

UNITED NATIONS ESCAP



Asia-Pacific Business Forum

*Eleventh Session!*

PROGRAMME

# Asia-Pacific Business Forum

*Enhancing regional business sustainability  
and investment*

2014

MILODA

Colombo | Sri Lanka | 25-27 November 2014

Join United Nations ESCAP  
at APBF 2014

<http://APBF.UNESCAP.ORG>

## Overview

The Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) is the flagship regional business forum organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). With its 53 Member States plus 9 Associate Members, ranging from least developed and Pacific Island countries, to countries with emerging markets, the ESCAP secretariat, ESCAP's Business Advisory Council and the Sustainable Business Network are the driving forces behind APBF.

APBF's mission is to provide the best platform for regional public-private sector dialogue on the role and needs of business in achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable development. APBF was first launched in 2004 in Shanghai, where it attracted over 2,000 participants from business, government, academia and civil society from across the region. Over the course of one decade, it has helped form a pan-Asian multi-stakeholder network, and has been hosted in various locations, such as Almaty, Bangkok, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and Kunming.

APBF 2014 will hold its eleventh session in Colombo, Sri Lanka under the theme "Enhancing regional business sustainability and investment" with the aim to give businesses and other stakeholders from South Asia a stronger voice.

The Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) 2014 will be organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with the ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC) and the Ministry of Economic Development, the Board of Investment Sri Lanka, Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry of Sri Lanka, National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh and Pacific Islands Trade and Invest.

## Enhancing **Regional** **Business Sustainability** and **Investment**

## APBF 2014 Objectives

### Overall Objective:

To identify the challenges and discover the most promising opportunities for enhancing intraregional business connectivity, investment and partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region in general and in South Asia and Sri Lanka in particular within the context of achieving inclusive and sustainable development in the region in general and in particular.

### Key Session Objectives:

- To promote inclusive and sustainable growth of the private sector in Asia and the Pacific, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and attraction of FDI to South Asia and Sri Lanka.
- To strengthen the regional business community so it can better meet the challenges of increased competition, the need for corporate sustainability, the complexities of the regulatory environment and the post-2015 development agenda.
- To encourage cooperation between government and business to achieve a better sustainable business and investment climate at national, subregional and regional levels.
- To discuss the relevant international tools, instruments and facilities aimed at increasing the adoption of international principles of responsible business conduct and the role of business in disaster risk reduction.

# Tentative Programme

## PRE-FORUM EVENTS

### Monday

24 November 2014

Hilton Colombo Hotel  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

19:00 – 21:00	<b>ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC) Welcome Dinner</b> (by invitation only)  Hosted by: <b>Mr. Kosala Wickramanayake</b> , <i>President, International Business Council in Sri Lanka</i> Venue: Hilton Colombo Hotel
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### Tuesday

25 November 2014

Miloda, Times Building, Bristol Street  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

08:30 – 17:00	<b>Eighth Meeting of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC)</b> (by invitation only)	Fourth Meeting of the <b>Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Network                  for Least Developed and Landlocked Developing                  Countries</b>
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	Registration
09:00 – 12:00	<b>Eighth Meeting of EBAC</b> (By Invitation Only)	<b>Fourth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct                  Investment Network</b>
12:00 – 13:30	<b>Joint Lunch of EBAC and the Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment Network</b>  <b>Introductory Presentation of EBAC</b>  <b>Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal Rawther</b> <i>Chairperson of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC)                  and Group Executive Director, Farlim Group</i>	
13:30 – 17:00	<b>Eighth Meeting of EBAC</b> (By Invitation Only) <i>Continued</i>	<b>Fourth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct                  Investment Network</b> <i>Continued</i>

# Tentative Programme

## ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM - DAY 1

**Tuesday**

25 November 2014

Miloda, Times Building, Bristol Street  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

