



# Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific



**The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific** is the regional development arm of the United Nations and serves as the main economic and social development centre for the United Nations in the region. Its mandate is to foster cooperation between its 53 members and 9 associate members. ESCAP provides the strategic link between the global and country-level programmes and issues. It supports governments in consolidating regional positions and advocates regional approaches to meeting the unique socioeconomic challenges in a globalizing world. The ESCAP office is located in Bangkok.

**The Asian Development Bank's** vision is an Asia and Pacific region free of poverty. Its mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. Despite the region's many successes, it remains home to a large share of the world's poor. ADB is committed to reducing poverty through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth and regional integration. Based in Manila, ADB is owned by 67 members, including 48 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants and technical assistance.

**The United Nations Development Programme** works in about 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. We help countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results.



# **Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific**

## **Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific**

© 2018 United Nations, Asian Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme

Published in March 2018.

Printed in Thailand.

This is a co-publication of the United Nations (ESCAP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This work is available open access by complying with the Creative Commons (CC) licence created for intergovernmental organizations, available at: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/igo/>. The CC licence does not apply to non-United Nations (ESCAP and UNDP) or non-ADB copyright materials in this publication. Publishers who want to produce their own version of this publication must delete the original emblems from their edition and create a new cover design. Translations must bear the following disclaimer: "The present work is an unofficial translation for which the publisher accepts full responsibility."

Photocopies and reproductions of excerpts are allowed with proper credits. For queries related to the open access licence or queries and/or requests not covered by the open access licence, please contact the United Nations at [permissions@un.org](mailto:permissions@un.org)

ISBN 978-92-9261-114-9 (print), 978-92-9261-115-6 (electronic)

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/TCS189274-2>

### **Cataloguing-In-Publication Data**

United Nations, Asian Development Bank, and United Nations Development Programme.

Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific: Theme report for the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, 2018

Bangkok, Thailand: United Nations, 2018

1. Resilience 2. Asia-Pacific 3. Sustainable Development Goals 4. United Nations, Asian Development Bank, and United Nations Development Programme

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of ADB or its Board of Governors or the Secretariat of the United Nations (ESCAP and UNDP) or the governments they represent. The United Nations (ESCAP and UNDP) and ADB do not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this publication and accept no responsibility for any consequence of their use. Any reference to a commercial entity or product in this publication does not imply endorsement.

The designation of or reference to a particular territory or geographic area or the use of the term "country" in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations, ADB or its Board of Governors, or the governments they represent, concerning the legal or other status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. This publication follows the United Nations practice in references to countries. Where there are space constraints, some country names have been abbreviated. ADB recognizes "China" as the People's Republic of China; "Hong Kong" as Hong Kong, China; "Korea" as the Republic of Korea; and "Kyrgyzstan" as the Kyrgyz Republic.

All queries other than requests for translations and other uses not covered by the CC BY 3.0 IGO licence can be addressed to any of the co-publishing organizations as follows:

#### **Director**

Environment and Development Division  
United Nations Economic and Social  
Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
5th Floor United Nations Building  
Rajadamnern Nok Avenue  
Bangkok 10200  
Thailand  
[escap-esdd-evs@un.org](mailto:escap-esdd-evs@un.org)

#### **Director**

Result Management and Aid  
Effectiveness Division Strategy  
Policy and Review Department  
Asian Development Bank  
6 ADB Avenue Mandaluyong City  
Metro Manila 1550  
Philippines  
[sdgs@adb.org](mailto:sdgs@adb.org)

#### **Practice Team Leader**

Inclusive Growth and Sustainable  
Development  
Bangkok Regional Hub  
United Nations Development  
Programme  
3rd Floor United Nations Building  
Rajadamnern Nok Avenue  
Bangkok 10200 Thailand  
[AsiaPacific2030Agenda@undp.org](mailto:AsiaPacific2030Agenda@undp.org)

#### **Also available online at:**

[www.sdgasiapacific.net](http://www.sdgasiapacific.net)

[www.unescap.org/publications](http://www.unescap.org/publications)

[www.adb.org](http://www.adb.org)

[www.asia-pacific.undp.org](http://www.asia-pacific.undp.org)

# Foreword

The year that preceded the publication of this report was marked by dramatic political, social, environmental and economic changes in many countries around the world. The theme of the 2018 High-level Political Forum, 'Transformation Towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies', is therefore deeply resonant for policymakers, citizens and businesses in a changing Asia-Pacific region.

The countries of the Asia-Pacific region are, in a sense, well versed in transformation. They have dealt with financial crises in the last century, and seized opportunities to strengthen the foundations for economic resilience and dynamism. As our 2017 report pointed out, countries have made impressive gains in reducing income poverty, and the region has transformed from one of the poorest in the world to one that is now an engine of the global economy. That progress is not universal, however, nor is it guaranteed to continue. Further transformations that will allow us to realize the 2030 Agenda are urgently needed.

