

## Summary

### 1. Public policy

- Singapore's ambition to become a green hydrogen hub
- MAS/CDP: MoU signed to promote access to quality ESG data
- A RFI for geophysical investigation issued by Singapore's Energy Market Authority
- Sustainability roadmap for Singapore's hotel sector
- Digital and Green Economy Partnership between France and Singapore
- \$550mn Green Samurai bonds issued by the Philippines
- Launch of a SDG investor map in Indonesia with the help of UNDP and Temasek

### 2. Financial industry

- ASEAN exchanges move towards aligning ESG metrics
- Climate Impact X : launch of the Project Market Place on March 16th
- Sectoral workshops by SGX RegCo on climate-reporting requirements
- Collaboration between SGX and OCBC to launch a new low carbon index
- OCBC/MVGX to develop green finance using tokenized carbon credits.
- Temasek's \$120mn investment in Southeast Asian forestry fund
- Malaysia: 3-year mangrove conservation project supported by Hong Leong Bank
- A new Sustainability Hub set by Bostong Consulting Group in Singapore
- Philippines' largest bank to sell ocean pollution bonds

### 3. Corporates

- EDP Renewables to invest up to S\$10bn by 2030 for clean energy hub in Singapore
- €430mn unsecured K-Sure facility for leading SK renewable energy firm Hanwha

### 4. Miscellaneous

- Greater scrutiny and standards for Asian Green Bonds in 2022
- Natixis' view of the implications of net neutrality pledges
- EMA Energy 2050 Report
- Asian banks 'falling short' on decarbonisation efforts

## 1. Public policy

### **Singapore's ambition to become a green hydrogen hub**

In line with its goal to reduce its carbon emissions to zero, Singapore wants to position itself as a green hydrogen hub in the future and provide this cleaner fuel to the region. Today, it is still difficult to produce green hydrogen in Singapore due to the low proportion of renewable energy in the country's energy mix -green hydrogen production is only possible with the use of renewable electricity-, but work is already underway with Singapore's goal of having solar energy by 2030 to cover 4% of the country's total electricity demand. [Source](#)

### **MAS/CDP: Memorandum of Understanding signed to promote access to quality ESG data**

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), an international non-profit organization that operates one of the world's leading environmental disclosure systems for companies and local governments, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote sustainability disclosure and access to quality ESG data. [Source](#)

### **A RFI for a geophysical investigation project issued by the Energy Market Authority of Singapore**

The Energy Market Authority (EMA) has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to facilitate a geophysical investigation project to assess the potential for geothermal energy across Singapore. Following the RFI, the EMA will develop and launch a Request for Proposal (RFP) to assess the viability and scalability of geothermal deployment in Singapore. According to the EMA's Energy 2050 Committee report released in March, geothermal energy is identified as a renewable energy source that could help reduce the nation's carbon emissions to net zero by about 2050. Parties interested in RFI must send in their proposals by May 20, 2022. [Source](#)

### **Sustainability roadmap for Singapore's hotel sector**

The Singapore Hotels Association (SHA) and the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) presented last month a sustainability roadmap with four strategies that hotels can adopt to start tracking their carbon emissions by 2023 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The industry also hopes to achieve internationally recognized sustainability certification by 2025 for at least 60% of the nation's hotel rooms, which STB and SHA hope would help boost the competitiveness and growth of businesses in the hotel industry. [Source](#)

### **Signature of a Digital and Green Partnership between France and Singapore**

France and Singapore will increase their collaboration in sectors such as smart transport, smart cities, financial innovation and agri-food tech, under a new Digital and Green Partnership (DGP). According to Mr Iswaran: "The France-Singapore DGP is part of Singapore's larger strategy to build a network of international partnerships that enable companies, especially SMEs, to seize growth opportunities in the fast-growing digital and green economies.". [Source](#)

