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Asia and the Pacific's Perspectives on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

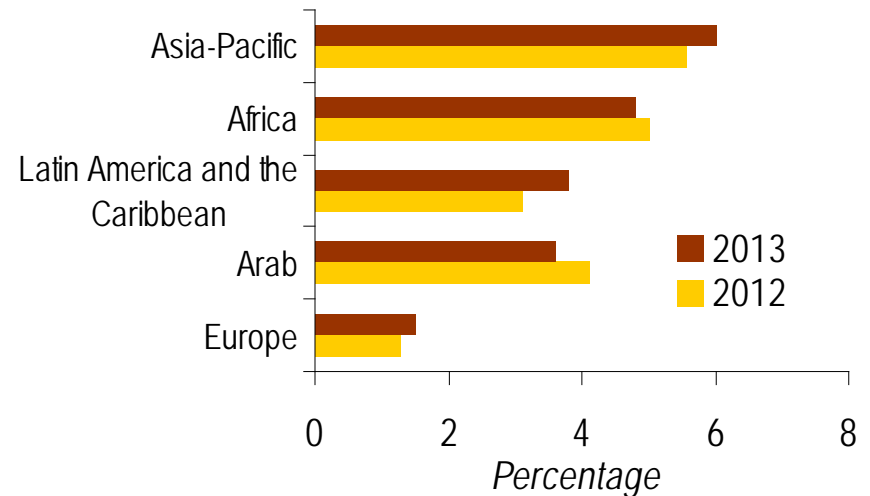
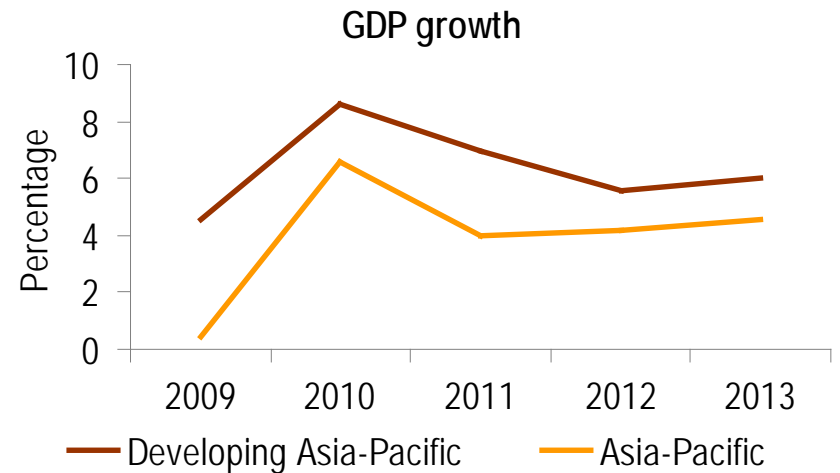
Dr. Noeleen Heyzer
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United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Bangkok

Presentation at
ECOSOC Dialogue with Regional Commissions on the
Post-2015 Development Agenda
Geneva, 5 July 2013



