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The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Implications for business

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SET SD Forum





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Objectives

To answer the questions:

- What are the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)?
- What do the UN SDGs mean for business?
- How can businesses practically engage with the UN SDGs?

Section 1 What are the UN SDGs?



What was the United Nations created for?



1945

"The United Nations was founded to **take action** on the **issues confronting humanity** in the 21st century..."

Source: http://www.un.org/en/sections/about-un/overview/ SET | The UN Sustainable Development Goals PwC - DC2 - Authorised Restricted Use



Today, the UN has **193 members** (from original 51 member states) and is made up of:

- **6 Organs**: General Assembly, Security Council, International Court of Justice, Secretariat etc.
- **17 Specialised Agencies**: World Bank, World Health Organisation, UNICEF, ILO etc.

Private and confidential

What are the UN SDGs?

United Nations Sustainable Development Summit

25 – 27 September 2015, New York

- The UN Sustainable Development Goals are goals for countries to implement by 2030
- Official adoption of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) by member states took place at this summit
- Over 150 world leaders attended the event to discuss adoption, prioritisation and action for the UN SDGs





The UN SDGs were developed to continue and expand upon the Millennium Development Goals to focus on sustainable development - and for the entire world

September 2000:

8 Millennium Development Goals were primary for developing countries



September 2015:

17 Sustainable Development Goals for all countries



PwC was heavily involved in the lead-up to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and COP21

Sustainable Development Goals

PwC conducted surveys among companies and citizens to check the level of awareness on the SDGs and how companies were planning to engage with them. **This survey was done by PwC to share with the UN Private Sector Forum in September 2015.**

In addition, there is a specific survey conducted with 300 companies in South East Asia.



PwC Low Carbon Economy Index 2015 and other COP21 analyses

PwC examined the ambition of national targets and asked if they are adequate in terms of delivering the decarbonisation required to limit warming to 2 degrees – and considered the implications of these targets for business and the scale of investment required to achieve them. We have also produced a wide range of other analyses related to COP21.



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The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



The 17 UN SDGs can be classified into 5 areas



Source: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld SET | The UN Sustainable Development Goals PwC - DC2 - Authorised Restricted Use **4.1**

4.2

4.3

Each of the 17 UN SDGs have specific targets:

Ensure *inclusive* and *equitable quality education* and promote *lifelong learning opportunities*







By 2030, ensure that **all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education** leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

By 2030, ensure that **all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education** so that they are ready for primary education

By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

Source: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs SET | The UN Sustainable Development Goals PwC - DC2 - Authorised Restricted Use



Section 2 What do the UN SDGs mean for business?

The survey reveals that some SDGs have higher impacts on business than others



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Citizens think it is very important that business signs up to SDGs



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87% of SEA citizens believe it is important for businesses to sign up to the SDGs

Citizens: How important do you think it is that businesses sign up to the SDGs?



Source: PwC - SDGs Paving the Way Towards Market Leadership: South East Asia's results on the SDGs engagement survey, SET | The UN Sustainable Development Goals PwC - DC2 - Authorised Restricted Use

<u>SEA citizens</u> would be 80% more likely to use an organisation's goods and services if it were signed up to the SDGs



SDGs Paving the Way Towards Market Leadership (2015) explores how businesses and citizens in South East Asia are supportive of SDGs Citizens: If you knew that an organisation had signed up to the SDGs, would that make you more or less likely to use their goods or services?



Source: PwC - SDGs Paving the Way Towards Market Leadership: South East Asia's results on the SDGs engagement survey,

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SEA citizens believe it is important for businesses to adopt the SDGs and embed them into their strategy

Citizens: What actions do you think businesses should be taking to support the SDGs?



Source: PwC - SDGs Paving the Way Towards Market Leadership: South East Asia's results on the SDGs engagement survey,

Some SEA businesses have plans to implement SDGs – and a smaller number will assess their impacts to the SDGs

Businesses: What actions is your business taking to prepare for the launch of the SDGs?



Source: PwC - SDGs Paving the Way Towards Market Leadership: South East Asia's results on the SDGs engagement survey,

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97% of SEA businesses plan to address the SDGs in the next five years

Businesses: What actions do you think your business will be taking within the next five years to implement the SDGs?



Source: PwC - SDGs Paving the Way Towards Market Leadership: South East Asia's results on the SDGs engagement survey,

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However, only 45% of SEA businesses plan to assess their impact on the SDGs

Businesses: How do you plan to assess your impact on the SDGs?



Source: PwC - SDGs Paving the Way Towards Market Leadership: South East Asia's results on the SDGs engagement survey,

Climate Change remains the top concern in both SEA businesses and citizens' viewpoints amongst other disparities

Businesses: What is the top SDG that you believe your business has the greatest impact? Citizens: Which SDG is the most important to you?



Source: PwC - SDGs Paving the Way Towards Market Leadership: South East Asia's results on the SDGs engagement survey,

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Section 3 How can businesses practically engage with the UN SDGs?

7 steps to successful engagement with the SDGs



Source: PwC - SDGs Paving the Way Towards Market Leadership: South East Asia's results on the SDGs engagement survey, SET | The UN Sustainable Development Goals

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PwC's diagnostic tool can help you understand which of the 17 goals are most relevant to your business

	Understand, assess, prioritise		Set goals and tell your story
Key steps	Geographical analysis providing a set of global heat maps for each SDG goal	Company analysis assessing your impact on the SDGs	Structured discussion and interviews refining the output and building consensus
What is it for?	Understand different national SDG priorities and hotspots	Get a global view of your operations, supply chain and impacts with respect to each SDG area	Check and tailor results, define your company strategy and messaging, set goals and define metrics
Comments	 Uses external development and environmental indicators and PwC specialist knowledge. This data will be updated regularly to incorporate National SDG targets and indicators as they continue to be developed. 	 Our Business Navigator uses Input Output Modelling to distribute national SDG scores to constituent sectors – both to a company's direct operations and their supply chain. A weighting is applied based on expert research studies and surveys. Company specific value at risk is calculated on a global and country or regional basis. 	 We work with you through a structured discussion of the output of the diagnostic tool to refine the results. Topics could include: Strategic priorities and sustainability priorities Identification measurement and management of risks and opportunities in relation to your key SDGs SDG outcomes vs business benefits Data and measurement capability

Source: PwC - Engaging with the Sustainable Development Goals: Achieving the ambition (2015)

Conclusion

- The UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) are not 'new' but have been redesigned to better address the current, most pressing issues facing the world
- By addressing these goals, businesses can generate value for itself and society a 'win-win' strategy
- Businesses in Thailand can start engaging with the UN SDGs now

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Q&A

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Any questions, please contact us..

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