Shaping the World in 2030: Partnerships for SDG Action

OUTCOMES AND COMMITMENTS REPORT
“It is remarkable how the discussion on climate change evolved from being a science fiction scenario to fundamentally influencing the energy markets of the world and giving rise to new economies of renewable energy.”

Achim Steiner
Administrator, United Nations Development Programme
The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 was a pivotal moment in acknowledging the role businesses play in addressing the world’s social, economic and environmental challenges.

Today, the onus is on the private sector to move beyond theoretical discussions about those goals and to articulate clear pathways to achieve them, through collaboration and partnerships with other stakeholders from the public sector and civil society.

The Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development (RBF), held on 11-12th October 2018 was co-organised by Global Initiatives and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This year’s RBF took on a new, collaborative process for action-driven outcomes and practical solutions across five areas critical to the attainment of the SDGs – Climate Action, Urbanisation, Circular Economy, Human Rights and Food and Nutrition.

Across two days, more than 750 delegates convened to collaborate and discuss ways to address these five critical areas. Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator, gave the welcoming address calling this “a time of extraordinary opportunity and transformation” and urging business leaders “to be bold and take it personally,” and to use the Sustainable Development Goals as a framework to come together to address issues.

The preparation for the RBF began more than six months prior to the summit, kicking off with global expert panels comprising experts from academia, business, civil society and the public sector, which framed each of the five key themes. These were followed by stakeholder advisory groups that brought in more voices to broaden the discussions, identify real-world challenges and propose practical solutions.
RBF 2018 ended with new commitments to face down these challenges. Delegates worked together to reframe the issues, examine existing solutions and formulate new ones, and eventually committed to new goals and targets within their chosen areas of focus.

Amongst these, 100 Resilient Cities announced that it would work with RBF, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC) to pilot tools and guidance that help cities articulate their complex challenges. This aims to improve the private sector’s understanding of the issues involved and to allow for more real-time, systemic responses.

Climate Action participants committed to develop and publish a micro-grid roadmap document for governments of less-developed countries who need help to move beyond their legacy energy systems and modernise their infrastructure and regulation. This roadmap document will include best practices from other countries, financing options, partnerships and more, and will culminate in a series of dialogues with business chambers of commerce, multilateral banks and agencies, and in a conference next January.

The group focusing on Human Rights examined ways to get businesses involved in strengthening children’s rights, women’s equality and migrant labour rights in supply chains. They recognised the need to build safe spaces for women to thrive in the workplace and for stakeholders to work closely with governments to develop standards to combat forced labour. The importance of human rights defenders was also highlighted. Other businesses called for an ASEAN labour migration policy.
In the Circular Economy track, Simon Baldwin, Director, SecondMuse Indonesia, stressed the importance of building innovation ecosystems that can help accelerate novel ideas to market. As a first step, SecondMuse will undertake a mapping exercise to identify relevant stakeholders (for example innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, corporate partners and government departments) based in Singapore who can contribute to innovation in the circular economy.

Those in the Food and Nutrition track opted to focus on the interrelatedness of human and planetary health, and the role and influence of food at its centre. Together with partners, WWF proposed the development of a content hub involving multiple contributors, run by a full-time secretariat comprising different experts, to deliver consistent information to consumers. The partners committed to work together to identify a city in which the solution can be piloted.

One of the most critical lessons to emerge from the RBF process has been that the SDGs and their associated targets cannot be achieved by addressing them individually. They are intrinsically interlinked. Understanding the linkages between them and developing an integrated approach is critical. Partnerships linking public, private and civil society actors together provide a more cohesive picture of the challenges at hand and help bring sustainable ideas to market more effectively.

There is an incredible opportunity for business to innovate and turn today’s many, complex risks into opportunities for commercial and social gain. The commitments made by organisations at the RBF demonstrate the positivity and optimism of the private sector in solving the world’s most pressing issues, and the potential power of partnerships between the private, public and social sectors. As Achim Steiner said, “we will only thrive if we collaborate and cooperate”.

EVENT SUMMARY
Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development
11 – 12 October 2018
Singapore

SHAPING THE WORLD IN 2030: PARTNERSHIPS FOR SDG ACTION

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At this year’s Responsible Business Forum, participants shared their experiences of collaboration and partnership. SDG Impact, a new initiative from the UN Development Programme, aims to help investors and private sector organisations to align their investment objectives with the goals, and help to find new sources of development finance.

In Riau, Indonesia, APRIL’s Fire Free Village Programme has been successful in preventing damaging forest fires during the region’s dry seasons, preserving critical ecosystems, preventing the release of carbon dioxide, and reducing the incidence of haze.

Despite some visible successes, there are still significant challenges. Participants noted that businesses and investors often find it hard to quantify the impact of their initiatives towards the SDGs. The absence of a global set of standards for measuring impact makes it difficult to identify where progress has been made and to share best practices. This makes it harder to create meaningful collaborations.

Panellists remain optimistic that the level of engagement and collaboration between different stakeholders is improving and accelerating—and it needs to continue to accelerate. To meet these goals by 2030 will mean scaling up and speeding up, building new partnerships and deepening existing ones.