Economic Outlook of Asia and the Pacific 2013

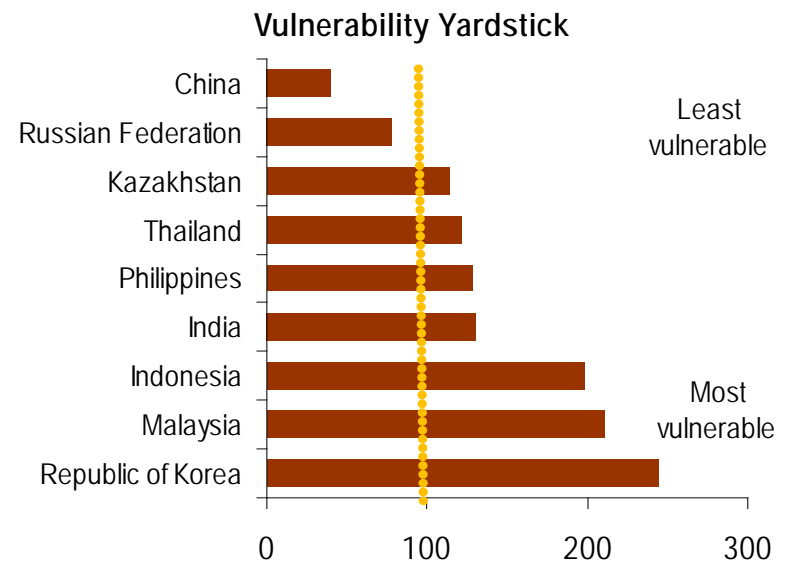
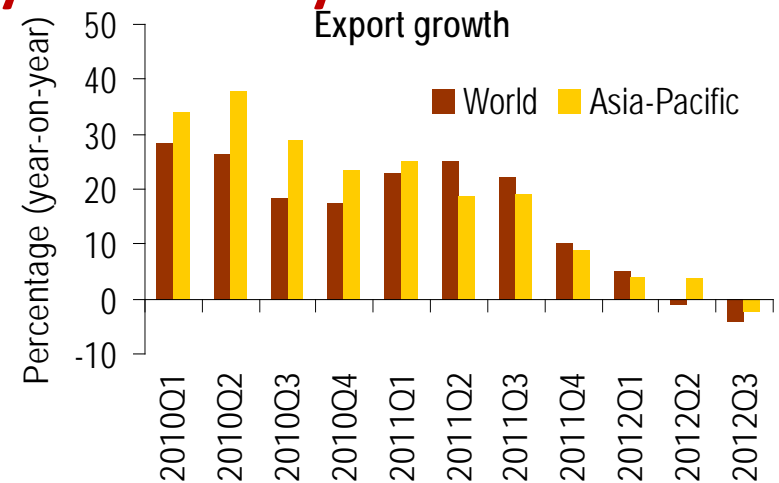
- Subdued growth outlook
 - Growth forecast for developing Asia and the Pacific for 2013 to increase only slightly to **6%** from **5.6%** in 2012
 - China to grow at 8%, up from 7.8% in 2012
 - India to grow at about 5.8%, up from 5% in 2012
 - Russian Federation to grow at 3.6%, up from 3.4% in 2012
- Inflation likely to remain at **5.1%** in 2013
 - Risk of oil and food price increase
- Subdued growth could be “new normal”
- Yet Asia-Pacific region remains the fastest growing region in the world and anchors recovery





Vulnerability to Continued Global Economic Uncertainty & Volatility

- Fiscal crisis in the euro zone + policy uncertainty in US
 - Slow down of economic activity through the trade and finance channel
 - Estimated regional GDP loss of 3% since the onset of the global crisis five years ago - **\$870 billion**
- Significant poverty impacts of economic slowdown
- Monetary policy changes in the developed world leading to high volatility in the Asia and the Pacific region
 - Short-term capital flows volatility
 - Rapid short-term currency appreciation
- Food and fuel price volatility
 - Poverty and inflation
- **Global financial crisis has adversely impacted region's progress towards achievement of MDGs**



MDG Achievement in Asia & the Pacific

- Major progress made by the A-P region in achieving MDGs:

Early achiever for

- ✓ Poverty target
- ✓ Access to safe drinking water
- ✓ Gender parity
- ✓ Reducing HIV and TB prevalence
- ✓ Forest cover, protected areas, CO2 emissions

- Wide variations across sub-regions; Pacific islands lagging behind

- Variations across goals

- ❖ Most countries and sub-regions are making slow progress in child and maternal mortality

- Asia and the Pacific still accounts for the bulk of world's deprived people

- Over 60% (763 million) living in poverty
- Nearly 70% of underweight children <5
- Over 70% (1.74 billion people) of those without sanitation

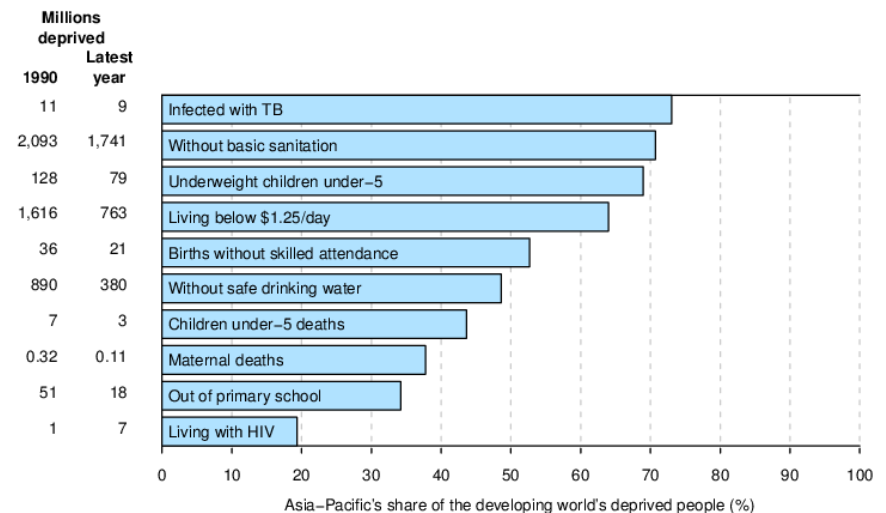
- The MDGs are an unfinished agenda in Asia and the Pacific

