



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update: June – July 2022

ESBN news and updates

ESBN members who earlier joined in a personal capacity are kindly reminded to convert to corporate membership as soon as possible, by submitting the commitment form shared earlier, and to become signatories of the UN Global Compact, the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (for investors), the Principles for Responsible Banking (for banks), or equivalent globally recognized standards for socially and environmentally responsible business as determined by the ESCAP Secretariat. Please contact the ESNB secretariat for more information: esbn@un.org

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 will take place during the Asia Pacific Business Forum in 2022. An action plan for promoting the Green Deal among businesses in the Asia Pacific region is under development.

Activities by ESNB members

24 May 2022: ESNB Taskforce on Sustainable and Inclusive Finance: The ESNB Taskforce on Sustainable and Inclusive Finance organized a virtual side event at the 78th session of the ESCAP Commission, entitled “Promoting and facilitating ESG investment and FinTech development: some recent developments and trends” on 24 May 2022. The event raised awareness of and mobilization for ESG investment and FinTech development among the business sector, particularly financial institutions, publicly listed companies, family offices and tech investors. For more information, please refer <https://www.unescap.org/events/commission78>.



Upcoming events of ESNB interest

25 August 2022: Climate Finance Roundtable

As part of the Asia Pacific Roundtable “Catalyzing climate finance and investment flows to ramp up climate action and advance the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific” to be held on 25 August 2022, the *Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific* is organizing a session on Scaling up investment in climate infrastructure projects through Public Private Partnerships (PPP). The focus of this session will be on showcasing sustainable infrastructure projects that are bankable and aligned with their respective national SDG and climate-resilient strategy.

26 August 2022: The Tenth meeting of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN)

The tenth meeting of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) will be held in conjunction with Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2022, which will be held in Bangkok and online on 26 August 2022. The ESBN will hear the updates from the Task Force chairs on the task force’s activities, and will discuss the action plan for the roll out of the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/escap-sustainable-business-network-10th-meeting-0>

26 August 2022: Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2022

The Asia-Pacific Business Forum has been held annually since 2004. APBF 2022 will be held in Bangkok and online on 26 August 2022 in cooperation with the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN). The Forum is expected to witness the participation of 300-500 multi-stakeholders, in particular governments, business, civil society and academics from all over the region to foster dialogue and identify innovative

solutions and recommendations to advance the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business in the region. For more information, see: <https://unescap.org/events/2022/asia-pacific-business-forum-2022>

Recently concluded

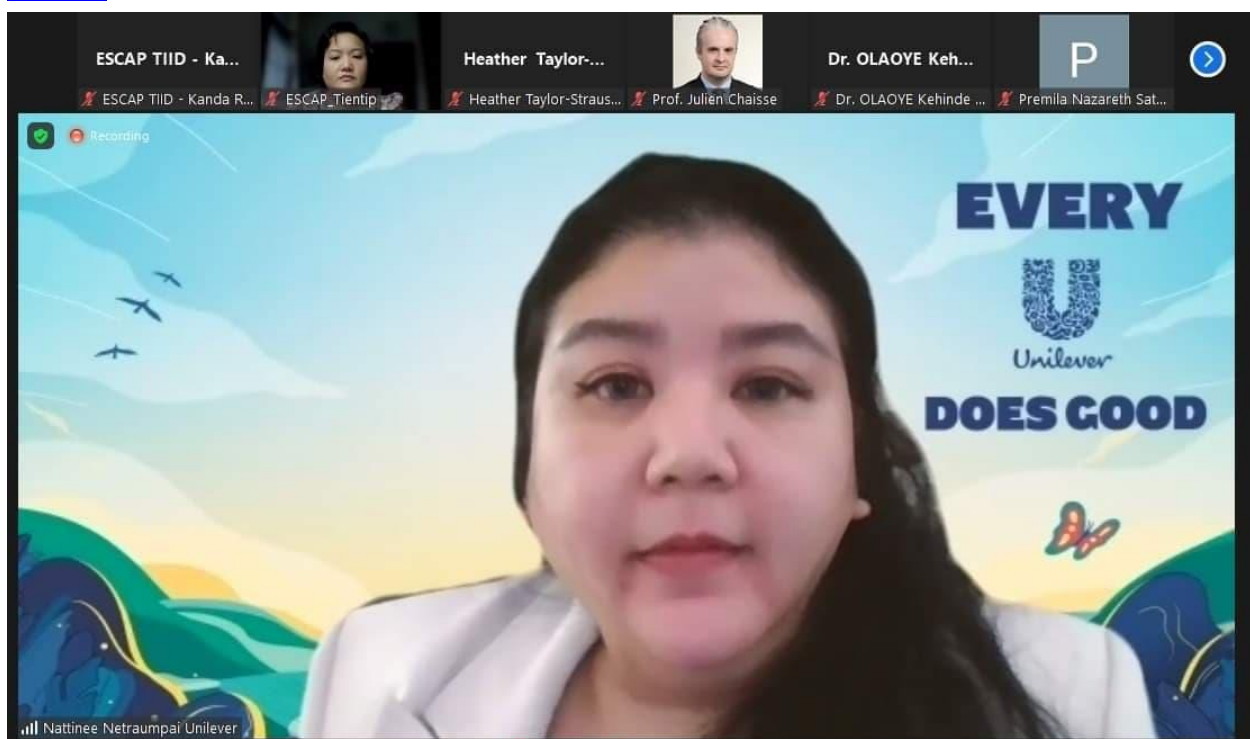
6 May 2022: Virtual launch of the Finance Flows' Sustainable Banking Academy