HIGHLIGHTS AND OUTCOMES
PLENARY SESSIONS

Facilitator:
• Malcolm Preston, Guest Faculty, Harvard Business School and Senior Advisor, Global Initiatives
• Elizabeth Boggs Davidsen, Senior Advisor Private Sector, UNDP
• Jim McIlvenny, President, Asia Pacific, The Dow Chemical Company
• Dante Pesce, Chairperson, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights
• Bey Soo Khiang, Vice Chairman, RGE and Chairman, APRIL Group

SHAPING THE WORLD IN 2030: PARTNERSHIPS FOR SDG ACTION

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COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES FOR SDG ACTION

The adoption of the SDGs in 2015 sent governments and businesses into a flurry of activity, thinking about how they can contribute to achieving these goals. Organisations across the world started mapping their impact across the SDGs and prioritising specific goals relevant to their business; however, despite all of this activity, little has actually been done to achieve the targets.

It is increasingly clear that a new sense of urgency is needed; there is no room for complacency. The SDGs are everyone’s agenda and we need to form a new paradigm for partnerships if we want to see real action towards achieving the goals. More needs to be done and we need to stop working in silos if we want to bring measurable and impactful change.

The panel highlighted various challenges in developing a collaborative approach to tackle the SDGs, and were unanimous in identifying trust as a key issue. For governments and private sector organisations, trust is the foundation of successful partnerships, and is a determinant of whether partnerships are scalable and transparent.

Panelists also shared that successful partnerships were based on leveraging each other’s strengths for the benefit of the project. For example, Microsoft Asia shared how they were helping to save Africa’s elephants by using their AI technology to distinguish between elephant calls and all the other sounds in the forest – a job that would take humans years. Researchers are then able to use the elephant call data to build more accurate population estimates and help prevent poaching.

With a shared vision, panelists were optimistic that common ground could be found between important stakeholders. To achieve the kind of cross-sector collaboration that will be needed to achieve the SDGs, it is also vital that companies and governments look at the challenges as opportunities to do things differently and build new relationships. Successful partnerships towards SDG action will be dependent on leveraging everyone’s strengths, providing the right incentives and forming long and meaningful relationships with the stakeholders involved.
INNOVATIVE FINANCING AND THE SDGs

It is estimated that 3-5 trillion dollars a year is needed to achieve the SDGs by 2030, so the important question is, how do we finance this? Serious innovation in the finance industry is required to encourage, change and tap into new sources of finance.

Panelists discussed the key challenges in financing SDG implementation and agreed that perhaps the biggest challenge is education – fund managers and investors simply do not have sufficient information and the right risk management tools to make informed investment decisions. Better communication is also needed about how environmental and social issues on the ground create material risk for investment portfolios and how they potentially impact the bottom-line. SDG projects also pose a challenge for traditional investors, as the type of projects, their geography and gestation period often do not match mainstream portfolio managers’ criteria. Such projects usually require different types and phases of financing, and usually, a higher risk appetite.

There are solutions that are already in play, however Andrew Johnstone spoke about Climate Investor One, which is a blended financing facility that combines three innovative investment facilities into one to finance renewable energy projects in low and lower middle-income countries. WWF helps companies act on environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks by giving them the right criteria and tools – for example, the science-based targets initiative, produced in collaboration with the UN Global Compact, CDP and the World Resources Institute, provide companies with a clearly defined pathway to set decarbonisation targets in line with those needed to keep global temperature increase below 2 degrees Celsius.

While panelists agreed that the required capital exists for SDG action, more needs to be done to mobilise and deploy the capital at scale. More education on the business case for sustainable investing and better advocacy on sustainable funds could help investors feel more comfortable in mobilising their capital. In addition, blended finance instruments and mechanisms need to be used to mobilise and deploy capital flows towards sustainable development. If all investors and their capital can be mobilised at scale, this may really move the needle with regards to SDG action.
FOCAL AREAS

Broaden the discussion | The circular economy is often talked about in terms of environmental impact alone, but unsustainable consumption creates issues of economic development, health, food and nutrition and social inclusion. Articulating the breadth of the challenge and finding ways to map circular economy metrics onto the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), could drive more meaningful action.

Find the ‘carrots’ and ‘sticks’ | There is still little commercial imperative for companies to radically shift their business models and to adopt a circular economy approach. Driving behavioural change will involve creating an enabling environment for such new models to thrive in, and using regulation as a disincentive for outdated and unsustainable practices.

Create a neutral forum | Collaboration between stakeholders is hindered by the absence of a neutral convener, who can aggregate best practices and manage conflicts within industries and between public sector, businesses and civil society organisations.

Circular economy, as a concept, is not new. It is about using our natural resources in the most efficient way, reducing the loss of value and closing the loop. Based on current consumption trends, humans are using 1.8 times the planet’s resources. If nothing changes, that is forecast to rise by 3 times by 2050.

Unsustainable consumption has environmental impacts, but it also creates issues for economic development, health, food and nutrition and social inclusion. Being more resource-efficient is inherently linked to addressing these issues.

In this workstream, participants discussed the current state of the circular economy industry and the issues plaguing its progress. One of the common problems raised was the lack of education and awareness about what circular economy truly is — that it is, and has to be, more than just recycling. The private sector has also found it difficult to find the business case for the circular economy as there is a lack of data and practical knowledge. Another key challenge is how engrained behaviours and perceptions are hindering innovation, which means that a total mindset change needs to happen to shape and change consumer behaviour.
A case-study of a real-life project between Coca-Cola, UNDP and the government of India showed that close collaboration between stakeholders can lead to meaningful outcomes. Through a shared vision of minimising plastic waste, the project engaged with NGOs, business associations, municipalities and marginalised communities to formalise the waste-picking industry, establish a sustainable supply chain and increase the recycling of not only PET but 6 other types of plastic. The project has shown to be financially viable. UNDP plans to implement similar projects across 50 cities by 2020.

