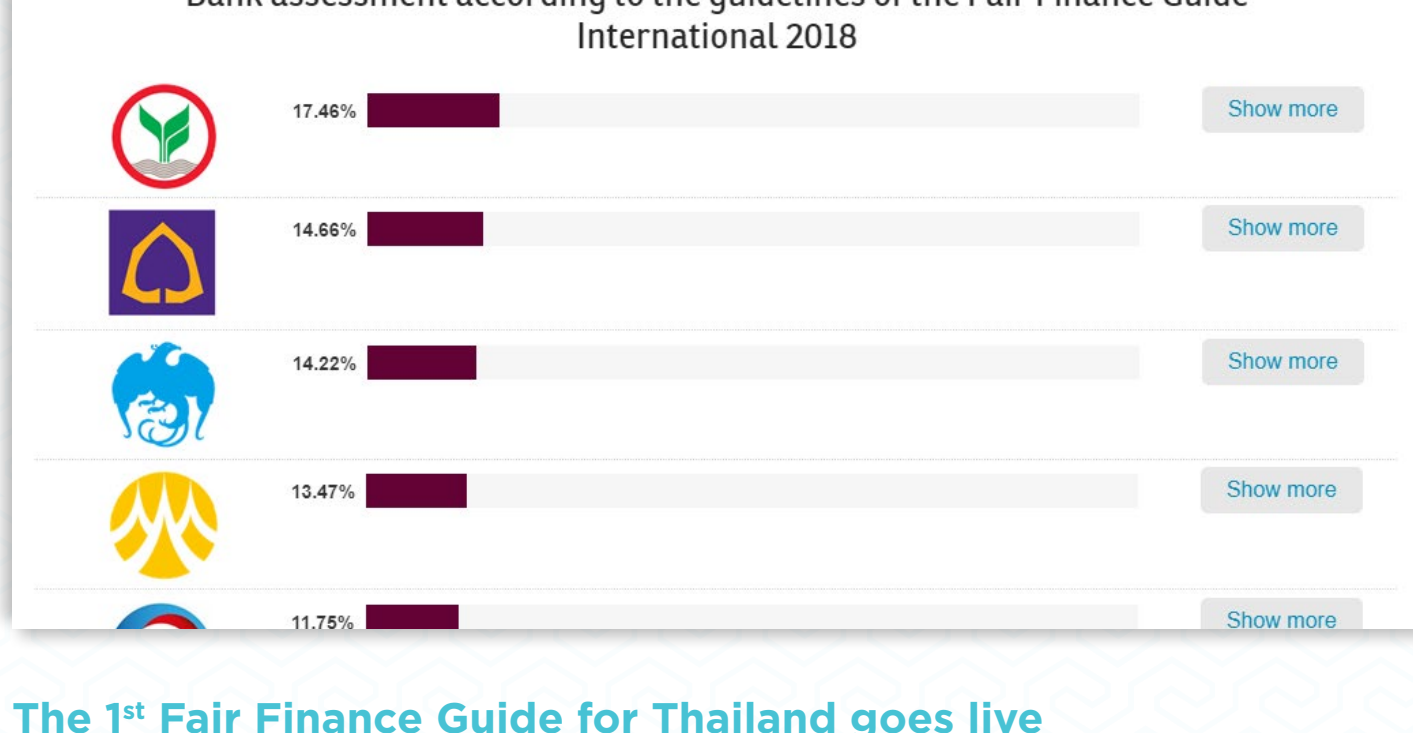




*Fair Finance Asia is a regional network of Asian civil society organizations that is committed to ensuring that the business decisions and funding strategies of financial institutions in the region respect the social and environmental well-being of the communities in which they operate.*

*Seven countries within the region are a part of the FFA: Cambodia, Japan, India, Indonesia, The Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.*

## Fair Finance Asia's work from January to July 2019



## The 1<sup>st</sup> Fair Finance Guide for Thailand goes live

Fair Finance Thailand published its first policy assessment using the Fair Finance Guide methodology for nine Thai commercial banks in April, 2019. The banks that were assessed are Thailand's nine largest domestic commercial banks as per asset size. The policy assessment covered nine themes of the FFGI methodology, which includes the seven cross-cutting themes, one sectoral theme, and two operational themes. See it [HERE](#).



