



ESCAP ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

The Annual Report 2014 chronicles the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific's (ESCAP) achievements and future goals, against a backdrop of major global shifts sweeping across the economic, social and environmental landscape.

Although our region continues to drive the global economic recovery, regional growth has entered a challenging phase. As elaborated in the 2014 edition of ESCAP's flagship publication, the Economic and Social Survey for Asia and the Pacific, this is due to several factors. On the domestic front, these include high and rising income inequality, lack of adequate social protection systems, low quality of education, inadequate access to credit and land, weak labour market institutions, environmental degradation and climate change. On the external front, these include the financial and monetary implications of the normalization of monetary policy in the United States and non-tariff trade restrictive measures imposed by developed economies.

In this environment, ESCAP held the inaugural Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and launched the first-ever Asia-Pacific Outreach Meeting for Sustainable Development Financing, with our member States contributing critical guidance in both these areas. In turn, the resulting regional perspectives and priorities were provided to the High Level Political Forum, convened during the recent ECOSOC sessions in New York.

The Asia-Pacific region is diverse, with a wide range of perspectives on sustainable development, but this should not preclude a leadership role for the region in the global dialogue and in turn, the implementation of agreed Sustainable Development Goals and targets. As the post-2015 development agenda continues to take shape, Asia and the Pacific can and must play a key role in that process. To be more inclusive and to get a deeper

appreciation of Asia-Pacific diversity, ESCAP has been enhanced to offer dedicated subregional platforms.

A critical element of a transformative agenda is the need to fast-track the closure of physical infrastructure gaps and social development deficits. This will harness the region's potential for sustainable and inclusive growth. For that purpose, it will be critical to unlock fiscal space by strengthening tax revenues, deepen capital market development, encourage private-public partnership, foster financial inclusion and innovative climate finance solution, among other policy measures – which were also key messages of the 2014 Survey.



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Aligned with these developments, and with the preferences of our member States, ESCAP is also sharpening its focus on regional connectivity which will be critical for shared and sustainable prosperity in Asia and the Pacific.

This will entail enhancing the work of the Commission in areas such as transport, energy, ICT and people to people networks, in an integrated manner to realize effective synergies in tandem with moves to harness finance and new technologies. This will especially benefit our least developed, landlocked and small island developing economies, a key priority for ESCAP.

Laying the foundation, this year's 70th Commission session explored the relationship between regional connectivity and shared prosperity, particularly the mechanisms through which regional connectivity affects and contributes to prosperity, identifying and linking types of benefits to regional connectivity.

With these and other pressing issues in the region as the backdrop, I am leading a process of organizational transformation in the secretariat, to assess our strengths and weaknesses and to make ESCAP a more effective organization serving our member States.

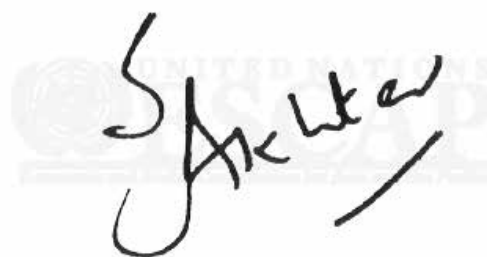
Based on these internal deliberations and consultations with member States, three core priority areas have emerged that will anchor our work and sharpen our ability to deliver higher-impact results for the year ahead:

First, solidifying ESCAP's role as a regional knowledge hub, particularly in generating innovative research and analysis to support evidence-based policies to address inclusive and sustainable development challenges, including financing, will help ESCAP support our member States in taking a stronger leadership role in the development of the global post-2015 agenda.

Second, enhancing ESCAP's role as the preeminent regional intergovernmental platform for building consensus on norms, agreements and policies will enable us to yield an even stronger Asia-Pacific voice in global debates.

Last, as a regional hub for development knowledge and technical cooperation, ESCAP will seek innovative partnerships between government and civil society, including the private sector, to support the region's development agenda.

As ESCAP undertakes these changes, we look forward to working together with our members to deliver an inclusive, sustainable and resilient Asia-Pacific region that will bring prosperity and stability to the lives of all the people whom we serve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shamshad Akhtar", is written over a faint, circular watermark of the United Nations logo.

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
and Executive Secretary, ESCAP

ABOUT ESCAP



VISION

ESCAP envisions a resilient Asia and the Pacific, based on shared prosperity, social equity and sustainability. It contributes to these goals through its comprehensive multilateral platform for promoting cooperation and development among its member States.



WHO WE ARE

ESCAP is the regional arm of the United Nations, playing a unique role as the only intergovernmental forum for all countries and territories of Asian and the Pacific region. Established in 1947, ESCAP today has 53 members and 9 associate members covering more than 60 per cent of the world's population or 4.1 billion people.



OUR WORK

From its headquarters in Bangkok, ESCAP provides a forum for its member States that promotes regional cooperation and collective action, assisting countries in building and sustaining shared economic growth and social equity.



OUR OUTCOMES

In pursuing its vision, ESCAP provides various forms of assistance to member States:

ESCAP promotes rigorous analysis and peer learning through its seven core areas of work: macroeconomic policy and development, trade and investment, social development, transport, statistics, environment and development, information communications technology and disaster risk reduction.

ESCAP translates these findings into policy dialogues and recommendations.

ESCAP provides good development practices, knowledge-sharing and technical assistance to member States in the implementation of these recommendations.

The norm setting and policy work of ESCAP ultimately affects people's lives in a positive way by assisting countries to shape and implement a more balanced and inclusive development agenda for the region.