MDG Achievement in Asia by subregions 2012

Goal	1	2	3	4	5	6	7														
	\$1.25 per day poverty	Underweight children	Primary enrolment	Reaching last grade	Primary completion	Gender primary	Gender secondary	Gender tertiary	Under-5 mortality	Infant mortality	Maternal mortality	Skilled birth attendance	Antenatal care (≥ 1 visit)	HIV prevalence	TB incidence	TB prevalence	Forest cover	Protected area	CO2 emissions per GDP	Safe drinking water	Basic sanitation
Asia-Pacific	●	▶	▶	●	●	●	●	●	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	■
Excluding China and India	●	▶	■	●	●	●	●	●	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	●	▶	●	●	■
South-East Asia	●	▶	●	●	●	●	●	●	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	●	▶	●	●	■
South Asia	▶	■	■	●	▶	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	■
Excluding India	●	▶	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	●	▶	●	●	■
Pacific Islands			■	■	▶	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	▶	▶	●	●	▶	▶
Excluding Papua New Guinea		●	■	▶	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	▶	●	▶	■	■
North and Central Asia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	■	■	■	▶	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	■
Excluding Russia	●	●	▶	●	●	●	●	●	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	■
Asia-Pacific LDCs	▶	▶	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	▶	●	▶	■	■
Asia-Pacific Low Income	▶	▶	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	▶	●	▶	■	■
Asia-Pacific Middle Income	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	■	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	■

● Early achiever ▶ On track ■ Slow ▶ Regressing/No progress

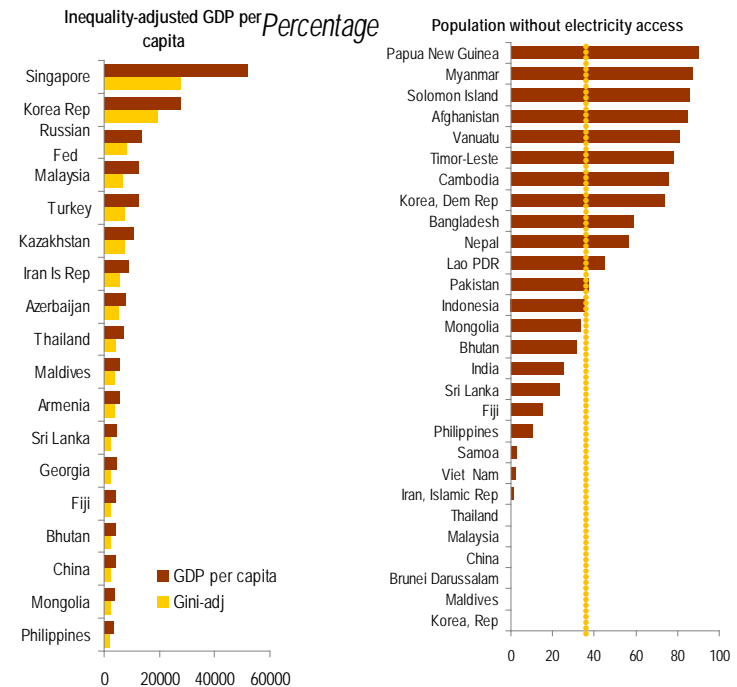
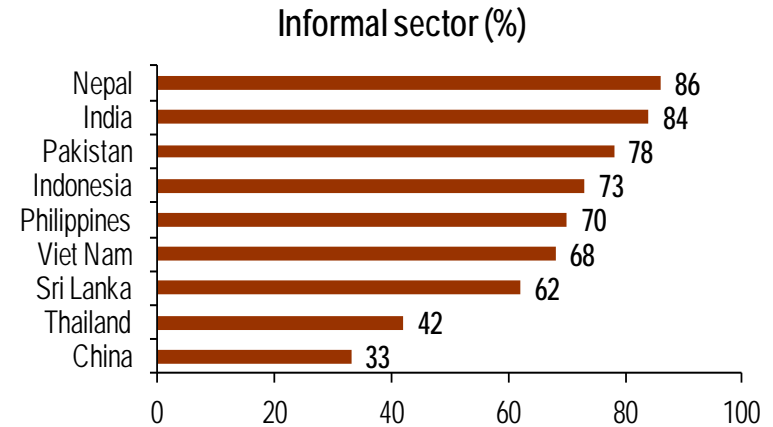
Asia and the Pacific share of the developing world's deprived people