### **\$550mn Green Samurai bonds issued by the Philippines**

The Philippines have issued \$550mn worth of sovereign green bonds in Japanese yen (Green Samurai bonds) meeting ESG criteria. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time Philippines have issued green bonds in foreign currencies. Money raised will finance projects in favor of ecological transition and prevention of climate risks. These loans are part of a \$7bn program aiming to meet the objective of the Paris Agreement of a 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Among the \$7bn, \$2.25bn have already been borrowed, including \$1bn of green bonds. [Source](#)

### **Launch of a SDG investor map in Indonesia with the help of UNDP and Temasek Trust**

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, the government of Indonesia, with the help of the United Nations Development Program and with the support of Temasek Trust, became the first country in ASEAN to launch a SDG Investor Map. The map will help mobilize the private sector to accelerate progress towards the SDGs within 18 identified investment themes and business models across six SDG-enabling sectors: Education, Healthcare, Agriculture, Renewable Energy, Financials and Infrastructure". [Source](#)

## **2. Financial industry**

### **ASEAN exchanges move towards aligning ESG metrics**

During the 34<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Exchanges CEOs meeting, hosted virtually by the Singapore Exchange Group (SGX Group) on March 29, the exchanges published a comparative table of their sustainability reporting regimes to aid investors in understanding the reporting structures and various approaches adopted by the member exchanges. [Source](#)

### **Climate Impact X: launch of the Project Market Place on March 16<sup>th</sup>**

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Climate Impact X (CIX) announced the launch of the Project Marketplace, a digital platform providing businesses with quality carbon credits. The platform will facilitate information access on projects, along with third-party ratings and satellite watching technology to create interest and guarantee trust in the voluntary carbon market (VCM). According to the press release, "all projects listed on the platform are verified by global registries; subjected to internal evaluations of carbon sequestration performance, governance and risk management, social integrity, and biodiversity contribution; and checked against independent ratings." [Source](#)

### **SGX RegCo launches sectoral workshops to help companies in climate-reporting requirements**

Singapore Exchange Regulation (SGX RegCo) announced the launch of sectoral workshops to help listed companies identify climate-related risks, opportunities, and processes to implement climate reporting. The workshops, focused on the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) recommendations, are for individuals involved in producing their companies' sustainability reports. The first workshop is expected to be held in April, with subsequent workshops at regular intervals thereafter. SGX will subsidize the workshop fees for the first two representatives from each listed company. [Source](#)

### **Collaboration between SGX and OCBC to launch a new low carbon index**

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, Singapore Exchange (SGX) and OCBC jointly launched a low carbon index tracking 50 Singapore or globally-listed companies based on their carbon footprint. The index is built under an exclusionary methodology, i.e. companies having a heavy involvement in the fossil fuel sector are removed. Indeed, companies are selected under “best-in-class approach” based on Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse-gas emissions per unit of revenue. Scope 1 emissions are generated from owned/controlled sources while Scope 2 emissions are generated from purchased energy. [Source](#)

### **OCBC/MVGX to develop green finance using tokenized carbon credits**

OCBC announces a plan to collaborate with digital exchange MVGX to develop green finance products using tokenized carbon credits. One of the goals is to support large companies in making investments in renewable energy. According to McKinsey, the demand for carbon credits could increase 15-fold or more by 2030 and 100-fold by 2050. [Source](#)

### **Temasek's \$120mn investment in Southeast Asian forestry fund**

According to The Business Times, Singapore's Temasek could invest \$120mn into the “New Forests Tropical Asia Forest Fund 2” managed by New Forests. Founded in 2005, the AM has around A\$7.7bn assets under management, including timber plantations and conservation areas that restore the ecosystem. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> fund the AM is launching targeting Southeast Asian forestry assets. Investors should be able to buy carbon units within the fund. [Source](#)

### **Malaysia: 3-year mangrove conservation project supported by Hong Leong Bank**

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, Hong Leong Bank (HLB), a major public listed banking group in Malaysia, began its mangrove conservation project with the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), to restore 15 hectares of degraded forest land in Kuala Selangor. For the record, HLB had taken steps in 2020 to strengthen its sustainability policies, introducing a “Business & Corporate Banking ESG Framework”. [Source](#)

