
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventieth session

Bangkok, 4-8 August 2014 (Phase II)

Item 3(b) of the provisional agenda*

Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: trade and investment

Report of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum on its tenth session

Note by the secretariat

The report of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum on its tenth session is for the information of the Commission.

I. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

1. The Asia-Pacific Business Forum held its tenth session at the Royal Princess Hotel Larn Luang in Bangkok, Thailand on 25 and 26 November 2013. The programme of the Forum is attached as Annex I.

2. The Forum was organized by ESCAP, with financial support from the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce Industry and Banking (JSCCIB), Pacific Islands Trade & Invest, the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand (JFCCT), Bali Business Forum (BBF), the Moscow Annual Business Partnerships Matchmaking Forum, the India-Thai Chamber of Commerce (ITCC), International Trade Centre (ITC), and Asia Connect also provided in-kind support to the Forum.

3. Dr. Ravi Ratnayake, Director, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP delivered his introductory statements.

4. Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal Rawther, Chairperson of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC) delivered his welcoming address.

5. Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP delivered her opening statement.

6. Mr. Thapana Sirivadhanabhakdi, President and CEO of Thai Beverage Public Company Limited delivered his keynote address on "Entrepreneurship for Regional Development in Asia and the Pacific".

* E/ESCAP/70/L.1/Rev.1/Add.1.

7. H.E. Robert Aisi, Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) to the United Nations and Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations delivered his inaugural address on “Business and the international community’s sustainable development goals (SDGs)”.

8. Mr. Chartsiri Sophonpanich, Chairman, The Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB), financial sponsor of APBF 2013, delivered his vote of thanks.

9. The overarching theme of APBF 2013, “Connecting the Pacific with Asia” was discussed in three plenary sessions, one special address and two special events over two days. Specific topics of APBF 2013 included: building a sustainable Pacific private sector; linking the Pacific with Asia: what does it mean for business?; trade facilitation, finance and transport for inclusive business development; social entrepreneurship for global development; human rights and business: principles for sustainable business development; and addressing the private sector’s role in disaster risk reduction (DRR).

10. In the concluding session, Dr. Ravi Ratnayake and Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal Rawther led a closing discussion with participants, speakers and session moderators which highlighted the outcomes of the Forum and presented overarching recommendations to both the public and private sectors.

11. Two pre-Forum events were organized. The first event was held on Sunday 24 November 2013 at the British Club, which was an ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC) Welcome Dinner, generously hosted by Ms. Barbara Meynert. The second event was the sixth session of EBAC, which was held on Monday 25 November 2013 at the Royal Princess Hotel Lam Lung.

B. Attendance

12. The Forum was attended by approximately 120 people from various industries, including 40 from the private sector, 38 from the public sectors, 12 from non-governmental organizations, 16 from international organizations, 2 from academia or research institutions and 12 from others. Approximately 69 per cent of the participants, who filled out the Forum’s evaluation document, were from outside the host country.

II. Conclusions, recommendations and outcomes of the substantive deliberations

A. Plenary session 1: Building a sustainable Pacific private sector

Objective:

To identify ways in which the Pacific’s private sector can be strengthened in key strategic industry areas, and address how the Pacific’s private sector can tackle challenges faced, particularly relating to climate change.

Moderator:

Mr. Caleb Jarvis, *Trade Commissioner at Pacific Islands Trade & Invest (PT&I); Vice President of the Australian Pacific Islands Business Council*

Panelists:

