

PRESS RELEASE

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August 2019
For immediate release

ASF publishes the results of its survey on ESG/SDG-related finance in the Asia-Pacific region

August 2019 – The Asia Securities Forum (ASF) officially published the results of its survey conducted of its member organizations regarding the status of ESG investment and finance in the Asia-Pacific region on August 2019.

This comes at a time when ESG investment, a major area in which the financial/securities industry can effectively contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹, is rapidly growing, but where there is a lack of comprehensive data and information about ESG financing within the Asia-Pacific region.

It is precisely against this backdrop of rising demand for this data, and bearing in mind the critical importance of the Asia-Pacific region to the economic growth and development of the world, that the ASF—a platform for information exchange for key players in the securities industry of the Asia-Pacific region—conducted a survey on the status of ESG and sustainable finance within the ASF member jurisdictions.

The survey aimed to collect information on ESG investment in the region in a manner that can be compared across borders, and was conducted as part of the ASF's initiatives related to the SDGs which began after the adoption of the ASF Bali Declaration on Promotion of SDGs at the 23rd Annual General Meeting in November 2018. Under this Bali Declaration, the ASF also established the ASF Working Group for Promotion of SDGs, the guises under which the survey was conducted.

The respondents of the survey comprised 15 organizations from 14 jurisdictions, covering most of the major markets as well as geographical areas of the region. Moreover, a global industry association with a strong commitment in this area added an international perspective to the survey (see Appendix 1 for a full list of respondents).

The basic structure of the survey is as follows:

SECTION I: ESG/SDG-related Finance

- A. Government policies and initiatives to support sustainable finance
- B. Entities committed to sustainable finance initiatives (exchanges, industry associations, individuals, etc.)
- C. Market size and characteristics for each asset class
- D. Information on sustainable investors

SECTION II: Pilot survey on broader issues related to the SDGs

The full text and a summary of the results of the survey are available on the ASF website.

<http://www.asiasecuritiesforum.org/sdgs.php>

¹ In 2015, the United Nations announced the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of a new global sustainable development agenda to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. With the commitment to "leave no one behind", the SDGs outline 17 goals to be achieved by 2030.



Based on the findings, the ASF will further strive to do its part towards the achievement of the Global Goals. It is the hope of the ASF that these results will serve as useful reference for future activities related to the SDGs both in and beyond the Asia-Pacific region—a region that faces social, economic and environmental challenges, but that is also, with guidance, rife with potential for sustainable growth.

ABOUT THE ASIA SECURITIES FORUM

The Asia Securities Forum (ASF), established in 1995, is an international forum that brings together key organizations in the securities industry of the Asia-Pacific region to exchange information, foster cross-border cooperation, and ultimately promote economic growth and the development of the securities markets. It currently boasts 23 members of securities-related organizations across the Asia-Pacific region. Its Annual General Meeting is held in major cities of the region to discuss the issues in which the main players of the capital markets have a keen interest. For more information, visit <http://www.asiasecuritiesforum.org/index.php>.

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APPENDIX 1: List of Respondents to the Survey

Below is a list of the members of the ASF; the respondents to the survey are indicated in red (15 organizations from 14 jurisdictions).

No.	Market	Name of Organization	
1	Asian Region	Asia Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association	ASIFMA
2		International Capital Market Association*, Asia Pacific Representative Office	ICMA
3	Australia	Australian Financial Markets Association	AFMA
4	China	Securities Association of China	SAC
5	Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taiwan Securities Association	CTSA
6	Hong Kong	Hong Kong Securities Association	HKSA
7	India	Association of National Exchanges Members of India	ANMI
8		Bombay Stock Exchange Brokers' Forum	BBF
9	Indonesia	Association of Indonesian Securities Companies	APEI
10	Iran	Iran Securities & Exchange Brokers Association	ISEBA
11	Japan	Japan Securities Dealers Association	JSDA
12	Korea	Korea Financial Investment Association	KOFIA
13	Malaysia	Association of Stockbroking Companies Malaysia	ASCM
14	Mongolia	Mongolian Association of Securities Dealers	MASD
15	New Zealand	New Zealand Financial Markets Association Inc.	NZFMA
16	Philippines	Philippine Association of Securities Brokers & Dealers, Inc.	PASBDI
17	Russia	National Finance Association	NFA
18	Singapore	Securities Association of Singapore	SAS
19	Thailand	Association of Thai Securities Companies	ASCO
20		The Thai Bond Market Association	ThaiBMA
21	Turkey	Turkish Capital Markets Association	TCMA
22	Vietnam	Vietnam Association of Securities Business	VASB
23		Vietnam Bond Market Association	VBMA

*The International Capital Market Association (ICMA), whose Asia Pacific Representative Office is an ASF member, is an association representing the global capital market, including the Asia Pacific region. As such, in this survey, the ICMA's responses are included as a category separate from the responses of each individual jurisdiction. The ICMA's responses are also excluded from the aggregated statistics.