Towards an ASEAN taxonomy

The ASEAN Centre for Financial and Economic Studies (ACFES) and the World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) have announced their joint effort to develop a taxonomy to support women’s empowerment in ASEAN’s agricultural sector. The initiative is part of a broader effort to develop a green taxonomy for Singapore and ASEAN, which would particularly benefit from such classification, and poses questions for a merit of a taxonomy for Singapore-based financial institutions, with particular relevance to those active in the ASEAN region.

Amplifying civil society voice

The Green Finance Industry Taskforce (GFIT), an industry-led initiative, has developed a document assessing the sustainable finance policies of Vietnamese banks using the Enhanced disclosed voting results for foreign shares. The study – ‘Undisclosed voting results of foreign stocks’ – is a joint report by the Global Corporate Accountability Network (GCAN) and the Global Equity Ownership (GEO) Network. The study highlights the gender scores of Japanese financial institutions and neglect the rights of its indigenous populations. The study – ‘Relationship between “Conflict Palm Oil” and Corporate Accountability’ – underscores the situation in Chile, both producing minerals needed for a low-carbon energy transition, and operating under questionable practices enabled by Japanese financial institutions.

Spotlight: Made in Japan

Between February and March 2021, FFGJ published 3 case studies to commemorate the International Women’s Day and in 7 countries across Asia, namely - Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. FFA’s regional network was compiled to bring together the collective voice of women’s rights in the region, while raising awareness of the challenges; and the important next steps to support women’s empowerment in agricultural value chains.

The study - ‘Identifying a Green Taxonomy and Relevant Standards for Singapore and ASEAN’, which discusses the merits of a taxonomy for Singapore-based financial institutions, with particular relevance to those active in the ASEAN region.

Banking on women’s rights and opportunities

The study - ‘Banking on women’s rights’ provides an overview of women’s rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region. The report highlights the need for more comprehensive data on women’s access to finance, gender-sensitive policies, and the importance of incorporating women’s voices and rights in financial decision-making by financial institutions.

Events on the radar

3rd Social media training on ‘Effective influencing and positioning to drive change’ is scheduled on 28 April, 2021.
Training to better understand sustainable/remediation options and project development phases – scheduled on 06 May, 2021.

Country highlights

Fair Finance Philippines (FFP) launched its third report on the financial institutions’ policies of Vietnamese banks using the Fair Finance Guide International. The study highlights the gender scores of Japanese financial institutions and neglect the rights of its indigenous populations. The study – ‘Relationship between “Conflict Palm Oil” and Corporate Accountability’ – underscores the situation in Chile, both producing minerals needed for a low-carbon energy transition, and operating under questionable practices enabled by Japanese financial institutions.

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