

# Survey of Business Commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals in Greater China





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## **Background and Objectives**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) announced in September 2015 aim to set out a plan of action for all countries and all stakeholders to take “bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path”<sup>1</sup>. Consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets, the SDGs provide a shared language and purpose that governments, civil society organisations and businesses can identify and communicate with. All 193 member states of the United Nations will need to report on how they are implementing the 2030 agenda and the progress they are making with respect to the SDGs. Participation from the business sector is indispensable for progress to be made.

Oxfam Hong Kong (Oxfam HK) seeks to promote private sector engagement with the SDGs. Oxfam HK has an advocacy focus on five SDGs, including: SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10: Reducing Inequality, and SDG 13: Climate Action. To develop a sound advocacy strategy, Oxfam HK aims to understand the private sector’s perception and responses towards the SDGs. This study is therefore designed to explore how the largest listed companies in Greater China (Hong Kong, Mainland China and Taiwan) are helping to advance the SDGs.

The objectives of this study are to:

- Evaluate the position taken by the 50 largest listed companies in Hong Kong, Mainland China and Taiwan (total 150) with respect to the SDGs
- Examine the extent to which these companies incorporate the SDGs into their sustainability reports and survey the approaches they take to contribute to the SDGs
- Develop case studies illustrating how different companies approach specific SDGs

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<sup>1</sup><https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

## Methodology

This study considers a total of 150 of the largest listed companies Greater China. From each market - Hong Kong, Mainland China (across the stock exchanges in Shanghai and Shenzhen) and Taiwan – 50 of the largest listed companies by market capitalization were selected. In cases where a company is dual-listed across Hong Kong and Mainland China, it is regarded as a Hong Kong company if it has a significant presence on the Hong Kong stock market. Out of the 23 dual-listed companies, nine companies were regarded as Hong Kong companies for the purpose of this survey. The full list of companies reviewed is provided in Appendix 1.

A comprehensive review of each company's 2016 sustainability report was collected and conducted between April and July 2017. The 2016 reports typically cover the calendar year 2016, the year following the adoption of the SDGs by the United Nations in September 2015. In cases where a 2016 sustainability report is not yet available, the 2015 report was referenced. Out of the 150 companies reviewed, 20 companies did not have a 2016 sustainability report.

The survey studied the extent to which each company considers the SDGs in their approach to sustainability and evaluated their stance towards the SDGs. This includes every mention of the SDGs – ranging from commitments, actions and targets that the companies explicitly state in relation to each SDG. On the governance and management level, the survey also examined how the companies developed strategies that contribute to the SDGs. The focus is on how companies approached the SDGs, rather than evaluating the value or effectiveness of their actions. In total, only 40 of the 150 companies included SDG commitments in their sustainability reports. Of these two are dual-listed on the Hong Kong and China stock exchanges, namely Sinopec and China Merchants Bank. For the purpose of this study, Sinopec is regarded as a Hong Kong company and China Merchants Bank as a Mainland China listed company.

A group of 11 companies that are actively pursuing the SDGs were selected for case studies, with the aim of understanding in greater depth how they approach the SDGs. Each case study explores why the company chose to address the SDGs and its strategic approach to SDG alignment, and highlights example initiatives.

## Overall Results

### A. Overview statistics

**The companies selected for the survey:** This study surveys 150 companies in total from Greater China. For each market – Hong Kong, Mainland China (across the stock exchanges in Shanghai and Shenzhen) and Taiwan – 50 of the largest listed companies by market capitalization are selected for the study. [Appendix 1](#) provides the full list of companies considered.

**The extent to which surveyed companies engage with the SDGs:** The companies in this study have varying degrees of engagement with the SDGs. For this study, a company is described as ‘engaging’ with the SDGs if it has publicly referenced the SDGs or disclosed commitments that explicitly respond to the SDGs in its sustainability report. Using this definition, 40 out of the 150 companies are engaging with the SDGs. [Appendix 2](#) provides the full list of companies that disclosed information on the SDGs in their sustainability reports and details the specific SDGs they reported on.

Figure 1 below illustrates the number of companies considered in this study by region and shows the ratio of companies with and without SDG commitments. Of the 40 companies that make reference to the SDGs, eight are based in Hong Kong, four in Mainland China and 28 in Taiwan.

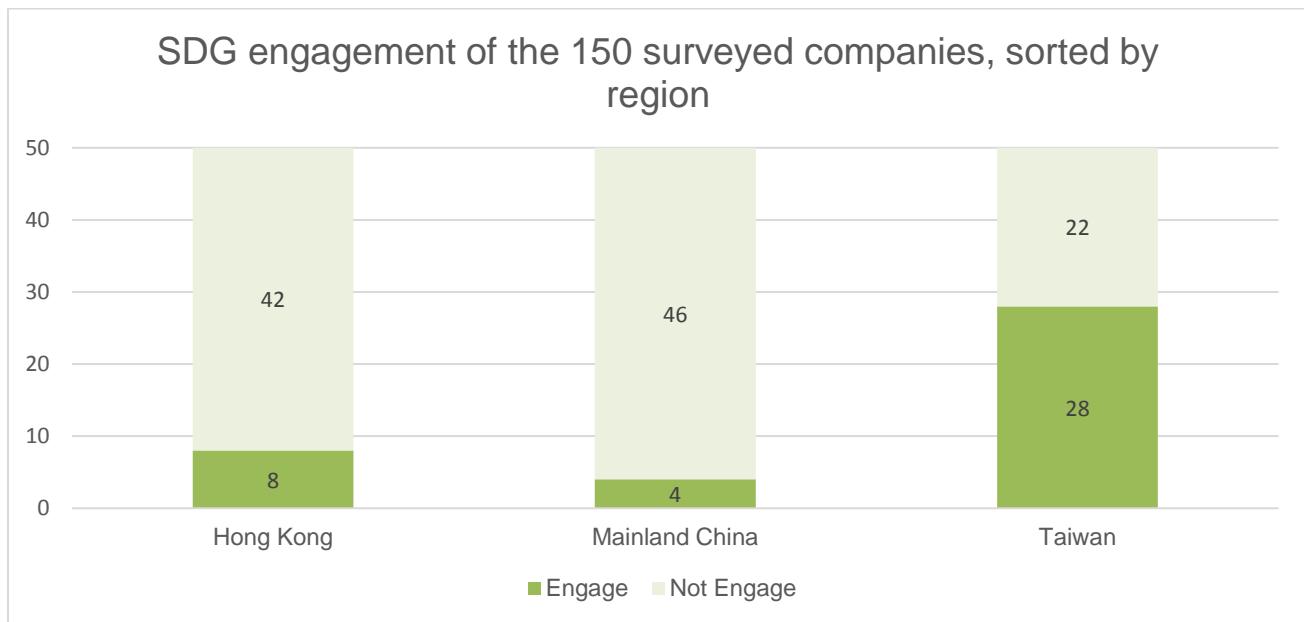


Figure 1: SDG engagement of the 150 surveyed companies by region

The subsequent discussions in Section B, C and D consider the 40 companies that are engaging the SDGs. These statistics are not representative of how well the companies contribute to the SDGs, but indicate the extent to which the SDGs are being recognised by the surveyed companies.

## B. Which companies include SDGs in sustainability reporting

Figure 2 below categorises the 40 companies with SDG commitments by market and industry sector.

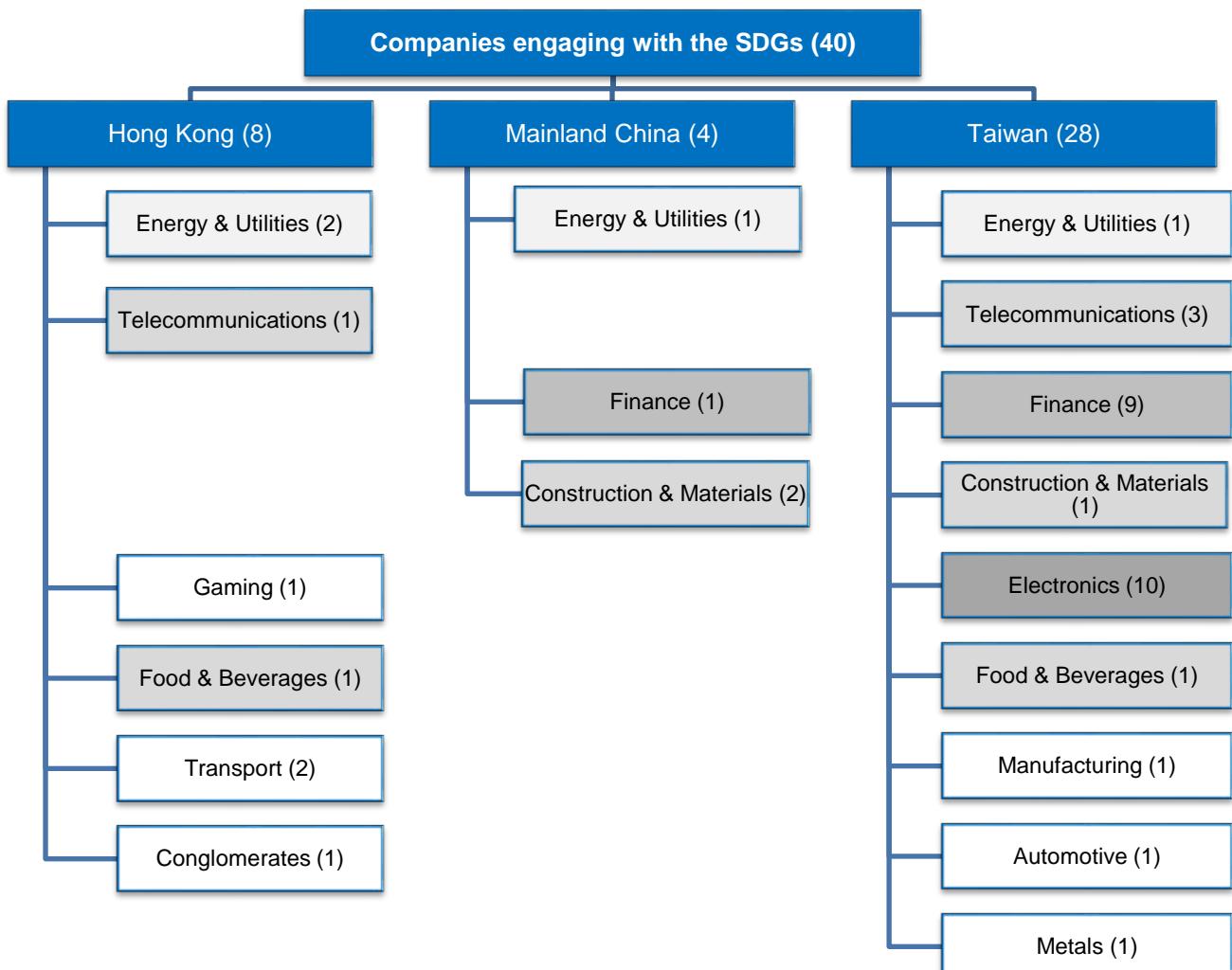


Figure 2: Companies with SDG commitments by market and industry sector

In Hong Kong, eight (16%) of the surveyed companies are engaging with the SDGs. In China, only four (8%) of the surveyed companies are engaging with the SDGs. These figures contrast sharply with that of Taiwan, where 28 (56%) of the surveyed companies are engaging with the SDGs.