17:30 – 18:00	Registration
18:00 – 20:30	<b>Welcome Reception</b>
18:00 – 18:45	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> <b>Dr. Ravi Ratnayake</b> <i>Chief Organizer of APBF and Director, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP</i> <b>Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywaradana</b> <i>Minister of Investment Promotion, Government of Sri Lanka</i>
	<b>Special Address</b> <b>Hon. Basil Rajapaksa</b> <i>Minister of Economic Development of Sri Lanka</i>
	Q&A
18:45 – 19:00	<b>Photo Session</b>
19:00 – 20:30	<b>Welcome Reception</b> <b>Hosted by: Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywaradana</b> <i>Minister of Investment Promotion of Sri Lanka, Government of Sri Lanka</i> <b>Location:</b> Miloda, Times Building, Bristol Street, Colombo, Sri Lanka

# Tentative Programme

## ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM - DAY 2

Wednesday

26 November 2014

Miloda, Times Building, Bristol Street  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

07:30 – 08:00	Registration	
08:00 – 08:45	<b>Opening Session</b>	
	<b>Introduction to APBF 2014</b> <b>Dr. Ravi Ratnayake</b> <i>Chief Organizer of APBF and Director, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP</i>	
	<b>Welcome Statement</b> <b>Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal Rawther</b> <i>Chairperson of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC) and Group Executive Director, Farlim Group</i>	
	<b>Opening Statement</b> <b>Hon. Gamini Lakshman Peiris</b> <i>Minister of External Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka</i>	
	<b>Special Address</b> Enhancing Regional Business Sustainability and Investment <b>Mr. R. C. Bhargava</b> <i>Chairman, Maruti Suzuki</i>	
08:45 – 08:55	Networking break	
08:55 – 09:10	<b>Special Address</b> Connecting Business in Small Island Economies to the Region	
	<b>H.E. Mr. Mohamed Nasheed</b> <i>Former President, Republic of Maldives</i>	
09:10 - 10:10	<b>High-level Dialogue</b> Investment as a Driver of Growth	<b>APCTT</b> Evidence Based Sti Approaches To Achieve Sustainable Development Goals <b>Meeting Of The Senior Policy Makers From The Asia- Pacific Region</b>
	<b>Moderator:</b> <b>Hon. G. J. L. Neomal Perera</b> , <i>Deputy Minister of External Affairs, Sri Lanka</i>  <b>Panellists:</b> <b>H.E. Dr. Pwint San</b> , <i>Deputy Minister of Commerce of Myanmar (tbc) or</i> <b>Mr. Aung Naing Oo</b> , <i>Director General, Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar</i> <b>H.E. Tith Chantha</b> , <i>Vice Minister of Tourism of Cambodia</i> <b>Mr. Tony Duarte</b> , <i>Chief of Staff &amp; Cabinet Advisor and State Secretary for the Support &amp; Promotion of the Private Sector (SEAPRI), Timor-Leste</i> <b>Hon. Faiszer Musthapa</b> , <i>Deputy Minister of Investment Promotion of Sri Lanka</i>	

# Tentative Programme

## ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM - DAY 2

Wednesday

26 November 2014

Miloda, Times Building, Bristol Street  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

