



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update: January 2024

Happy New Year! The Secretariat wishes ESNB members, colleagues, and friends a healthy, prosperous, and sustainable journey in the year 2024. We look forward to collaborating with you in driving climate action for a greener, more sustainable and resilient Asia Pacific.

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](#)

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.



Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

16 January – 6 February 2024: [Online Course on Mainstreaming Sustainable Development in Regional Trade Agreements](#)

Co-organized by United Nations ESCAP, ECA, and CITD (Georgetown Law). Sustainable development issues are increasingly mainstreamed in trade agreements. As the inclusion of sustainable and inclusive development provisions becomes more systematic, it will be important that the new provisions meet the needs of both developed and developing trade partners to ensure a real impact on advancing the implementation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). This course is designed to build the capacity of trade negotiators and policy makers to design and negotiate sustainable development provisions appropriate to specific situations of different economies. It covers 5 key topics of trade and sustainable development: MSMEs, Gender, Environment, Labour and Investment.

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

[Asia-Pacific population and development report 2023 \(31 December 2023\)](#)

[Towards a harmonized disability data system \(18 December 2023\)](#)

[Readiness to implement the action plan to strengthen regional cooperation on social protection : Georgia \(15 December 2023\)](#)

[Preferential trade agreements trends and developments in Asia and the Pacific 2023/2024 \(15 December 2023\)](#)

[Trade in Goods and Services Outlook in Asia and the Pacific \(15 December 2023\)](#)

[Foreign direct investment trends and outlook in Asia and the Pacific 2023/2024 \(15 December 2023\)](#)

[Cleaner fuel transition in Mongolia's heat supply system \(14 December 2023\)](#)

[Regional Road map to support regional cooperation for the wider deployment of sustainable smart transport systems in Asia and the Pacific \(14 December 2023\)](#)

[Policy approaches to formalizing informal employment in the formal sector in Asia and the Pacific and Latin America \(14 December 2023\)](#)

[G20 compendium on investment promotion, attraction and facilitation for sustainable development : emerging G20 IPA strategy and best practice \(13 December 2023\)](#)

[Enhancing inclusive transport in Asia and the Pacific : a perspective from Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal \(06 December 2023\)](#)

[Disability at a glance 2023 : catalysts of change : disability inclusion in business in Asia and the Pacific \(06 December 2023\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2023/24 : unleashing digital trade and investment for sustainable development \(06 December 2023\)](#)

[Green power corridor for North-East Asia : a roadmap \(05 December 2023\)](#)

[An overview of goods and services trade patterns in Asia and the Pacific : a 2023 update \(01 December 2023\)](#)

[Inequality of opportunity in Asia and the Pacific : intimate partner violence against women-exploring shared circumstances behind higher prevalence in Asia and the Pacific \(01 December 2023\)](#)

[Accelerating the transition of public transport fleet \(01 December 2023\)](#)

[Transport and communications bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 93 : low carbon transport \(01 December 2023\)](#)

[Advancing regional land transport connectivity through intergovernmental mechanisms for regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific \(30 November 2023\)](#)

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

Best regards,

ESBN Secretariat