- Ms. Sally-Ann Hughes, *Export Marketing Officer, Increasing Agriculture Commodity and Trade, Land Resources Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community*
Topic: How is the EU helping to develop competitive businesses alongside governments in the Pacific?
- Ms. Pornsri Laurujisawat, *Vice President, Charoen Pokphand Foods PCL (CPF)*
Topic: Technology, innovation and supply chain management to enhance sustainable food security in the Pacific
- Mr. Tekeua Tarati, *President, Kiribati Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Managing Director, Triple Tee Enterprises*
Topic: Public-private cooperation for a competitive and sustainable private sector in Kiribati
- Mr. Sam Savou, *Trade Commissioner, Pacific Islands Trade & Invest, Beijing*
Topic: Opportunities for sustainable growth
- Mr. Nitij Pal, *Principle, Rockwell Oliver and Vice President, Australia Pacific Business Council*
Topic: Effective business law reform in the Pacific
- Mr. Felix Richard A. Cordova, *President & CEO, Edward Marcs Philippines Inc.*
Topic: The way forward...

Questions:

- What labour, geographic, resources and policy factors are impacting the attractiveness of doing businesses in the region, specifically in regards to key sectors such as food, agriculture, fisheries and tourism?
- What are the environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) risks facing businesses working in the region and what strategic approaches can be taken to overcome these risks?
- How can governments and businesses work together to ensure the development of a viable, competitive and sustainable business community in the Pacific?
- How can climate change effect business in vulnerable Pacific Island countries and how can these challenges be effectively addressed?

Main conclusions, recommendations and outcomes:

1. Several major challenges that Pacific Islands face in achieving sustainable growth were identified and include the following:
 - a. Lack of access to capital
 - b. Distance and proximity to other nations, market access and ease of doing business
 - c. High fiscal debt
 - d. Lack of infrastructure
 - e. Need for improved rule of law and governance mechanisms

2. A major factor in achieving poverty reduction and national development is through the creation of profitable businesses. In the Pacific this can be done through enhanced export, investment and tourism promotion. Additionally, Pacific island countries specifically have opportunities and advantage in the sectors of mining and extraction, aquaculture and telecommunications.

3. Pacific Island countries are not taking full advantage of the economic growth in Asian markets. This is partly due to distance, cultural and language differences, lack of awareness regarding trade and investment opportunities in Asian countries and lack of goods and services tailored to foreign markets.

4. Due to the impact of colonialism a divergence of legal frameworks have been developed across the Pacific, creating a legal landscape that can make it difficult for interregional trade and investment, and also discourages foreign investment. The main trade-off between legal reforms is the benefit of a homogenous legal landscape versus the sovereign rights of each Pacific state. If countries decided to move forward with reforms the procedure would be costly and time consuming, therefore international institutions such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) would need to assist in this process.

5. There is a significant degree of aid inefficiency in the Pacific, with inefficiently distributed aid funds leading to a bloated public sector, rising unemployment and corruption, etc. In order to address this problem, aid could be targeted directly at domestic companies. Coupled with strong financial monitoring procedures, aid to companies could help in creating sustainable and inclusive growth and employment.

6. The region must work together and employ adaptation strategies to minimize the risks associated with climate change. Humanitarian responses should not only focus on rebuilding a resilient infrastructure, but also on job creation for those affected.

B. Plenary 2: Linking the Pacific with Asia: What does it mean for business?

Objective:

To identify the current challenges and avenues to strengthen regional connectivity, and promote inclusive and sustainable growth in the Asia-Pacific private sector, specifically for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Moderator:

Ms. Barbara Meynert, *Director, Fung Global Institute and Chair, EBAC Regional Integration and Connectivity Task Force*

Topic: ASEAN needs to plan for regional digital connectivity

Panelists:

- Mr. Mari Amano, *Secretary-General, Asian Productivity Organization Secretariat (APO), Tokyo*

Topic: Connecting the Asia-Pacific through productivity

- Mr. Hiroto Arakawa, *Senior Special Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency Research Institute (JICA), Japan*
Topic: Potential of ICT to strengthen connectivity between Asia and the Pacific
- Ms. Sisikakala Fine, *Managing Director, ProComm Services, Tonga*
Topic: Connecting a kingdom
- Mr. Oudet Souvannavong, *Secretary General, Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum*
Topic: Benefits and challenges of regional economic partnership in East Asia and its expansion in Asia and the Pacific