10:10 - 11:10	<b>Plenary 1</b> Connecting the Region through Trade and Investment	<b>APCTT</b> Evidence Based Sti Approaches To Achieve Sustainable Development Goals <b>Meeting Of The                  Senior Policy Makers                  From The Asia-                  Pacific Region</b>
	<b>Special Presentation</b> <b>Mr. Umberto de Pretto</b> , <i>IRU Secretary General</i>	
	<b>Topics of Discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does AEC 2015 mean for the region? What are the key opportunities and challenges for business?</li> <li>• How can stronger economic linkages between SAARC and ASEAN be forged?</li> <li>• How does the emergence of regional supply chains impact on the development of the region?</li> <li>• What are the changing trade and investment patterns and their implications for the region?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Mr. Mahbubur Rahman</b>, <i>President, International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICCB)</i></p> <p><b>Panellists:</b>  <b>Mr. Simon Bell</b>, <i>Board Director, European Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (ECCSL)</i>  <b>Mr. Chandrakant Salunkhe</b>, <i>Founder and President – SME Chamber of India</i>  <b>Dr. Saman Kelegama</b>, <i>Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka</i>  <b>Mr. Tariq M. Rangoonwala</b>, <i>Chairperson, Rangoonwala Group of Companies</i></p>	
11:10 – 11:25	<b>Special Address</b> Reshaping public-private partnerships for enhanced regional connectivity	<b>APCTT</b> Evidence Based Sti Approaches To Achieve Sustainable Development Goals <b>Meeting Of The                  Senior Policy Makers                  From The Asia-                  Pacific Region</b>
	<b>Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi</b> <i>Former Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and former Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO)</i>	
11:25 - 13:00	<b>Plenary 2</b> How Can Business Drive Sustainable Development?	<b>APCTT</b> Evidence Based Sti Approaches To Achieve Sustainable Development Goals <b>Meeting Of The                  Senior Policy Makers                  From The Asia-                  Pacific Region</b>
	<b>Special Presentation</b> <b>Mr. Thapana Sirivadanabhakdi</b> <i>President and CEO, Thai Beverage Public Co. Ltd</i>	
	<b>Topics of Discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What role does the private sector have in achieving the sustainable development goals?</li> <li>• What is the role of green businesses and how can this be fostered?</li> <li>• What are the environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) risks facing businesses operating in the region and what strategic approaches can be taken to overcome these risks?</li> <li>• What needs to be done to facilitate the inclusion and development of women and youth in business and entrepreneurship?</li> <li>• What is the role and potential of business in disaster risk management in Asia-Pacific?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Mr. Carson Wen</b>, <i>Partner, Jones Day</i></p> <p><b>Panellists:</b>  <b>Dr. Bindu N. Lohani</b>, <i>Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development of Asian Development Bank</i>  <b>Mr. Asif Ibrahim</b>, <i>Vice Chairman, Newage Group of Industries</i>  <b>Mr. Gilad Regev</b>, <i>Chief Executive Officer, WindFire BV</i>  <b>Mr. Suteash Balasubramaniam</b>, <i>Network Representative and Director, Global Compact Network Sri Lanka</i>  <b>Ms. Cristina Tébar Less</b>, <i>Chief of Responsible Business Conduct Unit, OECD Investment Division</i></p>	

# Tentative Programme

## ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM - DAY 2

Wednesday

26 November 2014

Miloda, Times Building, Bristol Street  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

13:00 – 14:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Networking Lunch</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Hosted By:</u> Board of Investment of Sri Lanka</p>	
14:00 - 14:10	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Short introduction to</b> Break the Silence: Sexual Assault and the SART Solution</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mr. Akash Bhavsar</b>, <i>Managing Director, Skyquest Technology Group</i></p>	<p><b>APCTT</b> Evidence Based Sti Approaches To Achieve Sustainable Development Goals <b>Meeting Of The Senior Policy Makers From The Asia- Pacific Region</b></p>
14:10 - 15:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Plenary 3</b> Business and Investment Opportunities in Sri Lanka as a Regional Hub</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Special Presentation</b> <b>Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama</b> <i>Senior Minister of International Monetary Cooperation and the Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning</i></p> <p><b>Topics of Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the opportunities and challenges for sustainable business and investment in Sri Lanka?</li> <li>• What are the key strategies for attracting regional and international investment in Sri Lanka?</li> <li>• How can Sri Lanka serve as a business and logistic link/hub in the subregion?</li> <li>• How can businesses in Sri Lanka exploit bilateral and regional free trade agreements?</li> </ul> <p><u>Moderator:</u> <b>Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena</b>, <i>Minister of Investment Promotion, Government of Sri Lanka</i></p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> <b>Mr. Kazuhiko Obama</b>, <i>Resident Representative, JETRO Colombo</i> <b>Dr. Priyath B Wickrama</b>, <i>Chairman, Sri Lanka Ports Authority</i> <b>Mr. Prasanna J. Wickramasuriya</b>, <i>Chairman of Airport and Aviation Services LTD.</i></p>	
15:30 - 16:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Special Presentation</b> SMEs in the Global Digital Economy</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Myanmar SME Link”, a project of EBAC Sustainable Business Network</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ms. Barbara Meynert</b>, <i>Director, Fung Global Institute</i> <b>Mr. Pedro Eloy</b>, <i>Head of BusinessLab HKU MBA program</i></p>	
16:00 – 16:10	<p><b>Networking break</b></p>	

