

## Flash report

# Moving the needle on climate change – business actions for a 1.5°C future

*Session during the*

## UN Virtual Forum on Responsible Business and Human Rights



REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN



MOVING THE NEEDLE ON CLIMATE CHANGE –  
BUSINESS ACTION FOR FOR A 1.5°C FUTURE

Wednesday 10 June (10.00-11.30 Bangkok time)

#RBHRF2020

*United Nations Virtual Forum on Responsible  
Business and Human Rights 2020*

9-12 June 2020

 [rbhrforum.com](http://rbhrforum.com)

@switchasia #SCP #SDG12



**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:30 hrs (Bangkok time zone)

**Venue:** RBHRF Online platform

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## List of Acronyms:

<b>CDL</b>	City Developments Limited
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>ESG</b>	Environment Social and Governance
<b>RBHRF</b>	Responsible Business and Human Right Forum
<b>RPAC</b>	Regional Policy Advocacy Component
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SBTi</b>	Science Based Targets initiative
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Enterprise
<b>TCFD</b>	Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNESCAP</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>UNGC</b>	Nations Global Compact
<b>WRI</b>	World Resources Institute
<b>WWF</b>	World Wide Fund for Nature

## Background:

### Objectives of the event

Setting greenhouse gas emission reduction targets in line with climate science can help business take a lead on climate change and future-proof the business. As so often stated, you cannot manage what you cannot measure. Climate impact assessment, reporting and target setting will thus be critical to move business action. Various initiatives such as the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), and the Science Based Targets (SBT) initiatives have been set up to improve reporting and advance the climate action.

Businesses are also expected to integrate climate considerations as part of human rights due diligence under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Globally, companies have started coming forward to set climate-based targets as ambitious as net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 or before. Corporate leadership on Climate Change is also growing in the Asia-Pacific region. Currently, 25% of the 800+ signatories to the science-based targets initiative are from the region, about half of which had developed climate action targets by early 2020

The objective of this session, is to share experiences of companies in the Asia-Pacific region who are taking ambitious action on climate, through climate impact assessment, reporting, target setting and action, to share good practices and lessons learned, to inspire action by others and to discuss how to further advance climate related target setting and action among companies in the region. It will also discuss the role of states and investors in providing incentives to speed up climate action, and the impact of covid-19 on delivering on commitments made by states and businesses.

### Logistical information about the event

The event was co-organized by the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC), funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The organization of the session was proposed as part of the 2020 Virtual United Nations Responsible Business and Human Right Forum (RBHRF). e. The event occurred through Zoom on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June from 10 to 11.30 hrs (Bangkok Time).

## Summary of key messages:

### Welcome and Opening remarks

#### **Ms. Marit Nilses**

Trade, Investment and Innovation Division  
United Nations ESCAP

Welcomed the participants and invited panellists to share experiences and lesson learned.

#### Short Video Clip

The video highlights the impacts of Climate Change on communities and vulnerable people in the Pacific to contextualize the relevance of the discussions.

<https://vimeo.com/321738112>

### Panel session

#### **Ms. Brynn O'Brien,**

Executive Director,  
Australian Centre for Corporate Responsibility

As the moderator of the Session, Ms. Brynn set the context of the panel discussion by referring the '[The Carbon Major's Report](#)' stating that only 100 companies are responsible for 71% of world carbon emissions between 1985 – 2015.

### Scene Setting

#### **Ms. Paola Delgado**

Corporate Engagement Manager  
Science Based Targets initiative and WWF

[The Science Based Targets initiative](#) (SBTi) champions science-based target setting as a powerful way of boosting companies' competitive advantage in the transition to the low-carbon economy. It is a collaboration between [CDP](#), the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), World Resources Institute (WRI), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and one of the We Mean Business Coalition commitments. Science-based targets provide companies with a clearly defined pathway to future-proof growth by specifying how much and how quickly they need to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Aiming for 1.5-degree goal is a way to ensure the least trade-off between climate change mitigation and developmental goals. SBTi are providing more than 880 companies around the world with a clear direction for emission reduction, strengthening investor confidence and brand reputation by forcing companies to set more ambitious targets in line with climate science and reduce faster and more extensively.