Questions:

- What is the state of the regional business community in terms of regional connectivity? What are the most pressing challenges for businesses to connect in the Asia-Pacific region?
- What can be done to strengthen connectivity among businesses in the region, in particular between Asia and the Pacific? How can market liberalization help strengthen the competitive advantage of businesses and their interconnectivity? What are the implications for SMEs?
- How can large companies better integrate SMEs into their business activities and supply chains?
- What lessons can be learned from successful South to South business relationships in the Asia-Pacific and transnational corporations headquartered in emerging economies?
- How can government and business work together to ensure that regional integration and connectivity promote inclusive and sustainable growth, and reduce the problems associated with growing inequality?

Main conclusions, recommendations and outcomes:

1. In order to connect the Pacific with Asia, the cost of doing business must be reduced as currently these costs are prohibitively high. One reason for this is distance. Broadband and ICT networks, and human resources development are means to overcome these challenges and enhance regional development and connectivity. Specific Pacific Island service sectors of advantage which were identified include e-governance and business process outsourcing.
2. ICT can create business opportunities, improve rural livelihoods and improve social services. Specific resources include:
 - a. E-learning (through online sources such as the Kahn Institute)
 - b. Microloans (Kiva)
 - c. Tele-health (access to affordable medical services)
 - d. E-agriculture (access to market information)
 - e. Expansion of mobile phone coverage allowing rural producers to improve market decisions (where, to whom and at what price to sell).

3. Key components for enhanced Asia-Pacific connectivity include:
 - a. Strong leadership to pursue opportunities and overcome challenges;
 - b. Strategic sequencing of policies to create an enabling environment;
 - c. Continuous investment in human resource development (e.g. through education).

4. With the emerging ASEAN single market, Pacific Island countries should utilize their competitive advantage in marine resources through enhanced trade and the implementation of free trade agreements (FTAs).

C. Plenary 3: Trade facilitation, finance and transport for inclusive business development

Objective: To discuss the relevant international tools, instruments and facilities aimed at increasing the efficiency of regional and global cross-border trade; and to assess the current state of SME financing in the region, identifying the challenges and opportunities to enhance financing for SMEs in Asia and the Pacific generally and the Pacific sub-region in particular.

Moderator:

Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, *President, International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh*

Panelists:

- Mr. Ko Ko Lay, *Director, Directorate of Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar*
- Mr. Kazuyoshi Ogawa, *Director, Pacific Islands Centre*
Topic: Trade facilitation between Pacific Islands and Japan
- Mr. Deepak Subedi, *Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, Democratic Republic of Nepal*
Topic: Trade facilitation and the role of stakeholders to ensure the access of SMEs in trade finance
- Mr. Tariq M. Rangoonwala, *Chairperson, Rangoonwala Group of Companies*
Topic: A brief practical guideline for enhancing trade facilitation measures for developing countries in Asia
- Mr. Paul Apthorp, *Vice-Chairman, Greater Mekong Subregion Freight Transport Association*
Topic: Encouraging trade through transport facilitation
- Mr. George Yuen, *Non-Executive Director, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and Board Director, Visteon Corporation*
Topic: Finance for business development in Asia Pacific
- Mr. Shazali Sulaiman, *Resident Partner, KPMG, Brunei Darussalam*

Questions:

- What are the pressing issues in promoting trade facilitation and transport facilitation for Asia-Pacific business?
- What role can the public sector, private sector and international organizations take in improving trade facilitation and transport throughout the region?
- Is the regulatory environment (post global crisis) favourable to trade facilitation and financing for inclusive development?
- What are the challenges faced by the SMEs to access trade finance and what innovative financing mechanisms exist to facilitate financing for SMEs and new businesses?
- What is the impact of a lack of access to trade finance on Global Value Chains and how can access to trade financing for SMEs be increased?
- What is the role of the public sector, private sector and international organizations in increasing access to inclusive and sustainable finance for SMEs?