Executive Secretary

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar

Headquarters

Bangkok, Thailand

Founded

1947

53
members

4
subregional
offices

9
Associate
members

over
60%
of the world's
population

4.1
billion
people

ESCAP enables stronger participation for the smaller and the often left-out voices of the region, the least developed countries, the small island States and the landlocked States.

MAY 13

Asian and Pacific Energy Forum

Asia-Pacific Water Summit

Opening of East and North-East Asia subregional office in Incheon

JUN 13

6th Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation meeting

JUL 13

ECOSOC dialogue with Regional Commissions on the post-2015 agenda

AUG 13

High-level preparatory conference on regional integration

Asia-Pacific Ministerial dialogue from the MDGs to the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015

SEP 13

Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (APPC)

Launch of the 2013 MDG progress report

OCT 13

Committee on Environment and Development

NOV 13

Trade and Investment Week

10th Asia-Pacific Business Forum

Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction

Launch of Statistics 2013 Yearbook

Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport (second session) including Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports signing

Opening of ESCAP's Subregional Office for North and Central Asia

SPECA Governing Council

DEC 13

Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific

Presentation of the 2013 Sasakawa Disability Awards

YEAR IN REVIEW

MAY 2013 - JULY 2014

DID YOU KNOW ?

Data covers period
1 Jan 2013 - 31 Dec 2013



JAN₁₄

High-level Seminar “Future of the World Economy and Globalization in the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis: Implications for Developing Economies”

Launch of the United Nations Zero Hunger Challenge in Timor-Leste

FEB₁₄

Inaugural meeting of the Working Group of the Asia and the Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2013-2022)

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar takes charge of ESCAP

MAR₁₄

Meeting in Chile of Executive Secretaries of all Regional Commissions

High-level Panel on Evaluation and the Post-2015 Development Agenda at UN Evaluation Week

APR₁₄

Workshop on Promoting Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development

MAY₁₄

Phase 1 of the 70th Commission

Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)

JUN₁₄

Launch of the Sustainable Energy for All Decade (SE4ALL) and Regional Hub in Asia-Pacific

Asia-Pacific Outreach Meeting on Sustainable Development Financing

JUL₁₄

Forum on Drought Monitoring and Early Warning in Asia-Pacific

Meeting of Civil Registrars

10th ADB-ESCAP Annual Consultation Meeting

High-level Panel on Sustainable Development at ECOSOC

ESCAP INTERGOVERNMENTAL PLATFORM

Established in 1947, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) draws its mandate from the Economic and Social Council resolutions 37 (IV), 414 (XIII), and the General Assembly resolution 32/192, to serve as the main economic and social development centre within the United Nations system in the Asia-Pacific region. The resolutions give ESCAP the power to serve as an executing agency for inter-sectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects.

In the Asia-Pacific region, home to two-thirds of the world's population, ESCAP provides the most comprehensive multilateral intergovernmental platform for promoting cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive, sustainable, economic and social development. ESCAP's convening authority, regional mandate and geographic coverage enable it to assess and provide regional trends and overviews, adding strength to its intergovernmental position and facilitating the adoption of regional approaches for addressing regional issues.

An illustrative example of ESCAP's role is the recent signature of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, which draws from two other relevant agreements built through the ESCAP platform: the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway agreements. The Dry Ports agreement was signed under the auspices of ESCAP and has the aim of facilitating sustainable trade and transport in the region through international recognition of dry ports, as well as improving their infrastructure and operational efficiency.

ESCAP's membership includes 53 member States and nine associate members in a geographic scope stretching from the island nation of Kiribati in the East to Turkey in the West, and from New Zealand in the South to the Russian Federation in the North. ESCAP membership also goes beyond regional boundaries by including members States in Europe and North America.

The ESCAP conference structure comprises several actors. The Commission constitutes the supreme legislative body, which convenes at the highest political level every year for a period of five days, to set the region's development agenda. Eight subsidiary committees discuss and recommend actions to the Commission on issues under their respective scope. Several ministerial and high-level intergovernmental meetings and conferences are mandated by the Commission and report to it. The structure also includes the governing councils of ESCAP's five regional institutions, and the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives (ACPR) and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, which advises the Executive Secretary on intergovernmental and program matters, and serves as the main channel of regular communication between the secretariat and its member States.



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70th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

4 TO 8 AUGUST 2014

With an overarching focus on sustainable development, the seventieth session of the Commission was organized under the theme “Regional Connectivity for Shared Prosperity.” At its conclusion, the Commission adopted 14 resolutions and 28 decisions on vital issues for the region, ranging from strengthening regional cooperation and economic integration, and fostering sustainable development, to promoting regional connectivity and addressing the development challenges of least developed countries and Pacific island developing countries.

The session also included ministerial panels on the perspectives of countries with special needs on development cooperation in the post-2015 era; regional connectivity for shared prosperity; and

on accountability, existing regional mechanisms and possible new mechanisms, and an architecture that could enable a simple, efficient, flexible and transparent results-oriented regional accountability framework.

For its part, the secretariat continued to move intergovernmental meetings towards a more environmentally friendly and paper smart model. Touchscreens, dedicated websites and kiosks were arranged for participants to access documents and other relevant information, reducing the paper footprint and wastage, as well contributing to an increase the efficiency of ESCAP meetings. Compared to the sixty-eighth session (prior to the introduction of the papersmart model), the amount of paper used at the seventieth session

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_5016

