Corporate Sustainability Reporting for development: An introduction





This is not an ADB material. The views expressed in this document are the views of the author/s and/or their organizations and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank, or its Board of Governors, or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the accuracy and/or completeness of the material's contents, and accepts no responsibility for any direct or indirect consequence of their use or reliance, whether wholly or partially. Please feel free to contact the authors directly should you have queries.

Data and sustainable development

Private sector contributions need to be known



"Data are the lifeblood of decision-making. Without them, designing, monitoring and evaluating policies for sustainable development becomes almost impossible."

Sustainable development impossible in Asia-Pacific without better data

As governments embark on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the first thing they must do is identify and plug gaps in data availability and quality, says UN ESCAP Under-Secretary-General Shamshad Akhtar.



SDGs: Companies had a key contribution to make



Target 12.6:

"encourage companies, especially large and trans-national companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle"

UN Sustainable Development Goal
Target 12.6 - Live Tracker
Click here to track the progress of sustainability reporting around the world
Click Here

Corporate Governance (CG)

Incorporating sustainability in CG codes





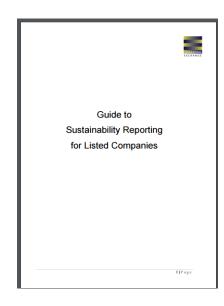
South Africa:

Philosophy of the code consists of the three key elements of leadership, sustainability and good corporate citizenship.



Malaysia:

Code includes a recommendation on Board's role in promoting sustainability strategies. Voluntary guidance on sustainability reporting is being refined with regulatory authorities and legislators.



Singapore:

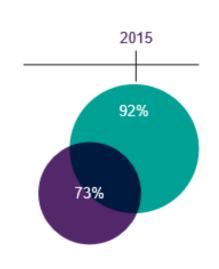
Code has been revised to include sustainability. Separate guidance is available for sustainability reporting.

Trends in sustainability

Reporting landscape



- Almost three quarters of top 100 companies (based on revenue) now report on sustainability, in 45 countries
- Reporting rate among Fortune 250 (2014 ranking) is over 90%
- Asia Pacific has become the leader in growth of sustainability reporting over the last 4 years with 79% reporting rate in 2015 compared to only 50 percent in 2013

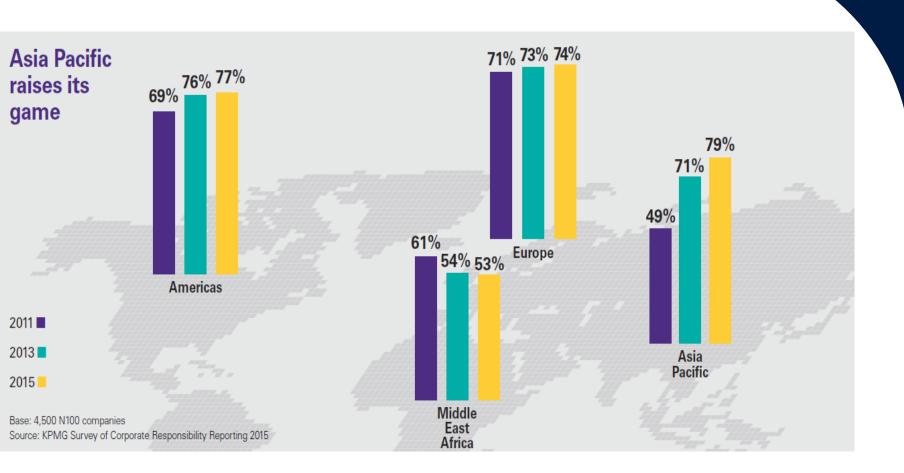


N100 CR reporting rate
 G250 CR reporting rate

KPMG Survey of Corporate Responsibility Reporting 2015

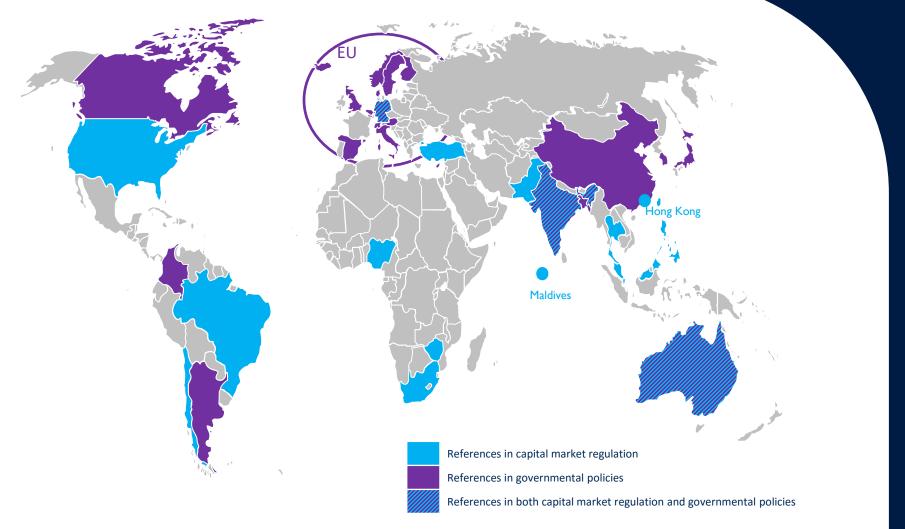
Asia-Pac reporting surpasses West





38 countries refer to GRI in government policy and capital market regulation





Policy references in Asia



Market regulation:

- Bangladesh
- China, Hong Kong
- India
- Indonesia
- Malaysia

- Maldives
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Taiwan
- Thailand

Existing initiatives

Policies and mandates around the world



COUNTRY	BODY	INITIATIVE
<u>Malaysia</u>	Bursa Malaysia	 Require a disclosure of "Sustainability Statement" Companies with GRI report are automatically compliant with requirement
<u>Singapore</u>	Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX)	 Reviewing its sustainability policy Plans to require its listed issuers to produce sustainability reports based on the "comply or explain approach"
<u>Taiwan</u>	Taiwan Stock Exchange (TWSE)	 Specified companies begin mandatory sustainability reporting annually from 2015 GRI use is required

Existing initiatives

Policies and mandates around the world



COUNTRY	BODY	INITIATIVE
<u>Australia</u>	Australian Securities Exchange (ASX)	 Listed entity should disclose whether it has any material exposure to and management of economic, environmental and social sustainability risks GRI has a linkage document with the ASX rules
New Zealand	New Zealand Stock Exchange (NZX)	 Reviewing corporate governance reporting requirements Plans to introduce sustainability reporting
<u>India</u>	Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	 In 2011, SEBI has mandated Business Responsibility Reports(BRR) amongst top 500 companies

ASEAN CGS and GRI



A comparison

ASEAN CG Scorecard	GRI reporting
Focus on corporate governance	E, S, G issues (much broader scope)
ASEAN focus	Universal applicability (enables trade & comparability worldwide)
Macro level (country reports)	Micro level (individual companies)
Scorecard - ranking	No ranking – companies do it at their organizational level (a third party can build a ranking based on GRI reporting, but that's not the intention behind reporting)
Publicly listed companies	For all types of organizations

GRI's position



- Promoting smart policy
- Focus on what matters where it matters
- Supporting existing initiatives
- Encourage the use of internationally recognized frameworks
- Strengthening direct relationship with stock exchanges and commissions





Thank You!