



Sustainable Development is among key topics widely discussed at the global level in the past several years. In 2015, the United Nations set out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to promote "a better and more sustainable future for all". These goals serve as a macro-level framework for countries to address a diverse range of economic, social, and environmental issues through various measures such as policy direction and budgeting scheme, monitoring mechanism, as well as stakeholder engagement. Since the announcement of these Goals, the UN has also introduced detailed indicators to measure implementation progress, drawing attention from public, academic, as well as private sectors.

At the other end, global investor community and large corporations have become active in promoting Sustainable Development at the enterprise level. Immense wealth of knowledge has been accumulated and shared, with tools such as industry-specific standards, certification systems, and benchmarking being developed. Wide range of technologies and innovations have also been put into use for this important cause.

Snapshot of SDG Progress

The 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) to transform our world:



























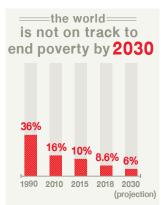


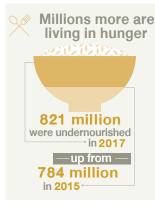


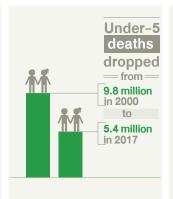


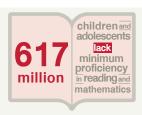










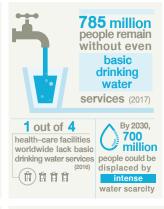




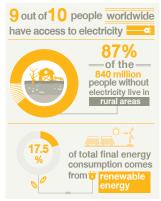


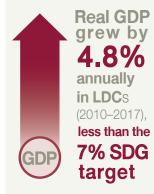






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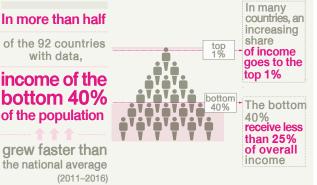






but the share is only 15% in sub-Saharan Africa

15% sub-Saharan Africa







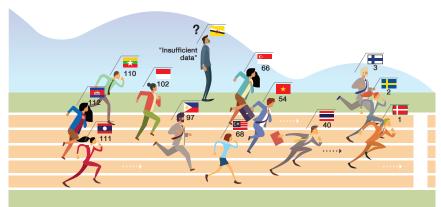
Reference: Annex: Snapshot of SDG Progress (P.41 - 57) | Report of the Secretary-General on SDG Progress 2019 Special Edition

The Macro

UN has warned, all ASEAN countries will fail to meet 2030 finish line

Globally, the world has made substantial progress in ending poverty (SDG1), ensuring access to quality education and lifelong learning for all (SDG 4) as well as delivering affordable and clean energy (SDG7). However, the progress towards more than half of the 17 goals has been stagnant.

Average Performance of ASEAN on UN SDG Benchmarking the world's top two



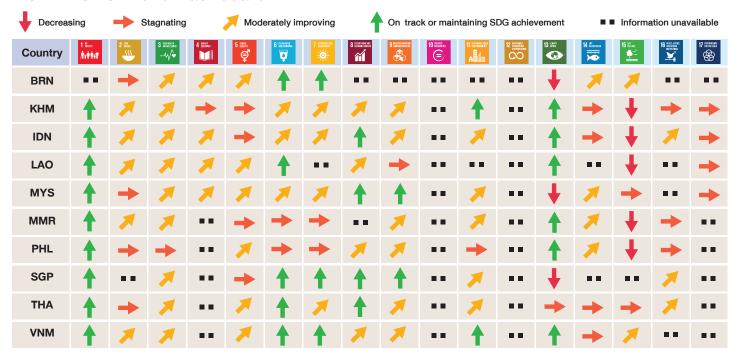
Country	World Rank	SDG Score (100)
Denmark	1	85.2
Sweden	2	85
Finland	3	82.8
Brunei	na	na
Cambodia	112	61.8
Indonesia	102	64.2
Lao PDR	111	62
Malaysia	68	69.6
Myanmar	110	62.2
Philippines	97	64.9
Singapore	66	69.6
Thailand	40	73
Vietnam	54	71.1

For ASEAN, the region has performed best in ending poverty, providing quality education, and acting against climate change (SDGs 1,4, and 13). On the other hand, fostering industry/innovation/infrastructure, protecting lives below water and lives on land (SDGs 9,14, and 15) are the goals with least progress.

