



***Promoting Inclusive Growth and
Development in the Asia- Pacific LDCs:
Progress, prospects and challenges***

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Introduction

- **The UN LDC IV Conference adopted the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for the decade 2011-2020 on 13 May 2011**
- **It addresses the specific needs of the LDCs**
- **Aimed at improving the living conditions of the people through necessary support**
- **Framework for a strong global partnership**
- **The overarching goal of IPoA is to overcome the structural challenges faced by the LDCs**
- **The specific aim of IPoA is to enable at least half the number of LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020**

Introduction

- The IPoA contains eight priority areas of action, each supported by concrete deliverables and commitments.
- These eight development priorities are:
 - (i) productive capacity development
 - (ii) agriculture, food security and rural development
 - (iii) trade
 - (iv) commodities
 - (v) human and social development
 - (vi) coping with multiple crises and other emerging challenges
 - (vii) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building; and
 - (viii) governance at all levels

Some structural features

- **More than 300 million people live in the 13 (12+Samoa) Asia-Pacific LDCs, and some of them are densely populated**
- **Many of these low income countries are marked by poverty and high incidence of hunger**
- **Social indicators reflect widespread deprivations**
- **Limited resources and technologies**
- **Most of these countries suffer from natural handicaps: either landlocked, or far-flung small islands, or are plagued by repeated natural disasters**

Brief review of the progress of Asia-Pacific LDCs in implementing the IPoA

Under the IPoA, international support measures during the decade 2011-2020 will focus on the following five core objectives:

- Achieve sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth in LDCs, to at least 7 percent per annum;
- Build human capacities by fostering sustained, equitable and inclusive human and social development, gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- Reduce the vulnerability of LDCs to economic, natural and environmental shocks and disasters, as well as climate change;
- Ensure enhanced financial resources and their effective use for LDCs' development;
- Enhance good governance at all levels.

GDP growth in Asia-Pacific LDCs

Country	(Percent per year)						
	2001-2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Afghanistan	...	3.4	22.5	8.4	5.7	6.9	6.5
Bangladesh	5.8	6.2	5.7	6.1	6.7	6.3	6.0
Bhutan	9.2	4.7	6.7	11.8	11.7	8.5	8.4
Cambodia	9.7	6.7	-2.0	6.0	7.1	7.3	7.0
Kiribati	1.7	-1.1	-0.6	1.8	3.0	3.0	3.5
Lao PDR	6.9	7.2	7.6	7.9	8.3	8.3	8.1
Myanmar	12.8	3.6	4.9	5.3	5.5	6.3	6.3
Nepal	3.3	5.8	3.8	4.0	3.8	4.5	4.0
Samoa	4.8	5.0	-5.4	0.2	2.1	1.2	0.9
Solomon Islands	3.8	7.3	-1.0	7.1	10.6	5.5	4.0
Timor-Leste	4.7	11.0	12.8	9.5	10.6	10.0	10.0
Tuvalu	3.6	1.3	-1.7	-0.5	1.0	1.2	1.3
Vanuatu	2.8	6.5	3.5	2.2	4.3	2.0	3.2

Key macroeconomic indicators in Asia-Pacific LDCs

Country	I-GDP ratio (%)		GDS-GDP ratio (%)		Inflation (%)		Export growth (%)		ODA received (million US\$)	
	2001	2010	2001	2010	2001	2010	2001	2010	2001	2009
Afghanistan	...	...	...	...	...	0.4	...	...	136	1,010
Bangladesh	23.1	23.8	18.0	19.2	1.9	7.3	12.4	4.1	1,172	381
Bhutan	59.2	39.5	33.9	41.4	3.4	6.1	-12.9	-23.7*	53	57
Cambodia	18.5	21.8	11.6	...	-0.6	4.1	15.4	-10.2	396	193
Kiribati	49.7	83.3*	4.8	-59.4*	6.0	0.8	...	...	18	6
Lao PDR	21.0	...	17.9	17.9*	7.8	5.4	-4.0	39.2	281	123
Myanmar	11.6	15.5	11.5	17.2	34.5	7.9	32.6	-21.9*	106	52
Nepal	22.3	38.2	11.7	9.4	2.4	10.7	4.5	-8.9	386	268
Samoa	14.3	9.2*	-14.1	-13.7*	1.9	1.0	2.6	5.5	27	13
Solomon Islands	6.8	13.9*	-12.7	...	7.4	3.0	-12.9	40.1	68	27
Timor-Leste	...	...	...	...	3.6	6.5	230.8	-28.6*	231	28
Tuvalu	77.3	8.2*	5.2	-72.8*	1.3	-1.9	...	...	4	1
Vanuatu	20.0	21.2	17.9	23.7*	3.5	3.4	-33.6	18.7	46	15

Note: I is investment, GDP is gross domestic product, GDS is gross domestic savings, and ODA is official.

Source: UNESCAP, *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2011*, Bangkok, 2011.

Percentage share of Asia-Pacific LDCs in world exports

	2001	2011
Afghanistan	NA	0.003
Bangladesh	NA	0.145
Bhutan	NA	NA
Cambodia	0.025	0.038
Kiribati	NA	0.000
Lao PDR	0.005	0.014
Myanmar	0.045	0.045
Nepal	NA	0.005
Samoa	0.001	0.000
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.003
Timor-Leste	NA	0.001

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