



PRESS RELEASE

Roundtable on Sustainable Finance: Challenges and Opportunities for Banks held on March 12, 2021

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) in association with auctus ESG held a virtual roundtable conference on “**Sustainable Finance: Challenges and Opportunities for banks**”. The roundtable was chaired by Shri. Raghuraman Kumar, Head of Banking and CVO, IFSCA. It was attended by experts from Indian Banks’ Association, Chief Finance Officers, Chief Risk Officers and vertical heads of prominent banks, experts from multilateral organisations, investment and consultancy services.

In IFSCA’s journey towards sustainable finance ecosystem in IFSC’s, banking sector will be the keystone and hence this roundtable centred around understanding how well banks are prepared in terms of their understanding of various services and products based on sustainable finance, existing ESG practices followed by the banks and the challenges banks are facing in incorporating sustainable finance in their framework.

Shri Raghuraman Kumar, emphasised that IFSCA will help and ensure that we see a transition towards sustainable banking in the near future and this transition is backed by huge scope of sustainable finance in India and abroad. In this context, MoU between IndiaINX and Luxembourg stock exchange was also highlighted. Experts from prominent banks shared their experiences in issuing green bonds and how they envision the sustainable banking ecosystem.

The major impediments as were identified during the conference related to lack of data on ESG standards adopted by stakeholders, insufficient skills and manpower for ESG risk assessment and quantification of ESG risks, difficulty to track, monitor and evolve ESG data owing to data asymmetry and cultural resistance from various stakeholders.

The roundtable agreed to the fact that sustainable finance should be viewed in terms of value creation and not just an optical agenda. Based on the feedback and insights received from the participants IFSCA’s sustainable finance strategy was also elaborated in the roundtable.

This roundtable concludes the 2nd webinar out of a series of webinars that IFSCA plans to hold to understand the sustainable finance ecosystem, preparedness of various stakeholders in depth and subsequently help IFSC’s transition towards a green and sustainable ecosystem.

Gandhinagar
March 18, 2021