Another example was shared by Unilever, which is using circular economy concepts to tackle the issue of plastic packaging used in their products. Packaging is designed with recycling in mind, and suitable recycled materials are also sourced for use. The company is also collaborating with governments and local communities to build an ecosystem for collection and recycling. They have launched community-based collection centres in Indonesia to segregate organic and inorganic waste. Such approaches will help to increase collection of flexible plastic waste, ensure off-take of the recycled material and unlock financing, thereby creating a model that will be fully circular and financially sustainable.

Some potential solutions were developed through participant roundtables, which looked at how different stakeholders can be part of the solution and participate in systemic changes. One idea focused on creating a living lab to convene stakeholders to support early-stage innovation in the circular economy industry and accelerate novel ideas to address particular challenges.

A lifecycle analysis would also help establish a better value proposition for the circular economy at the business level and could be supported by government legislation mandating disclosure of circular economy metrics, or the adoption of a circular economy model. Addressing the issue of collecting waste, community agent businesses (CAB) could help to bridge the gap between supply and demand, where money is given in return for collecting certain types of waste.

Much more planning and collaboration is required for the proposed solutions to come to fruition. Central to the solution is the need to create momentum to push for regulation and make circular economy models universal. Simon Baldwin, Director of SecondMuse Indonesia, stressed the importance of building innovation ecosystems that can help to de-risk involvement in the sector and accelerate novel ideas to market. As a first step, SecondMuse, the innovation and collaboration agency, committed to conduct a mapping exercise to identify the relevant stakeholders who can contribute to circular economy innovation and aims to launch a challenge statement that will identify key opportunities in the circular economy space at next year’s RBF.
FOCAL AREAS

Think practically about technology | Technology carries the potential to revolutionise how urban societies live and work, but it is not an end in itself. All stakeholders in the urban environment need to match solutions to challenges, to ensure that technology is appropriate, inclusive and fit for future, and to prioritise solutions that address urgent concerns at scale.

Align priorities, projects and finance | The private sector will be a critical actor in ensuring that cities grow and remain resilient, inclusive and sustainable. However, there is often a mismatch between the expectations of companies, financiers, citizens and governments. Projects stall before implementation or are difficult to fund. A neutral broker is needed to define principles and processes, and connect cities and solution providers with the appropriate financing instruments and mechanisms.

Celebrate experimentation | Collaborative mechanisms already exist for cities to share case studies of success, but few are willing to elaborate on their failures. All stakeholders need to work together to foster an enabling environment for experimentation in order to develop better practices. This will involve collecting data, measuring the true impact of projects, and communicating failures and challenges alongside successes.

By 2050, it is forecast that 66 per cent of the world’s population will live in towns and cities. These urban areas are more often than not centres of countries’ economic growth and, as populations increase, the epicentres of national and international development challenges. Whether or not the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are achieved will be decided in cities.

Cities are responsible for 70 per cent of global carbon emissions. Many, particularly those in Asia, are very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, from sea level rise to food security challenges. Future-proofing cities will not be easy.

The challenges that cities face due to urbanisation range from inadequate infrastructure, lack of affordable housing, pollution, congestion and poverty. It will require creative thinking about mobility and inclusivity, and an openness to new ideas and new technologies. Supachai Tantikom, Chief Resilience Officer for Bangkok, explained that Bangkok’s resilience strategy emphasises health and wellbeing, as well as economic and environmental leadership. Other solutions shared by panellists included technological advances such as using satellite technology to track cars to improve congestion and infrastructure use, and investments in district cooling to reduce carbon emissions.

WORKSTREAMS

URBANISATION

• Facilitator: Bernise Ang, Principal and Methodology Lead, Zeroth Labs

• A live video message: Impact from the field – Pakistan
  SDG Impact: Clinton Moloney, Managing Director, Sustainable Business Solutions, PwC

• Taimur Khilji, Urban Development Specialist, UNDP

• Erik Armundito, Deputy Director Environmental Law Enforcement, Directorate for Environmental Affairs, Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia (BAPPENAS)

• Yasser Helmy, Head of Sales and Business Development, Smart Cities, Asia Pacific, Cisco

• Supachai Tantikom, Chief Resilience Office, City of Bangkok, 100 Resilient Cities

• Oswar Muadzin Mungkasa, Deputy Governor of Jakarta for Spatial Planning and Environment Jakarta, Indonesia
In the later sessions, representatives from Jakarta, Melaka, Bangkok and Da Nang highlighted the key issues that their cities face, and worked with the participants to discuss potential solutions. In Jakarta, the city is experiencing a rapid in-flow of people, which has led to other problems, including excessive waste generation, land subsidence due to rapid development and a high proportion of urban poor. To help risk-proof livelihoods, initiatives focused around climate change adaptation, food and water security and community livelihoods were proposed, including urban farming, micro-finance and market facilitation.