### **A new Sustainability Hub set by Bostong Consulting Group in Singapore**

The global consulting firm launched a Climate and Sustainability Hub for Innovation on March 30<sup>th</sup> in Singapore. The hub which sits at BCG's existing office on Robison Road is supported by Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, Grace Fu. The hub plans to hire experts over the next one to two years to support companies willing to create action plans to cut their carbon emissions. [Source](#)

### **Philippines' largest bank to sell ocean pollution bonds**

The Philippines' largest bank by assets, BDO Unibank Inc. will sell bonds to help preserve clean water resources and fight marine pollution. The World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation will buy \$100 million worth of the so-called “blue bonds”. IFC's investment is expected to help BDO establish a blue financing framework to fund projects that support the country's blue economy. In addition, a new asset class will be created in the Philippine debt market. [Source](#)

### 3. Corporates

#### **EDP Renewables to invest up to S\$10 bln by 2030 for clean energy hub in Singapore**

EDP Renewables, the world's fourth-largest renewable energy producer, said on Q1-2022 it plans to invest up to S\$10 billion (\$7.40 billion) by 2030 to establish a clean energy hub in Singapore for the Asia Pacific region. EDPR, which is 75% owned by Portugal's biggest utility Energias de Portugal closed a S\$1 billion deal to acquire a 91% stake in Southeast Asian renewables firm Sunseap Group after all pending regulatory conditions were met for the agreement reached in November. [Source](#)

#### **€430mn unsecured K-Sure facility for leading SK renewable energy firm Hanwha**

Crédit Agricole CIB acted as Mandated Lead Arranger in Hanwha EU Energy Solutions SE's €430 million 2-year and 5-year unsecured facility. This "Dark Green" financing from Korea Trade Insurance Corporation (K-Sure) will support the development of wind and solar energy projects. It also paves the way for Hanwha to develop 20 GW of renewable energy projects in Europe over the next 15 years and strengthens CA-CIB's reputation for export financing in the renewable energy sector. [Source](#)

### 4. Miscellaneous

#### **Greater scrutiny and standards for Asian Green Bonds in 2022**

According to The Business Times, green bonds are expected to grow significantly in 2022 but borrowers could face greater scrutiny from lenders, investors, governments and regulators. Indeed, new and emerging ESG fund standards are set up in Asian countries such as Malaysia, Singapore or Thailand. ASEAN is also requiring investment managers to disclose how ESG is accounted in their investment process. In addition, global ESG standards will be set this year by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), that will increase corporate disclosure in the region. [Source](#)

#### **Natixis' view of the implications of net neutrality pledges**

According to a recent [Natixis research](#), the existing net zero targets stemming from entities (countries, regions, cities and companies) account for roughly 88% of carbon emissions. More than 140 countries have now set or are considering a target of reducing emissions to net zero by mid-century. However, the French bank cautions that the physics behind net neutrality call for semantic moderation. Last February, Climate Action Tracker assessed 23 countries' net zero commitments and found that only 4 were acceptable – Chile, Costa Rica, EU and United Kingdom. The same proportion was deemed either average or poor. To solve this issue, standards and criteria are needed to build robust pledges such as the Science Based Target initiative proposes in its Corporate Net-Zero Standard and Carbone 4 in its Net Zero Initiative. [Source](#)

## EMA Energy 2050 Report

The Energy 2050 Committee was commissioned by the EMA to guide the planning of Singapore's future energy system. The Committee, comprising experts from the private and public sectors, released a report with its findings and recommendations on how Singapore can decarbonise the power sector and capture the economic opportunities arising from the energy transition. The report concluded that it is realistic for Singapore's power sector to aspire to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. [Source](#)

## Asian banks 'falling short' on decarbonisation efforts

Banks in Asia are "falling short" when it comes to meeting global pledges to tackle climate change and aligning with the decarbonisation aims of their countries, according to a study published end of March. A review of 32 banks throughout East and Southeast Asia, conducted by Asia Research & Engagement (ARE), a Singapore-based environment group, showed that none had made any clear commitments or adequate implementation plans to meet the goals of the Paris climate agreement.

[Source](#)

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