



Opening green windows:

Technological opportunities for a low-carbon world in Asia and the Pacific

Side event of ESCAP 79th session of the Commission

Hybrid meeting (In person at the Multi-functional Meeting Room A, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok; Online via the Zoom platform)

18 May 2023 (7:45 to 8:45 Geneva, 12:45 to 13:45 Bangkok)

Concept note

Background

Green technologies offer transformative solutions to achieve both economic development and climate change mitigation. They offer a viable route for countries in Asia and the Pacific to upgrade their productive capabilities and advance their catching-up process by deploying cleaner production processes and products. By developing green innovations, countries can open ‘green windows of opportunity’ for not only building resilience and climate change mitigation mechanisms but also for spurring economic growth and technological development. These opportunities can particularly support developing countries to “leap” out of the cascade of crises and move forward. However, knowledge generation regarding frontier technologies and technology diffusion is concentrated in some developed countries, especially in the Global North.

This side event of ESCAP 79th session of the Commission, coorganized by UNCTAD, ESCAP and the International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD), will present UNCTAD's [Technology and Innovation Report 2023](#), followed by an interactive discussion between experts covering the recommendations of the report for countries in Asia and the Pacific to move forward in promoting sustainable development. It will highlight good practices by national governments and the international community that gather resources and build the required know-how to support developing countries to take advantage of the green windows of opportunity. The event will also discuss successful examples of national and regional initiatives on achieving carbon neutrality, as well as examine the innovative instruments to foster a more collaborative approach for green innovation in the region.

Objective

The event will serve as a platform for peer learning and awareness raising of policy options to harness the frontier technologies to achieve the dual goal of economic growth and environmental sustainability in Asia and the Pacific, discussing possible pathways to create greater support and collaboration between countries in the development and diffusion of green technologies.

Technology and Innovation Report 2023

UNCTAD's *Technology and Innovation Report 2023* "Opening green windows: Technological opportunities for a low-carbon world" analyses the opportunities presented by the green transition and the technologies linked to it. By unleashing green innovations, countries can have access to 'green windows of opportunity' for not only building resilience and climate change mitigation mechanisms but also for spurring economic growth and technological development. These opportunities can particularly support developing countries to "leap" out of the cascade of crises and move forward.

The Report has three key messages. Firstly, developing countries must strategically position themselves to catch the green technological revolution early. Secondly, the international community needs to step up in gathering enough resources and building the required know-how to support developing countries to take advantage of the green windows of opportunity. Lastly, agency and urgency are pivotal in the fight against climate change and inequalities – if we all share the same problem, then we must also share the same tools to solve it.

Format

This side event is part of a set of events conducted to disseminate the findings of the Technology and Innovation Report 2023 to a broader audience comprised of policymakers, international organisations, academia, the private sector, and other stakeholders. It will be comprised of a presentation followed by a moderated panel discussion by experts on the ways to leverage technologies for a low-carbon world. After discussion, the floor will be opened to questions and contributions from the audience. The event will be conducted in English (without translation) in person at the multi-functional meeting room A, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok and online via the Zoom platform.

Guiding questions for discussion

- What are the major challenges that prevent countries in Asia and the Pacific from promoting green technology and innovation to contribute to national development priorities and accelerate the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals?
- What are the examples of successful national, subregional and regional initiatives that could be up-scaled to leverage green technologies for a low-carbon Asia and the Pacific?
- What should governments, the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders do to harness the full potential of frontier technologies while minimizing risks?
- How could the international community support developing countries to seize green windows of opportunity?