To assist the shift of the banking sector towards sustainable outcomes, a group of agencies comprised of the Association of Development Finance Institutions in Asia and Pacific (ADFIAP), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Environment Program Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) have launched the Finance Flows' Sustainable Banking Academy. The Academy's e-learning course content includes 5 to 10 hours of self-paced and tailored content for Southeast Asian banking sector professionals and provides participants with a certification. The course aims to support a system-wide adoption of sustainable finance throughout the private banking sector. For more information, see: <https://www.unescap.org/news/sustainable-banking-academy-launched-southeast-asian-bankers>

17 May 2022: 11th Annual Asia Pacific FDI Network Meeting

The 11th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Network was held on 17 May to discuss current developments and challenges in FDI policy making, promotion and facilitation in the region. It also explored ways to improve the national legal frameworks and international investment agreements (IIAs) system to ensure it better supports the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ESNB member, Unilever Thailand, represented by Ms. Nattinee Netraumpai, Head of Corporate Affairs, gave a closing remarks highlighting how FDI can be sustainable, the measures that Unilever undertakes to ensure that its cross-border investments and operations in host countries are sustainable, and how investment promotion agencies and investment policy makers can work with the private sector to attract more sustainable FDI projects., see:

<https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/11th-meeting-asia-pacific-foreign-direct-investment-fdi-network>



18 May 2022: Third Meeting of the Asia-Pacific MSME Policymakers Network: Launching the Policy Guidebook for MSME Development in Asia and the Pacific and the ESCAP Online Resource Centre for MSME Policy

A new edition of “Policy Guidebook for MSME Development in Asia and the Pacific, with substantially updated discussions in areas such as sustainability, climate change, gender issues and others, was launched at this meeting of the Asia-Pacific MSME Policymakers Network. To accompany the Guidebook, ESCAP has developed an Online Resource Centre to present policy information in a different format and also expand on the resources available in the publication. ESNB members, Fung Group represented by Ms. Pamela Mar, Executive Vice President, Knowledge & Applications presented in the session “Solving the SME Financial Inclusion Challenge: A Roadmap for a new trade finance ecosystem” see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/third-meeting-asia-pacific-msme-policymakers-network-launching-policy-guidebook-msme>

Third Meeting of the Asia-Pacific MSME Policymakers Network
18 May 2022



19 May 2022: High-Level Regional Roundtable on Investment Facilitation for Development: How Asian and Pacific Economies Will Benefit

The Roundtable, co-organized by the International Trade Centre (ITC), the German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), ESCAP and the World Economic Forum (WEF), has offered a platform for a strategic exchange among government officials on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations on an Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement, launched in September 2020 after over two years of preparatory discussions. High-level policy makers, government officials, private sector representatives, and eminent academic scholars participated in the Roundtable, to be updated on the negotiations and to raise awareness on their progress and reflect on how countries may best make use of the IFD Agreement to enhance their business climate, attract higher value-added investment and boost economic growth, digital economy innovations and sustainable development, see <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/high-level-regional-roundtable-investment-facilitation-development-how-asian-and>

23-27 May 2022: 78th session of the Commission

The seventy-eighth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was held in a hybrid modality from 23 to 27 May 2022 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok and online, under the theme “A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”. Dr. George Lam, Chair of the ESNB gave a statement at the Commission on 27 May, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTaPunmFmHc&t=3535s> (time 59:00 – 1:02:45).