"Race to zero is on and it is necessary for planetary health and we need to achieve full or near full reorganisation of energy and industrial CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and phasing out CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with agriculture, forestry and land use. Do not wait and scale up your ambitions and do not leave anyone behind."

### Business Experience Sharing

#### **Ms. Esther An**

Chief Sustainability Officer  
City Developments Limited, Singapore

[City Developments Limited \(CDL\)](#) is a leading global real estate company with a network spanning 106 locations in 29 countries and regions. In 2018, CDL was the first Singapore

property company to have its carbon reduction targets validated by the SBTi. CDL has raised its carbon emissions intensity reduction target to 59%, from the previous 38%, across its Singapore operations by 2030 from base-year 2007.

“SBTi has helped us improve transparency and also helped us step up even more stringent on our carbon management. Our value creation model and ESG strategy embraces all 17 SDG goals adopted in an integrated approach.”

**Mr. Hiromitsu Hatano**

Sustainability Management Division  
RICOH, Japan

The [RICOH](#) Company, Ltd. is a Japanese multinational imaging and electronics company. It is the first Japanese company to become member of RE 100 in 2019. RICOH's 2030 Environmental Goals includes a 63% reduction of its greenhouse gas emissions from a 2015 baseline.

“RICOH has set up a barraging material reduction target of 50% reduction by 2030 to achieve this goal and we are fundamentally redesigning our products and developing recycled materials. We believe that these actives will lead to decarbonisation of society.”

**Mr. Anirban Ghosh**

Head of Sustainability  
Mahindra & Mahindra, India

[Mahindra Group](#) is an India conglomerate operating in key industries including cars and tractors and manufacturing. Mahindra group became the first company in the world to commit to doubling energy productivity by signing on to The Climate Group's program EP100 and first Indian company to announce its internal Carbon Price of \$10 per ton of carbon emitted to fund investments required to pursue the path of carbon neutrality. In addition, about 20 Mahindra Group companies have committed to SBTi.

“It is possible to achieve more than what is originally thought to be stretch target once you get started. Technology is providing solutions which when adopted at scale is helping achieve climate goals. Empowering colleagues to identify areas of climate action and implement project that are great for people, profit and planet is a wonderful way to activate the ambitious loop.”

“As greener automotive options become viable and attractive offers can be made to consumers, we will space no efforts to pivot towards cleaner transportation ensuring that our businesses become greener and we also get into green businesses in the future”

**Shareholder Experience Sharing**

**Ms. Jana Žilková**

Head of Mission  
Caritas Czech Republic in Mongolia

Caritas Czech Republic in Mongolia is implementing a SWITCH-Asia Grant project titled “[Improving Resource-Efficiency and Cleaner Production in the Mongolian Construction Sector Through Materials Recovery](#)” with the objective to promote sustainable production and consumption in the construction sector, through supporting SMEs to switch to more resource-efficient practices in Mongolia.

“Lack of funding is a big challenge for SMEs, they depend on large construction companies, they do not get support from government and large international donors.”

“Even though there are great policies and they are many times good written on paper they are not applied in practice.”

“Large construction companies are extremely important, they have huge responsibility towards SMEs and society, they are usually the ones that set the direction for SMEs, they hire them , they guide them, they pay them and should also monitor their work on regular basis.”

**Mr. Giuseppe Busini**

Deputy Head of Mission

European Union to the Kingdom of Thailand

“The European Green Deal is very ambitious set of policy initiatives with the overarching goal of making Europe climate neutral by 2050.”

“Global challenges require global responses and sustainable policies will only be successful as long as they are adopted and implemented in Europe and rest of the world.”

“Business and companies have a very important role to play but consumers and ordinary people also play a key role by reorienting their choices when purchasing goods and services.”

**Mr. Roberto Cadiz**

Philippines Human Rights Commission

“Climate change is human rights issues and it negatively impacts the broad spectrum of human rights and business and governments have an important role to play in addressing this existential challenges.”

