

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 22 OCTOBER 2024

Sustainable Finance Week Ireland Expands Beyond Climate to Include Transition, Nature and Social Finance with Global Thought Leaders

22 October, 2024: The International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence (ISFCOE) is proud to announce the expansion of Sustainable Finance Week Ireland to reflect a broadened focus on the full spectrum of sustainable finance, including areas such as nature finance, social finance, and the regulatory landscape. This year's agenda showcases events with an array of global leaders in the areas of nature and social finance, including a keynote address by California's Insurance Commissioner, Riccardo Lara, along with several panel discussions featuring leading experts within the global field of sustainable finance.

Now in its seventh year, the event will take place from 25th-29th November and is once again sponsored by AIB, a leading advocate for sustainable finance in Ireland. The week-long event, formerly known as Climate Finance Week, is organised by the Irish-based ISFCOE, which was established following Ireland's first national Sustainable Finance Roadmap aimed at accelerating sustainable finance change through knowledge sharing, training and research. The event is further supported by Skillnet Ireland and the Department of Finance.

This year, Sustainable Finance Week Ireland will also host the inaugural Irish-UK Transition Finance Summit. This collaborative event, convening policymakers and businesses from seven jurisdictions, will delve into the risks and opportunities for states transitioning to a low-carbon economy. By fostering dialogue and understanding among key stakeholders, the summit aims to accelerate progress towards a sustainable future.

The expansion of the event line up reflects a significant shift in financial institutions' approach to sustainability. While climate finance remains a crucial element, the broader sustainable finance agenda now also addresses the urgent need to finance biodiversity conservation, promote social equity, and support economic structures that are resilient to future challenges.

Minister of State with responsibility for Financial Services, Credit Unions and Insurance, Neale Richmond said "Sustainable finance is crucial in safeguarding our environment, but also in ensuring that we have a resilient economy for our future generations. Sustainable Finance Week Ireland is an opportunity to bring together our financial strategies with our environmental goals. By bringing together industry leaders, policymakers and innovators, we can chart a sustainable path forward and I am confident that the work, the discussions and the decisions made during Sustainable Finance Week will help us build a more sustainable future for generations to come."

AIB Chief Executive Colin Hunt said "AIB's purpose is empowering people to build a sustainable future. We are delighted once again to sponsor Sustainable Finance Week Ireland, which has become a force for educating, inspiring and driving progress. As we collectively grapple with the challenges of the climate crisis, we should not lose sight of the opportunity for the finance sector to play a critical role in supporting customers in managing and mitigating climate change risks. We look forward to the discussions and solutions Sustainable Finance Week Ireland will bring, enabling the finance sector to do even more to protect our people, our planet and our prosperity for generations to come."

"The expansion of the event reflects the growing recognition that sustainability in finance must go beyond climate change," said Gillian Power, Interim CEO at the International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence. "Sustainable finance encompasses a wide array of crucial areas, from preserving natural ecosystems to ensuring social inclusion and economic stability. 'Sustainable Finance Week Ireland' better captures the comprehensive nature of the discussions and initiatives that will take place during the week."

Registration for all Sustainable Finance Week Ireland events can be found at sustainablefinanceweek.org, which will serve as a comprehensive resource for all information on Sustainable Finance Week Ireland events, speaker lineups, and opportunities for participation.

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For more information, please contact:

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About the International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence:

The International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence is an output of Ireland's first national Sustainable Finance Roadmap. Through knowledge sharing, training, and research activities, the Centre seeks to accelerate the mobilisation of capital and financing in support of Ireland's net zero, nature positive and just economic transition.

About AIB:

AIB is a financial services group operating predominantly in Ireland and the United Kingdom. Our shares are quoted on the Irish and London stock exchanges and we are a member of the FTSE4Good Index. AIB's purpose is empowering people to build a sustainable future including through our €30bn Climate Action Fund which actively supports our customers in the transition to a lower carbon future.

About [Skillnet Ireland](#)

Skillnet Ireland is the national talent development agency of the Government of Ireland, responsible for advancing the competitiveness, productivity, and innovation of Irish businesses through enterprise-led talent development. Skillnet Ireland partners with 57 industry bodies, supporting over 26,600 businesses and more than 97,700 trainees annually, through its 70 Skillnet Business Networks and three National Initiatives - Skillnet Climate Ready Academy, Skillnet Innovation Exchange, Skillnet MMC Accelerate and MentorsWork - across most sectors and all regions in Ireland. Skillnet Ireland is funded from the National Training Fund through the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

To learn more about Skillnet Ireland visit www.skillnetireland.ie

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