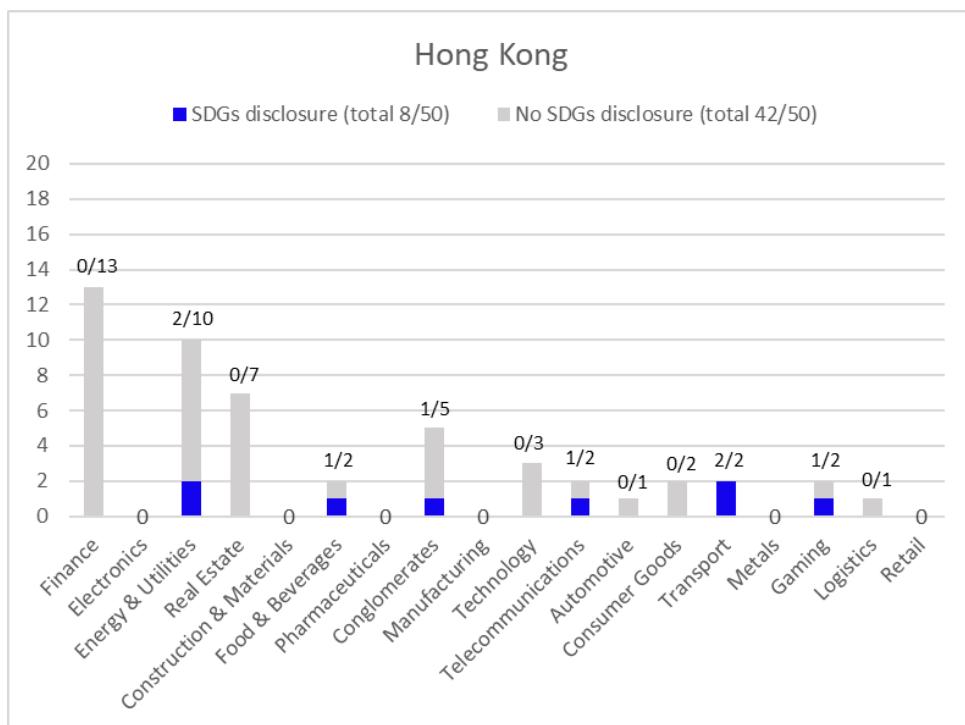
**SDG commitments across industry sectors:** The most prominent industry sectors represented across all three markets are finance, electronics, energy and utilities, and real estate. Of these, the finance and electronics sectors top other sectors in terms of the number of companies with SDG commitments.

- Of the 47 finance companies and 18 electronics companies surveyed, ten in each sector integrated the SDGs into their sustainability reports
- Of the 13 energy and utilities companies, only four referred to the SDGs
- None of the 10 real estate companies disclosed commitments to the SDGs

Other industry sectors with companies committing to advancing the SDGs are listed in the following, with the number of companies with SDG commitments out of the total number of companies surveyed provided in parenthesis: telecommunications (4/5); construction and materials (3/8); food and beverages (2/8); transport (2/4); metals (1/5); gaming (1/2); automotive (1/4); and conglomerates (1/5).

**Comparing SDG commitments in Hong Kong and Taiwan:** A comparison between the number of companies with SDG commitments by industry sector for Hong Kong and Taiwan provides the following insights (see Figure 3):

- Of the 47 finance companies considered, 13 are listed in Hong Kong and 16 are listed in Taiwan. None of the finance companies in Hong Kong have made any commitments to the SDGs, a stark contrast to the nine finance companies with SDG commitments in Taiwan.
- Of the 13 energy and utilities companies, the majority are listed in Hong Kong (10). Of all the energy and utilities companies, only four have SDG commitments – two in Hong Kong and one each in China and Taiwan.
- Of the 10 real estate companies, 7 are listed in Hong Kong. None of the real estate companies surveyed have made any reference to the SDGs in their sustainability reports.
- Of the five telecommunication companies surveyed, two are listed in Hong Kong and three are listed in Taiwan. All three companies in Taiwan are disclosing commitments to the SDGs, compared with only one company in Hong Kong.



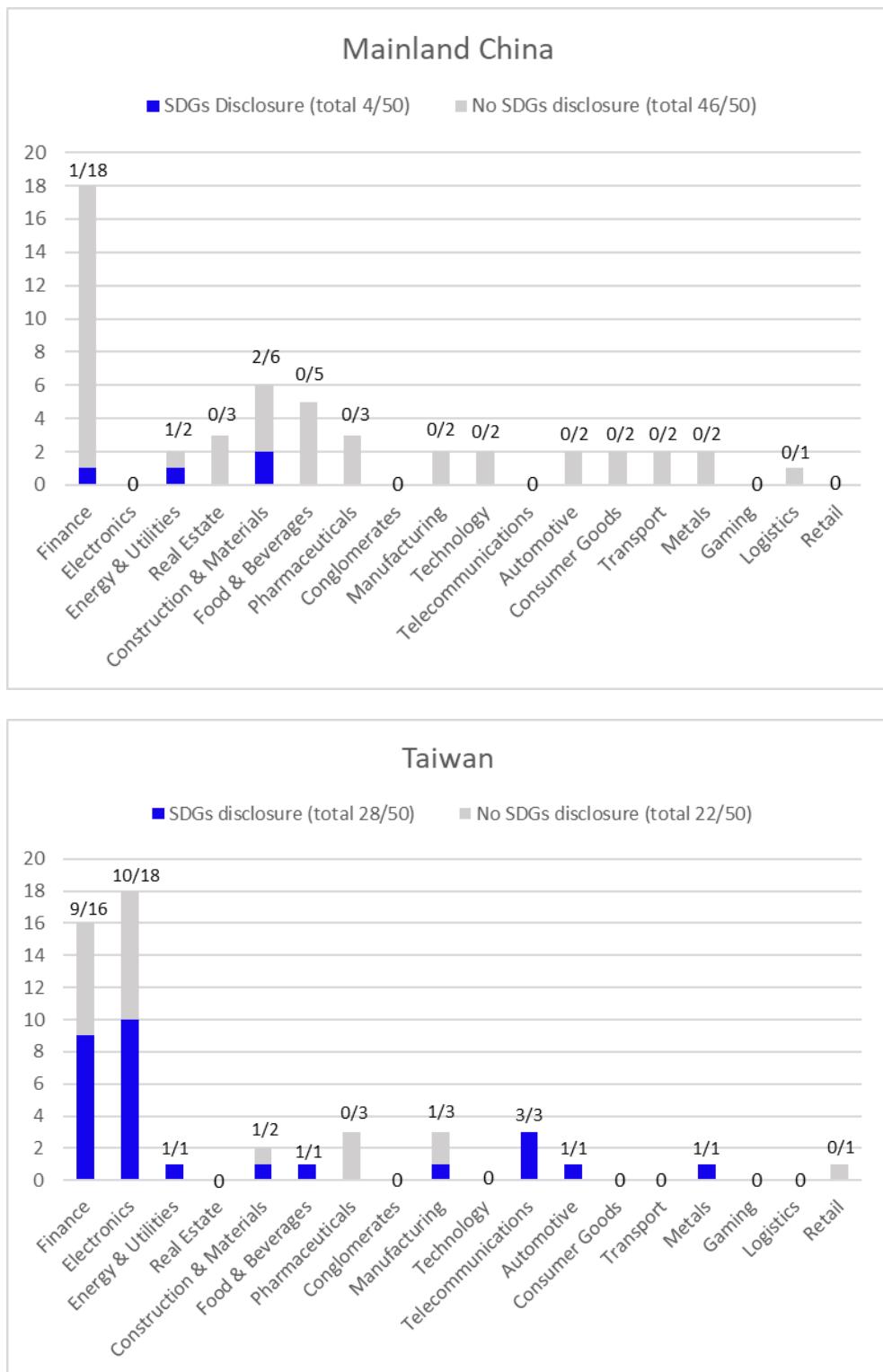


Figure 3: Number of companies engaging with the SDGs, by region and industry

### C. Which SDGs are addressed by companies

**Some SDGs are more prevalent than others.** Figure 4 below shows the number of companies that address each SDG. The two most common SDGs that companies are choosing to engage with are SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth and SDG 13: Climate Action, with 35 out of the 40

companies citing actions or commitments towards these two goals. Other frequently addressed SDGs (cited by at least 25 companies) include:

- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being
- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

By contrast, SDG 2: No Hunger and SDG 14: Life Below Water are addressed by far fewer companies (13 and 11 companies respectively).

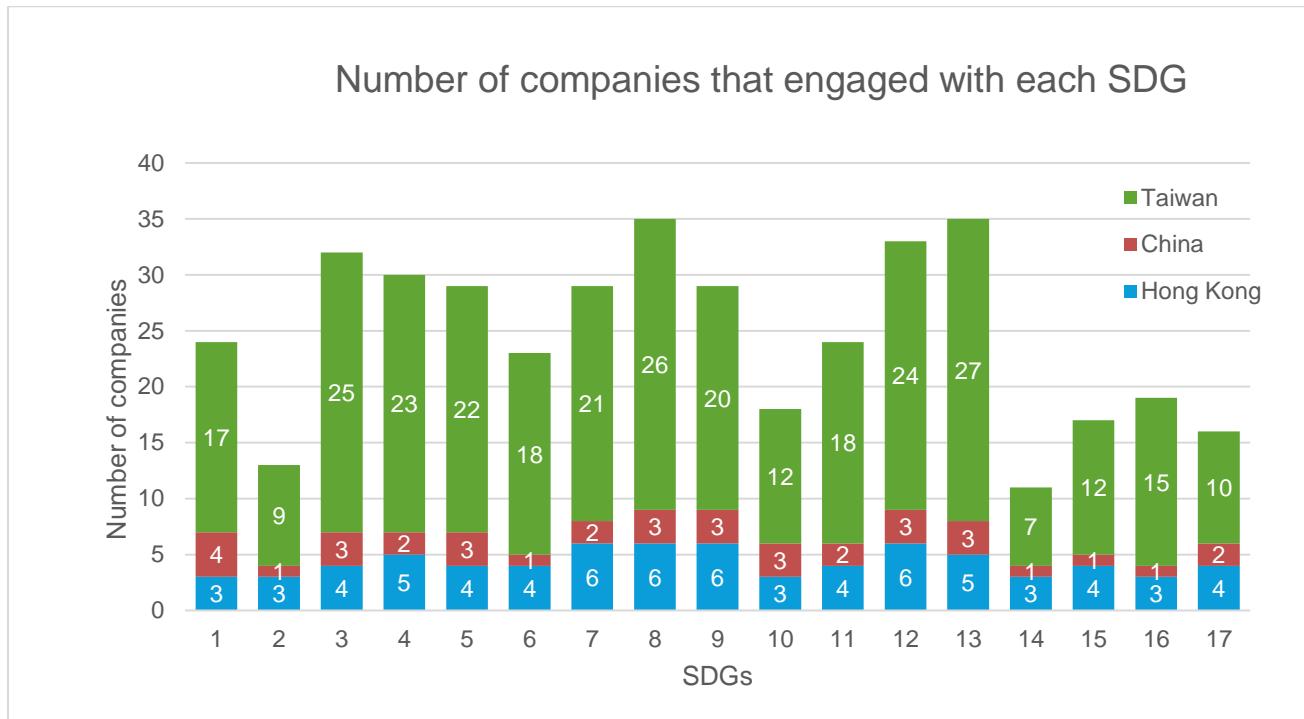


Figure 4: Number of companies that engaged with each SDG

**The choice of SDGs varies across market regions.** In Figure 5 below, a comparison is drawn between the specific SDGs addressed by companies in different regions. To make such a comparison, we have considered the number of companies engaging with each SDG expressed as a percentage of the total companies with SDG commitments in that market (e.g. If four out of the eight companies in Hong Kong that address the SDGs are addressing SDG 3, we express this as 50%).

In Mainland China, SDG 1: No Poverty and SDG10: Reduce Inequality are addressed by all four companies with SDG commitments in this market. SDGs less addressed by companies in Mainland China include SDG 6: Clean Water & Sanitation and SDG 7: Affordable & Clean Energy. Both goals are only referred to by one company.

Companies in Taiwan predominantly address SDG 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, and 13 (20 or more companies). SDGs less often mentioned by Taiwanese companies include SDG 1, 2, 6, 10, 11, 15, and 16 (18 companies or fewer) and SDG 14 and SDG 17 (ten or less companies).

