

CPG



German-Southeast Asian Center  
of Excellence for Public Policy  
and Good Governance

## 2023 Annual Conference

# ESG & Supply Chains: Navigating a New Regulatory Environment

Date(s)	Saturday, October 14 - Sunday, October 15, 2023
Venue	The Salil Hotel Riverside - Bangkok2052, 7-9 Charoen Krung 72/-1 Alley, Wat Phraya Krai, Bang Kho Laem, Bangkok 10120
Dress Code	Smart Casual

To register, please scan the QR Code below:



The conference is supported by

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## Background

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Against the larger backdrop of evolving market demands, changing stakeholder expectations, and heightened investigative journalism, ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) issues have gained persistent prominence on corporate agendas in recent years.

Notably, ESG factors have assumed exceptional significance in supply chain management. Companies now face the imperative of evaluating their suppliers' ESG practices to ensure alignment with their established principles and criteria. This evaluation encompasses verifying the adoption of ecologically sustainable materials and methods, promoting equitable treatment of employees, and upholding principled business conduct.

However, despite the growing importance of these factors, significant improvements across various economic sectors remain elusive. Furthermore, these processes, which rely on voluntary standards, do not provide legal certainty for either companies or victims in the event of harm.

For these reasons, governments and regulatory bodies have begun to shift their approach from relying solely on voluntary standards to enacting concrete legislation in order to support companies in their endeavor to perform due diligence in their value chains and foster business conduct that respects human rights, children's rights and the environment. A noteworthy example of this shift can be seen in France (2017) and Germany (2021), where horizontal due diligence laws have been introduced. Additionally, several other European Union member states, including Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Sweden, have plans to follow suit in the near future.

At the same time, however, these emerging frameworks also bring fragmentation and risk undermining legal certainty and a level playing field for companies. In light of this, and as a further step towards sustainable business under uniform European conditions, the European Union is preparing to introduce the *Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive*. If adopted, the directive will require in-scope companies to undertake due diligence on their own activities and that of their suppliers, and to identify and prevent, end or mitigate any actual or potential adverse impacts of their activities on human rights and on the environment.

Crucially, this overarching development, accompanied by all its pressure for adjustment, comes at a time when transformative megatrends – growing great power conflicts, geopolitical pulls, and a receding and reshaping globalization – manifest in critical supply disruptions, escalating trade tensions, the imposition of tariffs between major economies, and the resort to nationalist and mercantilist economic policies such as localization and

friend-shoring. It is in this context that an increasing number of Western companies are already using value chain due diligence as a tool to build resilience to sudden changes.

Corporate compliance in Asia – a key manufacturing and supply chain hub – will change accordingly, as companies in the region must embrace ESG-related compliance standards. However, while especially major European companies have already begun are soon to adopt ESG-centric compliance standards, numerous Asian counterparts find themselves far from ready to meet these new and forthcoming benchmarks.

The 2023 edition of CPG's annual conference combines two long-standing focal points of CPG's work – ESG and compliance – to illuminate the status, challenges, and opportunities of ESG-related supply chain due diligence in Asia through a comprehensive exploration of the following key themes:

- **The Emerging ESG Landscape and its Challenges:** Understanding the evolving ESG paradigm, its global significance, and how geopolitical considerations influence and challenge its implementation.
- **The Human Rights and Environmental Realities in Asian Supply Chains:** Delving into the actual state of human rights and environmental practices within Asian supply chains.
- **The Impact of ESG Supply Chain Standards and Regulations on Investment and Business in Asia:** Analyzing how ESG supply chain standards influence investment decisions and overall business strategies.
- **Implementing ESG Supply Chain Standards and Regulations:** Discussing specific challenges and strategies related to ensuring that organizations adhere to ESG standards and regulations within their supply chains.
- **Potentials and Challenges for Collective Action and Multi-Stakeholder Frameworks:** Discussing the possibilities and obstacles associated with collaborative efforts and frameworks involving multiple stakeholders.
- **Third-Party Certification and Standardization:** Examining the role of third-party certification and standardization in ensuring ESG compliance.
- **The Future of ESG in Asian Supply Chains:** Forecasting the trajectory and evolution of ESG considerations within Asian supply chains.