We live in a world of increasingly unpredictable and complex risks. Trends such as demographic change, rural-urban transitions, technology change and climate change are reshaping our region. We need to be much better prepared to deal with the interlinked impacts of long-term trends, and deal with the inevitable changes the future will bring. It is increasingly urgent to understand how best we can realize the transformations that will ensure that we achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A stronger focus on resilience can support these efforts; for example, it will be essential to incorporate a stronger focus on risk and resilience into the region's strategies for financing development. Innovation will also be vital, enabling us to turn new challenges and risks into opportunities for transformation in line with the SDGs. Together, we must help people, institutions and the region 'bounce back' from new shocks and stresses by pursuing new and more sustainable development paths.

This report takes stock of the changing nature of risk in Asia and the Pacific, and the stresses, shocks and opportunities that are affecting a diverse region's prospects for achieving the SDGs. It quantifies the effects of selected natural hazards, commodity shocks and pollution shocks on the region's fundamental human systems. It highlights practical efforts being made by citizens, civil society, government and the private sector to build resilience capacities. It urges attention on the need to strengthen our ability to transform our societies if we are to achieve the SDGs.

We are pleased to issue this joint report as a contribution to the ongoing regional and global dialogue on pathways to achieving sustainable development.



**Shamshad Akhtar**  
Under-Secretary-General  
of the United Nations and  
Executive Secretary, ESCAP



**Bambang Susantono**  
Vice-President, Knowledge  
Management and Sustainable  
Development, ADB



**Haoliang Xu**  
United Nations Assistant  
Secretary-General  
UNDP Assistant Administrator and  
Director for the Regional Bureau for  
Asia and the Pacific



# Acknowledgements

*Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific* was prepared under the Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership of ESCAP, ADB and UNDP, under the guidance of a steering committee comprising Shamshad Akhtar (Executive Secretary, ESCAP and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations), Bambang Susantono (Vice-President, Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, ADB) and Haoliang Xu (United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific).

A technical team from the three organizations (Stefanos Fotiou, Arun Jacob, Hitomi Rankine, Katinka Weinberger and Kaveh Zahedi of ESCAP; Vivian Francisco, Smita Nakhooda and Bernard Woods of ADB; and Jaco Cilliers, Joseph D'Cruz, Seung Hee Kim, Hannie Meesters, Michaela Prokop and Bishwa Nath Tiwari of UNDP) guided the development of the text.

The core team of authors comprised Arun Jacob, Smita Nakhooda, Bishwa Nath Tiwari and Hitomi Rankine. Contributing authors included Milou Beerepoot, Marie Lisa Dacanay, Moortaza Jiwanji, Ali Kharrazi, Seung Hee Kim, Alice Lee, Deborah O'Connell, Heinz Schandl, Anshuman Varma and Li Yutong.

The report was enriched by the technical advice provided by external experts: Aditya Bahadur, Ali Kharrazi, Heinz Schandl, Deborah O'Connell and Lawrence Surendra. Staff members from ESCAP, ADB and UNDP also reviewed parts of the report and provided relevant technical inputs: Therese Bjork, Marta Perez Cuso, Yann Duval, Yukiko Ito, Srilata Kammila, Rohini Kohli, Pradeep Kurukulasuriya, Manoa Malani, Rebecca McNaught, Hannie Meesters, Koh Miyaoi, Mia Mikic, Channe Lindstrom Oguzhan, Caroline Petersen, Michaela Prokop, Vanessa Steinmayer, Arghya Sinha Roy and James P. Villafuerte.

Participants in a series of subregional consultations in East and North-East Asia (Beijing), North and Central Asia (Almaty), Pacific (Samoa), South and South-West Asia (Kathmandu) and South-East Asia (Bangkok), held during September and November 2017, also provided important perspectives for the report.

Alice Chen, Sylvain Delavergne, Samuel Hayden and Skyler Wiet provided research and data support. Tim Woods (Green Ink) edited the manuscripts; Cleone Baradas supported infographic and chart design; Paul Philpot (Green Ink) created the cover design and layout. Administrative and secretarial support was provided by Wipavee Kasemsawasdi, Aqira Bhatchayutmaytri and Chanerin Maneechansook.

Photo credits (cover and chapter separators): Chapter 1: Santiphotoss/Shutterstock.com; Chapter 2: Luis Ascuí/ADB; Chapter 3: Mcky Stocker/Shutterstock.com; Chapter 4: Shutter.O/Shutterstock.com. Support for communications, printing and publishing was provided by members of the communications teams at ESCAP (Ricardo Dunn, Katie Elles and Kavita Sukanandan), ADB (Harumi Kodama, Graham J. Dwyer, Erik Churchill, Reah Sy) and UNDP (Ang Chen, Mahtab Haider and Cedric Monteiro); the Publications Board of the United Nations, Office of the Executive Secretary, ESCAP; the ADB Office of Administrative Services; and the publishing team of ADB's Department of Communications.