## Towards strengthening civil society voice

It is imperative to strengthen a unified civil society voice to achieve transformational policy. Fair Finance in Asia is committed towards this end, and the seven Fair Finance countries in Asia aim to bring together like-minded civil society organizations to ensure that the interests of vulnerable communities are heard and taken into account, and the voices of civil society are amplified.

In 2019, Fair Finance in Philippines conducted sustainable finance training for Civil Society Organizations. One such workshop for CSOs was conducted in partnership with CSR Asia, which focused on the business case of sustainability, and the different ways to engage with financial institutions. The other CSO workshop highlighted the findings of a paper by Dr. Felipe Calderon, an expert researcher, operationalizing the BankTrack model in the Philippines.

## Are Japan's Private Banks responsible for the Laos Dam Collapse?

The collapse of a saddle dam in the Xe Pian-Xe Namnoy hydropower dam under construction in Attapeu Province in southern Laos on July 23, 2018, caused severe damage to the villages downstream, leaving at least 48 people dead, more than 7,000 displaced, and nearly 25,000 people forced to evacuate. One year since the collapse, people in Attapeu are still displaced, and there has not been adequate compensation provided. The company in charge of construction and the Government of Laos need to be definitely held accountable.

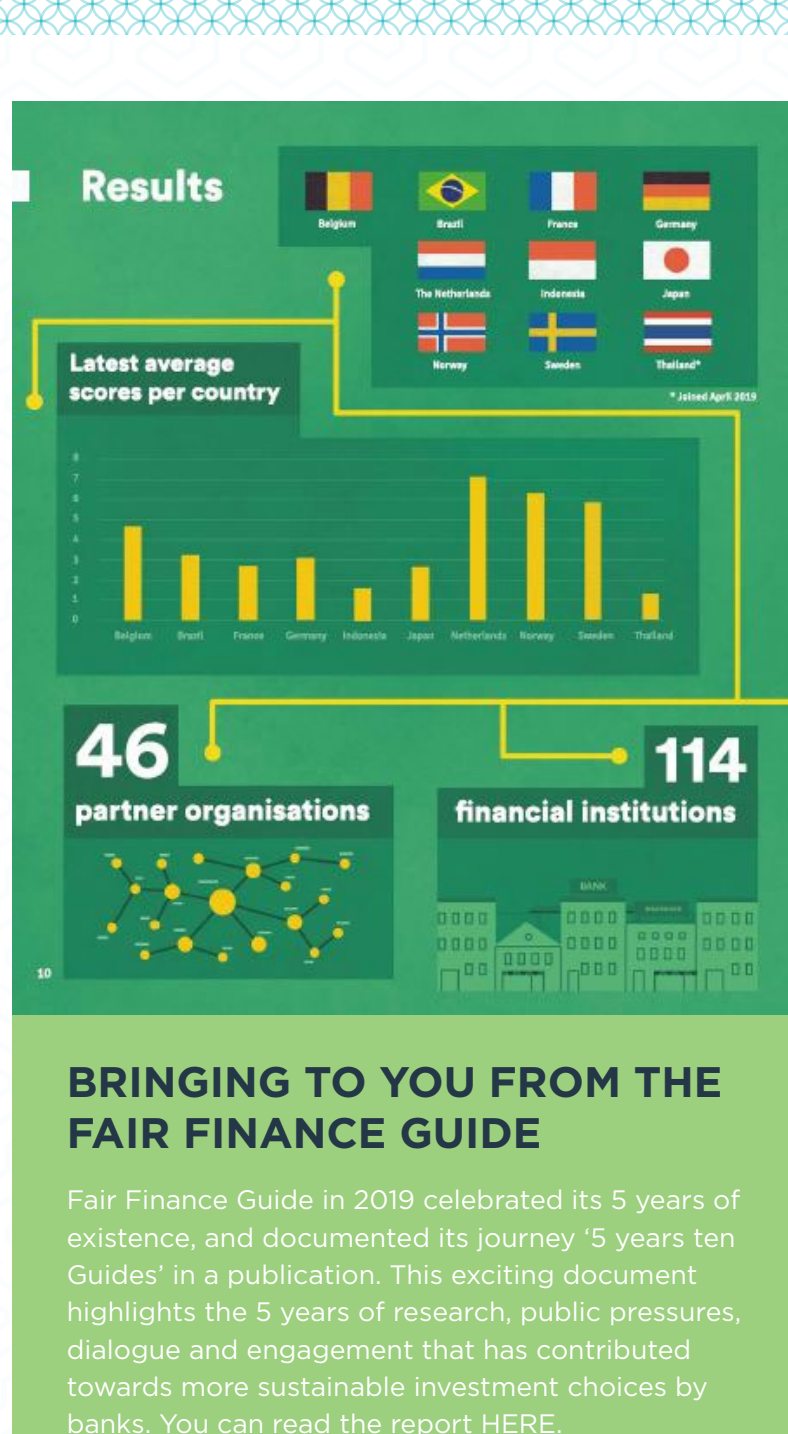
But, shouldn't Financial institutions that invested in such projects assume responsibility too? Read the case study here <https://bit.ly/2IKgPDG> "The Laos Dam Collapse and the Responsibility of Japan's Private Banks: The Importance of Human Rights Due Diligence in the Acquisition of Foreign Banks" to understand the responsibilities of banks and what they should do.