In Melaka, the core heritage area of Jonker Street was faced with old infrastructure and required major upgrading works. The area experiences flash floods and was prone to disease outbreaks owing to the lack of enforcement on waste disposal by businesses and the public. ‘Melaka: a zero waste city’ was proposed as the overarching solution – one that would require the cooperation of multiple stakeholders including the local city council, heritage committee, business community and the public.

Throughout the discussions, it was clear that cities need strong support; their systems are complex, and the solutions need to be tailored to their unique contexts. Partnerships between the government, private sector and civil society is the only way to drive and deliver real change. 100 Resilient Cities announced that it would work with RBF, UNDP and the Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC) to develop a methodology that will help cities to articulate their complex challenges, in order to improve the private sector’s understanding of the issues involved and allow for more real-time responses.
FOCAL AREAS

Harness the SDGs | The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a solid framework for companies to understand and measure their development impact, but human rights can often feel like a separate and isolated area of focus. This siloed approach is often ineffective. Businesses could be encouraged to look at human rights through the lens of the SDGs, helping them to better articulate the sustainability benefits of interventions and to provide a yardstick to measure success.

Create a collaborative process | All stakeholders need to find forums to share information and best practices, and to examine what lessons have been learned in other sectors and in other countries. This needs to occur in an environment of collaboration and neutral facilitation.

Create the right environment | Multinationals may be waking up to the challenges of human rights in the countries where they operate, but there is a long tail of businesses who do not substantively touch international supply chains. Governments and industry bodies need to work together to drive and incentivise change at all levels and create a coherent approach.

Human rights are no longer a distant and abstract matter for private sector firms operating in Asia. Today, the reach and extent of supply chains can implicate a vast array of industries in labour, land, migrant, environmental and women’s rights abuses. Companies now understand that suppliers can pose significant legal, operational and reputational risk. Awareness has also grown among consumers, who are now more keenly interested in how the products that they buy are made and ready to shed their loyalties to brands that do not respect human rights and other values that they hold dear.

Panelists agreed that rule of law deficits in some countries enable acts of slavery. A lack of effective regulation of recruitment agencies creates vulnerabilities, and migrant workers remain largely unaware of their rights. In many cases, foreign migrant workers are misled by recruitment agencies. These agencies convince would-be migrants to sign contracts, often in a foreign language, then deduct various job placement fees from their first pay checks, which then requires them to stay in the job for 6-12 months to pay it off.

WORKSTREAMS

HUMAN RIGHTS

- **Facilitator:** Cynthia Morel, Senior Sustainability Strategist, Forum for the Future
  - A live video message: Impact from the field – Thailand
  - SDG Impact: Yasir Ahmad, Partner, PwC India

- Livio Sarandrea, Business and Human Rights Advisor, Asia Pacific, UNDP
- Netithorn Praditsarn, Vice President, Group Sustainability and Communications, CP Group
- Petra Daroczi, ESG Ambassador, Thomson Reuters
- Anna-Karin Jatfors, Regional Director and Representative in Thailand, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- Clemens Grünbühel, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute

- **FOCAL AREAS**

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Panelists suggested that a systems approach and multi-stakeholder engagement will be required across the entire supply chain to improve transparency and accountability and ensure that all workers are being treated fairly. At Mars, growing concern over the ineffectiveness of certification programs has led to the development of the MARS CARE framework. Their framework is a means to engage and listen to all their stakeholders including suppliers, farmers and communities and work with them to address any issues or challenges.

Manisha Dogra, Vice President Sustainability, Asia at Telenor Group, detailed Telenor’s work in partnership with UNICEF in Pakistan in 2015. Telenor and UNICEF used a digital birth registration process to help provide children in marginalised societies with official identification papers. With approximately 1.1 billion people in the world lacking official identification, a third of these being children, this project effectively helps protect children from child labour and trafficking and gives them greater access to education and healthcare opportunities. Over 300,000 children have been registered through this process in Pakistan and the project is now being implemented in Myanmar, where they aim to register seven million children by 2020. Such collaboration and scale is required on a global level to make a difference in this area.

Solutions were proposed around strengthening child rights, women’s equality and migrant labour rights in supply chains, and participants identified initiatives for greater business participation. They recognised the need to build safe spaces for women to thrive in the workplace and for stakeholders to work closely with the government to develop standards to combat forced labour.

CP Group committed to creating a Human Rights Academy on Business and Human Rights to be piloted in Thailand, while HP encouraged others to join them in the Responsible Business Initiative to enhance ethical recruitment practices. Other businesses called for an ASEAN Labour Migration Policy. Participants agreed that greater collaboration between government, businesses and other key stakeholders across the region will required to drive better standards, greater awareness and create safe working environments for all.
FOCAL AREAS

Communicate with consumers | Consumers, particularly those in middle-income communities, need to understand the importance of balanced, nutritious diets. Education can enable consumers to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing. Formulating and distributing this education requires a collective response from the private sector, governments and civil society.

Identify new models for access | Producing and distributing nutritious food to low-income consumers in rural and urban environments is a commercial opportunity and an important mechanism for achieving development outcomes. Ensuring that consumers have access to food and adequate financial means to produce and manage crops, and to distribute these commodities is a priority.

