

“Driving Growth and Sustainability through Business”

TWELFTH SESSION
1-3 November 2015 | Bangkok | Thailand

Overview:

The Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) is the flagship regional business forum organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). With its 53 Member States plus nine Associate Members, ranging from least developed and Pacific Island countries, to countries with emerging markets, to major developed economies, ESCAP secretariat as well as ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC) and Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) are the driving forces behind APBF.

APBF's mission is to provide an effective platform for regional public-private sector dialogue on the role and needs of business in achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable development. APBF was first launched in 2004 in Shanghai, where it attracted over 2,000 participants from business, government, academia and civil society from across the region. Over the course of one decade, it has helped form a pan-Asian multi-stakeholder network, and has been hosted in various locations, such as Almaty, Bangkok, Colombo, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and Kunming.

This year, APBF 2015 will hold its twelfth session in its hometown of Bangkok, Thailand, under the theme “Driving Growth and Sustainability through Business.” Organized by ESCAP, in collaboration with EBAC, ESBN, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB) of Thailand, the Trade and Industry Association of Singapore (TIAS), the International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICCB), the Pacific Islands Trade and Invest, the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC), the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand (JFCCT), the Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum (GMS-BF), the Mekong Institute, The Asia Foundation and the International Business Council of Sri Lanka, it will once again provide a space for meaningful public-private dialogue.

APBF 2015 Objectives:

To identify the challenges and discover the most promising opportunities for enhancing regional business connectivity, investment and partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region, in particular within the context of achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in the region, the programme is designed to:

- Examine region-wide business conditions and perspectives in a dynamic and ever-changing environment.
- Discuss new and innovative ways to enhance access to financing in the region.
- Examine the challenges and opportunities to promote regional trade and transport facilitation.
- Strengthen the regional business community to meet the challenges of increased competition, the need for corporate sustainability, the complexities of the regulatory environment and the post-2015 development agenda.
- Promote the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through technology and innovation development.
- Encourage cooperation between governments and business to achieve a better sustainable business and investment climate at the national, subregional and regional levels.
- Discuss the relevant international tools, instruments and facilities aimed at increasing the adoption of international principles of responsible business conduct and the role of business in disaster risk reduction.

APBF website: <http://apbf.unescap.org>

EBAC website: <http://ebac.unescap.org/>

Sunday, 1 November 2015

Pre-Forum Events

Venue: *C-asean*

	<p align="center">ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) Task Force Meetings (by invitation only)</p>
09:00 – 12:00	<p align="center">MSMEs Task Force Headed by: Dr. Sailendra Narain</p>
10:00 – 17:00	<p align="center">Joint meeting of Task Force on Digital Economy & Task Force on Green Business Co-headed by: Prof. Barbara Meynert & Carson Wen</p>
10:00 – 17:00 (Date changed)	<p align="center">Disaster Risk Reduction Task Force Headed by: Asif Ibrahim (This meeting was decided to be held on 27 October 2015 at ESCAP back to back with the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction.)</p>
10:00 – 17:00	<p align="center">Innovation and Competitiveness Task Force Headed by: Akash Bhavsar</p>
10:00 – 17:00	<p align="center">Trade and Transport Facilitation Task Force Headed by: Tariq Rangoonwala</p>
13:00 – 17:00	<p align="center">Special Event of the MSMEs Task Force: Networking and Capacity Building of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in South and South-East Asia Moderated by Muhammad Iqbal Tabish, <i>Secretary-General, SAARC CCI</i>, and Masato Abe, <i>Economic Affairs Officer, Business and Development Section, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP</i></p>
17:00 – 19:00	<p align="center">EBAC/ESBN Welcome Reception at C-asean (by invitation only) Hosted by Thapana Sirivadhanabhakdi <i>President and CEO, Thai Beverage Public Limited Company</i></p>

Monday, 2 November 2015 (morning and afternoon)**Pre-Forum Events***Venue: Royal Princess Hotel (tbc)*

07:00 – 08:30	Pacific Task Force meeting (by invitation only) Co-headed by: Nitij Pal and Michael Greenslade
------------------	---

Venue: Conference Room 4, United Nations Conference Centre

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 12:00	First Meeting of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) (by invitation only)
12:00 – 13:30	Joint lunch of EBAC, ESNB and STI experts (by invitation only) Hosted and Welcome Remarks by Mahbubur Rahman <i>Chairman & CEO, ETBL Holdings Limited, and President of International Chamber of Commerce – Bangladesh (ICCB)</i> <i>Reception Hall, Ground Floor, United Nations Conference Centre</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Tenth Meeting of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC) A joint session with STI experts (by invitation only)

Monday, 2 November 2015 (evening)**Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2015 (day 1)***Venue: Reception Hall, Ground Floor, United Nations Conference Centre*

17:00 – 18:00	Registration and Cocktail
---------------	---------------------------

18:00–18:30	<p>Welcome Remarks from Cooperating Agency</p> <p>Isara Vongkusolkrit <i>Chairman, the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB) of Thailand</i></p> <p>Special Address on</p> <p>“Nepal Earthquake 2015: Rebuilding a Shattered Nation”</p> <p>Nirvana Chaudhary <i>Managing Director, Chaudhary Group, Nepal</i></p> <p>Launching of <i>Resilient Business for Resilient Nations and Communities</i></p> <p>Photo Session</p>
18:30– 20:30	<p>Gala Dinner</p> <p>Welcomed by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar <i>Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP</i></p> <p><i>Hosted by the Trade and Industry Association of Singapore (TIAS)</i></p>

