Project LINK meeting
Assessing economic health beyond GDP

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New York | June 18, 2019
Income levels have grown over the last decades...

...reducing incidence of poverty

Poverty headcount ratio at $1.90 a day (2011 PPP)

...lifting over a billion people out of extreme poverty

Population living under $1.90 a day (2011 PPP)

“Even if we act to erase material poverty, there is another greater task, it is to confront the poverty of satisfaction - purpose and dignity - that afflicts us all.

Too much and for too long, we seemed to have surrendered personal excellence and community values in the mere accumulation of material things. …..

Yet, the gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials.

It measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country, it measures everything in short, except that which makes life worthwhile. And it can tell us everything about America except why we are proud that we are Americans.

If this is true here at home, so it is true elsewhere in world.”

Robert F. Kennedy – March 18, 1968
in a speech delivered in Kansas
However, such economic gains have not been equally shared...

Share of income (pre-tax national income) by income groups in the world

Source: WID (accessed 29 May 2019)
...and have come at a heavy cost to the environment...

Annual CO₂ emissions in billion tonnes (GT)

Source: Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Centre (CDIAC).
...putting enormous burden on our planet

Global land-ocean temperature index

Source: climate.nasa.gov
New Mindset
Journey of economic statistics & environmental-economic accounts

- **1925**: Beginning of CPI standards
- **1945**: First “Labour Force Survey” recorded
- **1947**: Beginning of the SNA
- **1948**: First BoP manual published
- **1953**: First SNA published
- **1960**: First SNA revision based on national experience
- **1964**: Second SNA revision (consistent with BoP manual)
- **1968**: Third SNA revision (more comprehensive in scope)
- **1993**: First SEEA “Handbook of National Accounting: Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting”
- **2003**: SEEA revised based on national experience
- **2012**: SEEA CF becomes the second international statistical standard (after SNA)
- **2013**: FDES expanded, linked to SEEA and included extreme events and human health
- **2017**: UN-ECE (CES) publishes “a set of key climate change-related statistics using the SEEA” as one of SEEA applications
- **2018**: UNWTO publishes a technical note linking the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) to SEEA
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- **1984**: First FDES "A Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics"
- **1993**: First SEEA "Handbook of National Accounting: Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting"
- **1993**: First SEEA Handbook of National Accounting: Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
- **2003**: SEEA revised based on national experience
- **2008**: SNA 2008 links to SEEA for understanding importance of nature to the economy
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- **2013**: FDES expanded, linked to SEEA and included extreme events and human health
- **2014**: SEEA EEA published; based on the premise that nature is more than a source of commodities, it’s also a source of important regulation and cultural services
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- **2019**: We are HERE
For a future that we want: Investment in Sustainable Development Goals
Can we do better?

Inclusive and sustainable development scenario
Survey 2019 estimates an investment gap of $1.5 trillion per year or 5% of GDP for developing Asia-Pacific...
Put PEOPLE and PLANET First!