Main conclusions, recommendations and outcomes:

1. The development of new roads and bridges has done little to improve market access which has hindered SME participation in global value chains. This is due to the persistent dominance of non-physical trade barriers. In order to improve trade facilitation regionally, governments should:

- a. develop customs unions bilaterally or regionally;
 - i. accede to multilateral trade facilitation conventions with international guarantee chains such as the UN TIR Convention on transit transport; and the Istanbul Convention on ATA Carnet for temporary admission.

2. It is important to have a formalized arbitration and dispute resolution mechanism for international disputes in trade facilitation.

3. In order to enhance SMEs capacity to effectively participate in global and regional value chains they need:

- a. the ability to ensure on time delivery every time;
- b. competitive transport with easy connections to global routes;
- c. consolidated feeder services for economies of scale;
- d. inland container deposits (ICDs) for local consolidation/distribution; and
- e. easier import/export procedures.

4. SMEs play an important role in trade finance. In order to reduce entry barriers, ensure sufficient cash flow and strengthen entrepreneurship through training, banks can act as trusted third parties to guarantee delivery from exporters to importers. Banks have more informed knowledge of foreign exchange markets and can help their clients take advantage of market opportunities and better navigate the market.

D. Special address: Social entrepreneurship for global development

Mr. Clancy Castrission, Chief Executive Officer of 40K Group Australia delivered a special address on Social Entrepreneurship for Global Development on 26 November 2013. This address discussed the potential of business innovation in social development, particularly from the perspective of his organization, 40K Group. Initially his work began in the area of education; the goal of this venture was to use innovation to provide high quality education at low prices (US\$ 3/month). The model took away all traditional teacher functions but trained teachers to act as education supervisors. Instructions and curriculum are provided via tablets and children teach themselves through operating the tablets and peer-to-peer work, thus decreasing the costs associated with education, but redesigning the traditional education model to create high quality outcomes. This model was coined by his team as “innovation by restriction”. This initiative led to the creation of Clary’s consulting firm in 2011, which operates under the goal of creating shared value. The overall approach taken by his organization is not to provide piecemeal improvements but to fundamentally reinvent and reconceptualise the standards/systems that are currently in place. Overall, his address stated that the challenge with many businesses is the focus on simply producing products or services without looking beyond the end product, rather entrepreneur’s major attention should turn towards the major challenges facing the world and redefining the norms in which products address these challenges.

E. Special session: Inclusive business: addressing today’s global challenges

Overview: The Special Session on Inclusive Business addressed two specific topics of discussion: (1) Human Rights and Business: Principles for Sustainable Business Development; and (2) Addressing the Private Sector’s Role in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Overall the session discussed today’s emerging global challenges and identified the role of business within rapidly changing and demanding development contexts.

Human Rights and Business: Principles for Sustainable Business Development

Objective: To enable the private sector to better understand human rights principles and address potential human rights violations in their given organizations and industrial sectors, particularly identifying how these standards can be reinforced as fundamental business principles which enhance business sustainability and long-term growth.

Moderator:

Ms. Cynthia Morel, *Global Advocacy and Special Advisor, Asian Peace-Building and Rule of Law Programme, Singapore Management University*

Panelists:

- Ms. Vanessa Zimmerman, *Group Human Rights Advisor, Rio Tinto and Expert Advisor, Human Rights Leadership Group, Global Compact Network Australia* - (pre-recorded audio presentation)

Topic: UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Preventing and addressing business related human rights risks through shared responsibility and action

