

Responsible Investment Forum: Asia 2024

Agenda

Day one: October 29

08:00

Networking breakfast and registration

09:00

Chair's opening remarks

09:05

Keynote Speech

09:25

The evolution of sustainability in Asian private equity

- The increasing prominence of locally based heads of ESG within Asia.
- Navigating talent acquisition in an evolving landscape
- How are local funds approaching sustainability vs. international funds with a foothold in Asia?
- Global perspectives on sustainability in Asian private equity

Priya Gopalan, Head of ESG, **Northstar Group**

10:05

Working with investment teams and portfolio companies across multiple jurisdictions on ESG initiatives

- Strategies for fostering alignment and collaboration among investment teams and portfolio companies
- Communicating effectively to bridge the gap with the investment team
- Integrating ESG considerations into due diligence and throughout the investment cycle
- Strategies for navigating the diverse regulatory environments across Asian markets

Moderator: **Emma Bickerstaffe**, Managing Director - London, **Holtara**, powered by **Apex Group**

Erika Rodriguez, Head of Sustainable Investing, APAC, **KKR**

Jaclyn Seow, Director, Head of ESG & Impact and Head of Portfolio Success, **Openspace**

Menno Veeneklaas, General Operating Partner, **Allegro**

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10:45

Coffee & Networking

11:15

ESG Data Convergence Initiative Update

- Update on progress in Asia compared with North America and Europe
- To what extent is the initiative helping LPs and GPs to solve the data challenge?
- How are firms leveraging data to gain new insights and drive value creation?
- Highlighting potential collaborative opportunities and outlining the roadmap for further advancing the initiative

12:00

GP/LP data dialogue: making data useful for investing

- How sophisticated our Asian LPs data requests vs. European and US counterparts?
- Considering regional distinctions between LPs in different regions
- Overcoming issues with sharing portfolio company data
- Strategies for reducing the workload for GPs

Natasha Buckley, Principal, ESG, **HarbourVest Partners**

Charis Goh, Principal, Head of Directs Asia Pacific, **Unigestion**

12:40

Strategically embedding ESG into value creation plans

- Insights into the collaborative approaches adopted by ESG leaders in working alongside value creation and investment teams
- Exploring the extent to which the implementation of sustainability practices enhances resilience within private equity investments
- Strategies for effectively measuring the impact of ESG integration on value creation outcomes
- Case studies from real PE investments in Asia

Nana Li, Head of Sustainability & Stewardship, Asia Pacific, **Impax Asset Management**

Jo Saleeba, Global Head of Sustainability & Impact, **New Forests**

Rebekah Earp, ESG Director, Asia Operations, **CVC Capital Partners**

Adinah Shackelton, Head of ESG, **Permira**

13:15

Lunch

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14:00

The state of the Asian impact investing market

- What is the appetite from local LPs interested in impact funds?
- What are the main investment themes which are taking off in Asia's impact market?
- How are existing funds deploying their capital?
- To what extent is the impact label necessary, does it just add a reporting burden?

Thomas Walenta, Fund of Funds Co-Head for Asia-Pacific and Europe, **responsAbility Investments**

Fernanda Lima, Partner, **LeapFrog Investments**

Maud Savary-Mornet, Senior Advisor for Asia, **Global Impact Investing Network**

14:40

Managing complex supply chains in Asian private equity

- What questions are investors asking managers on supply chains?
- Which issues and risks are most concerning for investors?
- Strategies for enhancing transparency and accountability across the supply chain
- How should global managers be communicating with their investors on supply chain issues?

15:20

Coffee & Networking

15:50

Navigating regulatory landscapes: strategies for Asian PE firms

- To what extent are regulations in Europe and the US having an impact?
- What should PE firms be focusing on?
- Identifying key Areas of convergence and divergence across different jurisdictions regionally and globally
- Strategies for staying agile and adaptable in the face of evolving regulatory standards and expectations

16:30

Portfolio company insights on sustainability and ESG enhancement in Asia

- To what extent has ESG risen up the agenda of portfolio companies?
- Navigating the balance between PE owners and different stakeholders
- Exploring collaborative strategies employed by portfolio companies, taking into account regional dynamics
- What are the key ESG focus areas to improve performance and create real business value?

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17:15

Cocktail & Networking Reception

Day 2: October 30

08:30

Registration & Networking

09:00

Investor perspectives on the significance of how managers approach sustainability

- To what extent is ESG impacting allocations in Asia?
- Considering differences between investor expectations in different countries in Asia
- How are the regions investors integrating the EDCI within their wider data requests?
- What are the new areas LPs are asking questions of managers from?

Suzanne Tavill, Partner & Head of Responsible Investment, **StepStone Group**

Matthew Johns, Principal, ESG, **IH International Advisors**

09:40

Case Study: Signing up and aligning with the Operating Principles for Impact Management

- Why and how a leading Japanese fund became a signatory to the Operating Principles for Impact Management
- How Empowering Women Drives Better Business and Investment Results
- Other ESG benchmarks tied to Value Creation
- How to work with the Impact Principles to design your ESG strategy and drive impact within your organization

10:15

Driving action on climate in Asian private equity

- Update on latest initiatives and take-up in Asia
- Practical strategies for effectively managing and reducing Scope 3 emissions
- Exploring the role of technology and digital innovation in advancing climate goals
- Case studies highlighting successful efforts by Asian firms to drive tangible and transformative change

Sarah Pang, Executive Director, Head of ESG & Sustainability, **Affinity Equity Partners**

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10:50

Fireside chat: how a leading GP is developing its climate strategy

- Measurement to management – Why tracking the right KPIs is critical for climate success
- Advancing on the climate journey while keeping the final destination flexible
- Building a cohesive climate vision for a complex portfolio

11:15

Coffee & Networking

11:45

To what extent is ESG a useful fundraising tool in the region?

- Considering how to tailor investor conversations in different countries
- Identifying effective strategies for measuring and communicating ESG performance to attract investors in the region
- Exploring how ESG considerations influence investor decisions
- Is there any sign of the ESG backlash impacting ESG in Asia?

12:20

Practical tips to avoid greenwashing in private equity

- Examples of greenwashing in PE investing and learnings from experiences
- Practical methodologies and tools for investors to effectively discern genuine ESG commitments from superficial claims
- What specific and verifiable data points should LPs use to gauge veracity of ESG claims?
- To what extent is 'greenhushing' a growing phenomenon?

13:00

Lunch

13:45

Interactive workshops

15:45

Close of conference