Build partnerships | Food companies need to enter into dialogues and build partnerships with governments, intergovernmental organisations and communities. Pilot projects for food and nutrition often do not get to scale. Linking public, private and civil society actors together would help bring sustainable ideas to market. Companies can also work with governments and intergovernmental organisations to leverage supply chains which will deliver mutual benefits and drive progress towards the SDGs.

The global food system is a massive, complex network of supply chains that links huge multinational consumer goods companies, traders and producers with smallholders and consumers in developed and developing economies. The structures that have evolved are now being tested by huge externalities. Climate change and soil degradation have led to declining productivity at the farm level in many parts of the world. At the same time, demographic shifts—the increasing size and urbanisation of populations—mean that more food needs to be produced by fewer people, and food often now needs to be transported over greater distances.

Four components, considered to be key in the food challenge, were highlighted by panellists – availability, accessibility, affordability and safe, nutritional food. Food waste is also a huge issue. It is estimated that one-third of all food produced and cooked is thrown away uneaten. The problem therefore lies not just in the yield or availability of food, but in distribution pathways and accessibility by marginalised communities. Changing diets, in part a consequence of the evolving shape of the food system, and the availability of easy, calorific food, have also led to challenges of nutrition and emerging health challenges.
In the Philippines, malnutrition is a big problem with a high proportion of the child population showing signs of stunted growth. To curb this issue, the government launched the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition in 2017 to target nutritional deficiencies in children under 5 years of age through various programs. These include better education and awareness about living a healthy lifestyle, targeted breastfeeding programs for pregnant mothers and other community-based support to provide additional supplements and food to children.

In the final session, participants focused on solutions for three key stakeholders – smallholder farmers, families and governments. For farmers, price stability is an issue linked to a multitude of other factors such as price transparency in markets that are often controlled by middlemen. A combined approach of creating farmer cooperatives as well as using technology to help improve yield and communicate with the farmers was proposed to help arbitrate prices, although it was noted that existing pilot projects by MARS and Unilever have faced immense challenges in implementing this, and have had mixed results. Panellists also noted that governments play an important role in supporting small-holder farmers to produce more food by providing them with more advanced technology and reducing price distortions.

The impact of good nutrition and healthy lifestyles in families transcends multiple SDGs, including goals two and three — zero hunger and good health and well-being. The participants agreed that the challenge of inspiring families to adopt more nutritious food comes down to the kind of information that is communicated through mass media. For example, The National Nutrition Council of Philippines has focused efforts on awareness campaigns through community radio programmes and partnered with media companies to educate the public through television dramas. Scaling this up could mean the development of a national or global platform that could be easily replicated to communicate with all consumers on public health and nutrition.

There was a clear focus on the interrelatedness of human and planetary health, and the role and influence of food at its centre. Together with partners, WWF proposed the development of a content hub involving multiple contributors, run by a full-time secretariat comprising different experts, to deliver consistent information to different generations of family-units. This would be designed to drive consumer awareness on how food should be consumed in a way that is good for both people and our planet. As a commitment, partners will continue to work together to identify a city in which the solution can be piloted.
FOCAL AREAS

Bring the long tail along | The importance of tackling climate change and the mechanisms for doing so have been internalised at many large and systemically significant companies. However, there is a long tail of smaller or simply recalcitrant businesses that are not moving fast enough. Push and pull factors that encourage the adoption of best practices should be identified.

Share information | Companies, cities, governments and societies need to better understand the risks that they face, and the steps that they can take to mitigate them. It is critical that information is shared between stakeholders so that risks are mapped together with opportunities for social and commercial benefit.

Create a neutral convener | The response to climate change requires holistic approaches across sectors and geographies, and it must involve diverse stakeholders with different views and concerns. There is an urgent need to establish a neutral platform to convene these stakeholders, broker new solutions and direct private capital towards opportunities.

For the private sector, climate change is perhaps the most profound and complex challenge of this century. Companies of all sizes in almost all sectors are heavily exposed to the negative impacts of climate change, but they are also critical actors in mitigation and adaptation efforts. In order to prevent catastrophic global temperature rises, carbon emissions need to fall dramatically. Many companies are taking action. More than 100 major companies have committed to science-based targets for emissions reduction. Others have made commitments to shrink their carbon footprint across their operations and supply chains, and to manage their energy and land better.

Information and data is critical to formulating effective climate change mitigation plans. Yet, a lack of information on how it affects business was one of the key issues highlighted by panellists. Without such information, any action taken would likely prove ineffective and a waste of resources. IBM is helping clients in this area by using technology to provide important climate-related data so that businesses across various industries can better manage their operations. Weather data can help solar and wind projects maximise their efficiency and manage electricity demand, while “Internet of Things” (IoT) sensors and satellites can provide predictive analytics of weather patterns and help improve agricultural output.
For large investors in the sustainability space, such as Swiss Re, climate change poses huge risks. The ratio of economic losses to insured losses is increasing, meaning that financial resilience is lower and some countries, such as Haiti, remain hard-hit and forever changed after major disasters. The increasing frequency and severity of drastic environmental events has driven insurers to conduct risk-based pricing, a clear signal of the severity of concerns about the impact of climate change.

With the focus placed on the availability of information, participants discussed the possibility of scaling up climate action through the use of a climate data platform. Using the example of how less-developed countries and island nations are struggling to move away from legacy power systems for distribution and generation, it was proposed to create a roadmap document to help these governments move away from traditional power systems and embrace new sources of power. Climate Action participants committed to develop and publish a micro-grid roadmap document that would comprise best practices around partnership development, financing and more, to culminate in a series of dialogues with the business chambers and a conference next February.