- Mr. Bill Anderson, *Head of Environmental and Social Affairs Asia Pacific at Adidas Group*
Topic: Embedding human rights principles into business practice
- Mr. Thomas Wise, *Manager, Global Issues and Policy, Chevron*
Topic: Integrating human rights considerations into business management systems
- Mr. Asif Ibrahim, *ESCAP Business Advisory Council Chair of Inclusive and Sustainable Business and Vice Chairman, Newage Group of Industries, Bangladesh*
Topic: Bangladeshi Garment Sector: The role of the private sector in promoting workers' rights

Questions:

- What are some of the major human rights challenges facing companies in the region and what approaches should be taken to address these issues?
- What is the role of governments and regional institutions, such as ASEAN, in creating an enabling environment for works to ensure businesses respect human rights?
- What role should civil society play to ensure the advancement of human rights standards in the region's private sector?
- How can multinational companies which operate across the region, better ensure that their own operations and suppliers are upholding human rights standards?

Main conclusions, recommendations and outcomes:

1. Failure to abide by human rights regulations can result in operational delays, legal challenges, reputational harm, investor concern and lost development opportunities. The UN Guiding Principles can serve as a global reference point for preventing and addressing the risk of adverse impacts on human rights through the "Protect, Respect and Remedy" framework. While countries and corporations of the region are responsible to protect and respect human rights, it is imperative that countries also improve their systems for reporting and addressing instances of human rights violations.

2. It was argued that if the market is left to its own devices it will not necessarily lead to inclusive development or the protection of human rights. Furthermore, despite efforts of the public and private sectors, these efforts must also be supplemented to further protect human rights and uphold standards. Unions can take a very important role in human rights protection and address violations of these rights.

3. The development of business associations and cooperating mechanisms can allow for enhanced protection and collaboration in ensuring human rights standards, by allowing for organizations to learn and share good practices with each other.

Addressing the Private Sector's Role in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Objective: To identify what information and incentives the private sector needs in order to incorporate DRR into its organizational decision making and to garner public-private commitment to DRR regionally.

Moderator:

Mr. Aslam Perwaiz, *Department Head, Capacity Building for Planning and Implementation of Flood Preparedness Programs, ADPC*

Panelists:

- Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, *Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, UNESCAP*
Topic: Building private sector resilience to natural disasters
- Mr. Thavirap Tantiwongse, *Public Affairs Director, GlaxoSmithKline (Thailand) Ltd.*
Topic: Enhancing the private sector's involvement in DRR

Questions:

- What are the current DRR challenges facing the Asia-Pacific private sector?
- How can the private sector be incentivized to reduce disaster risk in their investment decisions, specifically what could be the drivers for disaster resilient investment in the private sector?
- How can financial instruments (such as insurance, loans, tax measures) promote and/or discourage risk sensitive investment?
- Who should be responsible for reducing risks resulting from private sector activities?
- How can decision-making be improved to reduce human and economic exposure systematically?

Main conclusions, recommendations and outcomes:

1. Due to the steady expansion of global value chains, businesses in one country have become more vulnerable to disasters affecting businesses in other countries that are part of the same supply chain. Disasters are no longer localized and companies large and small must be able to adapt to disasters and prepare business continuity strategies that allow for flexible supply chains.

2. One of the key ways of achieving sustainable business development is for SMEs to take precautions before disasters happen, rather than wait until they are happening. SMEs have the highest risk and can seriously impact an entire value chain. Business continuity plans (BCP) are essential in this regard, but while large companies are already implementing such plans, SMEs in most cases do not have such plans. It is the responsibility of all participants in the supply chain to help SMEs develop strong BCPs; CSR can be one component in building the capacity of BCPs, which is a win-win for SMEs and supply chain resilience.

3. The formulation of BCPs is particularly important as the appearance of risks leads to higher insurance rates which may lead to prohibitive costs for businesses, in particular SMEs. Therefore, it is important for all businesses, especially SMEs which have thin margins, to become proactive in formulating contingency plans and exit strategies before disaster risks appear.