As for Hong Kong companies, no particular SDGs stand out as being more predominantly addressed. Given that there are only eight companies In Hong Kong with SDG commitments, each SDG is addressed by between three and six companies. No goal is prioritised by all companies.

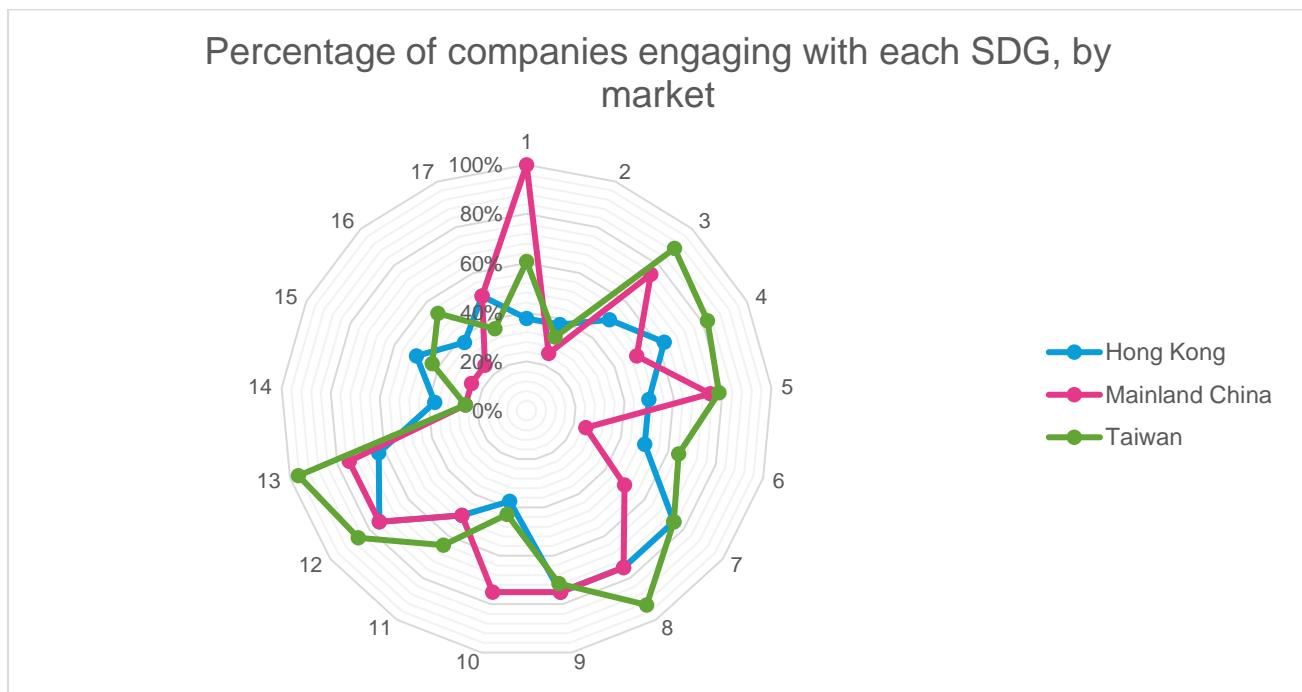


Figure 5: Percentage of companies engaging with each SDG, by market

**The choice of SDGs varies across industries.** Figure 6 below examines how the choice of SDGs varies across industries. Due to the limited number of companies included in this study, only the finance, electronics, telecommunications and energy and utilities industries are selected for comparison. These industry sectors exhibit the highest number of companies with SDG commitments (four companies in telecommunications and energy and utilities, ten companies each in finance and electronics).

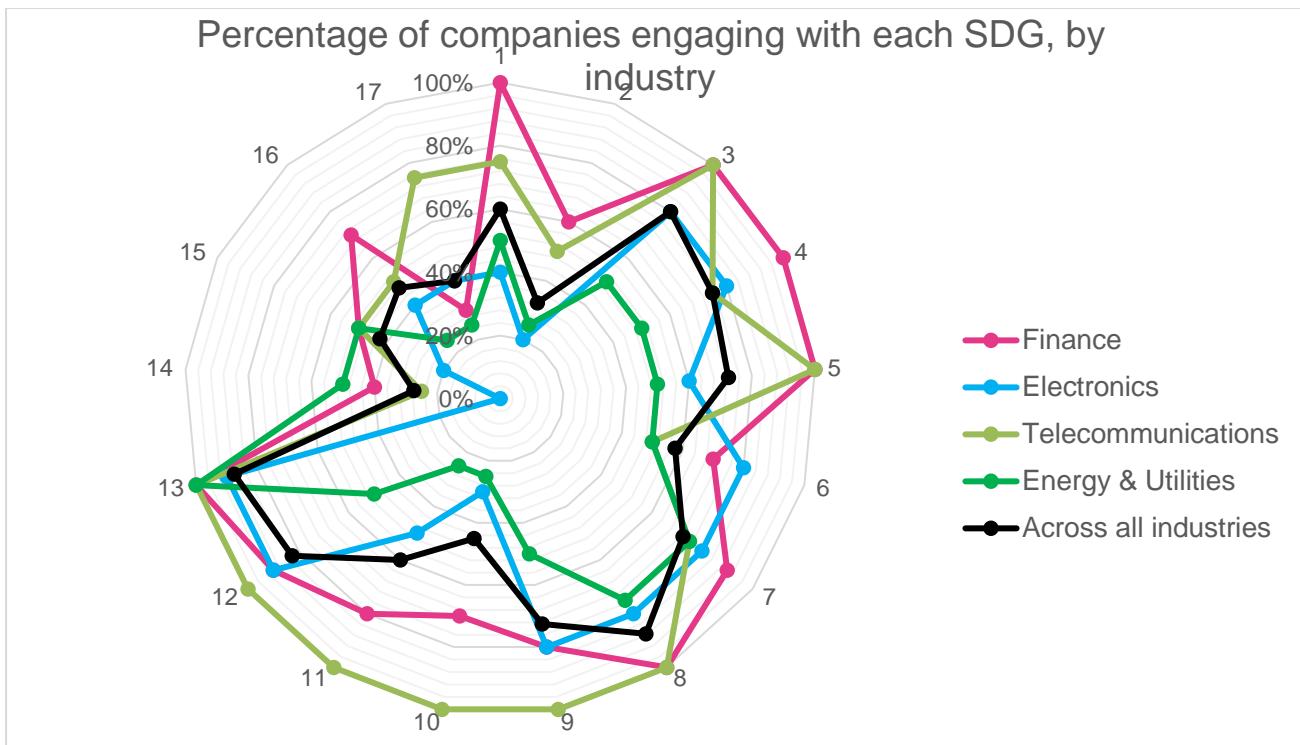


Figure 6: Most common SDGs for selected industries

All 10 finance companies committed to the SDGs have chosen to address SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 3: Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, and SDG 13: Climate Action.

Electronics companies display a greater variance in terms of the SDGs they choose to address. No single SDG is addressed by all electronics companies in this sample. Nonetheless, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production and SDG 13: Climate Action are more frequently addressed, cited by nine of the 10 electronics companies.

Telecommunications companies tend to commit to a larger number of SDGs. All four of the surveyed telecommunication companies that engaged the SDGs claim to be contributing to SDG 3: Health and Well-being, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production and SDG 13: Climate Action.

Energy and utilities companies tend to address fewer SDGs. All four of the energy and utilities companies commit to SDG 13: Climate Action and three companies commit to SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy and SDG 8: Decent and Economic Growth.

## D. How companies incorporate SDGs into sustainability reporting

The way in which SDG engagement is reported varies across companies. [Appendix 3](#) lists the different approaches companies have taken in integrating the SDGs into sustainability reporting. The different approaches to reporting on the SDGs can be categorised as follows:

1. **Mention the SDGs in the sustainability report, explicitly expressing support for the SDGs.**  
As mentioned earlier in this report, this is the minimum requirement for a company to be regarded as ‘engaging’ with the SDGs. This means that all 40 companies that are identified in Appendix 2 met this requirement.
2. **Link SDGs to report sections or pages.** This is often done by either labelling content throughout the report with references to specific SDG or including an SDGs index in the report. A total of 28 of the 40 companies that engaged with the SDGs published sustainability reports designed in such a way.
3. **Link the SDGs with specific actions taken, clarifying the specific contributions being made.**  
Some companies prefer to explicitly disclose what they have done for individual SDGs. A common way of doing so involves presenting tables or infographics that identify the initiatives pursued by the companies in response to specific SDGs. Twenty-nine of the 40 companies engaging with the SDGs fall into this category.
4. **Link the SDGs to the company’s sustainability strategy.** This involves considering the SDGs during stakeholder engagements and materiality assessments, and formulating action plans. Overall, 28 out of the 40 companies reported in this way, although they vary extensively in terms of the level of depth in their strategic discussions. Some companies discussed the SDGs in an extensive manner while others only briefly presented how their broader sustainability strategy links to the SDGs.
5. **Disclose targets and key performance indicators (KPIs) for selected SDGs.** Few companies have linked selected SDGs to targets and performance indicators. This seems to be largely based on existing sustainability targets and performance indicators such as those describing a company’s management approach to greenhouse gas emissions.. Companies linking selected SDGs to targets and performance indicators include three electronics companies in Taiwan – Delta Electronics, Siliconware Precision Industries, and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing.
6. **Articulate the company’s vision for each SDG in the report.** Only three companies in the survey defined the company’s vision for each prioritised SDG. CLP, Delta Electronics and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing provided a description of why specific SDGs matter to the company and how they seek to advance them.

Of the 40 companies with SDG commitments, 12 stand out as demonstrating a good understanding of and strategic approach to the SDGs in their sustainability reports and for describing valuable contributions to selected goals. These companies are included in the case study section of this report.

## Case studies

We have selected eleven case studies of companies making meaningful contributions to the SDGs. The case studies highlight company activities and initiatives that we considered as good examples of business contributions to the SDGs. They do not describe a company's SDG alignment in its entirety.

Hong Kong case studies:

- MTR Corporation
- CLP Holdings
- Cathay Pacific Airways

Mainland China case studies:

- China Mobile

Taiwan case studies:

- Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company
- Advanced Semiconductor Engineering Group
- Delta Electronics
- AsusTek Computer Inc.
- Far Eastern New Century Corporation
- Fubon Financial
- CTBC Holding

The case studies comprise the following industry sectors:

- **Electronics (4):** Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Advanced Semiconductor Engineering Group, Delta Electronics, and AsusTek Computer Inc.
- **Transport (2):** Cathay Pacific Airways and MTR Corporation
- **Finance (2):** Fubon Financial and CTBC Holding
- **Telecommunications (1):** China Mobile
- **Energy and utilities (1):** CLP Holdings
- **Manufacturing (1):** Far Eastern New Century Corporation

## MTR: Levering corporate competencies to support youth development (SDG 8)

### About the company

MTR Corporation (MTR)'s primary business is the construction and operation of mass transit railway systems in Hong Kong. The company also engages in the development and sale of residential and commercial properties in partnership with property developers, and operate a property management service. Beyond Hong Kong, MTR provides operational and maintenance rail services in Mainland China, Europe and Australia.

### Strategic approach

Prioritised SDGs: SDG 8, SDG 9, and SDG 11



MTR has prioritised SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities as goals where the company considers itself as having a direct positive impact. It considers itself as having taken the first step towards aligning its business with the SDGs and is committed to build a better understanding of its role in contributing to the global development agenda. MTR plans to investigate how it can measure its contributions towards the three prioritised SDGs with the aim of developing annual progress updates.

### Good practice example

In support of SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, MTR's initiatives aimed at supporting Youth leverage the company's comparative advantages as a major private sector entity in Hong Kong in providing skills training and employment opportunities to students.

MTR places great importance on young people as future leaders of societies and as future innovators, leaders and caretakers of the company's infrastructure assets being built today. The company aims to empower youth through leveraging MTR's skills, resources and networks.