In 2019, for overall SDG performance in comparison to 162 countries around the globe, Thailand and Vietnam are the best performers with world ranking of 40th and 50th respectively. Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines are in the middle group, with 66th, 68th, and 97th ranking, while Indonesia, Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Cambodia are catching up to global peers with current ranking beyond 100th.*

^{*} The 2019 SDG Index has not included Brunei due to insufficient data availability.

ASEAN SDG Trend Dashboard



For more information on dashboard and methodology please refer to www.sdgindex.org Source: SDG Index

Compared to the performance of previous year, all countries in ASEAN* have successfully maintained achievement in ending poverty (SDG 1). Other significant improvements are in acting against climate change (SDG 13) and providing access to clean water and sanitation (SDG 6).

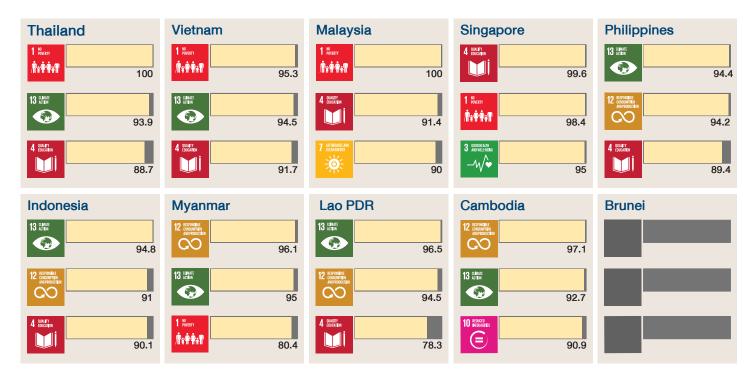
Among 10 ASEAN members, most countries are deemed to have already achieved 2-3 SDG performance targets. The only 2 exceptions are Singapore and Vietnam, with 5 SDGs already being achieved. Singapore's 5 areas of SDG achievements are in no poverty (SDG 1), access to clean water & sanitation (SDG 6), affordable & clean energy (SDG 7), decent work & economic growth (SDG 8), as well as fostering industry/innovation/infrastructure (SDG 9). However, Singapore's performance in climate change (SDG 16) has deteriorated in the past year. In the case of Vietnam, the main areas of SDG achievements are also in SDGs 1, 6, 7 and 16, with the 5th achievement area in sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11).



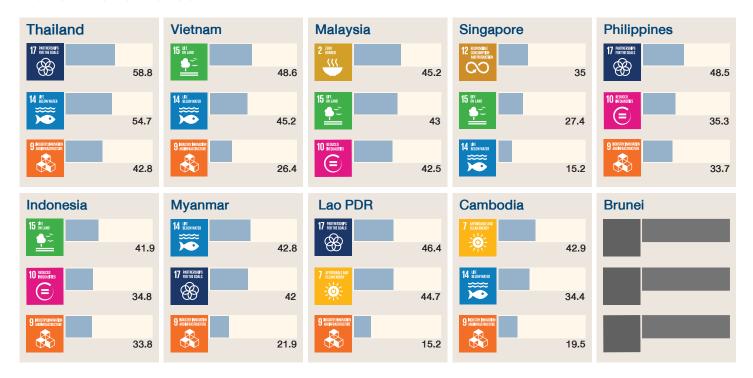
^{*} The 2019 SDG Index has not included Brunei due to insufficient data availability.

