

Inaugural Regional Session of UNEP Science Policy Business Forum for Asia and the Pacific (AP-SPBF)

“Towards a Healthy Rebound for People, Nature and Economies”

Tuesday, 5 October 2021

10:00 - 18:50 hrs, Korea Standard Time (UTC+09:00)

The UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment (UN-SPBF) is UNEP’s premier multi-sector convening and engagement platform. It encourages “Technology, Partnerships and Integrated Solutions for Nature” as key points of interaction towards the achievement of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals. More information: www.un-spbf.org

Since its inception in 2017, the Forum has become an influential network of networks, earning the support and trust of technology giants, startups, governments and scientific bodies as well as citizen science and civil society

On 5 October 2021, the first of the Forum’s regional mechanisms will be launched in Asia-Pacific, in conjunction with the convening of the 4th session of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia-Pacific region, hosted by the Republic of Korea.

The inaugural Asia-Pacific Science-Policy-Business (AP-SPBF) will convene virtually as a one-day event, and is made up of the following segments:

- **High-level Opening:** A ‘rapid-fire’ panel discussion facilitated in cooperation with Reuters and the Economist Intelligence Unit entitled: ‘Action for Nature in a Post-Covid World’.

This segment will explore the dynamic of the post-COVID recovery in the region and the directions governments and the private sector need to take to ensure a nature-positive recovery.

The session is framed around the findings of the IPCC Working Group I report, ‘Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis’, and UNEP’s 2021 report Making Peace with Nature. Both reports call for immediate integrated actions towards tackling the three planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

- **Thematic sessions:** with focus on ‘Managing Risk’, the thematic sessions will cover two issues of regional and global significance: the first on combatting marine plastic pollution and the other on mitigating emerging zoonotic diseases.

The outcome and recommendations of the inaugural session of the Asia Pacific Science-Policy-Business Forum (AP-SPBF) will be presented at the 4th session of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, 6 – 7 October 2021, hosted by the Republic of Korea ([%2Fasia-pacific-forum-ministers-and-environment-authorities-asia-pacific](https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/fourth-forum-ministers-and-environment-authorities-asia-pacific)).

Format:

Moderated, rapid-fire format where the moderator will lead an engaging conversation with our panelists, aimed at creating greater understanding of diverse perspectives regarding some of today’s most pressing issues.

Open-floor interventions by civil society and citizen science leaders, youth and audience will constitute an important part of the dialogue, which will be streamed live through social media and the Forum’s You-Tube Channel. Journalists are allowed full access to the event. Following the session, all recordings and content will be made available on-demand.





PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 5 October 2021

10:00 - 18:50 hrs, Korea Standard Time (UTC+09:00)

I. High Level Opening Session: Towards A Healthy Rebound for People, Nature and Economies

The economies of Asia and the Pacific region are starting to bounce back after the shocks caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic and the impact of climate change-induced natural disasters. The Opening Session of the Science Policy Business Forum-Asia Pacific will examine pathways for a sustainable, equitable and inclusive rebound from COVID-19 that is good for the people, the planet and economies.

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| 10:00 – 10:20 (Seoul local time) | Opening Remarks: Inger Andersen, Executive Director, UN Environment Programme H.E. Han Jeoung-ae, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea |
| 10:20 – 12:20 | Panel Discussion, Part I |
| 12:20 – 12:40 | Break |
| 12:40 – 14:40 | Panel Discussion, Part II |

| Opening Session - Part One 10:20 – 12:20 | | |
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| Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment Programme | Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) | H.E. Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia |
| Guomei Zhou, Executive Director General, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China | Brenda Harvey, General Manager, IBM Asia Pacific | Bambang Susantono, Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank |
| Prof. Sir Bob Watson, former Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity Ecosystem Services (IPBES) | Graham Durant, Divisional Head, Australian Government Department of Industry and Science | Li Zhang, Secretary General, The Society of Entrepreneurs for Ecology Foundation, China |

| Opening Session - Part Two 12:40 – 14:40 | | |
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| Dechen Tsering, Regional Director, UN Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia-Pacific | H.E. Sveinung Rotevatn, President of the UN Environment Assembly, Minister of Environment and Climate, Norway | Director in Charge of Marine Plastics, Ministry of the Environment, Japan |
| Steven Kukoda, Executive Director, International Copper Association | H.E. Malik Amin Aslam, Minister for Climate Change Ministry and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Pakistan | Harry Verhaar, Vice-President and Head of Global Public & Government Affairs, Signify |
| Diane Holdorf, Managing Director, World Business Council for Sustainable Development | Yana Gevorgyan, Director of Secretariat, The Group on Earth Observations | Tapan Mishra, UN Resident Coordinator, United Nations in Mongolia |

