



Achieving the  
Sustainable  
Development Goals  
through Enhanced  
Development  
Cooperation in East  
and North-East Asia

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# Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through Enhanced Development Cooperation in East and North-East Asia



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For further information on this publication, please contact:

East and North-East Asia Office  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
7th floor, G-Tower, 175 Art center-daero  
Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, Republic of Korea 22004  
escap-sroenea-registry@un.org



# Preface

Four countries in the East and North-East Asian subregion, namely China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, have come to play an increasingly important role in foreign aid regimes over the past few decades. They are key providers of development assistance while their development experiences and strategies continue to shape the landscape of development cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Notably, all four of these key providers of development assistance have experienced the transition from being recipients to becoming donors of foreign assistance in the past few decades, albeit with various development paths. Through this transition process, they have provided assistance in various modalities of development cooperation, such as knowledge-sharing platforms, South-South and triangular cooperation, and development assistance through multilateral mechanisms. Their varying experiences in development cooperation provide important lessons in development. Their experiences also offer a wide array of cooperation schemes that are closely linked to the means for attaining the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, such as in trade, finance, technology and capacity-building.

Even with some best practices emanating from East and North-East Asia (ENEA) however, there are issues and challenges that deserve attention, including how to: improve effectiveness in development cooperation; increase transparency and data availability; and address bias towards the economic sector – all of which are compounded by a lack of institutionalized subregional cooperation mechanisms.

Amid similarities and differences in policies and approaches towards aid and more broadly, development cooperation, ENEA countries share the common objective of supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — through strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development (Goal 17).

As the ENEA economies are poised to exercise regional and global leadership in terms of the means for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the importance of such efforts goes beyond the scaling up of their development assistance. Thus, in this report ways are explored to enhance development cooperation among countries in East and North-East Asia.



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