



SUSTAINABLE FINANCE - A KEY TO GREENING THE BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM

The Lotus Ballroom, Shangri La, Colombo
19 March 2025, 09:00am – 12:30pm (Colombo), 11.30am-3.00pm (Manila)

ABOUT THE EVENT

The “Serendipity Knowledge Program” (SKOP) is ADB’s knowledge program dedicated to Sri Lanka, designed to respond effectively to the country’s needs in line with the vision of ADB as a knowledge solutions bank. SKOP seeks to share knowledge on issues relevant to Sri Lanka and facilitate discussion among stakeholders.

The latest SKOP event will focus on sustainable finance for greening the business ecosystem. When investment decisions are made considering sustainable finance; environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors of a business/project play a key role. The primary objective of sustainable finance is to promote long-term economic growth while supporting the well-being of society and the planet. In the long-term, sustainable finance will ensure resilience of businesses and enhance business competitiveness. Since 2022, Sri Lanka has embarked on deep economic reforms, including developing a strategic initiative aimed at ensuring environmental sustainability, addressing climate change challenges. Through this event, ADB will seek to build awareness, bring potential issuers and investors together to enable future green bond issuances, and support the government’s plans and initiatives in sustainable finance.

The workshop will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions and networking opportunities with experts from both public and private sectors. The key objectives of the event are to provide a platform for stakeholders to discuss and share best practices, challenges, and opportunities in sustainable finance. This event will be attended by stakeholders including senior government officials, leading private sector representatives, think tanks, other development partners, civil society and ADB staff.

AGENDA

Master of Ceremony: Arun Dias Bandaranaike

Time	Item
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of Participants
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome Remarks <i>Takeo Konishi, Director General, South Asia Department, ADB</i>
09:10 – 09:20	Opening Remarks <i>Harshana Suriyapperuma, Deputy Minister of Finance</i>

Time	Item
09:20 - 09:45	<p>Keynote Speech 1</p> <p>— Sustainable Finance– <i>Creating a Financial Ecosystem that Delivers Impactful Sustainable Finance</i></p> <p><i>Datuk Zainal Izlan bin Zainal Abidin, Senior Advisor, Sustainable Finance Institute, Asia</i></p>
09:45 – 10:30	<p>Panel discussion 1- Sustainable Finance</p> <p>Panel members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sampath Jayawardena, Senior Director, Climate Change and Sustainability Services, Ernst and Young</i> • <i>Hareendra Dissabandara, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka</i> • <i>Vishakha Amarasekara, Additional Director General, Department of External Resources, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development</i> • <i>Kosintr Puongsophol, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, ADB</i> <p><i>Moderator: Hiran Mendis, Former Director General of the Colombo Stock Exchange</i></p>
10:30 – 10:45	<p>Questions and Answers</p>
10:45 – 10:50	<p>Introduction and presentation of ADB’s work in Green Finance</p> <p><i>Uresha Walpitagama, Financial Sector Specialist, ADB</i></p>
10:50 – 11:15	<p>Keynote Speech 2</p> <p>–<i>Capital Markets and Sustainable Finance - Strengthening Capital Markets and Promoting Sustainable Finance</i></p> <p><i>Boo Hock Khoo, Chairman, Green Guarantee Company</i></p>
11:15 – 12:00	<p>Panel discussion 2 - Capital Markets and Sustainable Finance</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>W. A. Dilrukshini, Assistant Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka</i> • <i>Chinthaka Mendis, Director General, Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka</i>

Time	Item
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dilshan Wirasekara, Chairman, Colombo Stock Exchange</i> • <i>Heshana Kuruppu, President, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka</i> • <i>Jason Mortimer, Head of Sustainable Investment, Nomura Asset Management</i> • <i>Kelvin Lester K. Lee, Senior Finance Sector Specialist, ADB</i> <p><i>Moderator: Manohari Gunawardhena, Senior Finance Sector Specialist, ADB</i></p>
12:00 – 12:15	Questions and Answers
12:15 – 12:20	Participants' feedback
12:20 – 12:35	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Takafumi Kadono, Country Director, Sri Lanka Resident Mission, ADB</i> - <i>Shiranthi Rathnayake, Director General, Department of National Planning, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.</i>
12:35	Lunch