# Contents

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>Abbreviations</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Explanatory notes</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>Executive summary</b>	<b>xii</b>
<b>Overview</b>	<b>xv</b>
<b>1. Sustainable and resilient societies</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Risk and resilience in the Asia-Pacific region	2
1.2 Understanding resilience	3
1.3 Building the resilience of human systems: An approach to support policy development	4
1.4 Conclusions	5
<b>2. Understanding risk: What are the sources of emerging risk in the Asia-Pacific region, and what are their impacts?</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1 Introduction	10
2.2 What are the sources of risk affecting human systems?	10
2.3 Which groups are most at risk of being left behind?	10
2.4 Assessing risk impacts: The vulnerabilities of human systems in the Asia-Pacific region	11
2.5 Conclusions	24
<b>Special feature: Taking stock: Resilience targets and indicators in the SDGs</b>	<b>25</b>
Resilience and disaster risk reduction: SDGs 1, 11 and 13	26
Sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices: SDG 2	27
Resilient infrastructure: SDG 9	27
Resilient marine ecosystems: SDG 14	29
<b>3. Building resilient societies: Getting ready for transformation</b>	<b>31</b>
3.1 How risk occurs	32
3.2 Government policies and programmes for building resilience	32
3.3 Building anticipatory capacity	33
3.4 Building adaptive capacity	35
3.5 Building absorptive capacity	39
3.6 Building transformative capacity	42
3.7 Conclusions and policy implications	46
<b>4. Enabling transformations towards sustainable and resilient societies</b>	<b>49</b>
4.1 Introduction	50
4.2 Barriers to transformation	50
4.3 Strategies for transformation	51
4.4 In conclusion	53
<b>References</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Endnotes</b>	<b>62</b>

## Boxes

<b>Box 1.1</b>	Bouncing back better: Resilience and transformation .....	5
<b>Box 1.2</b>	Applying a resilience-thinking approach to food systems .....	6
<b>Box 2.1</b>	Resilience and public policy in an ageing society .....	14
<b>Box 2.2</b>	A devastating monsoon: The effects of flooding in Mumbai .....	16
<b>Box 2.3</b>	The effects of declining oil prices in Azerbaijan .....	19
<b>Box 2.4</b>	Monitoring commodities: Investing in anticipatory capacities .....	20
<b>Box 2.5</b>	Air pollution shuts down New Delhi .....	21
<b>Box 1</b>	Disaster risk reduction as a crucial element of resilience .....	27
<b>Box 2</b>	Social protection systems and resilience .....	28
<b>Box 3.1</b>	Fighting dengue fever through an information campaign in the Philippines .....	34
<b>Box 3.2</b>	How the Republic of Korea's economy became more resilient after the 1997 and 2008 financial crises .....	36
<b>Box 3.3</b>	Providing support to enhance climate-resilient agriculture .....	37
<b>Box 3.4</b>	Using remittances to build household-level adaptive capacity in the Eastern Brahmaputra sub-basin .....	37
<b>Box 3.5</b>	ClimaEast: Building resilience using an ecosystem-based approach .....	38
<b>Box 3.6</b>	Creating resilient communities in Fiji under the Pacific Resilience Programme .....	40
<b>Box 3.7</b>	Enhancing resilience to natural hazards in Bangladesh .....	41
<b>Box 3.8</b>	Income and health security in Thailand .....	42
<b>Box 3.9</b>	Shifting forest management from the government to communities .....	43
<b>Box 3.10</b>	Responding to the MERS outbreak in the Republic of Korea .....	44
<b>Box 3.11</b>	Transformation towards renewable energy in the Philippines .....	46
<b>Box 4.1</b>	Social enterprises with poor people as the primary stakeholders .....	52

## Figures

<b>Figure 1.1</b>	The continuum of resilience capacities .....	4
<b>Figure 1.2</b>	Sustainable development pathways and resilience .....	5
<b>Figure 1.3</b>	Food system vulnerability and economic development .....	6
<b>Figure 2.1</b>	Risk interconnection map .....	12
<b>Figure 2.2</b>	Annual damage from floods in South Asia, 1970–2016 .....	14
<b>Figure 2.3</b>	The human cost of the 2017 floods in South Asia .....	15
<b>Figure 2.4</b>	Crude oil price fluctuations and exports in subregions of the Asia-Pacific region, 2004–2017 .....	18
<b>Figure 2.5</b>	Energy prices and GDP growth in oil-exporting Central Asian countries, 1992–2016 .....	19

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_1167](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_1167)

