



# THE FFA NETWORK IS GROWING, WELCOME TO FAIR FINANCE PAKISTAN!

This quarter, we welcome Fair Finance Pakistan, which was established to bring different national stakeholders together to ensure that financial institutions in Pakistan respect the social and environmental well-being of local communities. The Fair Finance Pakistan Coalition builds on the legacy work of Oxfam's Finance 4-Development (F4D) project, and will further the country level agenda by contributing to reducing extreme inequalities (SDG 10), forge new alliances and partnerships to influence financial sector policy and practices, promote transparency, and advocate for human rights. With 29 coalition members, Fair Finance Pakistan, also comprises of women-led civil society organizations and aims to ensure that gender becomes a key pillar for national sustainable finance initiatives.

## Fair Finance Asia at the United Nations Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum

Fair Finance Asia (FFA) together with Grow Asia held a roundtable discussion at the United Nations Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum (UNRBHR Forum) on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2021, which was attended by over 500 participants. The event titled, 'Financial institutions as reliable accelerators of labor and human rights compliant practices in Asia's agriculture sector?', was facilitated by Junice Yeo from Eco-Business. Examples of the roles and liabilities of financial institutions, as well as the influence of different stakeholders in enabling the promotion of the labor and human rights compliant practices in Asia were highlighted by the panel, comprised of:



Ms. Hataikan Kamolsrisakul  
Thai Web Public Company Ltd.



Ms. Renee Corstens  
Financial Access



Mr. Ronald Eberhard  
International Institute for Sustainable Development



Ms. Victoria Caranay  
Fair Finance Philippines

Fair Finance India, together with cKinetics also organized a side session at the UNRBHR forum on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2021. The session, "Addressing Human Rights and Labor Rights in Companies using ESG Investment Strategies and Disclosure", was a successful roundtable attended by multi-sectoral stakeholders from civil society, advisory firms, and the financial sector.

## Understanding Sustainable Finance Taxonomy 101

Different countries and regions around the world have started to propose, regulate, or legislate the definitions of green or sustainable activities that are officially accepted under a classification system called a "taxonomy". To reflect on the current discussions around the development of taxonomies, Fair Finance Asia (FFA) together with SOMO held an online capacity building session on 'Introduction to Sustainable Finance Taxonomy' on 6<sup>th</sup> May, attended by 48 participants (20 male, 25 female and 3 other participants). Moderated by Bernadette Victorio, Program Lead of FFA, the two resource persons were Myrlam Vander Stichele, Senior Research at SOMO, and Junlati Gunawan, Director of Trisakti Sustainability Center (TSC), Indonesia and member of the FFA Advisory Committee. For more details on the session, read the summary note [here: https://oxfam.box.com/s/2dszgc3h1u96hohfli5yc7ywrxxr52y](https://oxfam.box.com/s/2dszgc3h1u96hohfli5yc7ywrxxr52y).

## Spotlight on the FFA coalitions

- In Japan, MS&AD announced their policy to stop underwriting and investing in new coal-fired power projects- a win for Fair Finance Guide Japan's advocacy efforts.
- The Japanese government revised its policy to end new direct international government support for unabated coal-fired power generation by the end of 2021.
- Reports on Environmental Impact Assessment Compliance in the Banking Sector and on Cross-Border Investment in Cambodia was launched by Fair Finance Cambodia on 28<sup>th</sup> April, with 170 Facebook live viewers.
- Fair Finance India, jointly with ACCESS Development, hosted the second webinar under the Inclusive Finance India Summit platform and launched the Fair Finance India's bank policy assessment for 2020 on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, attended by 107 participants.
- Fair Finance Japan, with 29 other organizations, submitted a letter to JICA to stop funding coal mines in Bangladesh and Indonesia.
- Fair Finance Japan released multiple publications, including a [shareholder voting study](#) commissioned with Profundo and a [joint statement urging JICA & ADB not to finance Hin Kong gas power project in Thailand](#).