In addition, UNDP initiated a compact with 8 other private sector companies, aiming to catalyse public-private partnerships around the generation, analysis, dissemination and use of climate intelligence to enhance sustainable development.
SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

“In order to get into collaboration between the sectors, what’s needed is understanding, trust, and acknowledgement.”

Tod Gimbel
Vice President Government Affairs, Asia Pacific, Herbalife

“We envision a low-carbon and a more circular economy. A world where sustainability and inclusion are hallmarks.”

Judy Glazer
Global Head of Sustainability and Product Compliance, HP Inc.

“Be bold, take it personally, and don’t be spectators.”

Malcolm Preston
Adjunct Professor, Kellogg School of Management and Guest Faculty, Harvard Business School

“Transparency and corporate social responsibility are the biggest forces for good.”

Tim Mohin
Chief Executive, Global Reporting Initiative

“Businesses are always part of the problem but they have also to be part of the solution,”

Dante Pesce
Chairperson, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

“Public and private have to walk hand in hand in the transition to circular economy.”

Henrik Hedeman Olsen
Senior Policy Adviser on Sustainable Green Growth, UNDP Indonesia

“The world will change and its going to change rapidly. AI and robotics will change our traditional lives.”

Jim McIlvenny
President, Asia Pacific, The Dow Chemical Company

“Business Agenda is the climate agenda & vice versa.”

Sirpa Juutinen
Partner, Sustainability and Climate Change, PwC Finland

“We need to work together [...] Climate war is more important than trade war.”

Esther An,
Chief Sustainability Officer, City Developments Limited

“Keppel’s vision is to be a global company at the forefront of our chosen industries, shaping the future for the benefits of all our stakeholders.”

Ho Tong Yen
General Manager, Group Corporate Communications, Keppel
**SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS**

“The message here for climate action is: To all those people with technologies with intentions and aspirations – don’t wait for successes. Work and bring coalitions together now.”

**Anthony Sebastian**
Conservation Planning Specialist and Board Member, RER

“Nature is the basis of everything.”

**Patricia Zurita**
Chief Executive Officer, BirdLife International

“The lack of common information and common understanding is undermining the collaboration work.”

**Andrew Buay**
Vice President, Group Sustainability, Singtel

“Human rights is a precondition and an enabler for addressing a whole range of challenges”

**Anna-Karin Jatfors**
Regional Director and Representative in Thailand, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

“Now we see recycling as a nice thing to do, but in 10 years its going to be a necessity.”

**Sujeev Shakya**
Chair, Nepal Economic Forum

“Producing a guideline document and joining a network is a good first step but it is not enough.”

**Christian Bustamante**
Sustainability Manager, Hitachi Asia

“Another initiative of ours was that mayors of ASEAN capitals met together to sign the Singapore Declaration On Environmental Sustainability. Singapore was also one of the first 55 countries to rectify the Paris agreement.”

**Joseph Teo**
Chief Negotiator for Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, Singapore

“Each and everyone of us has the ability to make a positive difference by being an advocate of change for the common good, and we are happy to be able to provide a long-term partnership with corporations to move that needle.”

**Arnaud Ayral**
Regional Business Development Director Cleantech Solar

“Everybody has to be part of the solution, not just a select few.”

**Niall O’Connor**
Centre Director, Stockholm Environment Institute

“Sustainable palm oil is trans-fat free and low cost to feed the world.”

**Hemant Bhatt**
Chief Executive Officer, Downstream and Commercial, Golden Agri-Resources
MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

RBF Singapore 2018 received significant media coverage, with top tier publications, journalists and broadcasters attending the event. Interviews were secured with a number of the key speakers, gaining coverage on CNBC, BBC and Channel News Asia. Speakers interviewed included international business and NGO leaders visiting Singapore for RBF, such as Achim Steiner, UNDP, Agi Veres, UNDP and Anita Neville, Golden Agri-Resources, sharing their commitments and forecasts on the SDGs. Coming as the first outcomes-driven sustainability forum in Asia-Pacific, media covered the various commitments pledged from the creation of a pilot Human Rights Academy on Business and Human Rights created by CP Group to the collaboration with 100 Resilient Cities, UNDP and Centre for Liveable Cities to pilot tools and guidance that help cities articulate their complex urban challenges.
#RBFSINGAPORE

## TRENDING TOPIC
Trending Topic on 11 October

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Number of tweets posted</td>
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<td>Number of retweets</td>
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<td>New Followers</td>
<td>251</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of tweets liked</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1,035,497 times delivered on other people’s timelines
SOCIAL MEDIA

Our CEO addressing the international media at the forum on why and how Yeti is working with UNDP Nepal for promotion & action on climate action. Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development, Singapore 10-12 October 2018. #RBFSingapore #YETIADS #YetiAirlines

"Be bold, take it personally and don’t be spectators, get involved": Administrator @ASteiner speaking to leaders in business as he opens the 2-day Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development. "The imperative to change has become ever clearer" #RBFSingapore #Shape2030

Had a fantastic time speaking for the first time as United Nations India’s first Young Business Champion at the UNDP Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development #RBFsingapore2017 #shape2030