II. Thematic Sessions: Managing Risk

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| 15:00 – 16:30 (Seoul local time) | Towards Greater Transparency & Sustainable Investment: Turning the Tide on Ocean Plastic Pollution |
| 16:30 – 16:50 | Break |
| 16:50 – 18:50 | Mitigating Zoonotic Diseases: Healthy Planet Healthy People |

Towards Greater Transparency & Sustainable Investment: Turning the Tide on Ocean Plastic Pollution
15:00 – 16:30 (Seoul local time)



Countries in Asia and the Pacific are at the centre of the marine plastic pollution crisis - with some countries in the region representing the biggest contributors and others disproportionately affected. Tens of billions of dollars are spent annually on the efforts to stem the flow of more than one million metric tons of plastic into rivers and oceans, but these efforts do little to tackle the pollution at source. On the current trajectory, plastic pollution could rise from 11 million MT to 29 million MT the next 20 years. Using diverse solutions and technologies, ocean plastic flows can be reduced by 80% in the same time frame.

This session will examine the scale and scope of the required commitments by governments, industry and investors to better mitigate and manage current challenges.

Panellists:

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| Nakul Saran, Chief Operating Officer, Minderoo No Plastic Waste | Laksmi Dhewanthi, Vice President of UNEA and Senior Advisor to the Minister of Environment and Forestry Indonesia | Jacob Duer, President and CEO, Alliance to End Plastic Waste |
| Nanqing Jiang, Secretary General, Lvhuipu, All China Environment Federation | Praveen Hariharan, Partner and Sector Leader, IBM | Phineas Glover, Head of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), Securities Research Asia Pacific, Credit Suisse |
| Tomoe Kotani, Deputy Director, Global Environment Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan | Raina Saboo, Strategy & Business Development, gTech Sustainability, Google | Heidi Tate, Co-Founder, Tangaroa Blue Foundation |

Mitigating Zoonotic Diseases – Healthy Planet Healthy People

16:50 – 18:50 (Seoul local time)

Asia and Pacific countries have been severely impacted by COVID-19 with a total of more than 45 million cases and approximately 650,000 deaths, as of end of June 2021. While some countries have brought down infections through strict control measures and/or rapid vaccinations, cases are still on the rise fueled by new highly contagious variants.

The session will explore pathways to prevent new zoonotic diseases and the impact of ecosystem degradation on human health in the region.

Panellists:

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| Prof. Colin Butler, Honorary Professor, Australian National University | Nguyen Thi Phuong Mai, Deputy Director, Environmental Science Institute, MONRE, Vietnam | Edward Moncreiffe, CEO, HSBC Insurance Limited & HSBC Life |
| Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region | Dr. Barbara Han, Disease Ecologist, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, USA | Prof. Tahmina Shirin, Director, Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) & NIC, Bangladesh |

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UN-SPBF Secretariat:

Head of the Global Secretariat of the UNEP Science, Policy, Business Forum Ms. Shereen Zorba (Shereen.zorba@un.org)

Regional Programme Coordinator responsible for AP-SPBF regional liaison, Mr. Jinhua Zhang (zhang6@un.org)

About the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment (UN-SPBF)

UN-SPBF is UNEP’s inclusive multi-stakeholder, multi-sector convening arm. It was launched by UNEP in December 2017 to strengthen the interface between science, policy, business and society at large. UN-SPBF is a network of networks, with over 3,000 affiliated partners. It convenes in conjunction with, and feeds into, the UNEA process. UN-SPBF adopts an inter-agency approach, bringing together the work of closely with MEA secretariats. Engagement with civil society cuts across the key tracks of UN-SPBF’s work.

The Forum convenes its high-level sessions in the lead up to and during UNEA and reports its recommendations to the UNEA outcome session. It informs UNEA through regular engagement with the UNEA Bureau, and by convening a special session ahead of the bureau meeting. It also convenes topic-specific sessions to encourage wider engagement and cooperation on areas of priority.

In 2019, Ministers of the Asia Pacific and Africa regions invited the Forum to convene regional chapters in support of regional ministerial fora. Preparations are underway to establish UN-SPBF’s regional presence in cooperation with the relevant regional offices.

For more information, visit www.un-spbf.org