MTR has a multi-faceted approach to youth empowerment comprising the following initiatives:

- Youth Forum: The Youth Forum was launched in 2015 as think tank to seek young people's input on business initiatives. The Forum comprises of both working youth and university students, who meet with senior management quarterly, are invited to behind-the scenes visits of MTR's facilities, and receive professional management training on topics such as innovation and creativity. To date, the Youth Forum has helped create MTR's "Rail Gen 2.0"<sup>2</sup> identity, supported a review of the Fare Adjustment Mechanism and MTR by-laws, and offered suggestions on service enhancement for 2030. Through the process, Youth Forum members gained valuable business experience and skills and enhance their personal network. Not only

<sup>2</sup>"Rail Gen 2.0" is a programme to enhance travelling experience to prepare the "next generation" of railway transport in Hong Kong. It comprises of four new rail projects, interfacing works as well as asset replacement, maintenance works and facilities upgrade to the existing network.

did Youth Forum members feel that they gained a better understanding of the multiple factors MTR manages to meet various stakeholder interests through the programme, they also reported improved self-confidence and communication skills.

- Supporting secondary school students: MTR runs two programmes that provide skills and personal development opportunities for secondary school students to explore future career opportunities. Since 2009, Train for Life's Journeys has provided a 10-day multi-dimensional summer training programme to Secondary 1 students including workshops, training camps, visits and work experience opportunities at MTR. Around 100 students completed the programme in 2016. Friend for Life's Journeys, launched in 2010, is a six-month mentorship programme that pairs secondary school students with young MTR employees. In May 2016, 135 students completed the mentorship programme.
- Pathways to Employment programme: The programme aims to facilitate collaboration between the business and social sectors to support Youth in their transition from education to employment. The programme was kicked-off in September 2015 with the “Cross-Sector Summit on Pathways to Employment”, jointly organised by MTR Corporation and The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, with support from Asian Charity Services. The summit convened representatives from the government, business, education, youth and social services sectors to brainstorm effective ways to support youth in the transition from education to employment. Following the summit, MTR facilitated the development of user-centric solutions by young people and other stakeholders through a series of in-person workshops and the online Community Innovation Platform. As a result, MTR engaged around 600 individuals and received 84 ideas of which five will be funded by MTR and rolled out over the next three years.

## CLP: Empowering women in leadership and engineering (SDG 5)

### About the company

CLP Holdings Limited (CLP) is one of the largest investor operators of power assets in the Asia Pacific region, with businesses across Hong Kong, Mainland China, India, Southeast Asia, Taiwan and Australia. Its business includes power generation, transmission and distribution, electricity and gas retail activities.

### Strategic approach

Prioritised SDGs: SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, and SDG 13



CLP recognises the business opportunities presented by the 17 Goals. As the goals define global sustainable development priorities and aspirations for 2030, CLP regards them as an opportunity for companies to look beyond their current investments and business models and identify new long-term investment and innovation opportunities.

In 2015, CLP developed a set of Sustainability Principles, which set the foundation for supporting the SDGs within the company's longer-term business strategy and thus touch on all 17 SDGs. In 2016, CLP prioritised six SDGs of greatest relevance to the company. CLP aims to deliver a set of SDG-relevant Sustainability Goals by 2018.

### Good practice example

In addressing SDG 5: Gender Equality, CLP looks beyond its business boundaries and supports employment opportunities for women in engineering in ways that benefit society and the business itself.

CLP sees immense value in diversity in the workforce and aims to increase the number of female employees at CLP. It acknowledges the key challenges it needs to overcome including:

- The nature of CLP's business requires a high percentage of the workforce to have technical and engineering skills. However, the global shortage of females studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at school and university has led to a lack of suitably qualified female candidates.
- CLP faces cultural constraints in places like India, which has a relatively low female workforce participation rate.

CLP has three priorities on which it focuses its efforts to increase gender diversity in its workforce. These were chosen as they reflect business needs, align with the SDGs, and support the social and economic empowerment of women. Below lists the three priorities and examples of measures taken to achieve them.

- 1) To ensure gender pay equity, CLP carried out detailed gender pay equity audits in Hong Kong and Australia. These audits covered actual remuneration received, that is base salary plus incentive payment.
- 2) To increase the number of women in leadership positions, CLP Group introduced a gender metric into the company's succession planning process to ensure female candidates are being identified and considered for senior positions. For example, a female candidate has been appointed as Head of Group Internal Audit, and also as a member of the Group Executive Committee. In CLP's Australian subsidiary, EnergyAustralia, at least one female candidate must be shortlisted for every executive appointment.
- 3) To increase the number of female engineers employed, CLP supported initiatives that encourage girls to study engineering in schools and attracted female graduates to join the company:
  - CLP launched a Group-wide network of female engineers from India, Australia, Mainland China and Hong Kong. They met to develop action plans to increase CLP's number of female engineers.
  - In Hong Kong, CLP offered an engineering work placement programme for secondary school students, a third of whom were female participants. The company also guides female engineering students through a mentoring programme. A joint forum with The Women's Foundation in Hong Kong and a number of local universities helped identify ways to encourage more females to study engineering. CLP also partnered with The Women's Foundation on an initiative to encourage girls to study STEM subjects at school.
  - CLP India has made efforts to increase the female hiring pool through partnership with the National Power Training Institutes.
  - In Australia, EnergyAustralia collaborates with the non-profit Power of Engineering. In addition to financial assistance, EnergyAustralia provides in-kind support such as media advice to promote related events, and staff to host workshops aimed at encouraging female high school students to consider careers in engineering.

### **Other interesting initiatives**

CLP's Climate Vision 2050 places the company amongst the first power utilities in the world to commit to a carbon reduction roadmap. CLP's carbon intensity targets and renewable energy targets help advance SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, and SDG 13: Climate Action.

## Cathay Pacific – Driving climate action and the use of biofuels in the aviation sector (SDG 7 and SDG 13)

### About the company

Cathay Pacific Airways Limited (Cathay Pacific) is an international airline registered and based in Hong Kong, offering scheduled passenger and cargo services to 181 destinations in 43 countries and territories. The Cathay Pacific Group operated 202 aircraft at 31st December 2016. Its other investments include catering and ground-handling companies and its corporate headquarters and cargo terminal at Hong Kong International Airport.

### Strategic approach

Prioritised SDGs: SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15, and SDG 17



In its 2016 sustainability report, Cathay Pacific identifies 10 SDGs as relevant to the business and links them to different sections in the report.

Cathay Pacific states that the prioritised SDGs are regarded as guiding principles in shaping the company's Sustainable Development Strategy. It does not clarify which sustainability targets or business activities are directly linked to the prioritised SDGs.

### Good practice example

Cathay Pacific considers climate change as one of the company's greatest environmental challenges. It is committed to carbon neutral growth by continuously improving the sustainability of its flight operations, and continuing to call for a global industry agreement on climate change. Cathay Pacific's contributions to SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy and SDG13: Climate Action thus build on the company's well-established climate change mitigation strategies and practices. Below lists key initiatives and practices that help advance SDG 7 and SDG 13:

- **Sustainable fuel strategy:** Cathay Pacific is committed to the biofuel agenda as part of its long-term climate change strategy. The company works with partners to identify sustainable biofuels, which meet or exceed the energy characteristics of kerosene and offer substantial improvement to emissions performance and at the same time are produced in a sustainable

way. Cathay Pacific is a member of various international organisation<sup>3</sup> to help accelerate the research, development, and commercialisation of sustainable aviation biofuels. Since the appointment of a dedicated Cathay Pacific Biofuel Manager in 2011, the company has put a sustainable aviation fuels strategy in place and is progressing several projects, many of which focus on the use of waste and residues as a source of feedstock to produce fuels. Cathay Pacific partnered with TOTAL, Amyris and Airbus, to enable the use of a biofuel blend for all its brand-new A350s flights from Toulouse to Hong Kong. Cathay Pacific is also the first airline to have invested in a sustainable biofuel developer, the US-based Fulcrum BioEnergy Inc. Fulcrum is a world pioneer in the development and commercialisation of converting municipal solid waste into sustainable aviation fuel.

- **Contributing to climate change science:** In 2013, one of Cathay Pacific's Airbus A330-300 aircraft became the first of its type to be equipped with In-service Aircraft for a Global Observing System (IAGOS) scientific instruments. Since 2013, the aircraft has operated over 1,400 flights, primarily on Australian and Middle East routes from Hong Kong. The Airbus A330-300 is manufactured to complement other similar commercial aircrafts operating on other routes around the world, which will help build a better global picture of climate change. Data on ozone, carbon monoxide, water vapour, and clouds is recorded during take-off, cruising, and landing. The results are transmitted from the aircraft daily to the IAGOS central database for access by science and policy users, including the provision of useful real-time data for weather prediction, air quality forecasting and climate models. The growing IAGOS database will continue to improve understanding of cloud processes and their impact on the climate.

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<sup>3</sup>Examples include the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Users Group (SAFUG), Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB), the FAA Centre of Excellence for Alternative Jet Fuels, and the Commercial Alternative Aviation Fuels Initiative (CAAIFI).

## China Mobile: Leveraging the comparative advantage of business to support rural communities (SDG 1, SDG 3, and SDG 4)

### About the company

China Mobile Limited (China Mobile) is a telecommunications services provider in Mainland China, providing services in all 31 provinces, autonomous regions and directly-administered municipalities throughout Mainland China and in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. China Mobile covers the world's largest mobile network and mobile customer base. Its businesses primarily consist of mobile voice and data business, wireline broadband and other information and communications services.

### Strategic approach

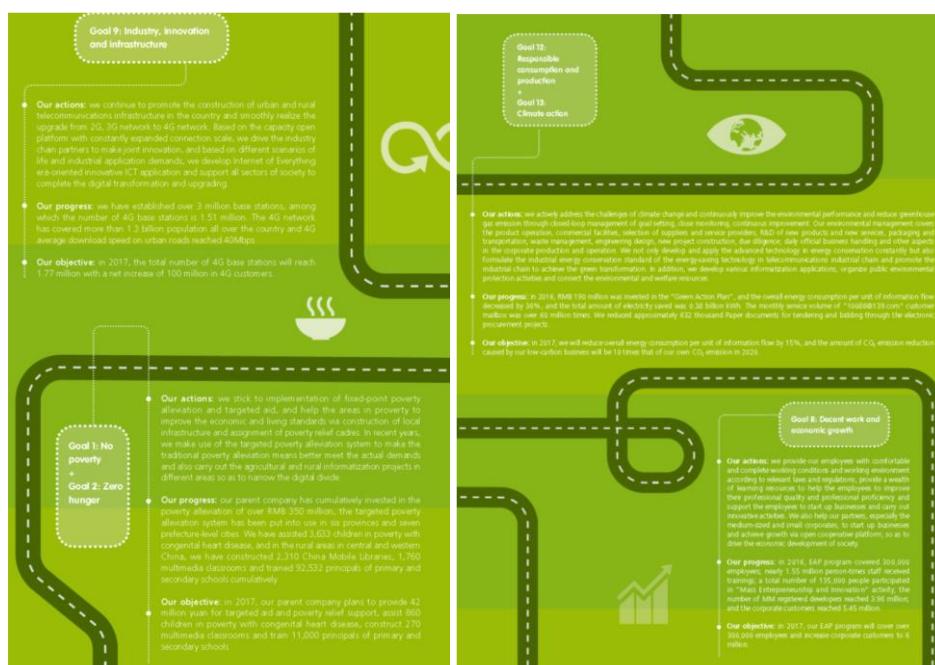
Prioritised SDGs: SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 12, and SDG 13



China Mobile considers the telecommunications sector as a key player in achieving the SDGs. The company highlights six goals as most material to the business and for each of these goals, it describes its contributions, actions taken in 2016 and actions planned for 2017 (see

Figure 7). The company states that the SDGs helped inform the materiality assessment of significant sustainability issues to be covered in its 2016 sustainability report.

China Mobile includes a SDG index in its report that links each of the 17 SDGs with activities taken by the company and refers to different sections within the report for further information.



