# FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT TRENDS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

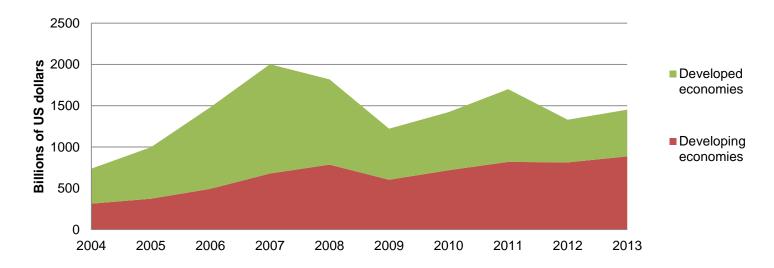
The fourth Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Network for Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries

25 November 2014, Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Presented by Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP** 

#### FDI flows-Global

- Global foreign direct investment (FDI) showed signs of recovery in 2013, increasing by 9% to \$1.45 trillion.
- Developing and developed economies experienced similar increase in FDI inflows at 8.9% and 9.5%
- In 2013, for the second year in a row, more than a half of global FDI inflows went to developing economies, (61% in 2013)
   FDI inflows, 2004-2013



# Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2014

- Trade growth weakened in 2013
- Despite slowdown, Asia-Pacific largest trading area in the world, accounting for 37% of world trade
- More than half of total trade in region is with other AP economies
- China second largest merchandise exporter and third largest merchandise importer globally
- More than 10 other developing economies in the region among the top25 exporters and importers, alongside Australia and Japan
- Global downturn in 2008-2009 showed the need to reducer dependence on external sources of demand growth
- >> need to foster domestic and regional demand through deeper integration

### APTIR 2014, cont.

- Share of intraregional exports increased from 44% in 2000 to 52% in 2013.
- Not uniform change, China figures prominently in the trade.
- Heavy reliance on a few trading partners yields extreme level of trade dependence for LDCs and LLDCs.
- Export performance of AP expected to improve in 2015, to reach growth rate of 7% in real terms
- Dispersed production through GVCs is fuelling growing trade in intermediate imports (now 60% plus of global trade).
- Value addition important focus. Failure to distinguish between gross exports and domestics value added in trade can lead to wrong policies

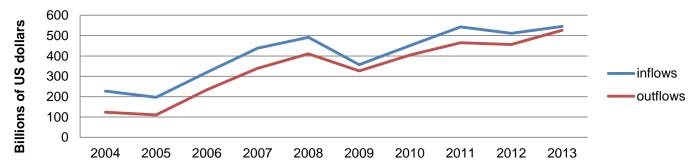
## APTIR 2014, cont.

- Uneven use of services trade in the region 65% of services exports attributable to six economies (China, India, Japan, ROK, Singapore and Hong Kong, China)
  - Implying large gap
- Given that the main component is business services, this might indicate a bottleneck of improving competitiveness
- Travel services continue to grow strongly, important for smaller economies
- Inefficient trade regulations continue to drive up costs
- WTO Trade facilitation agreement concluded in December 2013, shows recognition of TF for economic development
- Region making progress in the negotiation of a regional arrangement on facilitation of cross-border trade
- Trade process analysis suggest whole of value chain approach important for TF policy making

#### FDI flows to Asia and the Pacific

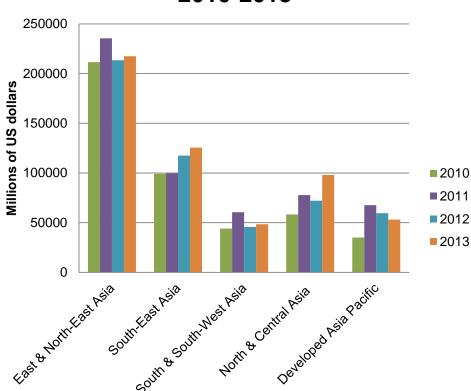
- Asia-Pacific attracted 549 billion USD in FDI in 2013. representing a moderate increase of 6.6%.
- Growth rate lower than global average, much lower than Latin America (14.2%)
- Noticeable diversification new locations, smaller players, different sectors.
- Intraregional FDI expanding in importance.
- Gaining importance as investors, FDI outflows in 2013 increased by 15%.
- Despite a small dip in 2012,FDI outflows from the region have been increasing continuously since 2009.



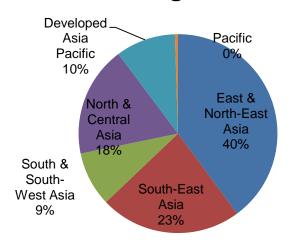


#### FDI inflows to A-P countries, by subregion



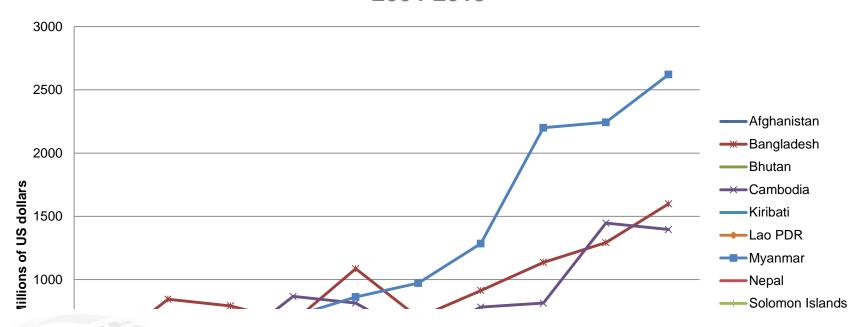


# Shares of FDI inflows to A-P subregions, 2013



#### FDI inflows to LDCs

FDI inflows to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in A-P, 2004-2013



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