

Strengthening The Role of Local Green Bond Verifiers: Emerging Trends in Sustainable Finance

31 January 2024

Room 601, 6th floor, Tower B, The Stock Exchange of Thailand
93 Ratchadaphisek Road, Din Daeng, Din Daeng, Bangkok 10400



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The thematic bond market has grown dramatically over the last decade initiated by the onset of green bonds and followed by social and sustainable bonds and more recently other thematics such as Sustainability-linked bonds, Transition Bonds and many more such as blue, orange bonds etc.

As quantum and diversity of instruments grows, it is important for investors and markets in general to ensure that credibility, transparency, and disclosure are maintained. The External Review community is a key part of the ecosystem by providing an unbiased assessment of the issuer's environmental or sustainability claims. Their knowledge and expertise of the specific criteria that define underlying investments ensure that the bond or debt instrument aligns with industry best practices and recognized standards.

External reviewers such as verifiers play an important role in mitigating the risk of greenwashing, by preventing issuers from misrepresenting their bond offerings, thereby protecting investors and maintaining the integrity of the thematic bond market.

The workshop will explore the state of the Sustainable Finance Market and the ways in which the Verifier ecosystem maintains the integrity and transparency of the market thereby helping credible growth of the market and ensuring that capital is flowing to the right kind of solutions. It will also cover the regulatory and global benchmarks and frameworks that provide the scaffolding for the growing market.

Using a combination of case studies and recent developments, as well as shared experiences the session will bring to light challenges and opportunities, processes required to become a verifier and what defines best practice globally.

AGENDA

TIME (AM)	TOPIC
8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:05	OPENING REMARKS Kosintr Puongsophol , Senior Financial Sector Specialist, ADB
9:05 – 9:20	OVERVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE FINANCE Karthik Iyer , Sustainable Capital Market Specialist, ADB Consultant
9:20 – 9:40	TYPES OF EXTERNAL REVIEW AND BENEFITS FOR ISSUERS AND INVESTORS Karthik Iyer , Sustainable Capital Market Specialist, ADB Consultant
9:40 – 10:00	GOING GREEN: ROLE OF VERIFIERS IN THE GREEN BOND MARKET Shu Tian , Senior Economist, ADB
10:00 – 11:00	EMERGING LANDSCAPE OF STANDARDS, BENCHMARKS AND TAXONOMIES <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Emerging trends on international sustainability disclosure standards</i> (15 mins) Chie Mitsui, CFA Institute Corporate Disclosure Policy Council member, Nomura Research Institute <i>Transition Finance and emerging benchmarks</i> (15 mins) Eugene Wong, CEO, Sustainable Finance Institute Asia Q&A (30 mins)
11:00 – 11:10	BREAK
11:10 – 11:30	CASE STUDIES – TRANSACTIONS SUPPORTED BY ADB Fonthip Yuthaseree , Sustainable Finance Expert, ADB Richard Supangan , Senior Economics Officer, ADB
11:30 – 12:00	ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex Cui, Managing Director of CCX Green Finance International Limited Nguyen Tung Anh, Senior Manager, Credit Risk Research and Sustainable Finance Services, FiinRatings Sakda Pongcharoenyong, President, TRIS Rating Co., Ltd. Ya Bu, Technical Manager, iGreen Bank

TIME (AM)	TOPIC
12:00 – 12:20	<p>DEVELOPING AND EVALUATING CREDIBLE GREEN IMPACT INDICATORS</p> <p>Dr. Poonperm Vardhanabindu, Sustainability Advisory Manager, Bureau Veritas Certification (Thailand)</p>
12:20 – 12:30	<p>Q&A</p>
12:30 – 12:35	<p>CLOSING REMARKS</p> <p>Kosintr Puongsophol, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, ADB</p>