1 June 2022: Presentation of the Recommendations for Digital Platforms prepared under the UN COVID-19 Project

UNCTAD has prepared a set of behavioural recommendations for digital platforms regarding their engagements with micro-, small, and medium enterprises, to ensure the continued strength and flexibility of small businesses. ESCAP joined with UNCTAD to launch the recommendations, which have arisen from a series of projects in partnership between UNCTAD and ESCAP, in an online meeting.

2 June 2022: Uniting Business: Sustainability in ASEAN

ESCAP together with the United Nations Global Compact in collaboration with Global Compact Local Networks Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei, organized the Uniting Business: Sustainability in ASEAN (UBL ASEAN) on 2 June 2022 that brought together local and global leaders from business, civil society, Government, Global Compact Local Networks and the United Nations to inform, inspire and catalyze local and regional solutions for advancing policies that not only drive economic growth but accelerate progress towards the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement in the ASEAN region. At this event, Dr. George Lam, Chair of the ESNB, was a keynote speaker, Ms. Esther An and Mr. Albert Oung, ESNB Executive Council members also joined the panel discussion, see: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/uniting-business-sustainability-asean>



Opening Plenary Uniting Business: Sustainability in ASEAN

Thursday 2 June 2022, 10:00 – 10:40 hrs (GMT+7)

OPENING REMARKS



H.E. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

WELCOME REMARKS



Sanda Ojiambo
Assistant Secretary-General and CEO, UN Global Compact

HIGH-LEVEL KEYNOTE REMARKS



Noppadol Dej-Udom
Chief Sustainability Officer, Charoen Pokphand Group, Secretary General, Global Compact Network Thailand



Ruenvadee Suwanmongkol
Secretary-General, Securities and Exchange Commission, Thailand



Lee George Lam
Chair of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESNB)

2 JUNE 2022

LIVE IN BANGKOK



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**UNITING BUSINESS:
SUSTAINABILITY
IN ASEAN**



SDG Ambition: Mobilizing Ambitious Corporate Actions Towards the Global Goals

Thursday 2 June 2022, 10:40 - 11:40 hrs (GMT+7)

SPEAKERS



Elim Sritaba
Chief Sustainability Officer,
APP Sinar Mas



Gloyta Nathalang
Executive Vice President,
Bangchak Corporation PCL



Azzahraa Annuar
Director of Group Risk &
Compliance,
Edotco Group Sdn Bhd



Esther An
Chief Sustainability Officer,
City Developments Limited



Sue Allchurch
Chief of Outreach and
Engagement,
UN Global Compact

MODERATOR



**UNITING BUSINESS:
SUSTAINABILITY
IN ASEAN**



Fireside Chat Series 1 : Climate & Biodiversity

Thursday 2 June 2022, 14:10 - 14:40 hrs (GMT+7)

SPEAKERS



Peerapong Krinchai
Executive Vice President,
Corporate Engineering,
CPF Thailand



Albert Oung
Chair of ESN Task Force on Green
Economy; Founder & President, World
Green Organization and Chairman,
Hong Kong Myanmar Chamber of
Commerce



Natalie Phaholyothin
Chief Executive Officer,
WWF Thailand

MODERATOR



15-16 June 2022: Seventh Meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP co-organized the Seventh Meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific from 15 to 16 June with the Public-Private Partnership Promotion Bureau of State Enterprise Policy Office (SEPO) under the Ministry of Finance of Thailand, the China Public-Private Partnerships Center (CPPPC) under the Ministry of Finance of China and Asian Development Bank (ADB). The meeting aimed to showcase good experiences and developments on how countries in Asia and the Pacific region can build back better in the post-COVID era through effective infrastructure financing and PPP mechanism. For more information, [CLICK](#).



