

# **Regional Conference on Aligning Corporate Sustainability with Sustainable Development Goals**

## **Agenda and speaker biographies**

**20 May 2015**

United Nations Conference Centre  
Bangkok, Thailand



## About ESCAP and the ESCAP Business Advisory Council

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is the regional development arm of the United Nations and serves as the main economic and social development centre for the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. Its mandate is to foster cooperation between its 53 members and 9 associate members. ESCAP provides a forum for its member States that promotes regional cooperation and collective action, assisting countries in building and sustaining shared economic growth and social equity. In addition, ESCAP gives stronger participation to the smaller and often left out voices of the region, the least developed countries, the small island States and landlocked States.

Find out more at [www.unescap.org](http://www.unescap.org).

ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC) aims to provide business perspectives on development issues in the Asia-Pacific region to governments as represented in the legislative bodies of ESCAP, in particular (but not limited to) the Committee on Trade and Investment, and the ESCAP Commission, as well as provide advice to the ESCAP secretariat on its programmes and projects.

Members of EBAC consist of business leaders, CEOs, representatives and experts from or operating in regional member and associate member countries/economies of ESCAP. EBAC members conform to and promote ethical and responsible business practices, and fully subscribe to United Nations principles and norms. They strive towards full implementation of the principles of the Global Compact, which is a strategic UN policy initiative for socially committed businesses to ensure that markets, commerce, technology and finance advance in ways that benefit economies and societies everywhere.

Find out more at: [ebac.unescap.org](http://ebac.unescap.org)

## About the OECD and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

The OECD is a forum in which governments compare and exchange policy experiences, identify good practices in light of emerging challenges, and promote decisions and recommendations to produce better policies for better lives. The OECD's mission is to promote policies that improve economic and social well-being of people around the world.

The OECD is home to the *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises*. The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises are recommendations on responsible business conduct addressed by governments to multinational enterprises operating in or from adhering countries. They are the most comprehensive set of recommendations on responsible business conduct promoted by governments, covering all major areas of business ethics, including information disclosure, human rights, employment and industrial relations, environment, bribery and corruption, consumer interests, science and technology, competition, and taxation. The Guidelines are also the only government-backed international instrument on responsible business conduct with a unique implementation mechanism.

Find out more at: [mneguidelines.oecd.org](http://mneguidelines.oecd.org)

## About GRI

The Global Reporting Initiative is an international non-profit organization working in the public interest towards a vision of a sustainable global economy where organizations manage their economic, environmental, social, and governance performance and impacts responsibly. Thousands of corporate and public sector reporters in over 90 countries use the GRI Guidelines for their sustainability reporting. More than 24,000 reports have been registered in GRI's Sustainability Disclosure Database and currently 27 countries and regions reference GRI in their policies. GRI's activities are two-fold: firstly the provision of sustainability reporting guidelines and secondly, the development of engagement activities, products and partnerships to enhance the value of sustainability reporting for organizations.

Find out more at: [www.globalreporting.org](http://www.globalreporting.org)

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At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 (Rio+20), member States adopted an Outcome Document, The Future we Want and agreed to launch a process to develop Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), building on the Millennium Development Goals, as part of the post-2015 development agenda. The intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) set up for this purpose presented its proposal in July 2014 on what the SDGs should be, comprising 17 goals and 169 targets.<sup>1</sup> The SDGs are expected to be adopted at the United Nations summit on 25-27 September 2015.

The Rio+20 conference also called for a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic efficiency, social inclusion and environmental protection. This will be the focus of the Second Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, to be held on 21 and 22 May 2015 in Bangkok, which will provide regional input to the global High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at the global level.

Given the imminent adoption of SDGs and the core role business needs to play in achieving sustainable development, this regional conference is organized by ESCAP, in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC) and its Sustainable Business Network. The aim is to gather business views as input to the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, as well as to provide input to the G20 workstream on inclusive business. The conference will:

Examine what the SDGs mean for business and seek business views on the role of Asian-Pacific business in achieving sustainable development and implementing the SDGs.

- Propose tools and strategies to improve and align business sustainability strategies with the SDGs.
- Showcase examples of responsible and inclusive business initiatives from the Asia-Pacific region.
- Provide guidance to policy makers on what is needed to advance corporate sustainability in the region.

In particular, the conference will centre around the following three main questions:

1. How does the private sector in the region view its role in achieving sustainable development and the SDGs? What is needed to increase the willingness and ability of the private sector to adopt responsible business practices that effectively integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development?
2. What can governments do to provide an enabling environment for business to be an effective partner in achieving sustainable development?
3. What are the main modalities, international initiatives and instruments to advance corporate sustainability and responsible business practices and how do they link to SDGs? What additional frameworks, tools or policies are needed to help business align sustainability strategies with SDGs and contribute to SDG implementation?

