Sustainable Finance Highlighted At FELABAN Annual Assembly

The Federation of Latin American Banks, FELABAN, highlighted green finance as a priority at its annual assembly held in Miami, Florida on November 11-14, attended by 2000 banking executives and corporations. 10 countries in Latin America are members of the Sustainable Banking Network and FELABAN has been a member partner of the Sustainable Banking Network (SBN) since 2016. At this year’s Annual Assembly, Rong Zhang, SBN Global Coordinator, was a panelist on November 12th at a debate entitled: “What is the role of the banking industry within the global climate change agenda: challenges and opportunities.” The session was moderated by Irene Arias, IFC Director for Latin America and the Caribbean. Ms. Zhang described sector-wide global trends and practices, the membership of SBN and the objectives of SBN. She also provided a short preview of the global progress report the SBN has produced, providing some trends that have been seen in Latin America. She confirmed that sustainable finance is growing fast in the region; five out of 10 members, or 50 percent, have already launched policies, with some members leading sustainable finance initiatives on the global stage.

FELABAN also launched its initiative measuring the sustainable finance progress of more than 100 banks across Latin America. FELABAN Director Giorgio Trettenero highlighted the partnership with SBN during the presentation of the Green Finance Latin America 2017 Report and Awards, mentioning the relevance of the Network in the region. All three winners of the green banking association category are SBN
members: the Colombia Banking Association (Asobancaria), the Brazilian Federation of Banks (FEBRABAN), and the Mexican Bankers’s Association. They were recognized for their efforts in promoting sustainable finance in their countries, through activities, tools, and knowledge sharing events.