Other Challenges

- **Slower job growth, increased economic insecurity & vulnerabilities**
 - High incidence of informal sector jobs
 - Nearly **1.1 billion** of the region's workforce remain trapped in low quality jobs, more pervasive among women & youth, with little or no social security
- **Growing inequality**
 - Income inequality (Gini index) increased from 33.5 in the 1990s to **37.5** in the latest available year
 - Inequality-adjusted 'real' GDP per capita is lower
 - Inequality reduces social gains by over **20%**
- **Infrastructure deficits**
 - Impediment to growth, especially in the LDCs
 - Electricity and transport infrastructure are the most critical bottlenecks

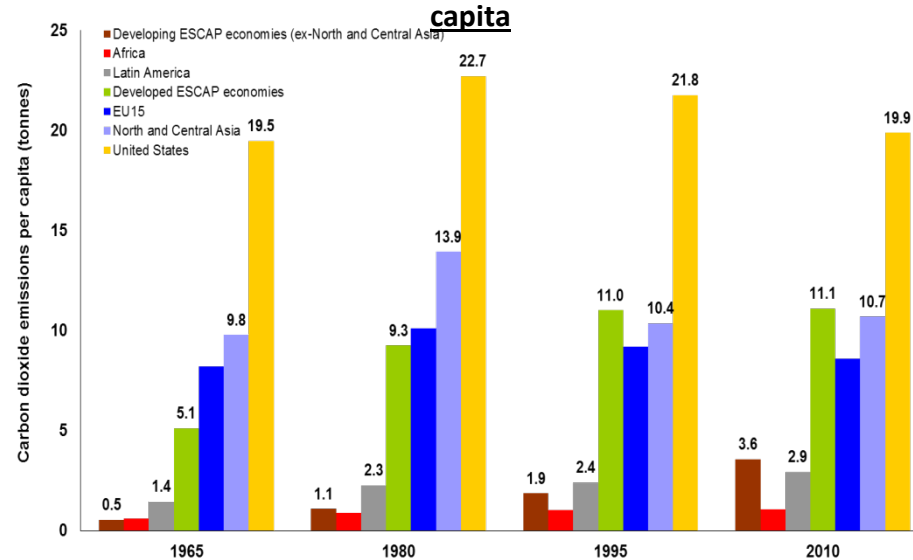




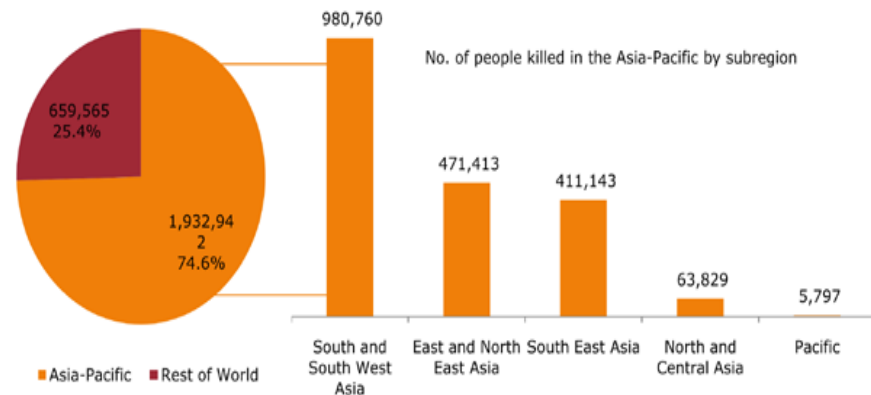
Rising Sustainability Risks & Threats from Natural Disasters