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<sup>1</sup> See e.g. A/68/970, and <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=1579&menu=1300>

## Tentative agenda

07.30 – 08.30	<b>Registration</b>
08.30 – 08.50	<b>Opening addresses</b> <b>Shamshad Akhtar</b> , Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP <b>Mohamed Iqbal Rawther</b> , Chairperson, ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC)
08.50 – 09.00	<b>Keynote address</b> <b>Mukhisa Kituyi</b> , Secretary General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
09.00 – 09.05	Photo with panelists
09.05 – 10.15	<b>The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – what impact for corporate sustainability strategies?</b> <p>The SDGs are intended to provide goals, targets and indicators against which to measure societal progress over the period 2015-2030. This session will explore what the goals are expected to cover, what the impact of their adoption may be on business sustainability strategies, and how business can contribute to the goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>What are the SDGs and how do they apply to business?</i></li> <li>- <i>What will change with their adoption?</i></li> <li>- <i>What impact will the adoption of the goals have on sustainability strategies of companies?</i></li> <li>- <i>How can existing CSR frameworks support SDG fulfilment?</i></li> <li>- <i>How can the SDGs support the drive for more inclusive and sustainable business practices?</i></li> <li>- <i>How can business be effectively engaged in fulfilling the SDGs?</i></li> </ul> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Roel Nieuwenkamp</b>, Chair, OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct</li> </ul> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Georg Kell</b>, Executive Director, Global Compact (video recording)</li> <li>- <b>Nicholas Rosellini</b>, Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP</li> <li>- <b>Edward Clarence-Smith</b>, Representative and Director, UNIDO Regional Office</li> <li>- <b>Stefanos Fotiou</b>, Senior Regional Coordinator: Resource Efficiency and SCP, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</li> <li>- <b>David Lamotte</b>, Director, International Labour Organisation (ILO) Office for Pacific Island Countries</li> <li>- <b>Anuradha Rajivan</b>, Advisor, Strategy and Policy Department, Asian Development Bank</li> </ul>

10.15 – 11.15	<p><b>Sustainability monitoring and disclosure – how can it help drive the process?</b></p> <p>Based on the premise what you can't measure you can't manage, a number of different sustainability reporting and disclosure tools and mechanisms exist today to support companies in integrating sustainability considerations throughout their business operations. This session will discuss the landscape of tools for monitoring, reporting and disclosure, and how they it can drive increased sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>What are the tools for measuring and reporting on sustainability?</i></li> <li>- <i>To what extend are they used in Asia and the Pacific?</i></li> <li>- <i>What are the challenges in ensuring harmonized reporting, and how can they be addressed?</i></li> <li>- <i>How can company sustainability reporting be linked to SDG monitoring?</i></li> <li>- <i>How can reporting frameworks such as the GRI drive responsible business conduct and SDG implementation?</i></li> <li>- <i>What is integrated reporting, and how can it contribute to change?</i></li> <li>- <i>What accountability mechanisms exist for ensuring quality reporting and positive change?</i></li> </ul> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Pietro Bertazzi</b>, Senior Manager Public Policy and International Affairs, Global Reporting Initiative</li> </ul> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>James Kallman</b>, Founder, Foundation for International Human Rights Reporting Standards and President Director, Moores Rowland</li> <li>- <b>Michael Zimonyi</b>, Senior Project Officer, Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB) and CDP</li> <li>- <b>Anthony Miller</b>, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</li> </ul>
11.15 – 12.30	<p><b>Integrating sustainability in business operations and stimulating SDG related investments: Private sector views and experiences</b></p> <p>This session will discuss the level and scope of business implementation of sustainability considerations in day-to-day operations of companies in the region today. It will provide examples from the region of how companies are expanding and deepening their implementation of sustainability practices, and discuss remaining challenges and how these can be addressed. The session will also discuss private sector solutions for addressing key SDG goals, and discuss what is needed to expand their uptake in the region.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Carson Wen</b>, Partner, Jones Day, Chair of EBAC Task Force of Green Business</li> </ul> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Asif Ibrahim</b>, Vice Chairman, Newage Group of Companies, Bangladesh</li> <li>- <b>Sutheash Balasubramaniam</b>, Managing Director, Global Strategic Corporate Sustainability Ltd, and Global Compact Sri Lanka network representative</li> <li>- <b>Janet Neo</b>, Regional Sustainability Lead, HEINEKEN Asia Pacific</li> <li>- <b>Aman ul Haque</b>, Head, Engro Foundation, Pakistan</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Gilad Regev</b>, CEO, Windfire BV</li> <li>- <b>Michael Greenslade</b>, Director, Pacific Island Trade &amp; Invest</li> </ul>
12.30 – 14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.00 – 15.00	<p><b>Increasing sustainability and enabling the SDGs: What role for banking and finance?</b></p> <p>As they main provider of finance, the banking and investment sector has a huge potential in pushing for increased sustainability among lenders and investees. In the Asia-Pacific region, an increasing number of banks are also adopting sustainability strategies, and some stock exchanges are mandating or requiring sustainability reporting on a 'comply or explain' basis. This session will explore what is being done today, and how the banking sector, stock exchanges and investment funds in the region can play a larger role in driving company sustainability implementation and disclosure in the region.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>George (Kam Ho) Yuen</b>, Independent Non-Executive Director, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia), Hong Kong, China and Chair of the EBAC Task Force on Banking and Finance</li> </ul> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Raghu Narain</b>, Managing Director and Head of Sector Advisory for Asia Pacific, Royal Bank of Scotland</li> <li>- <b>Manuel Rybach</b>, Global Head of Corporate Citizenship, Credit Suisse</li> <li>- <b>Rokia Afzal Rahman</b>, Chair Airlinks Group of Companies and President Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh</li> <li>- <b>Bordin Unakul</b>, Executive Vice President, Stock Exchange of Thailand</li> </ul>
15.00 – 16.00	<p><b>Enabling increased sustainability of business operations: What role for Governments?</b></p> <p>This session will elicit private sector views on what is needed from Governments to incentivize and push for increased integration of sustainability considerations in companies, and how Governments, the private sector and civil society could best work together to ensure speedy implementation of the SDGs.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Thomas Thomas</b>, CEO, ASEAN CSR Network</li> </ul> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Roel Nieuwenkamp</b>, Chair, OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct</li> <li>- <b>Pooran Pandey</b>, Executive Director, Global Compact Network India</li> <li>- <b>Shahamin Zaman</b>, CEO, CSR Centre, and Global Compact Network Bangladesh</li> </ul>
16.00 – 16.30	<b>Summary and conclusions</b>