## Fair Finance Asia's engagement at the G20 summit 2019 in Osaka, Japan

The 2019 G20 Osaka summit was the fourteenth meeting of the G20, and was held on June 28–29, in Osaka. As three of the Fair Finance Asia countries are part of G20 countries, engagement with the G20 is a key priority as defined by the FFA countries.

JACES (Japan Center for Sustainable Environment and Society), which is the lead partner for Fair Finance in Japan, played a pivotal role in strengthening the issue of quality infrastructure. Fair Finance in the three countries of Japan, Indonesia and India, along with the regional unit and our partner SOMO contributed in deepening engagements at the G20 and C20, and strengthening the dialogue on sustainable finance in different forums. The key asks of Fair Finance Asia from the G20 countries on sustainable finance can be seen in the brochure [HERE](#).



## BRINGING TO YOU FROM THE FAIR FINANCE GUIDE

Fair Finance Guide in 2019 celebrated its 5 years of existence, and documented its journey '5 years ten Guides' in a publication. This exciting document highlights the 5 years of research, public pressures, dialogue and engagement that has contributed towards more sustainable investment choices by banks. You can read the report [HERE](#).

## EXCITING ACTION IN THE SPACE OF SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FROM THE FFA IMPLEMENTING COUNTRIES

In August 2019, there have been several news reports highlighting that the Bank of Thailand will establish guidelines in collaboration with 15 commercial banks for responsible lending as part of sustainable business operations. Bank of Thailand Governor Veerathai Santiprabhob said that if banks fail to integrate ESG into their business practices, their financial position may be jeopardized."

## WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW!

The highly anticipated UN Principles for Responsible Banking (UN PRB) will be publicly launched by 30 Founding Banks on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, at a high-level event hosted at BNP Paribas — during the United Nations General Assembly.

See our Twitter page @FairFinanceAsia on the latest updates regarding the UN PRB



## EVENTS ON THE RADAR

Fair Finance in **Cambodia** (FFC), in partnership with CSR Asia, conducted a half day training to support key financial institutions better understand the business case for sustainable finance.

Yuki Tanabe of Fair Finance Japan is a speaker at a session in the **APCW 2019 meeting** that took place on 5 September, 2019. The session is on 'Raising Mitigation Ambition in South Asia and Southeast Asia through Accelerating Investment in Renewable Energy and Shifting Financial Flows Away From Coal'.

Fair Finance Asia session '**Sustainable Finance from the Gender Lens**' will be organized at the CSR Asia meeting, on September 19, in Bangkok, Thailand.

The **Fair Finance Asia General Assembly** will be held from September 23 – 25, at Hanoi in Vietnam

Representatives from Fair Finance Asia will be participating at the **World Bank/IMF meeting** in October, and the **UNOCHR meeting** in November

Fair Finance in the **Philippines** and **India**, in November and December respectively, will be conducting a training, with support from SOMO to strengthen CSOs capacities to engage with the financial sector and other stakeholders in their respective countries.



**Yuki Tanabe**

Programme Director  
- JACES  
Member of Fair Finance Japan

## Meet the FFA people

Yuki Tanabe is a leading voice on sustainable and responsible finance in Japan. He is the Program Director for Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACES), the lead partner of Fair Finance in Japan. He has been working with JACES since 2003, and resolutely works towards ensuring that social and environmental factors are fully taken into account in the decision making processes of financial institutions, and strengthening the role of civil society in fostering sustainable finance. To hear his thoughts on the next steps towards implementing socially and environmentally sustainable finance, read his interview [HERE](#).