## Agenda: Saturday, October 14, 2023

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	<b>Registration</b>
9:00 – 09:30 a.m.	<p><b>Welcoming Words</b></p> <p><b>H.E. Dr. Ernst Reichel</b>, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Kingdom of Thailand</p> <p><b>Pokpong Srisanit</b>, Associate Professor and Dean, Faculty of Law Thammasat University (<i>tbc</i>)</p> <p><b>Henning Glaser</b>, Director, German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance</p>
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	<p><b>Session 01:</b> <b><i>A Paradigm Rising: The Emerging ESG Landscape and its Challenges</i></b></p> <p><i>Presenter</i> <b>Henning Glaser</b>, Director, German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance</p> <p><i>Session Chair</i> <b>Lucas Meier</b>, Senior Program Officer, German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance</p>
10:30 - 10:50 a.m.	<b>Group Photo &amp; Morning Coffee Break</b>

<p><b>10:50 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Session 02:</b> <i><b>Navigating Human Rights in Asian Supply Chain Realities</b></i></p> <p><i>Panelists</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Harpreet Kaur</b>, Business &amp; Human Rights Specialist, UNDP's Regional Bureau of Asia and the Pacific</p> <p><b>Dr. Ingrid Landau</b>, Senior Lecturer (Monash Business School) and Member (Labour, Equality and Human Rights (LEAH) Research Group), Monash University</p> <p><b>Michael George Hayes</b>, Program Director, Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University</p> <p><b>Kelvin Sergeant</b>, Specialist on Job Creation and Enterprises Development, Decent Work Technical Support Team for East and South-East Asia and the Pacific, International Labour Organization</p> <p><i>Session Chair &amp; Moderator</i></p> <p><b>Panyarak Roque</b>, Thailand Country Director, Verité Southeast Asia (VSEA)</p>
<p><b>12:30 – 1:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch break</b></p>

<p><b>1:30 – 3:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Session 03:</b> <i>Exploring the Environmental Dimensions of Asian Supply Chain Realities</i></p> <p><i>Panelists</i>  <b>Dr. Peter King</b>, Senior Fellow, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies</p> <p><b>Romchat Wachirarattanakornkul</b>, Human Rights, Climate Change and Environment Focal Point, Regional Office for South-East Asia, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</p> <p><b>Sarinee Achavanuntakul</b>, Managing Director, Sal Forest</p> <p><i>Session Chair &amp; Moderator</i>  <b>Prof. Dr. Niels Petersen</b>, Chair for Public Law, International Law and European Union Law, University Münster (<i>tbc</i>)</p>
<p><b>3:00 – 3:15 p.m.</b></p>	<p><i>Afternoon Coffee Break</i></p>
<p><b>3:15 – 4:45 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Session 04:</b> <i>The Impact of ESG Supply Chain Standards and Regulations on Investment and Business in Asia</i></p> <p><i>Panelists</i>  <b>Jonathan Blaine</b>, Director Thailand Tax Team and Regional Co-head of Compliance and Investigations practice group, DFDL Legal &amp; Tax</p> <p><b>Lishia Erza Budiman</b>, CEO, ASYX Holdings</p> <p><i>Session Chair &amp; Moderator</i>  <b>Luca Bernardinetti</b>, Managing Partner, Mahanakorn Partners Group</p>