For more information visit:

[www.unescap.org/events/regional-conference-aligning-corporate-sustainability-sdgs](http://www.unescap.org/events/regional-conference-aligning-corporate-sustainability-sdgs)

## Speaker biographies

(in order of appearance)



### **Shamshad Akhtar**

In December 2013, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar was appointed by the UN Secretary-General as United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. She also serves as UN Sherpa for the G20.

Previously the Secretary-General's Senior Advisor on Economics and Finance, as well as Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, she served as Governor of the Central Bank of Pakistan from 2006 to 2009; Vice President of the World Bank's Middle East and North Africa Region; and held a range of senior posts in the Asian Development Bank, including that of Director-General (South-East Asia region).

Ms. Akhtar was a post-doctoral US Fulbright Fellow at Harvard University, holds a PhD in Economics from the Paisley College of Technology, a Master in Development Economics from the University of Sussex, and an MSc in Economics from Quaid-i-Azam University.



### **Mohamed Iqbal Rawther**

Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal Rawther is currently Group Executive Director of Farlim Group (Malaysia) Berhad, a company listed in the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange. In addition, he also holds Directorships in NT7 and TV9, two members of South-East Asia's largest media group. He is also a Board Member of Binary University College, a private university dedicated to management and entrepreneurship.

Datuk Seri Iqbal is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers (FCIB), London, and Chairman of the Malaysian Institute of Management, Malaysia. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and a Masters Degree in Business Administration, both from the University of Malaya. He also has professional certificates from the Institute of Education, University of Birmingham, UK; and the Harvard Business School, USA.

He holds several senior positions including Chairman of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council; Vice President of the ASEAN Business Forum; Honorary Secretary of Malaysia-Japan Economic Association; Deputy President of Malaysia-Gulf Countries Business Council and Chairman of the Malaysian Institute of Management.



## Mukhisa Kituyi

Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi became the seventh Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 1 September 2013. He has an extensive background as an elected official, academic and holder of high government office. Dr. Kituyi was elected to the Parliament of Kenya in 1992 and was twice re-elected. He was the Minister of Trade and Industry of Kenya from 2002 to 2007. During this period, Dr. Kituyi chaired and participated in a variety of ministerial-level initiatives, including for the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the 2005 Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization.

Immediately prior to becoming Secretary-General, Dr. Kituyi was Chief Executive of the Kenya Institute of Governance and a Fellow of the Brookings Institution. From 2008 to 2012, Dr. Kituyi was a member of a team of experts advising the presidents of the nations of the East African Community on how to establish more effective regional economic links. From 2011 to 2012, he was a consultant for the African Union Commission, where he helped to develop the structure for a pan-African free trade area.

Dr. Kituyi studied political science and international relations at the University of Nairobi and at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, receiving a BA in 1982. He went on to earn a Master of Philosophy and a PhD from the University of Bergen.



## Roel Nieuwenkamp

Roel Nieuwenkamp studied Economics, Law and Philosophy at the Erasmus University Rotterdam. He worked at the European Commission and was a consultant in New Zealand on the issue of results oriented government. He worked for several years as management consultant at Arthur Andersen. In 1998 he became interim manager at the Ministry of Education.

From 2001 until August 2006 Prof. Nieuwenkamp was managing director of the Entrepreneurship Department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. From September 2006 until May 2013, he was director of the International Trade Policy & Economic Governance with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His responsibilities concerned i.a. trade policy (WTO), investment treaties, corporate social responsibility, and the regulation of strategic goods.

Next to his job he wrote his PhD dissertation about the interaction between ministers and top civil servants. Since 2010 he is part-time Professor of Public Administration at the University of Amsterdam.

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