

The Sustainable Development Goals & Inclusive Business

You can't have missed the announcement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), agreed at the UN in September 2015. How relevant are the SDGs to inclusive business and how relevant is inclusive business to delivering the SDGs? Whether those questions make you yawn or fire you with ambition, you probably need to take a view because the SDGs are here to stay. Is it just about businesses relabelling what they are doing or is this a real opportunity for businesses to raise their ambitions? [Hub Editor Caroline Ashley's overview](#) addresses this question to set up our theme this month.

While a blog from Corporate Citizenship suggests few businesses are getting involved, a PwC survey says businesses are keen to do more. We hear from the outliers Novozymes and SABMiller that have already put the SDGs at the centre of their approach while IB Accelerator and KPMG describe how businesses are already addressing the goals without necessarily adapting their models. And we look at the many tools already available for businesses to navigate the SDGs. Don't miss our other news including all the takeaways from the 2nd IB Asia Forum in Manila!



- [‘Where are all the companies?’ asks Richard Hardyment of Corporate Citizenship](#). He argues that the adoption of the SDGs marked a watershed moment, but - a few MNC exceptions aside - the response by business has been minimal so far, despite the clear business benefits he describes.
- Fernando Lopez from the Inter-American Development Bank also argues that business can seize strategic opportunities with the SDGs. [Read how the SDGs are a chance to continue the shift from ad hoc CSR initiatives to place sustainability as a day to day strategy](#).
- Novozymes, a biotechnology company, [is using the SDGs to prioritise its future investments in innovation](#). Stefan Mård explains why and how.
- [SABMiller is another global business that is integrating the SDGs into its sustainability plans and core business](#). Read how they are collaborating with suppliers, distributors, retailers, municipalities and consumers.
- It's the [big MNCs in agribusiness that are the focus for B4D's Mark Ingram](#). If you want to know just how much agribusiness they do, and just why they are central to achieving the SDGs with millions of smallholders (70%) of the world's poor, read on.
- An [issue brief from WBCSD](#) illustrates how inclusive business solutions link up to each of the 17 SDGs, and presents common internal and external challenges faced by companies when developing and scaling these solutions

- Although Rebecca Pratley from PwC states that the [results from the 2015 SDG Engagement Survey](#) showed 71% of businesses are already planning what to do, she acknowledges that so far only 29% of businesses are setting goals or even preparing to set them.
- Jenny Melo discusses [the role Government is playing in Colombia in coordinating efforts to achieve the SDG goals](#), and why lack of local coordination for inclusive business is a key challenge.

Turning to the practicalities, what tools can business use to focus their goals and reporting around the SDGs?

- [WBCSD provides some answers in introducing its SDG Compass](#). Ellen Carey adds 3 reasons why this tool is a useful resource for business to measure & manage impact.
- [Anne Salter talks through other useful tools for business](#) and what to watch.
- Our Editor's Choice introduces a [tool for businesses navigating partnerships](#), forcing you to stop and think about organisational culture.

Addressing specific SDGs

- Many of the enterprises registered on the Inclusive Business Accelerator are already contributing to a number of the SDGs. [Lys Mehou-loko introduces us to some of them here](#).
- [Integrated coastal management is one solution to addressing SDG 14](#), "conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development", but these cross sectorial and geographical initiatives are facing a financing gap that exceeds US\$ 300 billion per year. Shujog looks at how this gap can be closed.
- [Thai agribusiness Siam Organic is working with rice farmers in Thailand to contribute to SDG 2](#): "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture".
- While compiling the SDG Industry Matrix series with UN Global Compact, KPMG came across many companies that are addressing SDG 5 on gender equality. [Here, KPMG's Serena Brown discusses some of those promising initiatives from the banking, and food and consumer goods industries](#).
- [How can Laos play a role in enabling the world to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 12](#) of ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns?



The Partnership culture Navigator from the Partnering Initiative is this month's editor's choice.



SDG 14: conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development



SDG 2: "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture"

THE ASIA INCLUSIVE BUSINESS FORUM

- [Inclusive Business has under-exploited potential in Asia](#), says ADB's Armin Bauer in his summary of the 2nd IB Asia Forum that saw more than 400 people gather in Manila.
- The Forum allowed exchange of views from across the region:
 - ❖ In the [Inclusive Tourism](#) event perspectives from the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka were shared, agreeing on the need to include local communities throughout the process, the need for good impact measurement and government support.
 - ❖ One session focused on the [hows and whys of impact assessment](#), including opinions of both inclusive businesses, researchers and funders.
 - ❖ It provided the opportunity for [smaller businesses to come together, in a session facilitated by IBAN and SEED](#), to identify problems and connect with experts to find solutions.
 - ❖ A rich report by IADB detailing [business models of Latin American inclusive businesses was shared to facilitate cross regional learnings](#).

INCLUSIVE BUSINESS ASIA

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Not able to make the Inclusive Business Asia Forum? Catch up on the key themes from the week and download speaker presentations on the event page.

RESULTS OF THE POLL ARE IN

[Where are the most opportunities for commercially viable solutions to the poor's problems in Asia?](#)

The results are in that show agribusiness, renewable energy and education as the top 3.

OTHER NEWS ON THE HUB

- **Only 2 days left** to [have your say on which government policies are working for inclusive business](#). The IFC and UNDP need your views to feed into the Global Platform on Inclusive Business (GPIB), which aims to better understand the role that governments can play in supporting inclusive companies.
- [What role for soft money in growing inclusive business in Africa?](#) Does it help or hinder enterprise growth? How much is too much? Hear from experienced impact investors at Sankalp Forum Africa.
- While traditional finance institutions have been unable and unwilling to adequately meet the credit needs of small agribusiness in India, [Sammunati is using technology, novel forms of guarantee and a value chain approach to provide affordable credit to smallholders](#).

CONNECT TO GROW LAUNCH IN BANGLADESH

Connect to Grow launched in Bangladesh with a rich interactive discussion that demonstrated the great potential for the partnerships model in the country. [Team Leader David Irwin tells us more here](#).



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