

Event Title

Asia Pacific Urban Forum Business Assembly

Location

Suwon, South Korea

Date

October 22, 2023

Event Background and Description

In October 2023, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia Pacific Region (ESCAP) will convene the 8th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF) in Suwon, Korea. The event is expected to attract 3000 attendees from across the Asia-Pacific region and around the world.

Habitat for Humanity International is planning to conduct its Ninth Regional Housing Forum in conjunction with the APUF. This event will include a celebration of the 40th Anniversary of HFHI's programming in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The objective of the APUF Business Assembly is to communicate the commitments of the business community in the AP region and beyond that will support measures to achieve the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular Goal 11 – *Make Cities Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable*. Additional outcomes will be to forge deeper ties among members of the business community that are committed to sustainable urban development, sustainable housing and engage business leaders in meaningful exchanges with other APUF constituencies.

For more than forty years, Habitat for Humanity has brought together participants from public sector, private sector, civil society and community-based organizations to address housing needs of the poor in more than 70 countries. HFHI has proven how to channel the commitments of the private sector into meaningful opportunities to support and participate in solutions to the global housing crisis. Since its formation in 1976, HFHI has improved the housing conditions of more than 40 million people.

HFHI has forged long-lasting relationships with numerous partners in the business community – ranging from small entrepreneurs creating new and innovative approaches to housing issues, to major multi-national and global companies seeking to make a major positive impact on communities across the globe. HFHI's Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter catalyzes change towards more efficient and inclusive housing market systems, resulting in expanded access to quality, affordable housing for low-income families. To accomplish this, HFHI facilitates the flow of investment capital to the housing sector allowing financial institutions and other housing market actors to provide the products and services that low-income households need to build and expand their shelters. HFHI also launched the MicroBuild Fund, the first housing-focused microfinance investment vehicle dedicated to helping low-income families. Overall, by working closely with the business sector, HFHI has unlocked more than \$11 billion in capital globally towards affordable housing, of which the AP region has contributed more than \$1.6 billion in this metric.

HFHI will leverage its extensive relationships with the business community to co-organize a truly impactful day-long Assembly, which will set a positive tone for discussions during the APUF.

UN Global Compact as Co-organizer of the Business Assembly

The United Nations Global Compact is uniquely positioned to support companies as they align their practices for a sustainable and inclusive future while building back stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic. With the broad-based support of all 193 participant countries of the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Global Compact remains the single, global normative authority and reference point for action and leadership within a growing global corporate sustainability movement.

The UN Global Compact aims to mobilize a global movement of sustainable companies and stakeholders. To make this happen, the UN Global Compact supports companies to do business responsibly by aligning their strategies and operations with Ten Principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption; and to take strategic actions to advance broader societal goals, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with an emphasis on collaboration and innovation. These Ten Principles offer companies of all sizes a blueprint for contributing towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement

Agenda

Time	Activity
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Opening Session and Plenary
10:15 AM - 10:45 AM	Coffee break
10:45 AM - 11:30 AM	Session 1: Housing's Contribution to ESG
11:30 AM - 11:40 AM	Coffee break
11:40 AM - 12:25 PM	Session 2: Taking Housing Innovations to Scale in Informal Settlements
12:25 PM - 1:45 PM	Lunch
1:45 PM - 2:30 PM	Session 3: Leveraging Financial Tools to spur Sustainable Development
2:30 PM - 2:40 PM	Coffee break
2:40 PM - 3:25 PM	Session 4: People-Public-Private Partnership
3:25 PM - 3:45 PM	Coffee break
3:45 PM - 5:00 PM	Business Assembly Declaration and closing remarks