We’re participating in @Responsible_Biz because we believe in renewable energy. Here’s how we’re helping make wind turbines safer for birds. #shape2030

Location, location, location how to reduce bird collisions. The global deployment of renewable energy such as wind power is key to tackling climate change. Yet placed in the wrong locations, wind turbines can harm wildlife. #RBFSingapore #NextGenUNDP #Pakistan

Achim Steiner @ASteiner At #RBFSingapore w 700 participants from business, finance, government, NGOs, media, academia & UN; great opp to engage biz community in transformational change & SDGs. #NextGenUNDP #UNDPAsiaPac @Cisco @Microsoft @Westpac @CocaCoca @JetwingTravels @Citi @snapcartglobal

"There’s a false sense of momentum. Currently the talk is louder than action" @helene_wpl from G4Impacts #Shape2030 #RBFSingapore

Lui Lim @luiLim We’re participating in @Responsible_Biz because we believe in renewable energy. Here’s how we’re helping make wind turbines safer for birds. #shape2030 #SDGs will need to be addressed collectively and will define how countries will work together, a framework of how to look into the future #nextgenundp @UNDP
AUDIENCE PROFILE

Audience Profile by Organisation

- Business: 39%
- IO / NGO: 30%
- Other: 11%
- Academic Institution: 9%
- Government: 7%
- Media: 3%

Audience Profile by Level

- Head of department / Director: 36%
- Manager: 20%
- CEO / Managing Director: 11%
- Consultant / Advisor: 9%
- Advisor/Consultant: 9%
- Student / Volunteer: 8%
- Other: 6%
- Communications/Media: 5%
AUDIENCE PROFILE

Audience Profile by Industry

- Manufacturing & Construction: 28%
- Oil, Gas & Mining: 21%
- Finance: 13%
- Electronics & Telecommunications: 9%
- Food, beverage & agriculture: 8%
- Health & Wellbeing: 8%
- Consumer Goods and Services: 7%
- Other: 6%

Audience Profile by Countries

Delegates were drawn from 41 countries:
Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, East Timor, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA, Vietnam
AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

In line with our efforts to limit the waste generated at RBF Singapore, for the third year in a row, the RBF Connect App was instrumental in providing an integrated digital experience for our delegates. With access to the agenda, speakers & sponsor details and attendee lists, RBF Connect was well utilised by the participants at the forum. Delegates had important forum information at their fingertips, and live updates on the schedule. The app also worked as a digital concierge in arranging meetings between the delegates at the forum and helped maximise networking and discussion opportunities. The app also provided a platform for delegates to interact with the speakers through the Q&A feature, as well as participate in the polls and survey. Lastly, RBF Connect was successful in providing a space for delegates to share their updates, images, new relationships and backstage preparation from the forum, which raised the engagement on the app to a higher level.

Activity Views
4,592 views

Agenda
4,141 views

Active Users
427 users
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Around 60 students from various universities worked closely with the Global Initiatives team and lended their time to assist with registering guests and speakers and to help take notes, photos and quotes from all of the Forum’s sessions. The students came from a range of academic backgrounds including law, economics, business studies and international relations and were instrumental in adding a youth perspective to each of the workshops and plenary discussions. Global Initiatives is grateful for the students and volunteer support and will look forward to hosting even more students next year.
SUSTAINABILITY OF RBF

One simple but powerful example is RBF partnership with Marina Bay Sands. In 2016, they helped the Forum become Asia’s first zero-waste, zero-emissions large-scale event. This year, they painstakingly developed an entirely sustainable, ‘Earth-Friendly Menu’ for over 750 of our delegates. If we wish to advance the SDGs, we must go beyond talk, straight to galvanising that collective action, something which the Forum this year strongly advocated.

A key highlight of this year’s Forum is its Earth-Friendly Menu, one that was ‘locally-sourced, ‘certified’ and used ‘100% responsible seafood’. Only fresh, seasonally available and sustainably produced ingredients was used for its meals, as a reflection of the Forum’s ethical food ethos. MBS took into consideration responsible suppliers, food waste prevention, potential carbon footprint, food miles and greenhouse gas emissions. Amongst others, delegates had the opportunity to taste one of the world’s most sustainable rice certified by the Sustainable Rice Platform convened by UN Environment and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), as well as other organic ingredients.

Each year, RBF Singapore is audited and certified by SACEOS (Singapore Association of Convention and Exhibition Organisers and Suppliers) on its Management Approach, Waste, Energy, Water, Community, and Human Resources with the MICE Sustainability Certification (MSC).

Commitments in Action, if you were wondering why the lectern at the event was so colourful, this is an example of Circular Economy in Action. The top piece was made from upcycled paper waste from Marina Bay Sands and the bottom was upcycled PET bottles on a stainless steel base. This piece of “art” was designed for Marina Bay Sands by National Geographic “Emerging Explorer” Arthur Huang who was also recognised as a Technology Pioneer in 2015 by the World Economic Forum.
Global Initiatives would like to thank you for supporting the Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development Singapore 2018.

We look forward to welcoming you to the next forum.