However, beyond overall performance, the diversity within ASEAN is immense, with each country making varying degree of progress in different SDGs. The top and bottom SDG performances of each ASEAN country are illustrated below.

Top Performance



Bottom Performance



For more information on dashboard and methodology please refer to www.sdgindex.org Source: SDG Index

The Six Transformations

Across the globe, current progress of most countries in Sustainable Development are deemed to be insufficient to meet the performance targets in 2030. Hence, new approaches and interventions will be required to accelerate performance trajectory. Furthermore, the interdependence among SDGs needs to be recognized - for example, many studies have shown that education improvement (SDG 4) can contribute to better health (SDG 3), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), as well as equality gap reduction (SDG 10). Practical strategies must involve multiple parties to organize and deploy effective measures through a more holistic approach.

Recognizing that new approaches are needed, the Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN) has proposed that policy makers group the 17 UNSDGs into 6 broad transformation themes and design holistic programs to address each theme. These programs should include policy measures as well as public investments, new technologies, and social engagement.

Leave No One Behind

1. Education, gender and inequality SDGs 1, 5, 7-10, 12-15, 17

2. Health, Wellbeing and Demography SDGs 1-5, 8, 10

3. Energy decarbonization and sustainable industry SDGs 1-16

4. Sustainable food, land, water and oceans SDGs 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10-15

5. Sustainable cities and communities

SDGs 1-16

6. Digital revolution for sustainable development SDGs 1-4, 7-13, 17

Source: SDG Index



Finally, in Sustainable Development policy implementation, government of each country needs to take into account the interconnectivity and potential spillover effects from its policy measures and programs, including environmental, economic, as well as security spillovers. Hence, the need for an international collaboration or Partnership to Achieve the Goal (SDG 17).

The Micro

Sustainability Index

In addition to the UN and governments around the world recognizing the need for Sustainable Development, many companies today have also committed themselves to social responsibility, steering their organizations and operations to protect interests of the environment and society in addition to their own financial bottom lines. The global investment community has also put emphasis on the sustainable operations of their investment targets, with multiple Social Impact and Responsible Investment institutions being set up. Thus, the rise of the needs for sustainability assessment of corporations. Created in 1999 as a joint effort by Standards &Poor's, Dow Jones Indices, and RobecoSAM, the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) is one of the most well-known benchmarks for investors to assess sustainable practices of corporations. Corporate economic, environmental, and social performances are the key analytical dimensions of DJSI. Furthermore, there are adjustments in the assessment methodology to reflect industry-specific context.

Where are the sustainable companies?

Where are the world's most sustainable companies located?



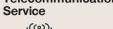
Source: The Sustainability Yearbook 2019 by RobecoSAM AG

Among 2,686 companies of the SAM Corporate Sustainability Assessment in 2018, 23 companies from 14 industries are operating in ASEAN. The majority of these companies (20) are in Thailand, while another two are in Singapore, and one is in the Philippines.