Tuesday, 3 November 2015

Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2015 (day 2)

Venue: Conference Room 3, United Nations Conference Centre

08:00 –0 9:00	<p>REGISTRATION</p> <p><i>at Registration Counter, Ground Floor, United Nations Conference Centre</i></p>
09:00 –09:45	<p>OPENING SESSION</p> <p>Introduction to APBF 2015: Dr. Susan F. Stone <i>Director, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP</i></p> <p>Welcome Statement: Thapana Sirivadhanabhakdi <i>President and CEO, Thai Beverage Public Limited Company and a member of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC)</i></p> <p>Opening Address: Dr. Shamshad Akhtar <i>Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP</i></p> <p>Keynote Address: H.E. Don Pramudwinai <i>Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand</i></p> <p>Vote of Thanks: Ken PAN Yancheng <i>President, Trade and Industry Association of Singapore (TIAS)</i></p> <p>Photo Session</p>

09:45 - 10:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Networking break</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hosted by the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC)</i></p>
10:15 - 11:30	<p style="text-align: center;">MINISTRIAL PLENARY SESSION 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE NEW REGIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Patrick Low, <i>Visiting Professor, Hong Kong University, former FGI/former WTO Chief Economist</i></p> <p>Panelists: H.E. Tofail Ahmed, M.P., <i>Minister for Commerce, Government of Bangladesh</i> Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, <i>Minister of Special Assignments of Sri Lanka</i> Hon. Shane Jones, <i>Ambassador for Pacific Economic Development, New Zealand</i> H.E. LCT Tekreth Kamrang, <i>State Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia</i> Kensuke Tanaka, <i>Head of Asia Desk, OECD Development Centre</i></p>
11:30 - 12:30	<p style="text-align: center;">PLENARY 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE NEW REGIONAL FINANCIAL ORDER</p> <p>Moderator: Robyn Meredith, <i>Executive Director, Investment Management Division, Goldman Sachs</i></p> <p>Panelists: James Fierro, <i>CEO, ECO Capacity Exchange</i> Dr. Bandid Nijathaworn, <i>President and CEO, Thai Institute of Directors</i> Margit Molnar, <i>Head of the China Desk, Economics Department, OECD</i> Joe Horn, <i>Founder and CEO Strategy 613</i></p>
12:30 - 14:15	<p style="text-align: center;">APBF lunch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Special Address:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Sustainable Business: How to Go Green"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rosana Wong <i>Executive Director, Yau Lee Holdings Limited</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hosted by the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB) of Thailand at the Reception Hall, Ground Floor</i></p>
14:15 - 15:15	<p style="text-align: center;">PLENARY 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HARNESSING ENTREPRENEURSHIP, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Moderator: Akash Bhavsar, <i>Managing Director, Skyquest Technology Group</i></p> <p>Panelists: Dr. Karndee Leopairote, <i>Managing Director, C-asean</i> Sunil Lalvani, <i>Project Maji, Global Products Group Limited</i> Maggie Gorse, <i>Founder and CEO, Verlion Private Limited</i> Asif Ibrahim, <i>Chairman, BUILD and ESNB Task Force on Disaster Risk Reduction</i></p>

15:15 - 15:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Networking break</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hosted by the Pacific Islands Trade & Invest</i></p>
15:45-16:15	<p style="text-align: center;">OECD/ILO Special Presentation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Responsible Business in Global Supply Chains</p> <p>Moderator: Nitij Pal, <i>Principal, PLN Australia</i></p> <p>Presenters: Cristina Tebar Less, <i>Head of Responsible Business Conduct Unit, OECD – recent guidance on what due diligence looks like in agriculture, garment and footwear, and extractives sectors</i> Maurizio Bussi, <i>Director, ILO DWT for East and South-East Asia and the Pacific – main considerations for the preparation of the 2016 International Labour Conference on Decent Work in Global Supply Chains</i></p>
16:15-17:15	<p style="text-align: center;">PLENARY 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION</p> <p>Moderator: Michael Greenslade, <i>Trade Commissioner, Pacific Islands Trade & Invest</i></p> <p>Panelists: Jens Hügel, <i>Head - Goods Transport & Sustainable Development, International Road Transport Union (IRU)</i> Dr. Vachara Phanchet, <i>Chairman Emeritus, the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC)</i> Dr. Lee George Lam, <i>Chairman-Indochina, Myanmar and Thailand; Senior Adviser-Asia, Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets (Hong Kong) Ltd.</i> Dr. Eddie Game, <i>Lead Scientist, Asia Pacific Region, The Nature Conservancy</i></p>
17:15 – 17:30	<p style="text-align: center;">CLOSING SESSION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closing Statement - EBAC: Mr. Chote Sophonpanich EBAC Vice Chairperson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Summary of the Forum: <i>Representative from a co-organizer</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closing Statement: Dr. Susan F. Stone <i>Director, Trade and Investment Division, United Nations ESCAP</i></p>