*Figure 7: China Mobile's prioritised SDGs*

### **Good practice example**

China Mobile helps advance SDG 1: No Poverty through a targeted poverty alleviation platform which was established in 2016 in response to requests by government departments. The platform utilises the Internet and big data technology to support poverty alleviation programmes by the government. The platform enables government personnel to more efficiently collect, analyse and manage statistics and population data to identify and reach out to beneficiaries. It further facilitates programme monitoring and management.

In support of SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being, China Mobile supports initiatives that help close the digital divide and utilize telecommunications to extend the reach of medical services in rural areas. In Sichuan, China Mobile in cooperation with Huaxi Center of Medical Sciences of Sichuan University created the “Leleyi” handheld health management platform integrating health consultation and post-diagnosis visits. The platform supports the Healthy China 2030 Planning Outline by China’s Central Party Committee and the State Council by utilising information technology to help drive China’s medical reform. In Shanxi Province, China Mobile created the 4G Village Doctor Platform a mobile app that supports 30,000 village doctors in their professional development and the provision of medical services to patients.

China Mobile refers to the “Blue Dream Education Aid Plan” as an initiative that helps advance SDG4: Quality Education. The “Blue Dream Education Aid Plan” was initiated in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the China Education Development Foundation to address major shortcomings in rural primary and secondary education in Central and Western China. The programme supports the construction of educational infrastructure and reinforces training for principals and faculty members. China Mobile also donates China Mobile Libraries and multimedia classrooms. By the end of 2016, a total of 92,532 principals of rural primary and secondary schools in 23 provinces (districts and cities) in the central and western regions and Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps were trained.

## Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company: Setting goals to measure progress towards the SDGs

### About the company

Headquartered in Taiwan, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) is the world's largest dedicated semiconductor foundry with an estimated market share of 56 percent in the global semiconductor industry. It has account management and engineering service offices in China, Europe, India, Japan, North America, and South Korea.

### Strategic approach

Prioritised SDGs: SDG 4, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 12, and SDG 13



TSMC has established a clear correlation between the company's long-term strategies and goals set under its TSMC Vision 2020 and SDGs of greatest relevance to the company. This allows the company to measure progress towards achieving its SDG commitments.

In 2016, TSMC mapped its business operations against the SDGs and as a result prioritised the following seven SDGs. For each prioritised SDG, TSMC outlines its relevance to the company, related targets set under TSMC Vision 2020 and actions taken towards achieving the goal. For some of the prioritised SDGs, TSMC Vision 2020 includes specific, measurable and timebound targets which are all linked to the company's environmental management (see Figure 8).

TSMC considers itself as having taken the first step toward aligning its business with the SDGs. It is in the process of aligning its approach with the SDG Compass and embed the SDGs into its governance structure.



Figure 8: TSMC's prioritised SDGs and TSMC Vision 2020

### Good practice example

Through the "People with Disability Rights Protection Act" the government of Taiwan introduced a workforce quota system to guarantee employment opportunities for people with disabilities. TSMC supports the hiring of people with disabilities but does not link this to its SDG contributions.

The 2016 sustainability report includes a brief section describing the company's efforts in providing employment opportunities to people with disabilities and meeting government regulations. TSMC

provides the total number of employees with disabilities and states that it collaborates with 39 universities to create more diversified and high-quality job opportunities for disabled persons. In addition to existing job positions, the company integrates external resources to develop suitable jobs for disabled persons, including serving as Recruitment Service Representatives.

## Advanced Semiconductor Engineering Group – Analysing the business' environmental impact and externalised costs (SDG 12)

### About the company

Advanced Semiconductor Engineering Group (ASE) is the world's largest provider of independent semiconductor manufacturing services in assembly and test. The group develops and offers complete turnkey solutions covering IC packaging, design and production of interconnect materials, front-end engineering test, wafer probing and final test, as well as electronic manufacturing services through USI, Inc.

### Strategic approach

Prioritised SDGs: SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 16, and SDG 17



In its 2016 sustainability report, ASE Group states that its Sustainability Strategic Framework "aims to reduce potential impacts from sustainability risks, quantify the Group's intangible assets, and fulfil the SDGs." The Sustainability Strategic Framework is based on four pillars: low carbon, circular, inclusive, and collaborative. Each pillar is clearly linked to SDGs of greatest priority to ASE Group:

- The Low Carbon Pillar is reported to be aligned with SDG 7, SDG 11 and SDG 13: Under this pillar, ASE Group focuses on investing in renewable energy, developing and facilitating clean energy, providing low carbon solution to build sustainable cities, and taking actions to combat climate change risks.
- The Circular Pillar is reported to be aligned with SDG 6, SDG 9 and SDG 12: Under this pillar ASE Group focuses on regenerating clean water resources, building up regenerative infrastructure, and facilitating sustainable consumption and production.

- The Inclusive Pillar is reported to be aligned with SDG 1, SDG 3, and SDG 4: Under this pillar, ASE Group focuses on developing inclusive business models to end poverty, ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, and improving the quality of education for vulnerable groups.
- The Collaborative Pillar is stated to be aligned with SDG 17: Under this pillar, ASE Group focuses on building sustainable procurement mechanisms to select sustainable suppliers for its partnership network.
- In addition, ASE Group aims to enhance its core business competences and build up mechanisms to promote gender equality and a peaceful and inclusive society with sustainable economic growth. This is stated to be aligned with SDG 5, SDG 16, and SDG 8.

### **Good practice example**

ASE acknowledges the importance of incorporating externalised costs into decision-making to achieve truly sustainable operations. To measure, value and manage its operation's natural capital impacts and dependencies, ASE entered into two collaborations in 2016:

- In collaboration with university consultants, ASE developed the Environmental Profit and Loss (EP&L) methodology to identify and account for the value of natural capital to ASE Group's operations in line with the Natural Capital Protocol (NCP). ASE's EP&L methodology develops financial metrics for the Group's environmental impacts in four areas: greenhouse gas (GHG), air pollutants (NOx, SOx, VOC), water use and waste.
- Through industry-academic collaborations, ASE conducts eco-efficiency assessments for selected product systems to increase product value, optimise the use of resources and reduce environmental impacts. ASE states to be the first company in Taiwan to have completed verification for both the ISO 14045 Product Eco-Efficiency and ISO 14067 Carbon Footprint standards.

ASE's efforts to understand natural capital impacts and dependencies and increase resource efficiencies align with SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

## Delta Group: Increasing the reach of renewable energy (SDG 7)

### About the company:

Delta Group is a global leader in power supplies and thermal management solutions, as well as in energy-saving and new energy solutions, including displays, industrial automation, networking, renewable energy, LED lighting and automotive electronics and EV charging systems, with markets across the world.

### Strategic approach

Prioritised SDGs: SDG 4, SDG 7, SDG 9, SDG 12, SDG 13, and SDG 17



Delta Group mapped its thirteen material sustainability issues against the SDGs and as a result prioritised six SDGs of greatest relevance to the company. It provides a brief description of its positive contributions towards each of the prioritised SDGs (see Figure 9: Delta Group's prioritised SDGs).

<b>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</b> 	<b>QUALITY EDUCATION</b>	<b>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</b> 	<b>AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</b>	<b>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b> 	<b>INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>
Delta's four major promotions of education and life-long learning: 1) Create the DeltaMOOCx platform as a foundation for science education. 2) Promote environmental education regarding energy resources, water resources and green buildings. 3) Sponsor the Northern Thailand Project and the China Renewal Foundation's "Pearl Retrieval Program" to help raise the number of education opportunities for Chinese families; and 4) Internally promote Delta's corporate university.	The creation of a reliable and sustainable clean energy system is currently a top priority. Delta is committed to developing solar power systems and renewable energy solutions. Moreover, Delta utilizes emerging business models, for example, the construction and operation of a solar energy plant in Ako, Japan. Delta also provides renewable energy solutions to underdevelopment areas. For example, installing renewable energy systems in Zimbabwe hospitals.	Delta is accelerating the industry's innovation and supporting the construction of a sturdy infrastructure, which is the optimal solution to the dual issues regarding climate change and sustainable development. Internally, Delta has formulated an incentive system to continuously accumulate innovative momentum, to provide customers around the globe with energy saving solutions. Application areas include smart manufacturing and low carbon transportation.			
<b>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</b> 	<b>RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</b>	<b>13 CLIMATE ACTION</b> 	<b>CLIMATE ACTION</b>	<b>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</b> 	<b>PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</b>
Sustainable consumption and production is the foundation of a corporation's sustainable operations. Delta upholds its operational mission "To provide innovative, clean, and energy-efficient solutions for a better tomorrow." by supporting green production measures, local procurements, using low-carbon logistics, promoting green factories and green operations. This allows sustainable consumption and production methods to be continuously implemented in daily operations.	Properly responding to climate change, its impact, and related countermeasures, is a major test of a company's sustainable operations strategy. Delta, pursuant to adaptation and mitigation management of climate risk outside of strengthening industrial infrastructure, also announced a climate action plan and science-based targets (SBT) while continuously exploring climate change business opportunities.	Climate change is an issue which corporations worldwide are responsible for. Delta has participated in COP activities and held international green building exhibitions to provide sustainable perspectives and increase opportunities for industry exchanges. Moreover, pursuant to its three commitments with the CDP/We Mean Business, Delta has promoted global partnerships with practical action.			

Figure 9: Delta Group's prioritised SDGs

Beyond the six prioritised SDGs, Delta Group makes reference to 15 SDGs throughout its 2016 sustainability report (all goals except SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 14: Life below Water). For the three report sections on Corporate Governance, Environmental Protection and Energy Savings, and Employee Relations and Social Participation, Delta Group draws linkages between the SDGs and Group activities it regards as making positive contributions. An example is provided in Figure 10.

Echoes the UN Sustainable Development Goals



Figure 10: How Delta Group links its environmental protection and energy savings activities to the SDGs

### Good practice examples

To help advance SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, Delta drives technological innovation to help increase the reach of renewable energy into remote areas and difficult terrain.

In Japan, Delta completed its first proprietary solar plant in the mountainous area of Ako City, Hyogo prefecture. The Ako Energy Park is equipped with a capacity of 4.6MW and takes up an area of 96,000m<sup>2</sup>. One of its main features is a distributed power generation system built with medium-size solar inverters in response to the irregular terrain and to improve the overall power generation efficiency. This is the largest distributed solar power plant connecting to an extra-high voltage (33,000V) grid in Japan. The technological innovation centres on Delta's ability to have solved the irregular terrain challenge while delivering power generation efficiency that suits the high voltage standards and strict conditions for power plant construction in Japan. The plant is expected to generate approximately 4,900,000kWh per year, which is equivalent to the electricity consumed by 930 local households annually. Energy generated is sold to energy companies, making the Park a new business model for Delta.<sup>4</sup>

In Zimbabwe, Delta supports UNDP's Solar for Health initiative. The initiative increases access to quality health services through the installation of solar energy photo-voltaic systems (PV), ensuring constant and cost-effective access to electricity, while also mitigating the impact of climate change. The initiative seeks to tackle the significant power shortages faced by health facilities, particularly in remote areas where quality healthcare services cannot be provided due to no access to electricity or prolonged interruptions. Delta supports the initiative through the supply, installation, service and monitoring of complete solar PV systems for 104 hospitals. These modular solar PV solutions are adaptable to different requirements and provide remote hospitals with a stable power source and air conditioning for medical supplies. This project is expected to be completed by 2017.

<sup>4</sup><http://www.deltaww.com/news/pressDetail.aspx?secID=3&pID=1&typeID=1;2&itemID=6079&tid=0&hl=en-US>

## ASUSTeK Computer Inc.: A circular economy approach (SDG 3 and SDG 12)

### About the company

ASUSTeK Computer Inc. (ASUS) is a Taiwan-based, multinational computer hardware and consumer electronics company that was established in 1989. ASUS is the world's No. 1 motherboard and gaming brand as well as a top-three consumer notebook vendor.