Seventh Meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific

Hybrid Meeting in Pattaya City, Thailand
15-16 June 2022



27-28 June 2022: TCCT-ESCAP-UNCTAD: The Contribution of Competition Policy to the Resurgence of MSMEs post-COVID-19

UNCTAD, in partnership with ESCAP and the Trade Competition Commission of Thailand (TCCT), organized an in person & hybrid conference on strengthening MSMEs post-COVID-19, which was held in Bangkok from 27 to 28 June 2022. Participants at the conference included Members States' Government representatives MSME institutions, competition authorities, representatives of chambers of commerce and other civil society institutions concerned with MSMEs, and MSME representatives. Conference participants discussed the recent work conducted in the UN System on MSMEs and competition policy, the influence of digital platforms on MSMEs, and UNCTAD's new online course on SMEs and Competition Policy. For more information, [CLICK](#).

Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

6 July 2022: ESCAP-PMTLAI Training-of-Trainers (TOT) Capacity Building Workshop

ESCAP will collaborate with Philippine Multimodal Transport and Logistics Association (PMTLAI) to co-organize a Training-of-Trainers (TOT) Workshop to improve human resource capacity of the transport and logistics sector and enhance the seamlessness of the logistics network in the subregion. The Workshop will be co-hosted by PMTLAI and held in Manila, Philippines. For more information, [CLICK](#).

6 July 2022: South-East Asia Policy Dialogue: Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2022

ESCAP's flagship publication, the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (2022 Survey) lays out a road map for inclusive post-pandemic recovery and development – a “Building Forward Fairer” policy agenda. The 2022 Report goes beyond traditional macroeconomic thinking and provides new insights on how macroeconomic and structural policies can tackle inequality. This South-East Asia Policy Dialogue is organized to provide a forum for discussion of the findings and policy recommendations in the 2022 Survey for South-East Asia, in particular the roles that fiscal, monetary and structural policies can play in the quest for building an inclusive stakeholder economy. To join this event, please register here: <https://cutt.ly/4KxltUt>

15 July 2022: Regional Policy Dialogue on Transforming the Logistics Sector

The event will be jointly organized by ESCAP in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Transport Development and aims to provide an enabling platform for logistics service providers and other stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific to share knowledge and experience, discuss emerging issues and promote the development of their services. The event will review the latest developments in transport and logistics sector in the region, and aim to identify and promote good practices and innovative solutions to shared challenges. The event also serves as a tool for fostering an effective dialogue of all stakeholders involve in the transport and logistics sector, including international organizations, academic, public and private sectors. For more information, please [CLICK](#).

19 July 2022: 1st Asia-Pacific Regulatory Forum on Power System Connectivity

The main objective is to improve dialogue and information sharing among energy regulators to increased collaboration across the Asia-Pacific on power sector connectivity. Against this background, participants in the 1st Asia-Pacific Regulatory Forum on Power System Connectivity will discuss four main themes: (1) The importance of regulatory collaboration in the power sector, (2) Integrating storage into power systems, (3) Security implications of cross-border power system integration and (4) The role of low-carbon fuels in power generation and connectivity. For more information, please [CLICK](#).

10-11 August 2022: Regional Meeting on Inclusive and Low Carbon Mobility in Asia and the Pacific and National Workshop on Transitioning to Electric Mobility in Public Transport in Thailand

The Regional Meeting on Inclusive and Low Carbon Mobility in Asia and the Pacific will highlight existing challenges in the region and identify policy action that will enable the achievement of inclusive and low carbon transport, including the shift to electric mobility. This regional meeting serves as a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement and the sharing of best practice knowledge among ESCAP member States, other United Nations entities, international organizations and research institutes. For more information, please [CLICK](#).

29-30 August 2022: Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2022

The Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APFFF) is the leading regional platform for the exchange of good practices and knowledge on trade facilitation. The APTFF has been organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in cooperation with a growing number of partners, since 2009. The Forum attracts over 250 participants from over 30 countries, and offers extensive opportunities for capacity building and cooperation. The 10th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum will focus on how trade facilitation should evolve to enhance the resilience of international supply chains in times of pandemic and to better support sustainable economic recovery and development in the Asia-Pacific region. For more information, [CLICK](#).