Annex 1**APBF Programme****PRE-FORUM EVENT**

Sunday
24 November 2013

1830–2030	ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC) Welcome Dinner (by invitation only)
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Monday
25 November 2013

0830–1145	Sixth Meeting of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC) (by invitation only)
0830-0900	Registration
0900-1145	Sixth Meeting of EBAC (by invitation only) Location: Royal Princess Hotel Larn Luang

ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM 2013 - DAY 1
Royal Princess Hotel Larn Lung

1230–1300	Registration
1300–1345	Opening Session
1300–1305	Introductory Statement Mr. Ravi Ratnayake <i>Director, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP</i>
1305–1310	Welcome Address Mr. Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal Rawther <i>Chairperson of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC) and Group Executive Director, Farlim Group</i>
1310–1320	Opening Statement Dr. Noeleen Heyzer <i>Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP</i>

1320–1330	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Address</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr. Thapana Sirivadhanabhakdi <i>President and CEO, Thai Beverage Public Company Limited</i> Entrepreneurship for Regional Development in Asia and the Pacific</p>
1330–1340	<p style="text-align: center;">Inaugural Address</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H.E. Mr. Robert G. Aisi <i>Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) to the United Nations and Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations</i> Business and the international community's sustainable development goals (SDGs)</p>
1340–1345	<p style="text-align: center;">Vote of Thanks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr. Chartsiri Sophonpanich <i>Chairman, The Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB), Chairman, The Thai Bankers' Association, and President, Bangkok Bank Public Company Limited</i></p>
1345–1430	Photo Session and Afternoon Tea Break

1430-1645	<p>Plenary 1 Building a Sustainable Pacific Private Sector</p>
	<p>Topics of Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What labour, geographic, resources and policy factors are impacting the attractiveness of doing businesses in the region, specifically in regards to key sectors such as food, agriculture, fisheries and tourism? • What are the environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) risks facing businesses working in the region and what strategic approaches can be taken to overcome these risks? • How can governments and businesses work together to ensure the development of a viable, competitive and sustainable business community in the Pacific? • How can climate change effect business in vulnerable Pacific Island countries and how can these challenges be effectively addressed? <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Caleb Jarvis, <i>Trade Commissioner at Pacific Islands Trade & Invest (PT&I); Vice President at Australian Pacific Islands Business Council</i> <u>Topic:</u> Setting the Scene</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p><u>Governments and International Agencies:</u> Ms. Sally-Ann Hughes, <i>Export Marketing Officer, Increasing Agriculture Commodity and Trade, Land Resources Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community</i> <u>Topic:</u> How is the EU helping to develop competitive businesses alongside governments in the Pacific?</p>

	<p>Business Leaders:</p> <p>Ms. Pornsri Laurujisawat, <i>Vice President, Charoen Pokphand Foods PCL (CPF)</i> <i>Topic:</i> Technology, Innovation and Supply Chain Management to enhance sustainable food security in the Pacific Community</p> <p>Mr. Tekeua Tarati, <i>President, Kiribati Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Managing Director, Triple Tee Enterprises</i> <i>Topic:</i> Public-Private Cooperation for a competitive and sustainable private sector in Kiribati</p> <p>Mr. Sam Savou, <i>Trade Commissioner, Pacific Islands Trade & Invest, Beijing</i> <i>Topic:</i> Opportunities for Sustainable Growth</p> <p>Mr. Nitij Pal, <i>Principle, Rockwell Oliver and Vice President, Australia Pacific Business Council</i> <i>Topic:</i> Effective business law reform in the Pacific</p> <p>Mr. Felix Richard A. Cordova, <i>President & CEO, Edward Marcs Phils Inc., Philippines</i> <i>Topic:</i> The way forward...</p>
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ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM 2013 - DAY 2
 Royal Princess Hotel Larn Lung

Tuesday
 26 November 2013

0800-0830	Registration
0830-0840	Day 2 - Welcome Address
	<p>Mr. Tariq M. Rangoonwala <i>Chairperson, Rangoonwala Group of Companies</i></p>
0840-1015	<p>Plenary 2 Linking The Pacific with Asia: What Does It Mean For Business?</p>

