

Emerging Role of Blue Finance in the Asia Pacific Region

ONLINE WORKSHOP AGENDA

19th October, 2021

BACKGROUND

The scope of blue economy is large in the Asia Pacific region as several states in this region have a significant share (15-20 per cent) of marine economy in their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the region possess some of the most ecologically and economically important sea areas of the world. However, adequate funds and investments are required for a sustainable ocean economy in the region, and the current funds from conventional sources such as government and donors are insufficient. Achieving SDG 14 by 2030 will require at least six times the resources currently allocated. Overall, financing sources should not just include government and donor organizations but also individuals, public & private companies and other non-governmental/inter-governmental institutions. Within the current capital market discourse, blue economy still raises a significant portion of its funds from ODAs (Official Development Assistance) and philanthropic grants, a move which has largely stunted its growth.

There are several challenges ahead for the blue finance market within the region: lack of investment-readiness, bankable projects, low private sector investments, low level of awareness and capacity building, and inadequate understanding of potential risks in the sector. To turn these challenges into opportunities, the most critical initiative would be the mainstreaming of the blue finance market, which would entail the adoption and implementation of a holistic and strategic approach in the region.

Based on this backdrop, this diginar will deliberate on the opportunities and challenges for blue finance in the Asia-Pacific region, additionally focusing on the current issues, best practices and geographic/market specific financing tools, and initiatives for a sustainable ocean finance.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19

Workshop Platform- Webex

12:30-12:40 (IST) OPENING SESSION

15:00-15:10 (HKT)

09:00-09:10 (CET)

- **Souvik Bhattacharjya**, Senior Fellow & Associate Director, The Energy and Resources Institute
- **Christian Hübner**, Director, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Project Energy Security and Climate Change Asia-Pacific (KAS-RECAP)

12:40-14:10 (IST) PANEL DISCUSSION

15:10-16:40 (HKT)

09:10-10:40 (CET)

Panel moderated by **Souvik Bhattacharjya**, Senior Fellow & Associate Director, The Energy and Resources Institute

CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Torsten Thiele**, Founder, Global Ocean Trust
- **Raghu Dharmapuri Tirumala**, Senior Lecturer, University of Melbourne
- **Nathalia Roth**, Founder and Managing Director, 4Climate
- **Stuart J Green**, CEO, Blue Green Advisors
- **Sameer Bhatnagar**, Partner, KPMG India

Discussants

- **Michael C. Huang**, Research Fellow, Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- **Ria Sinha**, Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute

14:10-14:25 (IST) CONCLUDING SESSION

16:40-16:55 (HKT)

10:40-10:55 (CET)

- **Christian Hübner**, Director, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Project Energy Security and Climate Change Asia-Pacific (KAS-RECAP)