# Tentative Programme

## ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM - DAY 2

Wednesday

26 November 2014

Miloda, Times Building, Bristol Street  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

16:10 - 18:00	<p align="center"><b>Plenary 4</b> Integrating Small and Medium Enterprises in the Region's Dynamism</p>	<p align="center"><b>APCTT</b> Evidence Based Sti Approaches To Achieve Sustainable Development Goals <b>Meeting Of The Senior Policy Makers From The Asia- Pacific Region</b></p>
	<p align="center"><b>Special Presentation</b> <b>Mr. Akash Bhavsar</b>, <i>Managing Director, Skyquest Technology Group</i></p>	
	<p><u>Moderator:</u> <b>Ms. Robyn Meredith</b>, <i>Managing Director, Global Strategy, ReOrient Group</i></p> <p><b>Discussion on SME Connectivity and Development:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the main difficulties for SMEs' effective participation in regional and global value chains?</li> <li>• How can international investors better connect with SMEs?</li> <li>• What can international investors do to help SMEs be more sustainable?</li> <li>• How can ICT help SMEs?</li> </ul> <p><b>Introduction of SMARTEX-VCCI Da Nang &amp; SRB Curriculum</b> <b>Dr. Sailendra Narain</b>, <i>Chair of the MSME Task Force of EBAC</i></p> <p>Presentation of SMARTEX <b>Mr. Ho Van Tai</b>, <i>Consultant, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry –Da Nang Branch (VCCI Da Nang)</i></p> <p>Presentation on SRB Programme- On line Regional Series for Asia <b>Dr. M.P.Poonia</b>, <i>Director, NITTR, India</i></p> <p><u>Commentators:</u> <b>Mr. Sunil Wijesinghe</b>, <i>Chairman, National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka and Chairman, NDB Bank</i> <b>Capt. Aung Khin Myint</b>, <i>Chairman of Global Multimodal Transport and Services Co. Ltd and Chairman of Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association</i></p>	
18:00 - 18:30	<p align="center"><b>Special Presentation</b> EBAC Sustainable Business Network Task Force on Banking and Finance</p> <p align="center"><b>Launch of Sustainable Banking and Finance Handbook for Asia-Pacific:</b> The 3Cs for Responsible Banking in Asia and the Pacific: Corporate Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility and Corporate Sustainability</p>	
	<p align="center"><b>Introduction of the Handbook</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Mr. George Yuen</b> <i>Board Director, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia), Hong Kong, China</i></p> <p align="center"><b>Mr. Raghu Narain</b> <i>Managing Director, RBS, Hong Kong, China</i></p>	
	Q&A	
19:30 – 21:00	<b>Dinner and Cultural Show</b>	
	<u>Hosted by:</u> The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA)	



# Tentative Programme

## ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM - DAY 3

Thursday

27 November 2014

Miloda, Times Building, Bristol Street  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

08:30 – 09:00	Registration		
09:00 – 10:30	<b>OECD Consultation</b> Improving the investment climate – business views		
	<b>Ms. Cristina Tébar Less</b> <i>Chief of Responsible Business Conduct Unit, OECD Investment Division</i> and <b>Ms. Tihana Bule</b> <i>Economist and Policy Analyst and OECD Investment Division</i>		
10:30 - 12:15	<b>Interactive Debate</b> Partnerships Towards a Sustainable Asian Century		<b>Side event</b> Disaster Risk Management for Business  <i>Organized by IDD ESCAP</i>
	<b>Special Address</b> <b>Mr. Yasuo Tanabe</b> <i>Vice President and Executive Officer, Government &amp; External Relations, Hitachi Ltd.</i>		
	<b>Topics of Discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What kind of partnerships do we want for a sustainable Asian Century?</li> <li>• What is the role of emerging economies in driving sustainable regional growth?</li> <li>• How can government and business work together in a better way?</li> <li>• What opportunities and challenges could arise from the establishment of the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Dr. Watcharas Leelawath</b>, <i>Director of Mekong Institute (MI)</i></p> <p><b>Panellists:</b>  <b>Mr. Asanga Abeyagoonasekera</b>, <i>Executive Director and Advisor to Minister of External Affairs Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies</i>  <b>Dr. Aditi Haldar</b>, <i>Director, Global Reporting Initiative Focal Point India, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)</i>  <b>Mr. Sunmyung Hwang</b>, <i>Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of Korea, Country Director, Sri Lanka Resident Mission</i>  <b>Ms. Véronique Salze-Lozac'h</b>, <i>Senior Director, Economic Development and Chief Economist, The Asia Foundation</i></p>		
12:15 - 12:40	<b>Closing Session</b>		
12:15 – 12:25	<b>EBAC Chairperson's Closing Statement</b> <b>Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal Rawther</b> <i>Chairperson of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC)</i>		
12:25 – 12:35	<b>Summary of the Forum</b> <b>Hon. Faiszer Musthapa</b> Deputy Minister of Investment Promotion, Government of Sri Lanka		
12:35 – 12:40	<b>Closing Statement</b> <b>Dr. Ravi Ratnayake</b> <i>Chief Organizer of APBF and Director, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP</i>		
			Tenth Session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT)

