



Future-forward Development Planning in Asia and the Pacific: a UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue

Side event at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)

Bangkok, Thailand, 20 February 2024

1:00-2:15 p.m. ICT (Bangkok) / 1:00-2:15 a.m. EST (New York)

ESCAP Theatre

Join UN DESA and UN ESCAP for a hybrid stock-take and discussion of the current economic outlook for Asia and the Pacific, using new data from the *World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)* report launched in January 2024. In-person experts from both organizations and other stakeholders from the region will consider the challenges that the current outlook presents to the delivery of the SDGs, in particular related to SDG 1, No Poverty, and offer suggestions for sound policies to ensure the well-being of people in Asia and the Pacific. A focus will be on highlighting solutions that will help developing countries in the region limit their risk to emerging vulnerabilities, including ways to address shortages in SDG funding and strengthen capacities to improve sustainable development now that will pay off in later years.

The information provided in the WESP report serves as a valuable guide to countries in their sustainable development planning. As growth decelerations and uncertainty can cause suffering on multiple levels, UN DESA and ESCAP will use this session to help countries prioritize economic and social policies that reduce inequalities and protect the planet. This event will provide countries with data and ideas to better prepare for the future.

This event is made possible by the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund.

Format

The event will run for 75 minutes and will be hybrid in format, with an in-person moderator and in-person speakers, with a mixed in-person and online audience (live on Zoom and DESA's YouTube channel).

The discussions will be interactive and led by the moderator. Time will be reserved during the event for audience questions and polls. The audience will also be invited to submit questions in advance when completing the Zoom registration.

This event will be part of the long-running UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue Series, which has been offering monthly online discussions on the SDGs since launching in 2020 and has a passionate, built-in virtual audience. UN DESA is prepared to hire a video producer to make this event look professional for the online audience.

Platform

The audience can watch via Zoom or via ESCAP platform (tbc). They can also access the Slido platform (via QR code or provided link) to enhance engagement by audience members who wish to participate in the polls, submit their own questions or upvote questions posed by others.

Language

The event will be held in English with multilingual captioning available on Zoom.

Host/moderator

Bee Xoomsai, a professional moderator based in Bangkok, hired by UN DESA, will guide the discussions.

Draft programme

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Moderator welcome remarks/logistical information
- Moderator to launch interactive poll 1

Opening video (2 minutes)

- [World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024](#) (UN DESA video, 2:20)

Discussion 1: Understanding the latest economic forecasts for Asia and the Pacific (35 minutes)

Speakers:

- **Mr. Shantanu Mukherjee**, Director, Economic Analysis and Policy Division, UN DESA
 - **Mr. Hamza Ali Malik**, Director, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, UN ESCAP
 - **Ms. Thanyaporn Chankrajang**, Associate Professor of Economics, Chulalongkorn University
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- Moderator to launch interactive poll 2
 - Moderator to ask guiding questions
 - What is the economic outlook for Asia and the Pacific? Are there any notable results for particular countries?
 - What are the specific challenges and opportunities for Asia and the Pacific?
 - How will all of these projections, challenges, opportunities, affect SDG implementation in the region?
 - Moderator to ask 2-3 questions from the audience

Video: (2 minutes)

- “Asia-Pacific SDG Progress Report,” UN ESCAP video (2:20)

Discussion 2: Smart sustainable development planning to leave no one behind (25 minutes)

Speakers:

- **Ms. Alison Culpin**, Senior Social Statistician, The Pacific Community (SPC)
 - **Ms. Villaney Remengesau**, Member, Belau Association of NGO (BANGO)
 - **Mr. Dayyan Shayyani**, Statistician, UN ESCAP
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- Moderator to launch interactive poll 3
 - Moderator to ask 2-3 guiding questions:
 - What are some solutions to ensure good SDG outcomes despite less-than-stellar economic projections? How does data fit into these solutions?
 - How can these solutions lift everyone, including those part of vulnerable groups, out of poverty?
 - How can these solutions address the climate challenge?
 - Moderator to take 2-3 questions from the audience

Wrap-up and closing (2 minutes)

- Moderator final remarks
- Exit survey will launch upon end of Zoom