



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update: May 2023

Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

The ESNB Executive Council adopted the Green Deal for Business at its 7th Meeting in May 2022. A soft launch of the Green Deal was held during the Asia Pacific Business Forum 2022 at the United Nations Conference Centre 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

15-19 May 2023: [79th session of the Commission](#)

The seventy-ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will be held in from 15 to 19 May 2023 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. Guided by the theme “Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development”, the annual session will be an opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation on climate change. The session will bring together Government leaders from across Asia and the Pacific and other key stakeholders to discuss policy options and areas of regional cooperation required to accelerate climate action in the region and beyond. With dedicated discussions on catalysing climate finance and investments, complemented by a climate solutions fair, the session will allow identifying opportunities, sharing solutions and facilitate engagement of a broad set of partners and stakeholders, to both reduce the risks and impacts of climate change and foster ambitious climate action in Asia and the Pacific towards net-zero pathways and limit global temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.



15 May 2023: [South-South Cooperation to include Youth Entrepreneurs in Green Transition](#)

A webinar focusing on 'South-South cooperation for including youth entrepreneurs in green transition' will be held on 15 May. Organized by UNDP and ESCAP, the event will be an opportunity to engage with young entrepreneurs, policy makers, private sector representatives and representatives of development agencies, drawing on insights from countries in Asia and Latin America. During a panel discussion, participants will reflect on barriers and solutions for designing inclusive policy ecosystems and south-south cooperation solutions for young entrepreneurs from diverse geographical, socio-economic backgrounds to effectively contribute effectively to a green transition. The event is the second webinar in a series being conducted by the Strategic Intelligence Hub on youth entrepreneurship. Those who wish to register their interest are invited to do so via the following link:

<https://undp.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0td-6urT4sGd21YY6ovH2PcoZs-coE7iM->



17 May 2023: [9th Meeting of the ESNB Executive Council](#)

The Executive Council of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) will meet on 17 May 2023. The meeting will discuss the realignment of the ESNB taskforces with the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business and related developments. The meeting will also review the preparations for the Asia Pacific Business Forum 2023.

17 May 2023: [Accelerating Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific for Sustainable Development – The ESNB Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business](#)

The side event is jointly organized by ESCAP, ESNB and UN Global Compact on the sidelines of the 79th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) which will be held from 15 to 19 May 2023 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. For registration, [CLICK](#).

ACCELERATING CLIMATE ACTION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

REGISTER HERE

THE ESNB ASIA-PACIFIC GREEN DEAL FOR BUSINESS

03:00 PM – 05:00 PM (GMT +7)
Wednesday, 17 MAY 2023

Register here:
<https://indico.un.org/event/1005094/>

Logos: ESCAP, ESNB, United Nations Global Compact, Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business.

5 June 2023: [SDG Innovation Leaders Forum](#)

Held in Singapore, the forum will bring together governments, startups, investors and ecosystem partners to mobilize resources and catalyze collaborations to achieve the SDGs and build a future of inclusive, sustainable development. presented by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Amazon Web Services (AWS), and supported by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) of Singapore, the Asian Development Bank, and the UNDP Global Centre for Technology, Innovation and Sustainable Development, to help enable effective public-private collaborations – among governments, startups, investors, and the innovation ecosystem, to solve pressing economic, social and environmental challenges of our time. The Forum is a by-invitation only event, but those wishing to express an interest in participating are invited to contact: [Tuan Nguyen](mailto:tuanis@amazon.com) at tuanis@amazon.com

SDG Innovation Leaders Forum

By Invitation Only

5 June 2023 (Monday) | 2:30pm – 6:30pm

Capella Singapore

Organized by: ESCAP, AWS

Hosted at: ATX SG

Supported by: UNDP, INFOCOMM MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Recently concluded

25 April 2023: [Opening green windows: Technological opportunities for a low-carbon world Perspectives from Asia and the Pacific](#)

A webinar on Opening green windows: Technological opportunities for a low-carbon world- Perspectives from Asia and the Pacific, organized by ESCAP and UNCTAD on 25 April 2023, brought together around 90 participants. During the event, ESCAP presented key findings from its report on Enabling the Green Transition of Business, providing an overview of key policy measures in 10 Asian and Latin American countries. Findings from UNCTAD's Technology and Innovation Report 2023 were also presented during the event, and expert panellists shared insights on ESCAP's technical assistance to Bhutan in developing an FDI strategy to boost investment in Green Technology, ongoing national efforts to balance growth and environmental protection in Bangladesh, and opportunities and challenges in the tech climate eco system in South East Asia.

Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

8 May-15 June 2023: [Bilingual Course \(French, English\) on Negotiating Regional Trade Agreements for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic](#)

This course, co-organized by ESCAP and ECA, and it aims to build the capacity of stakeholders on developing trade agreements that can promote greater preparedness and resilience of parties when faced with future pandemics and crises, especially for French-speaking countries in Africa.

24 May 2023: [An Introduction to Leaving No One Behind \(LNOB\) Analysis for India](#)

Leaving no one behind (LNOB) is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. To support governments and the United Nations system in the Asia-Pacific region, ESCAP has developed a user-friendly diagnostic tool called [Leave No One Behind \(LNOB\) platform](#). The tool is used to improve the understanding of how various circumstances intersect and create inequalities in access to basic opportunities covered by the Sustainable Development Goals. Building on empirical methodologies such as Classification and Regress Trees (CART) and the Dissimilarity index (D-index), it uses data and statistics at national and subnational levels to identify groups left furthest behind and the circumstances they share. In this introductory training we will cover how the ESCAP tool works and can be used to strengthen policy interventions for a more equal and inclusive Asia-Pacific region. Each training is customized to the country where it is being delivered.