- Overall rise in CO₂ emissions & material intensity, even though per capita levels are lower compared to developed economies
- Asia and the Pacific most vulnerable to natural disasters & accounts for overwhelming bulk of global fatalities from them

Carbon dioxide emissions per capita



Global and Asia-Pacific disaster fatalities, 1970-2011





ESCAP Initiatives on MDGs & the post-2015 Development Agenda

- Annual Regional MDG Reports
- Policy advocacy at the sub-regional levels
- Sub-regional Consultations on the post-2015 development agenda
- Consultations with LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and fragile states
- Ministerial Panel on Sustainable Development & the Development Agenda beyond 2015 at the 69th ESCAP Commission Session, moderated by the UN Deputy Secretary General
- *People – Planet – Prosperity: Sustainable development and the development agenda for Asia and the Pacific beyond 2015* (document for 69th session of the Commission, E/ESCAP/69/21)



Post-2015 Development Agenda: Perspectives from the Region

The Post 2015 Development Agenda should:

➤ **drive transformative change**

➤ **move away from 'one size fits all'**

People- and Planet-centered development needs to pursue economic prosperity, social equity and environmental sustainability in an integrated manner



Sub-regional perspectives

	Central and Northeast Asia	Pacific	Southeast Asia	South Asia	LDCs
Priorities	Eradicate income poverty, Quality education, Universal social security, Universal access to safe water and sanitation, Decent jobs, environmental protection, Accountable and responsive government				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural resources Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Health • Living standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Health • Living standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Education • Basic Health • Living standards



Key Issues for Post-2015 Development Agenda

- **Elimination of poverty, hunger and malnutrition**
- **Full and productive employment for all**
- **Comprehensive gender equality**
- **Health care & education for all**
- **Drinking water, sanitation and electricity for all**
- **Sustainable use of natural resources**
- **Strong and well defined global partnership**



Implementation Principles

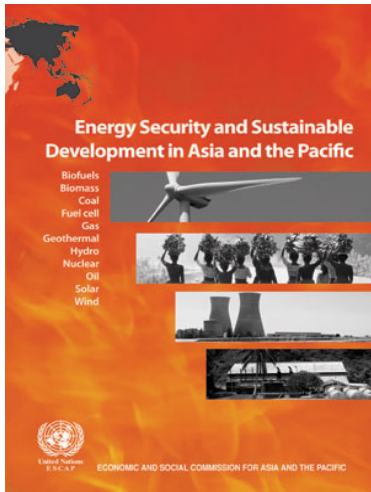
- **National action** is primary; but recognize common, but differentiated responsibility
- **Recognize external factors** that influence national progress – including national policies in more developed countries
- **Regional cooperation** to leverage national interest for public good
- Engagement with **global institutions** and other regions essential in an increasingly interlinked world
- Identify sources of **finance**



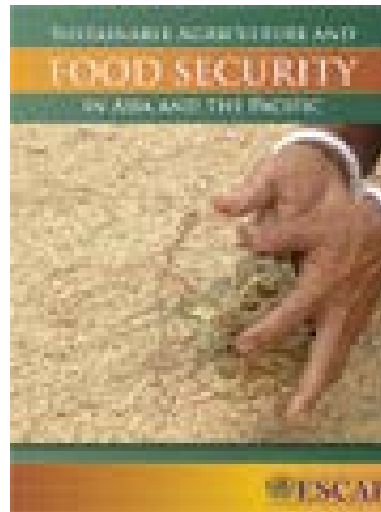
Asia-Pacific Evolving Own Good Practices to Close Development Gaps

Potential for learning from one another:

- Thailand's universal health package & 'sufficiency economy'
- India's national rural jobs scheme & incorporation of ecological accounting in national accounts and plans
- Bangladesh conditional cash transfers for improving child & maternal mortality and inclusive finance
- China's economic rebalancing for inclusive growth
- Bhutan's gross national happiness measures as a basis for planning



2008 : Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific



2009: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in Asia and the Pacific



2010: Financing an Inclusive and Green Future



2011: The Promise of Protection



2012: Growing Together: Economic for an Inclusive And Sustainable Asia and the Pacific Century



2013: Building Resilience to Natural Disasters and Major Economic Crises



Thank you