## Agenda: Sunday, October 15

9:00 – 9:25 a.m.	<b>Registration</b>
9:25 – 09:30 a.m.	<b>Second Conference Day Opening</b>
9:30 – 10:45 a.m.	<p><b>Session 05:</b> <b>Third-Party Certification and Standardization</b></p> <p><i>Panelists</i>  <b>Dr. Charu Jain</b>, Sustainability Lead - Asia Pacific, TUV Rheinland Group</p> <p><b>Prof. Dr. Bartosz Makowicz</b>, Chair Owner and Head, Chair of Polish Law, Europa-University Viadrina</p>
10:45 -11 a.m.	<b>Morning Coffee Break</b>
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<p><b>Session 06:</b> <b>Implementing ESG Supply Chain Standards and Regulations</b></p> <p><b>Shujath Bin Ali</b>, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer (India, Middle East &amp; Africa, South East Asia), Re Sustainability Limited</p> <p><b>Ganesan Kolandavelu</b>, Partner, Climate Change &amp; Sustainability Services, KPMG Thailand, Myanmar and Lao PDR</p> <p><b>Krisler Ompusunggu</b>, Senior Manager, Forensic and Integrity Services, EY Indonesia</p>
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch break</b>

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.	<p><b>Session 07:</b> <i>Collective Action and Multi-Stakeholder Frameworks</i></p> <p><b>Nattavud Pimpa</b>, Chair in Sustainability &amp; Associate Professor, Mahidol University</p> <p><b>Ruhimat Soerakoesoemah</b>, Head of the Subregional Office for South-East Asia, UN ESCAP</p> <p><b>Lukas Baumgärtner</b>, Associate, Luther Law Firm (Thailand) Co., Ltd.</p> <p><i>Session Chair &amp; Moderator</i> <b>Lucas Meier</b>, Senior Program Officer, German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance</p>
3:30 – 3:45 p.m.	<p><i>Afternoon Coffee Break</i></p>
3:45 – 5 p.m.	<p><b>Session 08:</b> <i>Shaping the Future of ESG in Asian Supply Chains</i></p> <p><b>Rachel Ooi</b>, Co-Founder &amp; Chair (Innovation Impact Investment), ESG-MD Ventures</p>
5 p.m.	<p><i>Closing Remarks</i></p> <p><b>Henning Glaser</b>, Director, German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance</p>

## Venue

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The two-day conference as well as the cocktail reception will take place at the [Salil Hotel Riverside Bangkok](#).



## How to register and participate

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**To register please use the following link:**

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=UNvEc6hA\\_Uyk9S3DN6LxbnqMbqlCKxBFhIXUP48WI95UQkJFQkdDTEs40EhOSIJGTlcyMloxTDIDUi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=UNvEc6hA_Uyk9S3DN6LxbnqMbqlCKxBFhIXUP48WI95UQkJFQkdDTEs40EhOSIJGTlcyMloxTDIDUi4u)

Participation in the conference is free of charge. However, only a restricted number of seats are available, and these will be assigned based on the principle of first-come-first-serve. Should a participant register after the available seats have been filled, a fee of THB 1,500.00 per person, per conference day, will be applicable. Please note that all of these fees are charged to cover catering costs only, as the conference is a strictly non-for-profit activity.

For international attendees traveling to the conference, CPG is delighted to offer administrative support in organizing accommodations and shuttle services at no charge. However, please note that the arrangement and costs remain the exclusive responsibility of the participant.

## Behind the conference

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The conference is hosted and organized by the German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of Thammasat University and the Chair for Public Law, International Law and European Union Law at the University Muenster. CPG is an academic institute and think tank with a main office at the Faculty of Law of Thammasat University in Bangkok.

Built upon a cooperation between the German universities of Frankfurt and Münster, and Thammasat University in Thailand, it is one of only five Centers of Excellence that were established worldwide in 2009 under the Excellence Initiative of the German Federal Government. CPG is funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Federal Foreign Office) and receives administrative support from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
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- For any inquiries, you can reach out to CPG at [contact@cpg-online.de](mailto:contact@cpg-online.de).
- Your data will be solely used for the purpose of organizing this conference.
- The retention of your data will be limited to the duration necessary for the aforementioned purpose.
- Your data will not be shared with any other parties.
- You possess the right to access, correct, and exercise any other rights provided by the applicable regulations.
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