**Responsible Business Forum on Food & Agriculture 2019 Bangkok, Thailand**
26 - 27 March 2019
Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Bangkok, Thailand

**Responsible Business Forum on Climate Innovation 2019 Hainan, China**
23 - 24 May 2019
Shangri-La Hainan, Hainan, China

**Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development 2019 Kigali, Rwanda**
August 2019
Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda

**Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development 2019 Singapore**
November 2019
Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
With special thanks to the members of the Stakeholder Advisory Groups and Experts Panels

Alistair Monument, Practice Leader, Forests, WWF International
Andrew Buay, Vice President, Group Sustainability, Singtel
Anita Neville, Vice President Corporate Communications and Sustainability Relations, Golden Agri-Resources
Arnaud Ayral, Regional Business Development Director, Cleantech Solar
Bernise Ang, Principal and Methodology Lead, Zeroth Labs
Bruce Blakeman, Vice President Corporate Affairs, Asia Pacific, Cargill
Charles Yu, Investment Appraisal Specialist, UNDP
Christine Gerlier, Private Sector Engagement and Partnerships, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub
Cynthia Morel, Senior Sustainability Strategist, Forum for the Future
Daiana Beitler, Philanthropies Lead, Asia Pacific, Microsoft
Dave Hughes, EVP Supply Chain, South East Asia and Australasia, Unilever
Dirk Hoffman, Senior Adviser, Human Rights and Business, Danish Institute of Human Rights
Esther An, Chief Sustainability Officer, City Developments Limited
Eugene Ho, Head of Corporate Affairs, Southeast Asia, SAP
Fraser Thompson, Director, AlphaBeta Advisors
Gordon Falconer, Global Director, Smart Cities, Schneider Electric
Grahame Dixie, Executive Director, Grow Asia
Harry Verhaar, Head, Global Public and Government Affairs, Signify
Ian Ong, Associate, AlphaBeta Advisors
Jacqueline Loh, Chief Executive Officer, Aidha
Jeff James, Director, Marine and Protective Coatings, South Asia, AkzoNobel
John Agwunobi, Co-President and Chief Health & Nutrition Officer, Herbalife Nutrition
Joseph Teo, Chief Negotiator for Climate Change, Singapore, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources
Junko Ishii, Managing Director, JETRO Singapore
Keven Roy, Sea Level Research Fellow, Earth Observatory of Singapore
Kevin Teng, Executive Director, Sustainability, Marina Bay Sands
Lauren Sorkin, Regional Director, Asia, and the Pacific, 100 Resilient Cities
Lauren Sorkin, Regional Director, Asia Pacific,100 Resilient Cities
Lim Hock Chuan, Chief Executive Officer, Temasek Foundation EcoCity
Lim May-Ann, Executive Director, Asia Cloud Computing Association
Lim Teng Leng, Deputy Director, Centre for Liveable Cities, Ministry of National Development
Lynn Loh, Regional Head of Sustainability, Asia Pacific and Japan, HP
Mac McKenzie, Managing Director, Asia-Pacific, BRIDGE
Malavika Jain Bambawale, Partner, Dalberg Advisors
Markus Schueller, VP of Food & Beverage Operations, Asia Pacific, Hilton
Matthew Kasdin, Corporate Counsel, SunPower
Matthew Kovac, Executive Director, Food Industry Asia (FIA)
Mengmeng Cui, ASEAN Lead, Accenture Development Partner, Accenture
Milag San Jose-Ballesteros, Regional Director, Southeast Asia and Oceania, C40
Najat Fuad, Director, Corporate Affairs, Mars Developing Asia
Navjeev Singh, Desk Officer, ASEAN Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore
Netithorn Praditsarn, Vice President, Group Sustainability & Communications, CP Group
Nik Comito, Director, Environmental Sustainability, Optus
Patrick Haverman, Regional Partnership Advisor, UNDP’s Bangkok Regional Hub
Peter McFeely, Communications Manager, Food Practice, WWF international
Prabhjot Sodhi, Program Specialist, UNDP
Pungkas Bahjuri Ali, Director, Health and Community Nutrition, Ministry of National, Development Planning Indonesia
Regina Moench-Pfanner, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, ibn360
Richard Boele, Global Head, KPMG Business and Human Rights Network, KPMG
Roelof Westerbeek, Former President, Amcor Flexibles Asia Pacific
Santhosh Viswanathan, Managing Director, Asia Pacific and Japan Territory, Sales & Marketing Group, Intel
Sean Lees, Business and Human Rights Specialist, UNDP Asia-Pacific
Shovon Kibria, Private Sector Engagement Specialist, Climate Change Adaptation, UNDP
Siang Hee Tan, Executive Director, CropLife Asia
Simon Baldwin, Director, Indonesia, SecondMuse
Simon Lord, Chief Sustainability Officer, Sime Darby Plantation
Taimur Khilji, Urban Development Specialist, UNDP
Teng Leng Lim, Deputy Director, Centre for Liveable Cities, Ministry of National Development
Terry Seremetis, General Manager, Mars Developing Asia
Todd Gimbel, Vice President Government Affairs Asia Pacific, Herbalife Nutrition
Trish Hyde, Managing Director, The Plastics Circle
Upasana Choudhry, Sustainability Manager, South Asia, HP
Vanessa Pérez-Cirera, Deputy Practice Leader, Climate and Energy Practice, WWF International
Vanessa Zimmerman, Group Advisor Human Rights, Rio Tinto
Vinayagan Dharmarajah, Regional Director (Asia), BirdLife International
Yeo Lian Sim, Special Adviser to Singapore Exchange, Vice Chair of Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures