

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

in collaboration with the Royal Thai Government and the Joint Standing
Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking of Thailand, present

Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2005

Changes, Challenges and Opportunities for Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, Thailand, 13-15 May 2005



United Nations
E S C A P

About the Asia-Pacific Business Forum

The Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) was initiated in 2004 by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) to provide a platform for dialogue among business, governments and civil society on social and economic policy issues and their implications for the region's economies.

This year's forum focuses on how the public and private sectors can work together to ensure sustainable economic and social development by improving the climate for doing business, as well as through corporate social responsibility (CSR).

To assure the presence of ministers and senior government officials from across the Asia-Pacific region, the APBF is organized back-to-back with the annual UNESCAP Commission Session.

The forum will be conducted in the form of moderated panel discussions, with the active involvement of both panel discussants and participants from the floor. The discussions are expected to lead to the formulation of a plan of action with specified roles for governments, business, international organizations and civil society. The results of this plan of action will be reported to next year's APBF, to be held in Indonesia in March/April 2006.

5 REASONS *why you should not miss the APBF:*

- 1) Participate in an action-oriented dialogue on the opportunities and challenges of doing business in Asia and the Pacific
- 2) Provide input to national and regional policymaking on how to improve the business climate
- 3) Meet leading experts on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and exchange views on the future agenda for CSR in Asia and the Pacific
- 4) Share your views on how the public and private sectors can jointly achieve sustained economic growth
- 5) Network with key business leaders and government officials from the Asian and Pacific region

e-discussion

To prepare for the Forum, UNESCAP and the World Bank Institute will jointly organize an e-discussion on CSR in Asia and the Pacific during the period 18 April – 1 May 2005. The e-discussion will collect views from a wider set of stakeholders and prepare input for the Forum. To participate in the e-discussion, please sign up via the link available at www.unescap.org/apbf

Who should attend?

- CEOs and senior corporate executives
- Senior government officials
- Representatives of business organizations
- Civil society organizations
- Academics, media and opinion leaders

Participation is free, but the number of seats is limited and balanced representation will be sought. To apply to participate, please go to www.unescap.org/apbf

Some of the speakers

Day 1	Dr. Kim Hak-Su	Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary, UNESCAP
	Deputy Prime Minister*	Royal Thai Government
	Mr. Narayana N.R. Murthy	Chairman of the Board and Chief Mentor, Infosys Technologies, India
Day 2	H.E. Mr. Hamid Yar Hiraj	Minister of State for Commerce, Pakistan
	Tan Sri Dato' Azman Hashim	Chairman, AmBank Group, Malaysia and Vice Chairman, Pacific Basin Economic Council
	Mr. Mahbubur Rahman	President, Chairman and CEO of ETBL Holdings Limited, and President ICC Bangladesh
	Prof. Jean-Christophe Iseux	School of Economics, Renmin University of China and Special Member, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, People's Republic of China
	Dr. Frank-Jürgen Richter	President, Horasis, Switzerland
	Mr. Scott Price	Chief Executive Officer, DHL Express Asia Pacific, Singapore
	Dr. Victor Fung	Group Chairman, Li & Fung, and Chairman, Hong Kong Airport Authority, Hong Kong, China
	H.E. Sok Chenda Sophea	Secretary General, Council for the Development of Cambodia, Cambodia
	Dr. John Hewson	The John Hewson Group, Australia
	Mr. Kosala Wickramanayake	CEO, Kosala Limited, Sri Lanka
	Mr. Georg Kell*	Executive Head, United Nations Global Compact, New York
	Mr. Mark Daniell	Chairman, the Cuscaden Group, Singapore
	Mr. Stephen Loke	President, Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility, Singapore
	Mr. Tariq Rangoonwala	Chairman, Rangoonwala Group of Companies, Pakistan
	Mr. Barry Cable	Director, Transport and Tourism Division, UNESCAP
Mr. Noke Kiroyan	Chairman, Rio Tinto Indonesia and Chairman ICC Indonesia	
Ms. Ambreen Wahid	Executive Director, Responsible Business Initiative, Pakistan	
Day 3	Mr. Junichi Inoue	Managing Director, Toshiba Asia Pacific, Singapore
	Dr. Saliendra Narain	Principal Advisor, World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises, India
	Mr. Djordjija Petkoski	Lead Enterprise Structuring Specialist, World Bank Institute, Washington DC
	Dato' Mohamed Iqbal	Group Executive Director, Farlim Group, Malaysia and Secretary-General of the Asean Business Forum
	Mr. Noriyuki Suzuki	General Secretary, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Asian and Pacific Regional Organization, Singapore
	Mr. Peter Moore	Managing Director for Public Sector, Microsoft Corporation, Singapore
Mr. Hoang Van Dung	Vice Executive President, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vietnam	

* = to be confirmed

Remark: The table lists confirmed speakers as of 28 March 2005. For more recent updates as well as speaker profiles, please visit: www.unescap.org/apbf

Programme

Friday	13 May 2005		
1530 – 1730	Registration		
1630 – 1730	Cocktail Reception hosted by the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking of Thailand		
1730 – 1830	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening statement by Dr. Kim Hak-Su, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary, UNESCAP Keynote speech by a Deputy Prime Minister, Royal Thai Government* Special presentation by Mr. Narayana N.R. Murthy, Chairman of the Board and Chief Mentor, Infosys Technologies, India Vote of thanks by the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking of Thailand 		
1830 – 1900	Launching and Signing Ceremony: Public-private partnerships and new participants of the Global Compact		
Saturday	14 May 2005		
0900 – 1015	Special Roundtable Session, part I: <i>Getting Asia and the Pacific ready for the new arena of globalization</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the key dimensions of the ongoing globalization, and how can Asia and the Pacific maximize its benefits? What are the crucial changes that will have important effects for the economies of the Asia-Pacific region? What emerging challenges and opportunities do the business community and governments face? Where will the growing network of regional integration agreements and the increased mobility of private capital lead us to? How can the business community and governments cooperate to create an enabling business environment? What changes are needed in our regional development philosophy and strategy? What policy measures and tools could facilitate investment in development in the region to help countries benefit from globalization and integration into the world economy? 		
1015 – 1045	<i>Networking Break</i>		
1045 – 1200	Special Roundtable Session, part II: <i>Coping with economic effects of regional natural disasters</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the impacts of the Tsunami on business activities and infrastructure in the region? What challenges from the Tsunami destruction do the business community and governments face? How can the private sector contribute to prepare for regional natural disasters in the future? How can the public and private sectors work together to rebuild the economies of the affected areas? Should business networking in the region be reshaped to deal with crisis caused by natural disasters? 		
1200 – 1330	<i>Lunch</i>		
	<p style="text-align: center;">Breakout Sessions along two tracks:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Track I: <i>How enabling is the Asia-Pacific business environment and what can be done to maximize its opportunities?</i> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Track II: <i>The Asia-Pacific agenda for corporate social responsibility</i> </td> </tr> </table>	Track I: <i>How enabling is the Asia-Pacific business environment and what can be done to maximize its opportunities?</i>	Track II: <i>The Asia-Pacific agenda for corporate social responsibility</i>
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1330 – 1500	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Concurrent breakout A: <i>Business climates in Asia and the Pacific: Excellent, good or so-so?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What areas need governments' immediate actions? What are the relevant phases of policy implementation to improve the business climate? What new approaches and collaboration methods between the business community and governments are on the horizon? How should the business community communicate today's challenges and opportunities to governments? </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Concurrent breakout B: <i>Corporate social responsibility for Asia-Pacific enterprises: Opportunities or challenges?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is CSR so important for the socio-economic development of the region? What are the top CSR aspects critical to Asia and the Pacific? What benefits can enterprises gain from CSR? What are the challenges? How does civil society view the role of enterprises and governments in CSR? What is the best CSR model for Asia-Pacific enterprises? What is the CSR agenda to cope with major natural disasters? </td> </tr> </table>	Concurrent breakout A: <i>Business climates in Asia and the Pacific: Excellent, good or so-so?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What areas need governments' immediate actions? What are the relevant phases of policy implementation to improve the business climate? What new approaches and collaboration methods between the business community and governments are on the horizon? How should the business community communicate today's challenges and opportunities to governments? 	Concurrent breakout B: <i>Corporate social responsibility for Asia-Pacific enterprises: Opportunities or challenges?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is CSR so important for the socio-economic development of the region? What are the top CSR aspects critical to Asia and the Pacific? What benefits can enterprises gain from CSR? What are the challenges? How does civil society view the role of enterprises and governments in CSR? What is the best CSR model for Asia-Pacific enterprises? What is the CSR agenda to cope with major natural disasters?
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1500 – 1515	<i>Networking Break</i>		

1515 – 1645	Concurrent breakout C: Logistics and the global value chain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the major risks and opportunities of global value chains for Asia and the Pacific? • How can Asia-Pacific enterprises increase their participation in global value chains? • What is the role of governments in facilitating the development of global value chains? • How will logistics improve the competitiveness of the global value chains? • How could transport infrastructure be improved? 	Concurrent breakout D: How can enterprises implement and benefit from CSR? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What successful cases and experiences of implementation of CSR are there in the region? • Which ideas and models can be identified for CSR implementation? • What are appropriate roles in CSR implementation for governments enterprises, business associations and civil society organizations? • How can individual enterprises maximize their “triple bottom line” (people, planet and profit) through CSR?
Sunday 15 May 2005		
0900 – 1030	Concurrent breakout E: Outsourcing: Possibilities, obstacles and joint actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can outsourcing improve corporate competitiveness and support innovation? • How can governments of developing countries facilitate outsourcing? • How can the business community and governments partner to facilitate outsourcing? • What impact will outsourcing by enterprises of the region have on the economies of the countries concerned? • What is future for outsourcing in the region? 	Concurrent breakout F: How can enterprises engage in a constructive dialogue with stakeholders? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the influences of the emerging multi-stakeholder environment in Asia and the Pacific? • How can governments and business associations support enterprises to operate in a multi-stakeholder environment? • How would CSOs like to organize the dialogues with enterprises? • What are appropriate criteria to measure and report about business performance?
1030 – 1045	<i>Networking Break</i>	
1045 – 1215	Concurrent breakout G: E-governance: Re-engineering business and government processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the major benefits of e-governance from the perspective of governments and the business community respectively? • How can e-governance improve productivity and competitiveness of enterprises? • How can governments support the business community through e-governance? • How should e-governance adapt to the new capabilities and interaction patterns among governments, business associations and individual enterprises? 	Concurrent breakout H: Transparency: Free and fair competition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the current situation with regard to transparency in Asia and the Pacific? • How does transparency, or the lack thereof, influence free and fair competition? • How do cultural differences affect transparency and competition? • How can governments and business associations work for more free and fair competition? • What can stakeholders learn from experiences in the region and elsewhere?
1215 – 1400	<i>Lunch</i>	
1400 – 1600	Closing Session Presentations of Breakout Session Conclusions (Tracks I and II) Formulation of action-plan <p>Discussion on how stakeholders can work jointly to grasp the opportunities and meet the challenges of globalization. Which concrete actions can be taken by stakeholders individually and in cooperation with each other between this APBF and the 2006 APBF?</p>	

* = to be confirmed

Side Events:

Research Workshop on Foreign Direct Investment, by UNESCAP and the International Development Research Centre, Canada (IDRC), 12-13 May 2005

2nd Meeting of the UNESCAP Business Advisory Council (BAC), 13 May 2005
(Participation in side-events by invitation only)

For the latest information on the Forum and to complete the application form on-line, go to <http://www.unescap.org/apbf>



Information and contact

To apply to participate in the Asia-Pacific Business Forum, please sign up at www.unescap.org/apbf. There you will also find more information, including a detailed programme and updated list of speakers.

For information on speaking opportunities, possible sponsors, and other questions, please contact:

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The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) was established in 1947. With its 53 member and 9 associate member countries, UNESCAP serves as the main economic and social development forum within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region.