### Strategic approach

In its 2016 sustainability report, Asus states that it considers the SDGs "as an opportunity for sustainable transformation in business, planning for a forward-looking vision." It aims to contribute to the SDGs by integrating them into its management and CSR strategies, developing new business model, and improving processes and programmes.

Asus prioritises five SDGs and clearly outlines how the company aims to help advance them.

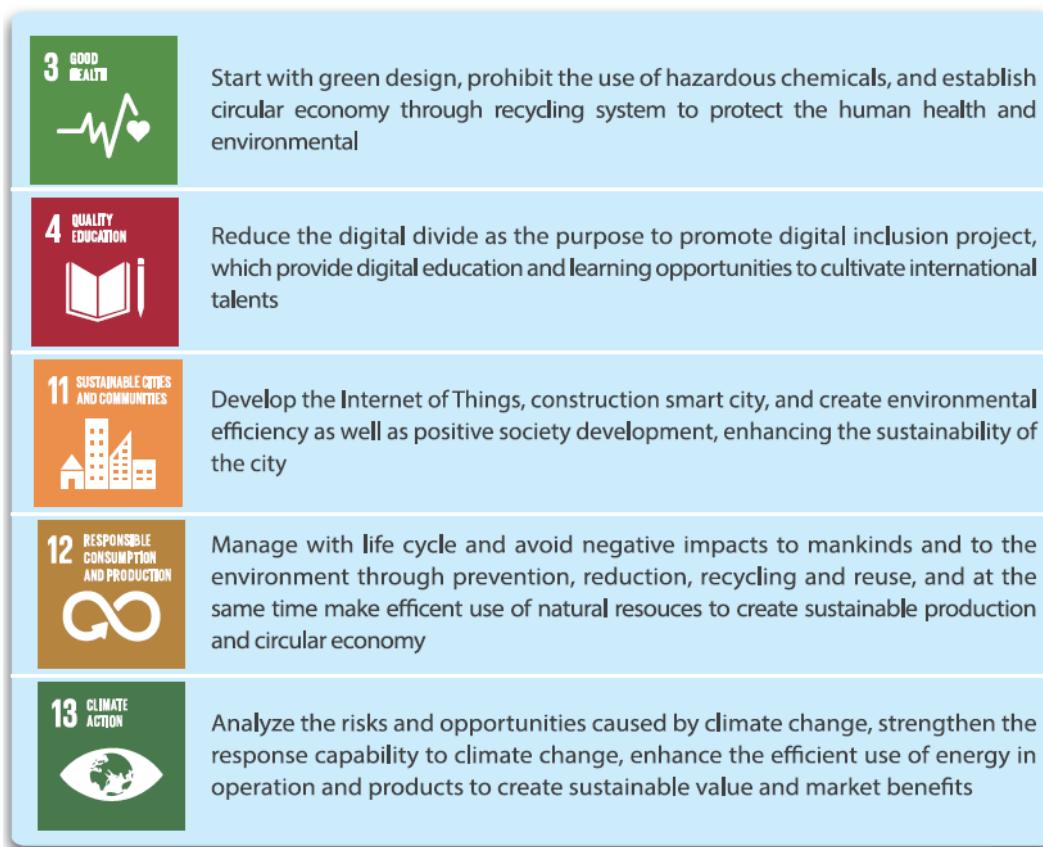


Figure 11: Asus contributions to prioritised SDGs

### Good practice example

Asus seeks to mitigate the negative health and environmental impacts of its products by taking a lifecycle and circular economy approach. Its circular economy approach supports SDG 12: Responsible Production and Consumption and SDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being.

ASUS recognises that the rapid introduction of new consumer electronic products and high frequency of product replacement result in tremendous amount of electronic waste including large quantities of metal and chemical substances that can negatively impact human health and the environment. Asus prevents the use of hazardous substances, improves the efficiency of energy and resource, improves the design as easy repair and upgrade, and extends the product life through refurbishment.

In 2000, ASUS established a GreenASUS department to monitor international environmental regulations to update its hazardous substances free (HSF) technical standards and to reduce harmful chemicals. In addition to restricting the use of chemicals regulated by the EU RoHS Directive since 2006, Asus also voluntarily controls non-regulated chemicals that may cause allergic skin reaction and began a voluntary ban on use of unrestricted hazardous substances. Asus works with its extensive supply chain network to reduce hazardous substances at the source and requires suppliers to provide third-party test reports along with hazardous substances warranty letters.

To support a circular economy Asus seeks to enable easy disassembly and recycling through modular product design. Easy to disassemble product and components allow

- consumers to upgrade products according to their needs, thus avoiding the purchase of new products;
- easy repair and replacement of parts and components at the time of product failure;
- recycling vendors to classify the materials and hence reduce the cost of recycle processing and enhance the value of using recycled electronic items.

Asus has also set up voluntary take back programme and in 2016 completed annual audits of 25 recyclers in Taiwan, the United States and Europe.

### **Other interesting initiatives**

To help advance SDG 4: Quality Education, Asus provides Digital Learning Centres and promotes digital learning in developing countries worldwide. By the end of 2016, Asus provided 200 Digital Learning Centres in 30 countries across the Asia-Pacific, Central Asia, Africa, and Central and South America.

## Far Eastern New Century Corporation – Leveraging product and process innovations to achieve the SDGs (SDG 6 and SDG 14)

### About the company

Far Eastern New Century Corporation (FENC), formerly known as Far Eastern Textile Limited, has transformed from a textile business into a holding company spanning petrochemical, polyester, textiles, land development and investment business.

### Strategic approach

Prioritised SDGs: SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15, SDG 16, SDG 17



FENC is committed to leveraging its core competencies to help achieve the SDGs through process and product innovations. In its sustainability report 2016 the company states to have aligned its development strategy with 14 SDGs considered as critical to the business and links its short- to long-term goals to almost all of these SDGs (see Figure 12)

Aspect	Short-term Goals (1-2 years)	Mid-term and Long-term Goals (3 years or above)	Corresponding to UN SDGs
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set targets for reducing energy consumption</li> <li>Purchase green electricity for production sites in Taiwan</li> <li>Continue to run campaigns to conserve energy</li> <li>Ensure comprehensive external verification of our GHG emissions</li> <li>Ensure the projects of our Land Development Business meet the EEEWH silver level's requirements</li> <li>Invest in the second waterless dyeing equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the percentage of green products</li> <li>Increase of the production capacity for rPET to around 20% of the total polyester polymer capacity</li> <li>Promote the use of renewable energy</li> <li>Establish cogeneration power plants</li> <li>Set targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>Reduce electricity consumption at production sites in Taiwan by an average of 1% every year</li> </ul>	    
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide New Century Executive Training Program and Competency Program</li> <li>Launch internship and training programs</li> <li>Organize various public interest advancement activities</li> <li>Obtain healthy workplace certification</li> <li>Launch an e-learning platform</li> <li>Introduce online legal education system</li> <li>Introduce Yuan Ze University Think Tank Program</li> <li>Optimize employee satisfaction survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build a garment smart plant</li> <li>Optimize the supplier performance evaluation and audit system</li> <li>Establish a corporate volunteer system</li> <li>Ensure all suppliers sign the Supplier CSR Commitment Statement</li> </ul>	   
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish CSR report every year to communicate with stakeholders</li> <li>Strengthen corporate governance to remain among the top 20% in the TWSE's corporate governance evaluation</li> <li>Continue to implement the regulatory compliance program and increase its scope of application</li> <li>Build a climatic risk adaptation and response system</li> <li>Expand the scope of application of online platforms</li> <li>Increase the production capacity for industrial fiber Nylon 66</li> <li>Commerce the production at Vietnam Dyeing &amp; Finishing Plant</li> <li>Commerce the PTA production at the new plants in Taiwan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand production capacity to consolidate our position as the industry leader</li> <li>Activate land resources</li> <li>Rank among top 5% in TWSE's corporate governance evaluation</li> </ul>	       

*Figure 12: FENC's short- to long-term goals and prioritised SDGs (source: FENC 2016 Corporate Social Responsibility Report)*

### **Good practice examples**

In support of SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, FENC cooperates with Nike and Dutch waterless dyeing developer DyeCoo to realize waterless dyeing. The new process eliminates water consumption needs and reduces the amount of chemical additives discharged and petrochemical energy used. As an innovative and pioneering technology, waterless dyeing holds opportunities for optimisation and further technological breakthroughs. As the technology matures, it can lead to significant reductions of wastewater discharge and energy use for the industry at global scale. FENC is committed to further drive innovation in this area and has invested in waterless dyeing technologies in two operational sites.

In support of SDG 14: Life below Water, the company works with partner organisations to recycle PET bottles from oceans to produce yarn. To date, the yarn has been used in the production of limited edition running shoes and jerseys produced by Adidas in partnership with the environmental initiative Parley for the Oceans. To enable the use of disposed PET bottles for the production of yarn, FENC had to establish new innovative processes:

- In Island Nations there is no well-established recycling process for PET bottles. FENC thus supports Parley for the Oceans, a maritime environmental protection NGO, to establish a demonstrative recycling system for disposed PET bottles from oceans in the Maldives.
- PET bottles collected for recycling from the ocean have more impurities. FENC uses purification technology to refine recycled polyester to enhance the strength of the eco-friendly yarn, ensuring that the yarn meets strength requirements for making apparel and shoes.

## Fubon Financial: Expanding micro-insurance services to underprivileged groups

### About the Company

Fubon Financial provides various financial services in Taiwan. It engages in the provision of banking, insurance, securities and asset management services. Its activities include commercial banking, life assurance, property and casualty insurance, investment banking, bills finance, securities finance, fund management and venture capital operations. Its major subsidiaries include Fubon Life, Taipei Fubon Bank, Fubon Bank (HK), Fubon Bank (China), Fubon Insurance, Fubon Securities.

### Strategic approach

Prioritised SDGs: SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15, SDG 16



In its 2016 CSR Report, Fubon Financial recognizes the SDGs as a framework that allows it to establish a coherent strategy aligning towards with the sustainable development agenda on a global scale. Aspiring to be a first-class financial institution in the Asia region, Fubon understood that it should act towards the SDGs.

The 'Fubon ESG Visioning Project' was launched in late 2015 and subsequently created an ESG Task Force under Fubon's Corporate Governance and Sustainability Committee, with six working groups covering corporate governance, employee care, responsible finance, customer engagement, social commitment and environmental sustainability. The project is aimed at devising short, medium and long-term development strategies and action plans consistent with the SDGs. This involves aligning its five-pronged LIGHT sustainability strategy (Leading investment, Innovative finance, Golden practices, Honest lending and Tender care) to a total of 12 SDGs.

### Good practice examples

One of the key focus of Fubon's sustainability strategy is the development of 'innovative finance', a term which it uses to refer to a range of financial and insurance service improvements that align with SDGs 1, 3, 8, and 11. Leveraging on its core competency as a financial intermediary, Fubon is driving

sustainable development particularly through microinsurance, offering insurance coverage to low-income households.

Fubon's microinsurance scheme aims to help those that are not receiving the benefits of social security, yet are unable to afford traditional insurance products. Microinsurance typically has a smaller coverage value, therefore it requires a smaller premium as compared to traditional insurance schemes, allowing poorer households to insure themselves against crises. Fubon collaborates with municipal authorities to reach those that are targeted by microinsurance products, promoting the adoption of microinsurance. Fubon also collaborates with local NGOs to gain a deeper understanding of the needs of the poorer households, thus identify gaps that where insurance is needed. Fubon further promoted microinsurance to the households, explaining the importance of such insurance schemes, so that the services can reach those in need in a more effective way. The rollout and expansion of microinsurance at Fubon is closely monitored and targets are set to track performance. Looking ahead, Fubon is aiming to expand the access to these microinsurance schemes and allow for greater customization to meet the variation in customer demands.