## Closing Remarks

**Luz Fernandez, PhD**

Programme Officer

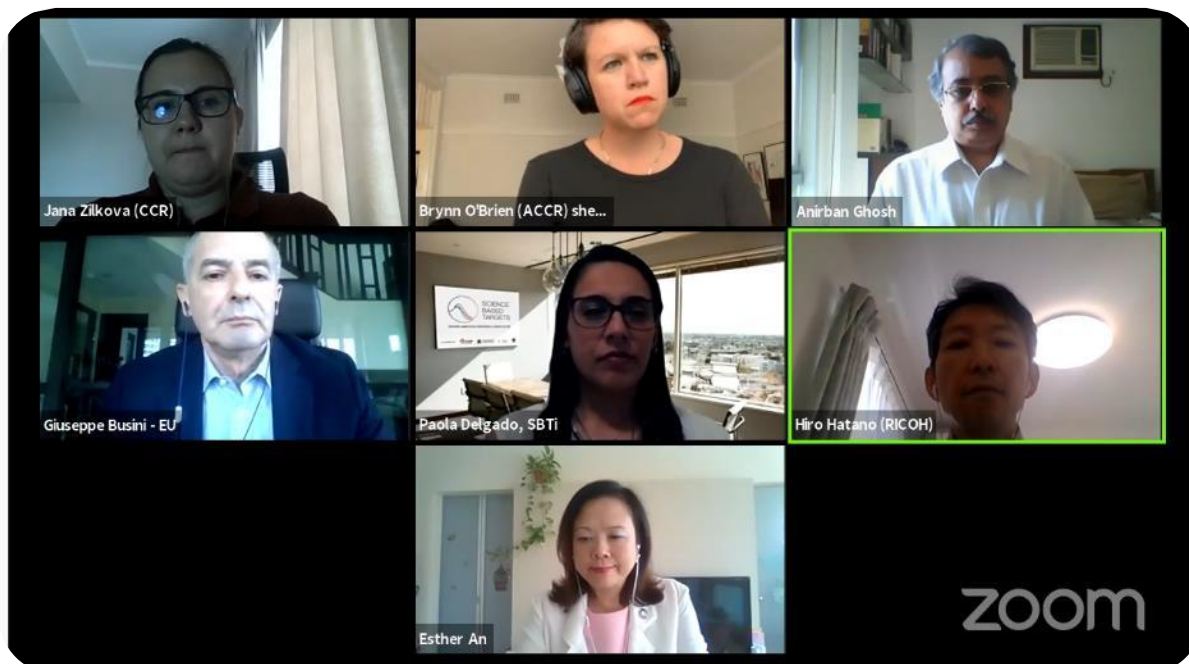
SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy

“With the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component we have been trying to showcase examples of how business in Asia are influencing the policy environment and today we had the great opportunity to seeing the examples of this situation.”

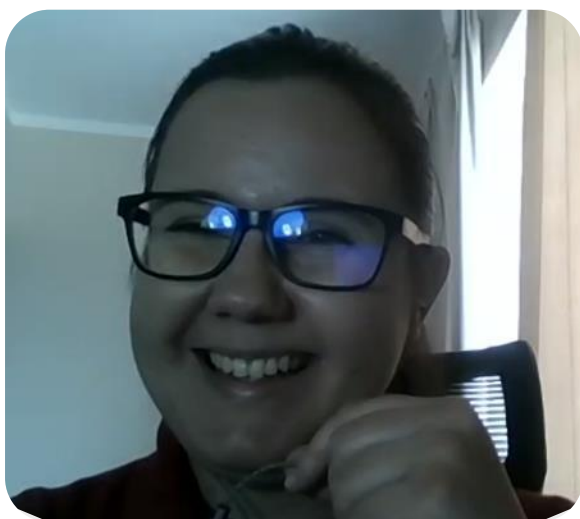
## Review on Participants:

The webinar is open for general public participation through live broadcast on RBHRF website and YouTube page. The session witnessed participation of over 250 individuals. The session recording is available at this [link](#).

