thus, the ability to continue attracting and retaining investments is crucial not just for generating revenue, but for the continued recovery of ASEAN. Each of AMS may have different priorities toward the SDGs contingent to their level of development. Nevertheless, it is essential that the investments that ASEAN attracts going forward have maximum sustainable development impact so that ASEAN countries can get back on track to achieving the SDGs. It is against this backdrop that UN ESCAP, together with the ASEAN Secretariat, the Ministry of Investment of Indonesia and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies are organizing this Investment Forum. The goal of Forum is to feature current investment opportunities in ASEAN to foreign direct investors that will contribute to inclusive and sustainable development.

*9 September 2023:* [Asia Pacific Innovation Forum on Boosting FDI into the Digital Economy, Xiamen China](#)

The Asia-Pacific Innovation Forum will bring together investment promotion agencies and investors to discuss investment opportunities and investor priorities in the digital economy. The Forum will take part



as a special thematic forum during the China International Fair for Investment & Trade from 8-11 September, 2023. More information on the Forum can be found here:

<https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/united-nations-asia-pacific-innovation-forum-boosting-foreign-direct-investment-digital>. Register [here](#).

**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

[Seizing the moment : targeting transformative disaster risk resilience \(25 July 2023\)](#)

[Feasibility study on cross-border electronic exchange of trade data : data harmonization and exchange mechanism – NEPAL \(25 July 2023\)](#)

[Quick guide and compendium on designing and retrofitting inclusive parks \(14 July 2023\)](#)

[Harmonization of national laws with the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities : national case study \(Various Countries\)](#)

[Vanuatu Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin - Post Disaster Needs Assessment \(02 July 2023\)](#)

[User guide for Legal TINA \(01 July 2023\)](#)

[National policy framework for electric mobility development in Cambodia \(01 July 2023\)](#)

[Planning safe, sustainable, resilient, and inclusive public transport in Ulaanbaatar \(01 July 2023\)](#)

[A comprehensive public transport and mass transit plan for Kathmandu valley \(01 July 2023\)](#)

[Shah Alam sustainable urban transport index \(01 July 2023\)](#)

[Electrification of public transport fleet in Georgia \(01 July 2023\)](#)

### 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](mailto:esbn@un.org)

Best regards,

ESBN Secretariat