	<p>Topics of Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the state of the regional business community in terms of regional connectivity? What are the most pressing challenges for businesses to connect in the Asia-Pacific region? • What can be done to strengthen connectivity among businesses in the region, in particular between Asia and the Pacific? How can market liberalization help strengthen the competitive advantage of businesses and their interconnectivity? What are the implications for SMEs? • How can large companies better integrate SMEs into their business activities and supply chains? • What lessons can be learned from successful South to South business relationships in Asia-Pacific and from the experiences of transnational corporations headquartered in emerging economies? • How can government and business work together to ensure that regional integration and connectivity promote inclusive and sustainable growth, and reduce the problems associated with growing inequality? <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Barbara Meynert, <i>Director, Fung Global Institute and Chair, EBAC Regional Integration and Connectivity Task Force</i> <u>Topic:</u> ASEAN needs to plan for regional digital connectivity</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p><u>Government Leaders and International Agencies:</u></p> <p>Mr. Mari Amano, <i>Secretary-General, Asian Productivity Organization Secretariat (APO), Tokyo</i> <u>Topic:</u> Connecting the Asia-Pacific through Productivity</p> <p>Mr. Hiroto Arakawa, <i>Senior Special Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency Research Institute (JICA), Japan</i> <u>Topic:</u> Potential of ICT to Strengthen Connectivity between Asia and the Pacific</p> <p><u>Business Leaders and Institutions:</u></p> <p>Ms. Sisikakala Fine, <i>Managing Director, ProComm Services, Tonga</i> <u>Topic:</u> Connecting a Kingdom</p> <p>Mr. Oudet Souvannavong, <i>Secretary General, Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum</i> <u>Topic:</u> Benefit and Challenges of Regional Economic Partnership in East Asia and its expansion in Asia and the Pacific</p>
1015-1030	<p style="text-align: center;">Morning Tea Break</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hosted by: The Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB)</p>
1030–1200	<p style="text-align: center;">Plenary 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Trade Facilitation, Transport and Finance for Inclusive Business Development</p>

	<p>Topics of Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the pressing issues in promoting trade facilitation and transport facilitation for Asia-Pacific business? • What role can the public sector, private sector and international organizations take in improving trade facilitation and transport throughout the region? • Is the regulatory environment (post global crisis) favourable to trade facilitation and financing for inclusive development? • What are the challenges faced by the SMEs to access trade finance and what innovative financing mechanisms exist to facilitate financing for SMEs and new businesses? • What is the impact of a lack of access to trade finance on Global Value Chains and how can access to trade financing for SMEs be increased? • What is the role of the public sector, private sector and international organizations in increasing access to inclusive and sustainable finance for SMEs? <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, <i>President, International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh</i></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p><u>Governments and International Agencies:</u></p> <p>Mr. Ko Ko Lay, Director, <i>Directorate of Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar</i> <u>Topic:</u> Trade Facilitation between Pacific Islands and Japan</p> <p>Mr. Kazuyoshi Ogawa, Director, <i>Pacific Islands Centre</i> <u>Topic:</u> Trade Facilitation between Pacific Islands and Japan</p> <p>Mr. Deepak Subedi, Joint Secretary, <i>Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, Democratic Republic of Nepal</i> <u>Topic:</u> Trade Facilitation and Role of stakeholders to ensure the access of SMEs in Trade Finance</p> <p>Mr. Paul Apthorp, Vice-Chairman, <i>Greater Mekong Subregion Freight Transport Association</i> <u>Topic:</u> Encouraging Trade Through Transport Facilitation</p> <p><u>Business Leaders:</u></p> <p>Mr. Tariq M. Rangoonwala, Chairperson, <i>Rangoonwala Group of Companies</i> <u>Topic:</u> A brief practical guideline for enhancing trade facilitation measures for developing countries in Asia</p> <p>Mr. George Yuen, Non-Executive Director, <i>Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and Board Director, Visteon Corporation</i> <u>Topic:</u> Finance for business development in Asia Pacific</p> <p>Mr. Shazali Sulaiman, Resident Partner, <i>KPMG, Brunei Darussalam</i></p>
1200–1300	<p>Networking Lunch</p> <hr/> <p>Hosted By: The Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB)</p>

