



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update: November 2023

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

15-17 November 2023: [Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference](#)

ESCAP in collaboration with UNFPA is organizing the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference from 15 to 17 November in Bangkok and online. The Conference is a statutory organ of ESCAP and convenes every ten years. The Conference will provide an opportunity for member States, CSOs, UN entities and the private sector to review the implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the region. The outcome of the meeting will inform the 30-year global review of the Programme of Action in the Commission on Population Development in 2024.

21 November 2023: **Executive Council, 10th Meeting**

The Executive Council of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) will meet on 21 November in Hong Kong. The meeting will review the work of the ESNB Task Force and the progress in implementing the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business. The meeting will also review preparations for Asia-Pacific Business Forum that will be held in 2024.

22-23 November 2023: [Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2023](#)

ESCAP together with the Hong Kong Environment and Ecology and the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) will jointly organize the APBF 2023 in Hong Kong. The theme of APBF 2023 is “*An Asia Pacific Green Deal for Business: Driving the Green transformation*” Under this theme, participants of the APBF 2023 will have the opportunity to discuss the role of business in driving the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business. The Forum will showcase current and future business opportunities in the Pacific and allow participants an opportunity to hear and meet key decision makers, business leaders and emerging entrepreneurs committed to sustainable development across the Asia and Pacific region.

ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM (APBF) 2023

"An Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business: Driving the Green Transformation"

22 -23 November 2023
Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Organised by: **ESCAP** (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), **E S B N** (ESCAP Sustainable Business Network), **A P B F** (Asia-Pacific Business Forum)

Supported by: **Environment and Ecology Bureau**, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

Recently Concluded

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

The Roundtable was held on 1 November 2023 in Vientiane, Lao PDR with the support of the Investment Promotion Department, Ministry of Planning and Investment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. It provided a forum for discussing the challenges of developing sustainable infrastructure in LDCs and LLDCs. The meeting was 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 focused on the infrastructure pillar of the Green Deal and gathered 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.



Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

7 November 2023: [Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series: Measuring E-commerce and CPI On-line Price Collection](#)

This Stats Café co-organized by Vital Strategies, aimed to familiarize participants with the technical guidance recently developed by Vital Strategies and other partners for Strengthening the Vital Statistics Production Process. This Technical Guidance follows a process-centric and scientific approach to the assessment, analysis and redesign of vital statistics systems for improved collection, production and dissemination of quality and timely vital statistics.

7-9 November 2023: [Investment Promotion and Attraction for Sustainable Development Workshops](#)

ESCAP will be offering a targeted capacity building seminar for investment promotion agencies (IPAs) over 2 ½ days in November 2023. The programme will consist of two parts:

Part I (November 7): A facilitated dialogue between Asia-Pacific IPAs and Latin American IPAs to promote knowledge and experience sharing on investment promotion and attraction for sustainable development. This dialogue is a part of a larger project that ESCAP is working on to promote South-South Cooperation between Asia-Pacific and Latin America. It will also be the first of several more planned dialogues between IPAs in the two regions. This will be an invitation only dialogue for a select group of IPAs from both regions.

Part II (November 8-9): A 2-day investment promotion and attraction workshop focused on providing practical tools and techniques for IPAs to proactively attract investment in light of global investment and industry trends. The workshop will also address how IPAs can contribute to greater gender equality through the FDI they attract, how to create investible projects, and target FDI in digital economy. The training will include short exercises, polls and structured discussions to enable interaction among participants. Sessions will include examples from other IPAs around the world.

20-22 November 2023: [7th North-East Asia Multistakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development 2023](#)

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. The sessions of the 7th North-East Asia Multistakeholder Forum on SDGs will discuss on themes in line with the goals in focus for 2023; no poverty (SDG1), zero hunger (SDG2), climate action (SDG13), peace, justice and strong institution (SDG16). Also, there are dedicated sessions to highlight countries' national progress in their SDG implementation and voluntary national reviews (as applicable) as well as on revitalizing partnerships for sustainable development (SDG17).

24-29 November 2023: [ESCAP-IDE Workshop on Trade and SDGs, 2023](#)

The objective of this workshop is to enhance the general public and policymakers' understanding of the relationship between trade and SDGs. It gives a broad perspective on trade's enabling and disabling roles in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

6 December 2023: [Asia-Pacific Commemoration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

This year's Asia-Pacific Commemoration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, organized by ESCAP, will focus on promoting disability-inclusive business. The Commemoration will take place on 6 December from 13:00-15:30 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. Business has a pivotal role to play in accelerating disability-inclusive development through practising inclusion and ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities in all aspects of the business value chain. Implementing disability-inclusive policies can also reap multifaceted benefits for businesses. The Commemoration will feature a

panel and plenary discussion on disability-inclusive business and the screening of several of the short films from the Focus on Ability short film festival, a yearly festival created by NOVA Employment. At this event, ESCAP will also launch the publication *Disability at a Glance 2023: Catalysts of Change: Disability Inclusion in Business in Asia and the Pacific*.

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

[The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities 2023: Crisis Resilient Urban Futures \(23 October 2023\)](#)

[Advancing gender equality in Asia and the Pacific in the context of climate change \(20 October 2023\)](#)

[Phasing-Down the use of coal in Pakistan \(16 October 2023\)](#)

[Phasing out the use of coal-fired power in South and South-East Asia \(16 October 2023\)](#)

[Leaving no one behind : Nepal country brief \(06 October 2023\)](#)

[Closing the gap for SDG 7 in the Asia-Pacific Region \(04 October 2023\)](#)

[Leaving no one behind : Afghanistan country brief \(04 October 2023\)](#)

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