29 August -1 September 2022: 10th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) and APTFF Trade Facilitation Innovation Awards 2022

The Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) is the leading regional platform for the exchange of good practices and knowledge on trade facilitation. The Forum attracts over 250 participants from over 30 countries, and offers extensive opportunities for capacity building and cooperation. The 10th APTFF, to be held in Singapore, will focus on how trade facilitation should evolve to enhance supply chain resilience and better support sustainable economic recovery and development in the Asia-Pacific region. In relation, the APTFF Innovation Awards 2022 is welcoming submissions of cases of innovative trade facilitation implementation. Award winners will be invited to participate and present their cases during the Forum. For more information, see <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/asia-pacific-trade-facilitation-forum-2022> and <https://www.unescap.org/news/call-cases-aptff-trade-facilitation-innovation-awards-2022>

30 August-1 September 2022: Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, Fourth Session

The Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, Fourth Session will be held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 30 August to 1 September 2022. The Committee session will be held virtually via videoconference. Bangkok-based representatives from member States and international organizations are welcome to participate in person at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. For more information, [CLICK](#).

Op-Ed: Five Ways Governments Can Unlock a More Social Economy

In a report and op-ed launched at the 2022 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, a call to Governments to strengthen the social economy was made, writes Jonathan Wong (United Nations ESCAP) with co-authors Johanna Mair (Hertie School and Stanford University), Precious Moloi-Motsepe (Motsepe Foundation) and Dr. François Bonnici (Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and WEF), together with Deloitte, the Euclid Network and Catalyst 2030. Read more: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/05/5-ways-governments-unlock-social-economy>

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 impact of ageing on accessibility, affordability and availability of healthcare services in Asia and the Pacific \(28 June 2022\)](#)

[How to Invest in the Care Economy: A Primer \(28 June 2022\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2022 for ESCAP Subregions - Pathways to Adaptation and Resilience in South and South-West Asia \(27 June 2022\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific Digital Trade Regulatory Review 2022 \(23 June 2022\)](#)

[Active Labour Market Policies in Asia and the Pacific: A review of the literature \(22 June 2022\)](#)

[Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Lending Approaches: The Role of Banks in Asia \(20 June 2022\)](#)

[Regional Digital Trade Integration Index \(Version 1\): A Guide \(20 June 2022\)](#)

[Ocean accounting briefs: China, Malaysia, Samoa, Thailand and Viet Nam \(20 June 2022\)](#)

[Readiness Assessment for Cross-Border Paperless Trade: Viet Nam \(17 June 2022\)](#)

[Attracting private finance to transmission in the Asia-Pacific Region \(14 June 2022\)](#)

[MSME Financing Series: The Role of Digital Payments \(14 June 2022\)](#)

[Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises' Access to Finance in Cambodia \(09 June 2022\)](#)

[The Digital Divide and COVID-19, Impact on the Socioeconomic Development in Asia and the Pacific \(08 June 2022\)](#)

[Climate Change and Population Ageing in Asia-Pacific region: Status, Challenges and Opportunities \(1 June 2022\)](#)

[Technical Report and Recommendations to Strengthen Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures in ASEAN \(27 May 2022\)](#)

[Promoting ICT Connectivity through Internet Exchange Points in South-East Asia \(26 May 2022\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2022: Financing a Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19 and Beyond \(25 May 2022\)](#)

[Inequality of Opportunity: Who Are Those Left Behind in Tuvalu \(24 May 2022\)](#)

[Ocean and Climate Synergies: Ocean Warming and Sea-level Rise Recommendations \(24 May 2022\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal, vol. 29, No. 1, May 2022 \(24 May 2022\)](#)

[Bangladesh Startup Ecosystem Assessment Report \(24 May 2022\)](#)

[Shaping the future of regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific \(23 May 2022\)](#)

[Digital connectivity: Bolstering technical development and shaping the digital economy in South-East Asia \(20 May 2022\)](#)

[Model Subregional Agreement on Transport Facilitation \(16 May 2022\)](#)

[Policy Guidebook for MSME Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2nd Edition \(16 May 2022\)](#)

[Accelerating One Health in Asia and the Pacific \(12 May 2022\)](#)

[Energy Pathways for the 2030 Agenda: SDG 7 Roadmap for Bhutan \(11 May 2022\)](#)

[Managing in-land water disasters in the Aral Sea: Sub-regional pathways for adaptation and resilience \(03 May 2022\)](#)

[Managing in-land water disasters in the Aral Sea: Building a sub-regional co-operation mechanism for adaptation and resilience \(03 May 2022\)](#)

[The Aral Sea, Central Asian Countries and Climate Change in the 21st Century \(03 May 2022\)](#)

[Reclaiming our future: A common agenda for advancing sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific \(29 April 2022\)](#)

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