

AIM

To support and expand financial practice that promotes sustainable development in the Asia Pacific.

ACTIVITIES

■ Capacity building

- Capacity building activities such as intra-regional and country-specific workshops and dissemination of major UNEP FI materials in local languages with local perspective add-ons.

■ Exchange of ideas and best practices

- Creation of a critical mass of Asia Pacific Signatories that are able to exchange ideas and best practice facilitated by an extensive UNEP FI network of sustainable finance sensitive institutions in the region.

■ Country-level and sector-specific research

- State-of-the-art surveys
- Needs assessments
- Case studies

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ABOUT UNEP FI

UNEP FI is a unique global partnership between the United Nations and the private financial sector. UNEP FI works closely with financial institutions around the world to identify and develop linkages between sustainability and financial performance.

Through its regional task forces, UNEP FI carries out its mission to identify, promote, and realise best sustainability at all levels of financial institutions' operations across the globe.

The complete list of UNEP FI Signatories and updates on latest activities is available online at:

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Innovative financing for sustainability

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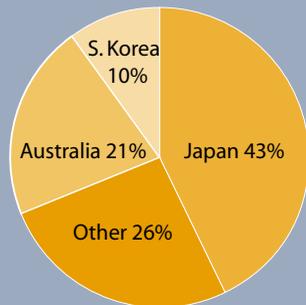
Asia Pacific

Task Force

Promoting Sustainability in the
Asia Pacific Financial Sector

WHAT IS THE ASIA PACIFIC TASK FORCE (APTF)?

UNEP FI Signatories in the Asia Pacific make up over a quarter of UNEP FI's 163 members worldwide (as at 30 September 2006).



The APTF acts as an umbrella organisation for all groups of Signatories in the region. It utilises the separate activities of these groups as a means of meeting the overall strategic aims and goals of UNEP FI. APTF's work focuses on:

- The setting of "sustainability" priorities for the Asia Pacific financial sector;
- The creation of a critical mass of Asia Pacific Signatories that are able to exchange ideas and best practices facilitated by a UNEP FI network;
- The overall integration of a triple bottom line approach to the operations of the Asia Pacific financial sector.

APTF is made up of four groups:

- Australasia Group
- Japan Group
- Korea Group
- Outreach Group

All UNEP FI Signatories in the respective countries automatically qualify as members to the country groups. The Outreach Group is an international group of members interested in UNEP FI's intra-Asia Pacific activities.

WHY BECOME A SIGNATORY?

Financial institutions are under closer scrutiny than ever before. Stakeholders are increasingly asking challenging questions about corporate governance, the social and environmental impacts of operations and financing decisions, and how institutions interact with their local communities. Answering these questions is not easy and requires companies to adapt policies and practices.

Membership of the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) has helped hundreds of Signatories since 1992 to understand stakeholder concerns, exchange best practice and become more sustainable.

Membership of UNEP FI and the Asia Pacific Task Force is about learning how to turn sustainable development into an opportunity for growth.



BENEFITS

Stay abreast and on top of the latest sustainability trends, tools and practices

- Cutting-edge research on finance and sustainability issues and how to address them (climate change, water scarcity, security, etc.)
- Capacity building and training on the financial risks and opportunities associated with environmental, social and governance (ESG) impacts
- Information-sharing with other financial institutions in the region, but also globally, via further UNEP FI Task Force and Working Group members

Become a regional leader and gain visibility

- Development of economically sound sustainability practices (including management and reporting) and products
- Exposure via the UNEP FI web site and publications
- Opportunities to host, sponsor or otherwise become involved in high-profile regional/international events and research