BRIEF

3RD WORLD GREEN & SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY & BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

The 2025 World Green & Sustainability Summit (WGSS), the 3rd edition of its annual series, brought together leaders from government, business, academia, and think tanks to advance green growth for a more sustainable and inclusive world. Held amid shifting global leadership in sustainability, the Summit highlighted China's rise in climate diplomacy and green innovation, contrasted with the United States' policy reversals and reduced multilateral engagement. WGSS 2025 served as a vital platform for dialogue, policy exchange, and collaboration, equipping participants with insights, partnerships, and opportunities to drive sustainability and green investment across the region.

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30th October 2025
Shangri-La Hotel
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Special Address
The Asia Pacific Green Deal - The Way Forward
H.E. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on video

- **ESBN Green Deal Pillars:** The initiative is structured around five interconnected pillars focusing on sustainable finance, clean energy transition, green innovation, inclusive business models, and resilient infrastructure.
- **Regional Cooperation for Scalable Solutions:** H.E. Armida urged stronger cross-border collaboration and private sector engagement to amplify successful climate solutions and accelerate a just, sustainable transformation across Asia and the Pacific.

Opening Remarks
Powering Green Growth and Opportunities
H.E. Vongsey Vissoth, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council Ministers, high representative of **Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia

- **Green Growth and Global Cooperation**: H.E. Vongsey Vissoth emphasized that sustainability is not only an environmental necessity but also the backbone of inclusive and future-ready economies, advocating for stronger global and regional collaboration to accelerate the green transition.
- **Eight Key Recommendations for Implementation**: He outlined practical measures, including simplifying access to climate finance, promoting technology transfer, lowering borrowing costs, avoiding green protectionism, and strengthening cross-border cooperation to turn commitments into tangible results
- **Cambodia's Commitment to Sustainability**: Through the **Pentagonal Strategy Phase I**, Cambodia is targeting carbon neutrality by 2050, guided by national frameworks such as the Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, National Green Growth Roadmap, and Climate Change Strategic Plan.
- **Showcasing Green Innovation and Investment**: H.E. Vissoth highlighted Cambodia's initiatives, including the **Green Special Economic Zone in Koh Kong** and **Techo International Airport**, and invited participants to the **First Green Investment Expo**, showcasing green business and innovation as drivers of sustainable economic growth.

Spotlight Intervention I
Cambodia's Climate Action and its Contribution to Sustainability
H.E. Dr. Eang Sophalleth, Minister of the Ministry of Environment, Royal Government of Cambodia

- **Ambitious Emission Reduction Goal:** Cambodia's NDC 3.0, led by H.E. Dr. Eang Sophalleth, sets a **55% reduction target** in emissions by 2050, financed through international climate funds.
- **Transparent Climate Diplomacy:** The Ministry of Environment commits to defend Cambodia's progress at COP30–COP33, ensuring recognition for measurable achievements.
- **Responsible Carbon Market Mechanisms:** Under Article 6.1, voluntary markets fund forest protection with non-transferable local credits, while Article 6.2 drives green investment and technology sharing.

- **Clean Energy and Environmental Leadership:** Cambodia targets **70% clean energy by 2030**, halts coal expansion, cuts plastic imports by 85%, restores forests, and enhances air quality monitoring nationwide.

Session One
Advancing Sustainability, Accelerating Climate Action: Solutions for the Planet

Prof. Simon Ho, President, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong; **Mr. Andrew Khoo**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, The MUI Group; **Dr. Catherine Chan,** Founder & CEO of Urban Village and Factory Goldfame Group; **Mr. Albert Oung,** President, World Green Organisation / Co-Chairman, ASEAN Economic Club; **Mr. Alex Wang,** Managing Director, Global Committee on Social Business for Sustainable Development Goals, China; **Mr Rath Sophoan**, Chairman of Association of Banks in Cambodia and CEO & Country Head of Maybank Cambodia

Moderator: Tan Sri Dr. Munir Majid, President, ASEAN Business Club / Chairman, International Advisory Board, KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific

- **Urgency of Climate Action and Global Interconnectedness**: Speakers highlighted that climate change affects all nations, but not equally. While global agreements like the Paris Agreement provide a framework, implementation has often been uneven, and the planet is on track to surpass 1.5°C of warming within the next 5–10 years. Rising CO2 levels, unprecedented warming, and environmental degradation, particularly in Southeast Asia, emphasise the pressing need for coordinated action.
- **The Role of Governments and Regional Leadership**: The discussion stressed the importance of national and regional leadership, particularly in Asia-Pacific. With geopolitical shifts and uncertainties, countries like China have demonstrated strong progress in renewable energy, electric vehicles, and clean energy investment. Other nations, including Cambodia, Malaysia, and Singapore, are encouraged to step up in areas such as renewable energy deployment, circular economy initiatives, and sustainable urban development.
- **Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability Mindset:** Panelists emphasised that corporations must balance profit with responsibility towards employees, communities, and the environment. Sustainability should not only be framed as compliance or risk management but as a systemic approach incorporating interdependency, social contracts, and stakeholder value creation. Family-owned and small- to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) were highlighted as pivotal actors, as their long-term perspective allows them to integrate environmental and social considerations into business operations.
- **Innovative and Practical Solutions for Sustainable Development:** Examples were shared of successful initiatives across the region, including green manufacturing practices, waste management solutions, circular economy models, and zero-waste policies in hospitality and production. Financial institutions are increasingly directing funding towards sustainable projects, recognising that doing good can also generate profitable, scalable outcomes. Technologies such as AI-enabled ESG risk management and renewable energy solutions were highlighted as tools to accelerate practical climate action.

- **Collaboration, Education, and the Role of Stakeholders**: Panelists emphasised the need for collaboration across governments, private sector, and civil society to implement scalable solutions. Education, awareness, and sharing best practices are critical to overcoming obstacles in sustainability. By mobilising capital, advocating policy, and embedding responsible practices, stakeholders can collectively address climate risks and contribute to a resilient, sustainable future.

Spotlight Intervention II
Driving Innovation and Sustainable Industrialization

H.E. Hem Vanndy, Minister of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation, Royal Government of Cambodia

- **Sustainable Industrial Transformation:** Cambodia is committed to advancing green, inclusive, and technology-driven industrialization by integrating innovation, energy efficiency, and environmental stewardship into its national development agenda.
- **Circular Economy and Policy Frameworks:** Through policies such as the National Energy Efficiency Policy, Circular Economy Strategy, and Electric Vehicle Policy, Cambodia is promoting cleaner production, waste reduction, and smart manufacturing to strengthen industrial competitiveness.
- **Collaboration and Capacity Building:** The government is working with international partners, investors, and development agencies to scale renewable integration, enhance ESG traceability, and equip the workforce with skills for a sustainable and resilient industrial future.

Session Two
Enhancing Circularity and ESGs – Challenges and Opportunities in the Circular Economy

H.E. Tep Phiyorin, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance; **Ms. Arina Kok,** Asia-Pacific Climate Change Advisory Leader; Asean Climate Change and Sustainability Services Co-Leader; Malaysia Climate Change and Sustainability Services (CCaSS) Leader; and Partner, Ernst & Young Consulting Sdn Bhd; **Dato' Ramesh Kodammal,** Founder & Chairman, Goldtex Group / Chairman, ASEAN India Economic Council (AIEC); **Mr. Chhem Siriwat,** Co-Founder & President of AI Forum and Director at BowerGroupAsia; **Mr. Ali Mohamed Jrearz**, Chairman, Hong Kong-Dubai Chamber of Commerce
Moderator: Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal Rawther, Deputy Chairman, KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific

- **Sectoral Pressures and Circularity Models: Energy, manufacturing, and banking sectors** face pressure to adopt circular economy practices while balancing expansion and supply-demand challenges. **Innovations such as energy aggregator models, EV infrastructure, and hydrogen fuel alternatives** require integrated investment and cross-sector coordination. **Circularity strategies** must align production, consumption, and waste management for long-term sustainability outcomes.
- **Waste Management and Technological Solutions: Smart technologies**, such as RFID-enabled bins and AI-enabled waste tracking, can significantly improve recycling and resource efficiency. Lessons from South Korea and China show how data-driven segregation and monitoring can reduce waste and increase recycling rates.

Policy and infrastructure support are essential to scale circular practices and ensure minimal material loss in production-consumption chains.