# Tentative Programme

## ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM - DAY 3

Thursday

27 November 2014

Miloda, Times Building, Bristol Street  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

12:40 – 13:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Networking Lunch</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Hosted by:</u> Board of Investment of Sri Lanka</p>
13:30 – 17:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Side event on investment in Sri Lanka (arranged by BOI)</b></p>
	<p>Detailed programme available at: <a href="http://apbf.unescap.org">http://apbf.unescap.org</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Side event on Economic Outlook and Key Policy Challenges in Emerging Asia</b></p>
	<p><b>Presentation:</b> Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India 2015: Strengthening institutional capacity <b>Dr. Kensuke Tanaka</b>, <i>Head of Asia Desk, OECD Development Centre</i></p> <p>The Emerging Asian economies face near-term downside risks, such as volatile cross border capital flows and medium-term structural issues, such as the middle-income trap. The session provides opportunities for dialogue on economic perspectives and policy challenges based on the recently released The Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India – jointly produced between OECD and the ASEAN Secretariat - is an annual publication on Asia's regional economic growth, development and regional integration process.</p> <p>The Outlook provides an annual update of regional macroeconomic trends, policy challenges and a special thematic focus which varies in each volume. This edition is dedicated to a special theme focusing on strengthening institutional capacities, through discussion of recent performance in the implementation of medium-term plans, the key factors affecting the success of public sector reforms and institutional roots of informality.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Dr. Masato Abe</b>, <i>Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP</i></p> <p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr. Watcharas Leelawath</b>, <i>Director of Mekong Institute (MI)</i></li> <li>- <b>Prof. Shunli Yao</b>, <i>Associate Professor of Economics and Director, Institute for Applied International Trade</i></li> <li>- <b>Dr. Prabir De</b>, <i>M.Sc., Ph. D Professor Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre</i></li> </ul> <p>Detailed programme available at: <a href="http://apbf.unescap.org">http://apbf.unescap.org</a></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Site visits and tours (arranged by BOI)</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Business matching</b></p>	

# Organizers & Partners

We would like to thank the following for their support to the organization of the 11th session of the **Asia-Pacific Business Forum.**

## Organizers



## Partners

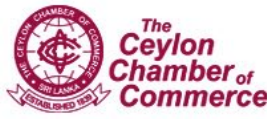


Ministry of External Affairs  
Ministry of Plantation Industry  
Ministry of Industry and Commerce  
Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI)



GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA

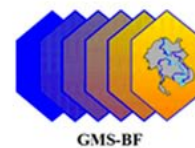
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UNITED NATIONS ESCAP



Asia-Pacific Business Forum

## ORGANIZED IN COOPERATION BETWEEN

United Nations ESCAP, the ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC)  
and the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka



United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)

### Contact

**Mr. Dilip Samarasinghe**

Director (Media & Publicity)

Board of Investment of Sri Lanka

Tel: +94 11 2427048

M: +94 77 7915468

E-mail: dilips@boi.lk

TRADE AND INVESTMENT DIVISION  
Business and Development Section  
Email: apbf@un.org; Fax: +66-2-2881026

### Venue

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