

A DECADE OF BUILDING *REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN* TRADE AND INVESTMENT

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TRADE AND INVESTMENT**





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ESCAP envisions a resilient Asia and the Pacific, based on shared prosperity, social equity, and sustainability.

One of the most important focal areas of ESCAP's work, as the largest, most inclusive intergovernmental platform for the region, is to promote the deepening of economic cooperation and development amongst our member States.

A key driver of this regional cooperation agenda has been the expansion of trade and investment across Asia and the Pacific in recent years. It is also a vital engine for regional growth, integration, economic dynamism, and rising prosperity.

Participation in global networks of production, trade, and investment has created employment, raised incomes, and helped to spread knowledge and technology throughout the region. Trade-led growth has not, however, benefitted all people equally, and too many barriers to inclusion remain, especially for our poorest communities.

The Trade and Investment Division (TID) of ESCAP, and the two regional institutes which the Division backstops - the Asia Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) - have therefore focused their work over the last ten years on developing a number of innovative mechanisms and platforms to promote regional cooperation in the field of inclusive and sustainable trade and investment, and in related areas such as the promotion of science, technology and innovation.

The platforms and networks which are presented in this booklet, have played an instrumental role in bringing countries, communities, and people together - raising their capacity to effectively tackle the complex issues involving trade and investment, while providing insights and perspectives from a range of stakeholders, including the private sector.

I want to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of the work being done by TID and our regional institutes, and to emphasize their achievements in promoting regional cooperation. We are committed to the continuation and acceleration of these important efforts in the area of trade and investment, towards the creation of a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific.

Noeleen Heyzer
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
and Executive Secretary of ESCAP



BUILDING REGIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT

ESCAP focuses on a number of areas of economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific. One of these is trade and investment – a vital engine for growth and integration. Recent decades have seen an enormous expansion in trade and investment flows in the Asia-Pacific region. Regional economies are increasingly part of global value chains. This has helped foster the economic dynamism that has lifted many from poverty and spread prosperity more widely. At the same time, however, too many individuals and communities remain excluded from the benefits of trade and investment.

ESCAP contributes to building a resilient, sustainable and inclusive region through its comprehensive multilateral platform for promoting co-operation and development among its member countries. Harnessing trade and investment policies to support inclusive growth and sustainable development is a key regional priority.

The objective of ESCAP's Trade and Investment Division is to promote trade, investment and transfer of technology for inclusive and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. This includes strengthening regional co-operation which can facilitate growth in trade and investment flows by building openness and transparency in trade and investment. We work with members to ensure that the benefits of trade and investment are extended to all countries, communities, and individuals.

This booklet reviews the key contributions of Trade and Investment Division to fostering regional co-operation over the past decade by examining the achievements of our primary cooperation platforms and mechanisms. The booklet is issued as a background document for the third session of the Committee on Trade and Investment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Ravi Ratnayake.

Ravi Ratnayake
Director
Trade and Investment Division



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

The ESCAP-initiated Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, the only region-wide preferential trade agreement, made further progress in inventorying non-tariff measures of APTA member states and in completing the ratification process of the framework agreements in trade facilitation, investment and services. APTA continues to expand with Mongolia becoming the newest member in 2013.

At the request of member States in ESCAP resolution 68/3, the Secretariat further expanded its work on trade facilitation and paperless trade, including a study on regional arrangements, expert group meetings and sub-regional consultations, setting the stage for the development of regional arrangements for cross-border paperless trade facilitation.

ESCAP Trade and Investment Division (TID) continued to focus on responsible business practices through its annual Asia-Pacific Business Forum and its Business Advisory Council. A key outcome was the launch of the Sustainable Business Network for Asia and the Pacific, which will address specific aspects of sustainable business including the greening of business, social enterprises and investment, and renewable energy.

ESCAP TID, together with the World Bank, launched a new global and multisectoral trade-cost database, providing unique insights on intraregional and interregional trade connectivity and highlighting the need for more inter-subregional trade facilitation reform in Asia and the Pacific.

ESCAP TID continued to assist member States through its policy advisory and capacity building roles with a focus on evidence-based policy making so as to use trade as engine of growth and as an instrument for overall development. This was achieved by contributing to countries' capacity to improve prospects for their integration into global trade and WTO accession and utilize preferential trade agreements and other trade opportunities for inclusive and sustainable growth.

In the least developed and landlocked countries, ESCAP has launched a series of capacity building activities, tailored to country needs and focusing on developing the skills and expertise to undertake effective trade and investment policy and business development. The "Bridging the Gap" series of publications outlines this work in several countries including Mongolia, Myanmar and Timor Leste.

The Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology established a renewable energy transfer bank which promotes business partnerships and strengthens cross-border co-operation in the renewable energy sector.

The Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization made significant progress in advancing the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing Agricultural Machinery, which aims to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization through adoption of region wide standards, testing codes and procedures.







ESCAP TRADE AND INVESTMENT DIVISION

ABOUT TID AND HOW WE WORK

TID leads ESCAP's subprogramme on trade and investment which supports the efforts of ESCAP members and associate members to develop their capacity, institutions, and legal and regulatory frameworks and to participate more effectively and competitively in international trade and investment activities. The subprogramme aims to achieve:

- increased capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate and implement more effective and coherent policies on trade, investment and enterprise development.
- strengthened regional cooperation and integration mechanisms in trade and investment;
- sustainable economic development and rural poverty reduction through agrotechnology transfer and agro-based enterprise development; and
- stronger national innovative systems and a more enabling environment for technology transfer to address regional and global development challenges.

The Trade and Investment Division works to make ESCAP's vision real for a resilient Asia and the Pacific founded on shared prosperity, social equity and sustainability via a focus on inclusive regional trade and investment. The division consists of the following units based at ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok: Trade Policy and Analysis, Trade Facilitation, the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, and Business and Development.

In addition, two regional institutions are also part of the Subprogramme on Trade and Investment: the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, in Beijing, and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology in New Delhi. We work through many channels to assist countries in strengthening trade and investment policy regimes. These include issue-specific and practical trade policy research and analysis, training, exchange of experiences, provision of information and toolkits, integrated regional programmes, targeted advice and regional consensus-building. We particularly focus efforts on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, as well as Small Island Developing States, in the Asia and Pacific region.

ESCAP'S Vision

ESCAP is committed to a resilient Asia and the Pacific founded on shared prosperity, social equity and sustainability.

Goals of Trade and Investment Division

Making Trade and Investment work for all

Enhancing regional integration and connectivity

Spreading knowledge and technology

TID Workstreams

Research and Analysis

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

Regional Knowledge Networks, Co-operation and Dialogues

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_6391