The value of insurance lies in the fact that it protects people against risks and unfortunate events. While this is traditionally out of reach for the low-income group, the increasing adoption of microinsurance means that economic development can be more inclusive. As shown by Fubon and many others that are already recognizing the trend, microfinance carries great value in promoting sustainable development.

## CTBC Holding: Supporting microfinance institutions beyond Taiwan

### About the company

CTBC Financial Holding Co., Ltd. (CTBC Holding) is a holding company principally engaged in the finance industry through its eight major subsidiaries. The holding company engages in banking, securities, insurance, and lottery.

To date, CTBC Holding's primary subsidiary - CTBC Bank - has a total of 150 branches in Taiwan with 107 outlets (office, branch, subsidiary and branch of subsidiary) worldwide, including the U.S., Canada, Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Myanmar, and Australia.

### Strategic approach

Prioritised SDGs: All 17 SDGs except SDG 14: Life below Water

CTBC Holding's commitment to the SDGs builds upon the company's acknowledgement of its role in driving sustainable development as Taiwan's most internationalised financial institution. CTBC Holding selected 16 SDGs to address and links each of the prioritised SDGs to company programmes and practices considered as making positive contributions (Figure 13).

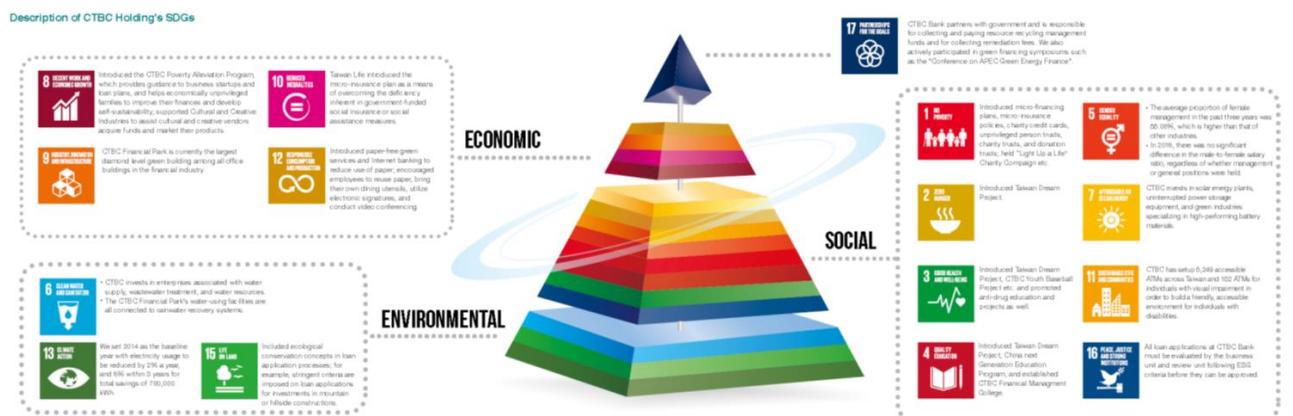


Figure 13: CTBC contributions to prioritised SDGs

### Good practice example

Through CTBC Foundation, CTBC Holdings supports micro-finance and micro-insurance programmes that align with SDG 1: No Poverty. The Foundation's CTBC Poverty Alleviation Programme was launched 2011 to support economically disadvantaged families to gain financial independence by offering entrepreneur guidance and related loans. The programme was extended beyond Taiwan. Through local branches, CTBC provides loans to micro-finance institutions in India, the Philippines, and Vietnam. As an example, since 2012 the CTBC branch in the Philippines has worked with microfinance organisations that support micro-entrepreneurs in paying student tuition, everyday family expenses, emergency post-disaster relief and medical expenses. To date, the total credit transactions exceeded PHP 1.3 billion.

Over the past 6 years, the “CTBC Poverty Alleviation Program” has provided assistance to 1,269 customers and helped 166 families start a business. Total loans have exceeded NTD 74,798,000. Overall, 129 of the businesses have become self-sustaining.

In Taiwan, CTBC’s subsidiary Taiwan Life launched 22 micro-insurance products for the economically disadvantaged or people with special needs which are not covered by government funded social insurance or social assistance programmes.

### **Other interesting initiatives**

In support of SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy and Taiwan’s green energy policies, Taiwan Life (a CTBC subsidiary) entered an undisclosed joint venture partnership to invest in a solar power plant with a planned generating capacity of 60MW by the end of 2017. The total installed generating capacity is expected to reach 200MW in three 3 years.

## Conclusions

**No consistent approach to reporting on SDG commitments.** The survey and case studies reveal no consistent approach to how companies disclose SDG contributions and alignment in their sustainability reports. Some companies link selective activities to the SDGs without describing a strategic approach to how the company seeks to align its strategies with the SDGs. Other companies show alignment between material issues and sustainability targets with the SDGs demonstrating a deeper understanding of their role in advancing the global agenda.

**Companies largely align existing practices and initiatives with the SDGs.** Most companies approach the SDGs by mapping how existing practices, programmes and initiatives align with the SDGs and then focus on those SDGs where they consider themselves as having the greatest impact. This has helped companies reaffirm existing environmental or social investments. It seems that few (if any) of the surveyed companies has looked at the SDGs more comprehensively and identified new areas for business investments and opportunities (in an interview CLP stated that the SDGs were 'eye opening' in the sense that the company learned about development priorities and related business opportunities not yet addressed by CLP).

**Companies in Hong Kong need to catch up.** Globally, there is a high degree of awareness of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the business sector and an increasing number of companies are developing strategic approaches to the SDGs.

- The [SDG Commitment Report 100 \(SCR 100\)](#), released by the UN Global Sustainability Index Initiative(UNGSII), analysed SDG related disclosures in the 2016 Annual Reports of the world's most profitable and largest 100 blue chips corporations. Already 24% of all analysed companies explicitly referred to the implementation of the SDGs in their first annual report after the ratification of the global goals.
- A [survey of CSR and integrated reports for the financial year 2015 in Japan](#), found that 38 of the top 100 Japanese companies by aggregate market value included statements concerning the SDGs.
- With the inclusion of the SDGs into the Communication on Progress, the UN Global Compact is driving business engagement with the SDGs.

Competitive pressure for companies to follow suit is growing. The present survey on SDG inclusion in 2016 sustainability reports clearly shows that Hong Kong based companies fall far behind their peers in Taiwan in terms of aligning business strategies to the SDGs.

**Industry sectors lagging behind.** The comparative analysis of SDG commitments by industry sectors needs to be read cautiously due to the limited number of companies included in this survey. Based on the limited scope of this survey, we find that there is a great need to drive SDG commitments in the following industries in Hong Kong: finance, energy and utilities and real estate. Clear guidance on SDG alignment exists for the finance and energy and utilities sectors (for example the [SDG Industry Matrix](#) guidance documents). The real estate sector in Hong Kong demonstrates strong sustainability reporting and it is thus surprising that none of the industry leaders have committed themselves to the SDGs.

**SDGs and targets requiring greater attention.** In our review of SDG commitments in 2016 sustainability reports, we paid particular attention to a set of sustainability issues of importance to Oxfam. These issues relate to SDG1: No Poverty, SDG5: Gender Equality, SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG13: Climate Action. Our findings show that:

- Companies with SDG commitments in Greater China have good climate change strategies in place that include carbon emission reduction targets, the promotion of renewable energy and the identification of climate change impacts on the business.
- Business contributions to SDG1: No Poverty largely focus on charitable contributions or, in the case of companies based in mainland China, community development programmes that were initiated by the government. In Taiwan, finance companies support micro-finance and micro-insurance programmes. There is a need to build awareness of inclusive business models in advancing the SDGs beyond the finance sector. There is a need for all surveyed companies to better assess community needs and the impacts of any programmes aimed at alleviating poverty.
- We found no company disclosing any policy or practices related to living wage, the economic empowerment of women in supply chains, or assessing tax impacts.

## Recommendations for Oxfam Hong Kong

**There is an important role for Oxfam Hong Kong to inform deeper, more meaningful business engagement with the SDGs and drive collective industry sector action to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.**

1. **Inform meaningful business alignment with the SDGs.** To achieve the SDGs by 2030 requires companies to move beyond ‘business as usual’ and to set ambitious targets that spur innovation and the exploration of new business models. There is a role for Oxfam in helping companies understand the SDGs, how to effectively map their impacts on the goals throughout their value chains and identify areas of tension between commercial practices and the SDGs. This will provide companies with the fundament upon which to identify business risks and opportunities and explore new business models.
2. **Inform consistent and meaningful reporting on the SDGs.** A consistent approach to how companies report their SDG contributions is needed to encourage others to do the same. It would be useful to repeat this research on an annual basis to track progress on SDGs and evaluate if other companies are beginning to have a strategy for engaging with the SDGs.
3. **Inform industry sector action and initiate collaborative approaches.** Collective industry sector approaches are key in accelerating progress towards the SDGs. There is a role for Oxfam in setting in motion collaborative approaches that define a joint vision for industry peers at regional or sub-regional level. To start, Oxfam may want to focus on industry sectors with a nascent common approach to SDG contributions. In Greater China, these include the financial and telecommunications sectors. A one-day conference on business and the SDGs in Greater China might be a start in doing this. This could be a useful launch for Oxfam’s activities in Taiwan, for example.
4. **Support national governments in connecting with the business sector.** Ultimately governments are the main drivers in achieving the SDGs and business action should be aligned with government priorities. There is a role for Oxfam in connecting the government and business sectors and help businesses identify business opportunities in supporting government action towards the SDGs. Oxfam may also want to work with national

governments to ensure that businesses are aware of national SDG plans and understand how to align their own SDG strategies with these plans.

## Appendix

### Appendix 1: List of surveyed companies

\*\*Companies listed on both Hong Kong and China (Shenzhen or Shanghai) stock exchanges  
 HK: Hong Kong; CN: Mainland China; TW: Taiwan

#	Region	Industry	Company	Commit to the SDGs
1	HK	Technology	AAC Technologies Holdings	
2	HK	Finance	AIA Group	
3	HK	Finance	**Bank of China	
4	HK	Finance	**Bank of Communications	
5	HK	Finance	Bank of E Asia	
6	HK	Consumer Goods	Belle International	
7	HK	Finance	BOC Hong Kong	
8	HK	Transport	Cathay Pacific Airways	x
9	HK	Real Estate	Cheung Kong Property Holdings Ltd.	
10	HK	Finance	**China Construction Bank Corporation (CCB)	
11	HK	Finance	**China Life Insurance Company	
12	HK	Logistics	China Merchants Port	
13	HK	Telecommunications	China Mobile	x
14	HK	Real Estate	China Overseas Land & Investment	
15	HK	Energy & Utilities	China Res Power	
16	HK	Real Estate	China Resources Land	
17	HK	Energy & Utilities	**China Shenhua	
18	HK	Telecommunications	China Unicom	
19	HK	Conglomerates	CITIC	
20	HK	Conglomerates	CK Hutchison Holdings	x
21	HK	Energy & Utilities	CK Infrastructure Holdings Ltd.	
22	HK	Energy & Utilities	CLP Holdings	x
23	HK	Energy & Utilities	CNOOC	
24	HK	Gaming	Galaxy Entertainment Group	
25	HK	Automotive	Geely Automobile Holdings	
26	HK	Real Estate	Hang Lung Properties	
27	HK	Finance	Hang Seng Bank	
28	HK	Real Estate	Henderson Land Development Company	
29	HK	Consumer Goods	Hengan International	
30	HK	Energy & Utilities	Hong Kong and China Gas Company	
31	HK	Finance	Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing	
32	HK	Finance	HSBC Holdings	
33	HK	Finance	**Industrial and Commercial Bank of China	
34	HK	Energy & Utilities	Kunlun Energy	
35	HK	Technology	Lenovo Group	
36	HK	Finance	Link Real Estate Investment Trust	
37	HK	Food & Beverages	Mengniu Dairy	x
38	HK	Transport	MTR Corporation	x
39	HK	Conglomerates	New World Development Company	
40	HK	Energy & Utilities	**PetroChina	
41	HK	Finance	**Ping An Insurance	
42	HK	Energy & Utilities	Power Assets Holdings	
43	HK	Gaming	Sands China	x
44	HK	Real Estate	Sino Land	
45	HK	Energy & Utilities	**Sinopec Corp	x
46	HK	Real Estate	Sun Hung Kai Properties	
47	HK	Conglomerates	Swire Pacific	
48	HK	Technology	Tencent	
49	HK	Food & Beverages	Want Want China	
50	HK	Conglomerates	Wharf Holdings	
51	CN	Finance	**Agricultural Bank of China	
52	CN	Transport	**Air China	
53	CN	Finance	Bank of Beijing	
54	CN	Finance	Bank of Jiangsu	
55	CN	Finance	Bank of Shanghai Co.	
56	CN	Metals	Baoshan Iron & Steel Co.	
57	CN	Technology	Boe Technology Group	