24 May 2023: [Launch of the Guide on Using R for Calculating Trade Indices and Indicators](#)

This Guide is designed to introduce participants to using R to calculate trade indices and indicators that are most commonly used when implementing international trade and trade policy analysis. It focuses on providing brief descriptions of the discussed indices and indicators, including their definitions and formulas, typical data sources and provides examples of R code that can be used to both implement calculations, and visualize the results.

25-26 May 2023: [ESCAP Technical R Training for LNOB Analysis in India](#)

In this technical R training, ESCAP will take participants through the inner workings of its LNOB platform, using the statistical R code that prepares, analyzes and produces evidence on 16 SDG indicators based on the India Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) from 2020. In addition to replicating the results hosted

in LNOB platform, participants will also learn how to operationalize the LNOB methodology on indicators other than 16 SDG indicators currently available on the platform. Equipped with this knowledge, participants can then analyze other nationally representative household surveys.

30-31 May 2023: [2023 Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Sustainable Maritime Connectivity](#)

The 2023 edition of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Sustainable Maritime Connectivity will be held in Bangkok, Thailand and online on 30-31 May 2023. The event will bring together experts from member countries and relevant organizations to engage on a wider array of issues relevant for strengthening and enhancing maritime connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, with a particular focus on Southeast Asia. Interested participants are kindly invited to [register](#) by **22 May 2023**.

5-7 June 2023: [Third Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics](#)

The Third Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics will be held between Monday 5th to Wednesday 7th June 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand in hybrid format.

6-7 June 2023: [2nd Asia Pacific Regulatory Forum for Power System Connectivity](#)

At the 77th Commission Session in 2021, UN ESCAP Member States endorsed the regional road map on power system connectivity.¹ Among the nine strategies contained in this document is one that highlights regulatory harmonization as key to supporting sustainable power system integration across the region. Specifically:

- Strategy 4: coordinate, harmonize and institutionalize policy and regulatory frameworks

ESCAP convened the first Forum in July 2022. The second Forum will follow up on the success of the first Forum. The Forum will invite energy regulators, representatives from government agencies, and other relevant stakeholders from ESCAP member States to share experiences supporting efforts to increase cross-border power sector connectivity and the energy transition more broadly. Speakers from outside the region will also be invited to provide their perspectives on relevant regulatory challenges and how to overcome them, with a special focus on roles for energy regulators in regional collaboration.

7-8 June 2023: [Expert Group Meeting on Vienna Programme of Action Subregional Review in North and Central Asia](#)

The 2023 Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the VPoA Review in North and Central Asia will review progress, gaps, and challenges and examine key action areas in transport and energy connectivity and trade facilitation. The EGM shall facilitate the exchange of expert opinions, best practices, and lessons learned to accelerate progress towards long-term transformation for LLDCs. The outcome of this subregional review will provide inputs to the Euro-Asian Final Review of the Vienna Programme of Action in Bangkok, Thailand, in August 2023 and, in turn, to the Third UN Conference on LLDCs in 2024.

9 June 2023: [Workshop on Leveraging the Public and Private Investment to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in North and Central Asia](#)

ESCAP is organizing a workshop to enhance policymakers' knowledge on opportunities to access and scale up public and private sources of financing in line with the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) priority areas. The workshop will place particular emphasis on financing regional connectivity and sustainable infrastructure investment in the sub-region. Through the exchange of experiences and good practices from policymakers and experts, the workshop will contribute to a better understanding of the subregion's opportunities to unlock more and diverse investments for the next global programme of action on LLDCs. Discussions will also highlight the importance of

engagement with various stakeholders, including governments, international financial institutions, and the private sector, in addressing emerging challenges and seizing the opportunities offered by innovative and sustainable finance for LLDCs.

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

[Strengthening the national statistical capacity to implement data integration approaches : pilot project in Nepal 2022-23 \(20 April 2023\)](#)

[Pacific internet exchange point : internet service providers online survey \(19 April 2023\)](#)

[Air pollution and management : a brief introduction \(14 April 2023\)](#)

[Handbook on provisions and options for inclusive and sustainable development in trade agreements \(13 April 2023\)](#)

[Addressing public debt challenges to effectively pursue the SDGs : regional perspectives \(10 April 2023\)](#)

[The race to net zero : accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific \(07 April 2023\)](#)

[Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2023: Rethinking Public Debt for the Sustainable Development Goals \(05 April 2023\)](#)

[Accelerating the energy transition through transnational power system connectivity : recommendations for the G20 energy transitions working group \(02 April 2023\)](#)

[PUBLIC DEBT DASHBOARD \(01 April 2023\)](#)

[Compendium of multi-hazard early warning cooperation \(30 March 2023\)](#)

[Building the Central Asia drought information system in Kyrgyzstan : progress and the way forward : feasibility study \(30 March 2023\)](#)

[Implications of the energy transition on sustainable critical minerals development : aligning extractive industries with the sustainable development goals \(29 March 2023\)](#)

[Collaboration opportunities for science, technology and innovation in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam \(28 March 2023\)](#)

[Delivering on the sustainable development goals through solutions at the energy, food and finance nexus \(27 March 2023\)](#)

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