

Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2019 in the Pacific

Mission of the APBF

The Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) is the flagship regional business forum organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The APBF's mission is to provide the best platform for continuous regional multi-stakeholder dialogue on the role and needs of business in achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in pursuit of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

What ESCAP can bring

With its 53 Member States plus nine associate members, ranging from least developed countries and small island developing states to countries with emerging market and advanced economies, ESCAP Secretariat is the driving force behind APBF. Given its regional convening power, ESCAP attracts participants from governments, business, academia and civil society throughout the region. Results and recommendations from the APBF are presented at intergovernmental meetings of ESCAP, such as the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and Commission sessions.

ESBN – continuing multi-stakeholder dialogues

Through the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN), ESCAP engages with business leaders in addressing the issues of sustainability, responsible investment and social inclusiveness for business in the region. ESBN acts as a force of change for business through public-private partnerships and provides a platform for the perspectives of the business sector on inclusive, resilient and sustainable development issues. ESBN organizes a series of meetings and activities, such as multi-stakeholder dialogues and studies on emerging issues, in between and building upon the APBF sessions. In collaboration with governments, one of ESBN's main objectives is to create an enabling policy and regulatory environment for the adoption and implementation of corporate sustainability.¹

APBF – the history

The APBF was first organized in 2004 in Shanghai, where it attracted over 2,000 participants. Over the course of more than a decade, the annual Forum has been hosted in such diverse locations such as Almaty, Bangkok, Colombo, Dhaka, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Kunming and, most recently, Hong Kong in April 2018.

APBF 2019 – the Pacific

APBF will be hosted in Oceania for the first time in 2019. The Framework for Pacific Regionalism, endorsed by the region's leaders in 2014, states Pacific peoples are the custodians of the world's largest, most peaceful and abundant ocean, its many islands and its rich diversity of cultures. Policy and regulatory frameworks that enable business and industry to

advance sustainable development initiatives will be indispensable for achieving SDGs in the Pacific. It is also acknowledged, however, that the Pacific Island Countries have unique vulnerabilities including remoteness, climate change impacts and natural disasters. The APBF 2019 will provide a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogues on inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in the Pacific region as well as strengthening connectivity, trade and investment between Asia and the Pacific.

Themes for APBF Port Moresby 2019

The overall theme for the APBF 2019 will be "Building, connecting, sustaining the 21st Century Global Village". Sessions featuring business, government and thought leaders will explore the following:

- Best practice and emerging opportunities in resources, energy and infrastructure, to boost new development across the Asia Pacific
- How fintech and frontier technologies are helping small business go global
- Embedding sustainability and resilience, strengthening communities and achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

Visiting unique Papua New Guinea

Resource rich and primed for rapid growth, with ambitious plans for new infrastructure and industry development, Papua New Guinea is the leading Pacific Island economy. Reach Port Moresby by direct air links from Hong Kong, Manila, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo or from various Australian cities. The APBF will be hosted in APEC Haus, the venue for the 2018 APEC Leaders Meeting. The conference accommodation is in a secure, luxury hotel complex with all amenities and will feature an optional day trip to experience Papua New Guinea island culture. Shuttle transport will be provided throughout your visit.

Benefits of sponsoring of the APBF

- Demonstrate commitment to the UN SDGs and to sustainable development in the Pacific
- Reach leaders from government and business from across Asia and the Pacific by presenting at APBF and hosting key networking events
- Feature on interactive networking website to market the APBF and showcase Asia Pacific business opportunities from January 2019 onwards

Contact

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¹ For more information, refer its website at:
<http://ebac.unescap.org/esbn/about>