#	Region	Industry	Company	Commit to the SDGs
58	CN	Finance	**China Citic Bank Corporation Limited	
59	CN	Construction & Materials	**China Communications Construction Co.	
60	CN	Finance	**China Everbright Bank Company	
61	CN	Real Estate	China Fortune Land Development Co.	
62	CN	Finance	**China Merchants Bank	x
63	CN	Finance	**China Minsheng Baning Corp	
64	CN	Energy & Utilities	China National Nuclear Power Co.	
65	CN	Finance	China Pacific Insurance (Group) Co	
66	CN	Construction & Materials	**China Railway Construction Corporation	
67	CN	Construction & Materials	**China Railway Group	
68	CN	Construction & Materials	China Shipbuilding Industry Company	
69	CN	Construction & Materials	China State Construction Engineering Corporation	x
70	CN	Real Estate	**China Vanke Co.	
71	CN	Energy & Utilities	China Yangtze Power	x
72	CN	Finance	**Citic Securities Company	
73	CN	Manufacturing	CRRC Corporation Limited	
74	CN	Transport	Daqin Railway Co.	
75	CN	Food & Beverages	Foshan Haitian Flavouring and Food Company	
76	CN	Finance	**GF Securities	
77	CN	Consumer Goods	Gree Electric Appliances	
78	CN	Automotive	Guangzhou Automobile Group	
79	CN	Finance	Guotai Junan Securities Co.	
80	CN	Finance	**Haitong Securities Company	
81	CN	Technology	Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology	
82	CN	Finance	Hua Xia Bank	
83	CN	Finance	Industrial Bank	
84	CN	Metals	Inner Mongolia BaoTou Steel Union Co.	
85	CN	Food & Beverages	Inner Mongolia Yili Industrial Group	
86	CN	Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	Jiangsu Henrui Medicine Co.	
87	CN	Food & Beverages	Jiangsu Yanghe Brewery Joint-Stock Co.	
88	CN	Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	Kangmei Pharmaceutical Co.	
89	CN	Food & Beverages	Kweichow Moutai	
90	CN	Manufacturing	Metallurgical Corporation of China	
91	CN	Consumer Goods	Midea Group	
92	CN	Finance	**New China Life Insurance Company	
93	CN	Finance	Ping An Bank Co.	
94	CN	Real Estate	Poly Real Estate Group	
95	CN	Construction & Materials	Power Construction Corporation of China	x
96	CN	Automotive	SAIC Motor Corporation Limited	
97	CN	Logistics	Shanghai International Port (Group) Co	
98	CN	Finance	Shanghai Pudong Development Bank	
99	CN	Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	Shanghai RAAS Blood Products	
100	CN	Food & Beverages	Wuliangye Yibin Co.	
101	TW	Electronics	Advanced Semiconductor Engineering	x
102	TW	Electronics	Advantech Co.	
103	TW	Construction & Materials	Asia Cement	x
104	TW	Electronics	Asustek Computer Inc.	x
105	TW	Electronics	AU Optronics	x
106	TW	Finance	Catcher Technology Co., Ltd.	
107	TW	Finance	Cathay Financial Holding	x
108	TW	Finance	Chang Hwa Commercial Bank	
109	TW	Electronics	Cheng Shin Rubber Industry	
110	TW	Finance	China Development Financial Holdings	x
111	TW	Finance	China Life Insurance	x
112	TW	Metals	China Steel	x
113	TW	Telecommunications	Chunghwa Telecom	x
114	TW	Electronics	Compal Electronics	
115	TW	Finance	CTBC Financial Holding	x
116	TW	Electronics	Delta Electronics	x
117	TW	Finance	E.Sun Financial Holding	x
118	TW	Manufacturing	Eclat Textile	
119	TW	Finance	EnTie Commercial Bank	
120	TW	Manufacturing	Far Eastern New Century Corporation	x
121	TW	Telecommunications	Far Eastone Telecommunications	x

#	Region	Industry	Company	Commit to the SDGs
122	TW	Finance	First Financial Holding	x
123	TW	Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	Formosa Chemicals & Fibre Corporation	
124	TW	Energy & Utilities	Formosa Petrochemical	x
125	TW	Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	Formosa Plastics Corp	
126	TW	Finance	Fubon Financial Holdings	x
127	TW	Electronics	Hon Hai Precision Industry (Foxconn)	
128	TW	Automotive	Hotai Motor Co.	x
129	TW	Finance	Hua Nan Financial Holdings Co.	
130	TW	Electronics	Innolux	x
131	TW	Electronics	Largan Precision Co.	
132	TW	Electronics	Lite-On Technology	x
133	TW	Electronics	Mediatek	x
134	TW	Finance	Mega Financial Holding	
135	TW	Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	Nan Ya Plastics	
136	TW	Electronics	Nanya Technology	
137	TW	Electronics	Pegatron Corporation	
138	TW	Manufacturing	Pou Chen	
139	TW	Retail	President Chain Store	
140	TW	Electronics	Quanta Computer	
141	TW	Electronics	Siliconware Precision Industries	x
142	TW	Finance	SinoPac Financial Holdings Co.	
143	TW	Finance	Taishin Financial Holdings	x
144	TW	Construction & Materials	Taiwan Cement	
145	TW	Finance	Taiwan Cooperative Financial Holding	
146	TW	Telecommunications	Taiwan Mobile	x
147	TW	Electronics	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing	x
148	TW	Food & Beverages	Uni-President Enterprises	x
149	TW	Electronics	United Microelectronics	x
150	TW	Finance	Yuanta Financial Holding	x

## Appendix 2: SDGs addressed by surveyed companies (as declared by company)<sup>5</sup>

Company	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Advanced Semiconductor Engineering	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x
Asia Cement	x			x	x			x			x		x				
Asustek Computer Inc.			x	x					x		x	x					
AU Optronics	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x	
Cathay Financial Holding	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x				
Cathay Pacific Airways			x	x			x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x
China Development Financial Holdings	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
China Life Insurance	x		x	x	x			x		x		x				x	
China Merchants Bank	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
China Mobile	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
China State Construction Engineering Corporation	x		x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
China Steel			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x
China Yangtze Power	x															x	
Chunghwa Telecom			x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
CK Hutchison Holdings													x				
CLP Holdings				x	x		x	x	x						x		
CTBC Financial Holding	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Delta Electronics	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
E.Sun Financial Holding	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Far Eastern New Century Corp			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Far Eastone Telecommunications	x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x				
First Financial Holding	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Formosa Petrochemical			x			x	x	x				x	x	x	x		
Fubon Financial Holdings	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	
Hotai Motor Co.	x		x	x	x			x				x	x			x	
Innolux	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x		x	x				x
Lite-On Technology							x	x	x			x	x				
Mediatek			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x		
Mengniu Dairy	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
MTR Corporation								x	x		x						
Power Construction Corporation of China	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x		x			x
Sands China						x	x					x					
Siliconware Precision Industries			x	x	x	x		x					x				
Sinopec Corp	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Taishin Financial Holdings	x		x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x			x	
Taiwan Mobile	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing				x		x	x	x	x			x	x				

<sup>5</sup> This list refers to the list of SDGs for which companies present contributions in their sustainability reports. It does not reflect the list of SDGs prioritised by companies.

Company	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Uni-President Enterprises		x	x					x				x		x			
United Microelectronics			x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x			x	
Yuanta Financial Holding	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

### Appendix 3: Approaches to reporting on SDG commitments

Company	2. Link SDGs to report sections	3. Link SDGs with specific actions	4. Incorporate SDGs in sustainability strategy	5. SDG related targets and KPIs	6. Articulate vision for prioritised SDGs
Advanced Semiconductor Engineering	x	x	x		
Asia Cement	x	x			
Asustek Computer Inc.		x	x		
AU Optronics	x	x	x		
Cathay Financial Holding	x				
Cathay Pacific Airways	x		x		
China Development Financial Holdings		x	x		
China Life Insurance	x	x	x		
China Merchants Bank	x	x			
China Mobile	x	x	x	x	
China State Construction Engineering Corp.	x				
China Steel	x				
China Yangtze Power		x			
Chunghwa Telecom	x	x	x		
CK Hutchison Holdings		x			
CLP Holdings		x	x		x
CTBC Financial Holding	x	x	x		
Delta Electronics	x	x	x	x	x
E.Sun Financial Holding	x	x	x		
Far Eastern New Century Corporation	x	x	x		
Far Eastone Telecommunications	x	x	x		
First Financial Holding		x	x		
Formosa Petrochemical	x	x	x		
Fubon Financial Holdings	x		x		
Hotai Motor Co.	x	x	x		
Innolux		x	x		
Lite-On Technology	x				
Mediatek	x	x			
Mengniu Dairy			x		
MTR Corporation	x		x		
Power Construction Corporation of China	x				
Sands China			x		
Siliconware Precision Industries		x	x	x	
Sinopec Corp	x	x	x		
Taishin Financial Holdings	x	x	x		
Taiwan Mobile		x	x		

Company	2. Link SDGs to report sections	3. Link SDGs with specific actions	4. Incorporate SDGs in sustainability strategy	5. SDG related targets and KPIs	6. Articulate vision for prioritised SDGs
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing	x	x	x	x	x
Uni-President Enterprises	x	x			
United Microelectronics		x	x		
Yuanta Financial Holding	x				

#### Appendix 4: Common business contributions to the SDGs

SDG	COMMON PRACTICES
1	Create job opportunities and train local workforce Philanthropic initiatives Microfinance (finance) Invest in development projects (finance)
2	Food donation Responsible production of food (food & beverages) Microfinance and credit schemes for agribusinesses (finance)
3	Set up clinics for local workforce Occupational H&S initiatives Investing in healthcare projects (finance)
4	Employee training Support different forms of education initiatives Provide STEM training (electronics, tech, telecoms, utilities) Financial literacy campaigns (finance)
5	Women's programmes and special workshops for female employees A sound mechanism to prevent and deal with gender discrimination, such as special task forces and reporting systems
6	Better water management systems and sewage treatment systems Environmental impact assessments
7	Better energy management systems Promotion of renewable energy (utilities, energy) Adoption of renewable energy Green finance (finance)
8	Research and development Create job opportunities and train up the local workforce Sustainable/inclusive design in products and services Microfinance (finance)
9	Research and development Digitization of services or supply chain
10	Expansion or improvement of services to vulnerable groups or customers in poorer areas Supporting education for underprivileged groups Microfinance (finance)
11	Sustainable/inclusive design in products and services Provide affordable and reliable energy and transport (energy, utilities, transport) Research and development Digitization
12	Responsible supply chain management practices Consumer awareness campaigns

<b>SDG</b>	<b>COMMON PRACTICES</b>
<b>13</b>	Adopt practices and technologies to reduce GHG emissions Research and development Green finance (finance)
<b>14</b>	Sustainable seafood practices (food & beverages) Environmental impact assessments
<b>15</b>	Environmental impact assessments
<b>16</b>	Good corporate governance Tackle money-laundering, corruption and terrorism (finance)
<b>17</b>	Participate and support development projects Lead cross-sector discussions and partnerships on sustainability issues