- **Data, AI, and Measurable ESG Implementation:** AI enables optimisation of complex systems, predictive risk assessment, and enhanced transparency to reduce greenwashing. Real-time data and predictive models allow organisations to design end-to-end circular systems for energy, manufacturing, and waste. Digital solutions are critical in regions with evolving regulatory frameworks, supporting measurable and accountable sustainability practices.
- **Inclusivity and Policy Support for SMEs:** SMEs often lack resources to implement circular practices despite being highly affected by environmental risks. Policy frameworks, investment support, and education at community and school levels are vital for equitable ESG adoption. Coordinated action among governments, industries, and civil society is needed to embed circularity across all economic actors.

Spotlight Intervention III
Cambodia's Energy Transition Toward A Net-Zero Future
H.E. Keo Ratanak, Minister of Mines and Energy, Royal Government of Cambodia

- **Cambodia's Renewable Energy Transition:** Renewable energy accounts for 62% of capacity, targeting 70% by 2030 through 23 clean energy projects. Solar technology, with significant cost reductions, is driving accessibility, diversification, and energy security. Battery storage and modernized grid control systems address intermittency and support consistent renewable dispatch.
- **Infrastructure, Financing, and ESG Integration:** Transmission and grid upgrades are critical for renewable integration and regional green stability. Financing challenges are mitigated through sovereign guarantees, green bonds, and alignment with regional frameworks. ESG principles and circular economy approaches are integrated into projects, linking environmental, social, and economic benefits.
- **Inclusive Opportunities and Regional Cooperation:** Energy transition initiatives generate jobs, develop local capacity, and provide SME access to affordable finance. Cross-border collaboration and private sector engagement enhance resilience and competitiveness. Cambodia focuses on sustaining momentum from energy access to universal sustainability for long-term development.

Session Three
Achieving Net Zero - Managing the Energy Transition
Ms. Inka Prawirasasra, Vice President, Communication and Sustainability, Sintesa Group, Indonesia / Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN) on video; **Mr. Ooi Ghee Leng,** Founder, Embeddedllm.com, Singapore; **Mr Chan Sophal,** Board Director, Carbon Capital Co., Ltd
Moderator: Dato' Seri Dr. Vaseehar Hassan Abdul Razack, Executive Vice Chairman, KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific / Director, Bank Rakyat Malaysia

- **Achieving Net Zero and Circularity in Indonesia:** Circular economy is a necessity, not optional; embedded in sectors like manufacturing, energy, and tourism. Government commitment includes reducing marine plastic waste by 70% by 2025 and creating green jobs. Private sector must move from compliance to co-creation, integrating circularity

into business design, operations, and investments.

- **Innovations in Energy and Electric Vehicles (EVs):** EV adoption creates new energy demands; infrastructure like transformers and grids need upgrades to prevent overload. Innovative solutions, such as smart EV charging platforms, manage loads efficiently, reduce costs, and allow user control. Platforms can expand into demand response, virtual power plants, and detect energy inefficiencies, creating international business opportunities.
- **AI, Technology Leapfrogging, and Green Energy Hosting:** Cambodia and other countries can leapfrog traditional stages using AI and digital platforms directly with green energy supply. Hosting AI and cloud models on renewable-powered servers offers high-profit potential while contributing to carbon reduction. Strategic technology adoption allows developing nations to bypass older, polluting technologies and advance directly to modern sustainable solutions.

Face to Face Fireside Chat
The Sustainability Journey: Where Do We Go From Here?

H.E. Dr. Chhem Kieth Rethy, Senior Minister & Chairman, Economic, Social & Cultural Council, Royal Government of Cambodia; **H.E. Dr. Sok Siphana**, Senior Minister in charge of Special Missions and Chairman of the Trade Policy Advisory Board (TPAB)
Moderator: **Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal Rawther,** Deputy Chairman, KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific

- Cambodia's post-conflict development success is rooted in peace, stable governance, and entrepreneurial freedom, allowing rapid recovery and long-term resilience.
- The country integrates its 2,000-year civilisational legacy with pragmatic, human-centred strategies to drive sustainable growth, green infrastructure, and renewable energy adoption.
- Private sector engagement, regional partnerships, and local expertise are essential in shaping Cambodia's sustainable, inclusive, and future-ready development trajectory.

Kingsley Advisory and Strategic Initiatives Sdn Bhd
Published in October 2025

Event Hosted by: Trade Policy Advisory Board (TPAB)
Jointly Organised by the KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific, Economic Society of Cambodia, World Green Organisation, World Digital Chamber, ASEAN Economic Club and ASEAN Business Club

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