DJSI submitted ASEAN companies, classified by industry



Food Products Food & Staples Highlighted criteria & Dimension weight Highlighted criteria & Dimension weight Retailling Economic Dimension......39% • Supply Chain Management • Health & Nutrition • Customer Relationship Management Innovation Management Environmental Dimension......31% Environmental Dimension......28% Raw Material Sourcing Operational Eco-Efficiency Operational Eco-Efficiency Raw Material Sourcing SAM Gold Class Thai Union SAM Silver Class CP ALL PCL Thailand Packaging Packaging Group PCL Thailand Social Jimensun... Pokphand Foods PCL Thailand Occupational Health and Safety Human Rights Human Capital Development Occupational Health and Safety Talent Attraction & Retention Oil & Gas - Refining Highlighted criteria & Dimension weight Oil & Gas -Highlighted criteria & Dimension weight & Marketing Upstream & Economic Dimension...... • Codes of Business Conduct • Risk & Crisis Management • Supply Chain Management Economic Dimension......42% Integrated Corporate Governance Exploration & Production Gas Portfolio .00.0 Environmental Dimension......31% Environmental Dimension......26% Climate Strategy Operational Eco-Efficiency Water Related Risks Climate Strategy Operational Eco-Efficiency Water Related Risks SAM Gold Class PTT PCL Thailand • SAM Gold Class IRPC PCL Thailand Social Dimension..... Occupational Health and Safety Human Capital Development Talent Attraction & Retention Social Dimension.... Occupational Health and Safety Social Impacts on Communities SAM Silver Class Thai Oil PCL Thailand SAM Silver Class PTT Exploration & Production PCL Thailand · Human Capital Development **Real Estate** Retailing Highlighted criteria & Dimension weight Highlighted criteria & Dimension weight Economic Dimension...... Corporate Governance Risk & Crisis Management Supply Chain Management Environmental Dimension.......22% • Operational Eco-Efficiency • Environmental Policy & Management Systems Packaging Environmental Dimension.... • Operational Eco-Efficiency • Climate Strategy SAM Bronze Class CapitalLand Ltd Singapore SAM Gold Class Home Product Center PCL Resource Conservation and Resource Efficiency Sustainability Yearbook Members Central Pattana PCL Thailand Thailand Social Dimension Human Capital Development Social Integration & Regeneration Stakeholder Engagement Talent Attraction & Retention Human Capital Development City Developments Ltd Singapore Human Rights Ayala Land Inc Philippines Telecommunication Transportation and Highlighted criteria & Dimension weight Highlighted criteria & Dimension weight Transportation Service Economic Dimension... Economic Dimension.





• SAM Gold Class True Corp PCL Thailand

Customer Relationship Management

Social Dimension.....

• Human Capital Development Talent Attraction & Retention

Privacy Protection
 Risk & Crisis Management
 Information Security & Cybersecurity
 Network Reliability

Environmental Dimension....

Operational Eco-Efficiency
Climate Strategy

Infrastructure



 SAM Bronze Class BTS Group Holdings PCL Thailand

 Sustainability Yearbook Members Airports of Thailand PCL Thailand

Codes of Business Conduct
 Customer Relationship Management
 Privacy Protection
 Risk & Crisis Management

Environmental Dimension......27%
• Operational Eco-Efficiency
• Climate Strategy
• Fuel Efficiency

Social Dimension.....

• Occupational Health and Safety Stakeholder Engagement
 Talent Attraction & Retention



Within each industry, companies with a minimum total score of 60 and whose score is within 1% of the top performing company's score in their industry recieve the SAM Gold Class award.



All companies receiving a total score of at least 57 and whose score is within a range of 1% to 5% of the industry's top performing company's score receive the SAM Silver Class distinction.



Companies whose score is at least 54 and is within a range of 5% to 10% of the industry's top performing company's score receive the SAM Bronze Class distinction.

Sustainbility Yearbook Member

All companies that have been included in the Yearbook, but that have not recieved a medal distinction, must be within the top 15% of their industry and must achieve a score within 30% of their industry's top performing company.

Source: The Sustainability Yearbook 2019 by RobecoSAM AG

Looking Forward

There is still a lot of work to be done to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals in 2030. Countries, companies, investors and all parties need to continue to collaborate and push through policy measures, operational standards, investments, and new technologies to create a world with sounder environmental and socio-economic balance. Relentless commitment to create awareness and calls for action among policy makers and ordinary citizens is fundamental to this effort.

C asean, a collaboration platform with the mission to strengthen ASEAN connectivity, has been advocating sustainability dialogues across all segments of the society. We will continue to support the development of sustainable ASEAN through wide range of initiatives across the region.

ASEAN Monitor is a monthly news monitoring report providing analysis of the top stories from around ASEAN that impacts the region the most.



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