1300–1315	<p style="text-align: center;">Special Address Social Entrepreneurship for Global Development</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr. Clary Castrission <i>Chief Executive Officer of 40K Group Australia</i></p>
1315–1615	<p style="text-align: center;">Special Event Inclusive Business: Addressing Today's Global Challenges</p> <hr/> <p>Overview: This will be a comprehensive session which discusses today's emerging global challenges and identifies the role of business within these rapidly changing and demanding development contexts. This session will be divided into two components, first providing in-depth information regarding the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, private sector risk reduction in regards to human rights abuses, and labour migration and associated human rights risks. Secondly, the proceeding session will discuss the importance of enhancing the private sector's role in disaster risk reduction (DRR). Particularly, a focus will be given to the need for both public and private commitment to DRR in the region, analysing stakeholder roles and highlighting DRR implementation strategies and incentives.</p>
1315–1445	<p>Human Rights and Business: Principles for Sustainable Business Development</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Cynthia Morel, <i>Global Advocacy and Special Advisor, Asian Peace-Building and Rule of Law Programme, Singapore Management University</i> <u>Topic:</u> The Right to Development: A Pathway to Sustainable Partnerships</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u> Ms. Vanessa Zimmerman - <i>Group Human Rights Advisor, Rio Tinto and Expert Advisor, Human Rights Leadership Group, Global Compact Network Australia</i> - (pre-recorded audio presentation) <u>Topic:</u> UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: preventing and addressing business related human rights risks through shared responsibility and action</p> <p>Mr. Bill Anderson – <i>Head of Environmental and Social Affairs Asia Pacific at Adidas Group</i> <u>Topic:</u> Embedding Human Rights Principles into Business Practice</p> <p>Mr. Thomas Wise, <i>Manager, Global Issues and Policy, Chevron</i> <u>Topic:</u> Integrating human rights considerations into business management systems</p> <p>Mr. Asif Ibrahim – <i>ESCAP Business Advisory Council Chair of Inclusive and Sustainable Business and Vice Chairman, Newage Group of Industries, Bangladesh</i> <u>Topic:</u> Bangladeshi Garment Sector: The role of the Private sector in promoting workers rights</p>
1445–1500	<p style="text-align: center;">Afternoon Tea Break Hosted by: The Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB)</p>

1500–1615	<p>Addressing the Private Sector’s Role in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <p>Mr. Aslam Perwaiz, <i>Department Head, Capacity Building for Planning and Implementation of Flood Preparedness Programs, ADPC</i></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <p>Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, <i>Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP</i></p> <p><u>Topic:</u> Building Private Sector Resilience to Natural Disasters</p> <p>Mr. Bert van Walbeek, <i>Chairman PATA Rapid Recovery Taskforce and Managing Director, The Winning Edge</i></p> <p>Mr. Thavirap Tantiwongse, <i>Public Affairs Director, GlaxoSmithKline (Thailand) Ltd. (tbc)</i></p> <p><u>Topic:</u> Best practices and strategies for enhanced private sector involvement in DRR</p>
1615–1645	<p>Closing Session</p>
1615–1630	<p>EBAC Chairman’s Closing Statements</p> <p>Mr. Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal Rawther</p> <p><i>Chairperson of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC)</i></p>
1630-1645	<p>Closing Statements</p> <p>Mr. Ravi Ratnayake</p> <p><i>Director, Trade and Investment Division, United Nations ESCAP</i></p>