## ResponsiBank Indonesia files an official complaint against ING

On 26<sup>th</sup> April, ResponsiBank Indonesia, in collaboration with Fair Finance Netherlands, filed a **complaint letter to ING regarding the negative impacts of the financing of the Cirebon 1 and 2 coal power plants**, copying in the Dutch Minister of Finance, Dutch Minister of Trade and Aid, and the Dutch Parliament Commission on Finance. The complaint was timed in line with the shareholders meeting by ING on the same day. Fair Finance Asia, Fair Finance International and Fair Finance Japan secretariat engaged with the media and social media to amplify the core message of the complaint. Dutch newspapers such as Trouw and Reformatorisch Dagblad, as well as Asian media such as Eco-Business, published a story about the complaint. ING has sent an initial response emphasizing that they are reviewing this complaint and will provide a more formal response by 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.



## Strengthening the capacities of Asian civil society for financial sector advocacy

- Fair Finance Asia's social media training on effective influencing and campaigning was conducted virtually on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, with 50 participants from 8 countries of FFA coalitions. Please find the training [here: https://oxfam.box.com/s/0q05zhjv2zw2yn67lez32ri0p8q38j0](https://oxfam.box.com/s/0q05zhjv2zw2yn67lez32ri0p8q38j0).
- Fair Finance Cambodia and SOMO conducted a training on how sustainable finance can promote people and planet on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April, with 30 participants.
- ResponsiBank Indonesia organized a journalists' training session on financial investigations, investigative methodology, and data-driven journalism, delivered by the Centre for Investigative Journalism every weekend for 3 consecutive weeks in April, and attended by around 40 participants.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June, Fair Finance Thailand together with Profundo, organized a capacity building on reporting on climate disclosure by banks.
- Fair Finance Philippines organized a training for CSOs to be conducted by Profundo on interpreting financial institutions' annual and sustainability reports, that was held on 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July.
- Fair Finance Asia and Profundo organized a training on 'Financial Data Analysis - using the Asia Web data set for case studies and reports'. The training took place on 15<sup>th</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

## FFA's 2020 Progress Summary

### AVERAGE COUNTRY SCORES FOR BANKS IN FFA COUNTRIES

Average policy assessment score (October 2020)

These scores take into account the 9 mandatory thematic areas of the Fair Finance Guide International (FFGI) methodology



In Asia, unprecedented short and long term economic and social consequences have resulted from measures to contain COVID-19's impact on domestic economies. Furthermore, the pandemic exacerbated Asian banks limited to non-compliance with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards, making 2020 a particularly challenging year for Asian sustainable finance. However, these challenges have also inspired innovative solutions and new ways of working within the Fair Finance Asia network to take advantage of new opportunities in financial sector advocacy. Please see the 2020 Progress Summary for Fair Finance Asia [here: https://fairfinanceasia.org/us/post/banking-on-a-sustainable-future-2020-progress-summary](https://fairfinanceasia.org/us/post/banking-on-a-sustainable-future-2020-progress-summary) for more details.

## News from Fair Finance International

"Many insurers, pension funds and banks invest in companies that demonstrably cause damage to people, animals, or the planet. If that is the case, the NGOs that work together in the Fair Finance network expect those investors to have a meaningful and time-bound dialogue with these companies, and/or to exert public pressure. That is also what international guidelines, such as the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the Paris Climate Agreement, require of them. In the past year, NGOs asked insurers, pension funds and banks to exert pressure as shareholders on companies in various sectors. NGOs can and want to help

banks and investors to address companies about their negative impact on people, animals, and the planet. Sharing knowledge and looking together for good moments to increase shareholder pressure on companies can make sense." - an excerpt from the recently published article by Peter Ras, Project Leader of Fair Finance Guide Netherlands, and Senior Policy Advisor for Development Cooperation and Transparent & Accountable Finance at Oxfam Novib. Read the full article [here: https://fairfinanceguide.org/ff-international/news/2021/opinion-shareholder-pressure-works/](https://fairfinanceguide.org/ff-international/news/2021/opinion-shareholder-pressure-works/)

Fair Finance Asia is a regional network of civil society organizations (CSOs) committed to ensuring that financial institutions' funding decisions in the region respect the social and environmental well-being of local communities. Currently, FFA is operational at regional level and in 8 countries across Asia, namely - Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. FFA's regional program management unit is stationed in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