Snapshot of Webinar









### SWITCH-Asia's Visibility

Digital Backdrop during the event:



SWITCH-Asia RPAC logo included among the partners of the event:

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## Annex:

### Annex 1: Final agenda

Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 10:00 – 11:30	
10:00 – 10:02	Welcome and introduction of the moderator (Marit Nilses, ESCAP)
10:03 – 10:06	Video (2 min): <a href="https://vimeo.com/321738112">https://vimeo.com/321738112</a>
10:06 – 11:10	Introduction by the moderator: <b>Ms. Brynn O'Brien, Executive Director, Australian Centre for Corporate Responsibility</b>
10:11 – 10:17	<i>Scene setting:</i> <b>Ms. Paola Delgado, Corporate Engagement Manager, Science Based Targets initiative and WWF</b> Q1: How can climate reporting and target setting help drive company ambition and action to reduce emissions? What different tools exist and how useful are they for moving action? What role does SBTi play in this regard?
10:18 – 10:24	<b>Ms. Esther An, Chief Sustainability Officer, City Developments Limited, Singapore</b> Q1: CDL was in the first batch of companies to pledge support for the 1.5°C Business Ambition for Climate last year, and have set climate targets aligned with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C. Last year you were the only company in Southeast Asia to be on the 2019 CDP A List for corporate climate action. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are some of your challenges and lessons learned as regards climate reporting, target setting and how it can drive action? With rising middle-classes and increased urbanization comes increased demand for cooling in tropical countries, how real estate and construction companies continue to reduce emissions in light of that?</li> </ul>
10:25 – 10:31	<b>Mr. Hiromitsu Hatano, Sustainability Management Division, RICOH, Japan</b> Q1: Mr. Hatano, RICOH operates in the electronics sector, a sector with many layers in its supply chain, which has also set climate goals aligned with a 1.5 degree trajectory in line with SBTi. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What lessons has your company gained in doing so, and what are the most important ways electronics companies can diminish their carbon footprint? What role does management of e-waste and reducing plastics in value chains play in this regard?</li> </ul>
10:32 – 10:36	<b>Mr. Anirban Ghosh, Head of Sustainability, Mahindra &amp; Mahindra, India</b> Q1: Mr. Gosh, you lead sustainability efforts at Mahindra Group, a conglomerate operating in key industries including cars and tractors and manufacturing. Mahinda was the first Indian company to set an internal carbon price, and has also set emission goals in line with SBTi.

	What are some of your lessons learned on how climate target setting and reporting can drive action, and how important is setting an internal price on carbon for moving action? As a car and tractor company, many of your products use fossil fuels, and a lot of materials in their production. What path will you take to reduce emissions going forward?
<b>10:37 – 10:44</b>	<i>Short Q&amp;A</i>
<b>10:45 – 10:50</b>	<b>Ms. Jana Žilková, Head of Mission, Caritas Czech Republic in Mongolia</b> Q1: You oversee a project that supports SMEs in the construction sector in Mongolia to green their business. What challenges do you see for SMEs in the construction sector for greening their operation, and how important is it for larger companies to have ambitious targets in terms of enabling and driving action of SMEs in their supply chain?
<b>10:51 – 10:56</b>	<b>Mr. Giuseppe Busini, Deputy Head of Mission, European Union to the Kingdom of Thailand</b> Q1: In December 2019 the EU Commission adopted the “European Green Deal”, a roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable, aiming to be the first climate-neutral continent while making the transition just and inclusive for all. What changes will it bring in practice, and what impact will that have on companies in Asia supply European markets? To which degree do you expect it can help drive greening of companies in the Asia-Pacific region?
<b>10:57 – 11:02</b>	<b>Mr. Roberto Cadiz, Philippines Human Rights Commission</b> Q1: You were part of the Carbon Major Inquiry which looked at the responsibility of Carbon Majors on people affected by climate change. What were the main findings and recommendations of the Inquiry? What impact may these findings have going forward?
<b>11:03 – 11:23</b>	<b>Moderated Q&amp;A / interactive discussion with audience</b> Potential extra questions to panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How will COVID-19 affect climate action in companies of the region, and how to ensure to build back better?</li> <li>- What in your view is needed to get broader action in line with climate goals among companies in the Asia-Pacific region?</li> </ul>
<b>11:24 – 11:27</b>	Closing remarks (Luz Fernandez, SWITCH-Asia RPAC)

## For more information

SWITCH-Asia event page:

<https://www.switch-asia.eu/event/business-actions-for-a-1.5-c-future/>

**Contact SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Funded by European Union**  
Implemented by United Nations Environment Programme, Asia and the Pacific Office  
**Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon**  
Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency  
United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
Project Manager  
Regional Policy Advocacy Component  
(SWITCH-Asia – the European Union funded programme)  
Email: [memon@un.org](mailto:memon@un.org)