

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SURVEY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

2011



Sustaining Dynamism and Inclusive Development: Connectivity in the Region and Productive Capacity in Least Developed Countries



ESCAP is the regional development arm of the United Nations and serves as the main economic and social development centre for the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. Its mandate is to foster cooperation between its 53 members and 9 associate members. ESCAP provides the strategic link between global and country-level programmes and issues. It supports Governments of countries in the region in consolidating regional positions and advocates regional approaches to meeting the region's unique socio-economic challenges in a globalizing world. The ESCAP office is located in Bangkok, Thailand. Please visit the ESCAP website at www.unescap.org for further information.



The shaded areas of the map indicate ESCAP members and associate members.

The cover design concept

It depicts the themes covered in the *Survey*. The board is divided into two parts. The orange part grows from left to right and becomes larger suggesting the dynamism. The grey represents the development gaps. The orange part also contains a group of people in movement. In the background, a stylized graph of lines and nodes of light represents the promises of connectivity. The ridge between the orange and the grey parts represents the vulnerable areas in the region. The group of women engaged in manual work symbolizes the lack of productive capacity in the least developed countries that prevents them from exploiting more value adding opportunities for work.

Design and photographs by Marie Ange Sylvain-Holmgren

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SURVEY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

2011

**Sustaining Dynamism and Inclusive Development:
Connectivity in the Region and
Productive Capacity in Least Developed Countries**

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SURVEY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC 2011

*Sustaining Dynamism and Inclusive Development:
Connectivity in the Region and Productive Capacity
in Least Developed Countries*

United Nations publication
Sales No. E.11.II.F.2
Copyright © United Nations 2011
All rights reserved
Printed in Thailand
ISBN: 978-92-1-120622-7
ISSN: 0252-5704
ST/ESCAP/2586

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational or non-profit purposes without special permission from the copyright holder, provided that the source is acknowledged. The ESCAP Publications Office would appreciate receiving a copy of any publication that uses this publication as a source.

No use may be made of this publication for resale or any other commercial purpose whatsoever without prior permission. Applications for such permission, with a statement of the purpose and extent of reproduction, should be addressed to the Secretary of the Publications Board, United Nations, New York.



FOREWORD

The dynamism of the Asia-Pacific region was a major factor driving the global economic recovery in 2010, with the developing economies of Asia and the Pacific increasing their rate of growth in gross domestic product from 4.7 per cent in 2009 to an impressive 8.8 per cent. There has also been a strong green component in these efforts. Welcome as this performance has been, the region continues to face serious challenges.

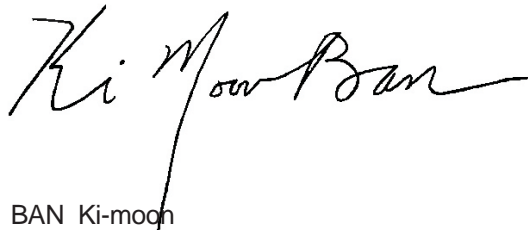
Rising prices of food and energy are at the top of the list. Food costs account for well over a third of household budgets for the region's poor, meaning that the health, education and productivity of these already vulnerable individuals will be affected disproportionately by any erosion in food and nutrition security. Energy is a primary input for the region's massive manufacturing activities; more expensive energy will raise costs and, potentially, make this vital sector less dynamic.

Unemployment remains an additional concern, especially among young people. There is a need to strengthen climate change mitigation and adaptation. And those economies whose exports to developed countries are expected to experience a slowdown in 2011 need to generate alternative sources of demand, including within their own countries.

This *Survey* explores ways the region can sustain dynamism in the medium term. It highlights the importance of greater connectivity in infrastructure and transport, and of more investment in the region's human resources. It also stresses the need to expand and diversify the productive capacity of the least developed countries in order to overcome their structural limitations and take advantage of opportunities arising from globalization. This year's Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and next year's UN Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20 – are timely and important opportunities to re-think these issues and to set the world on a path of inclusive, clean-energy development that benefits all people, today and tomorrow.

The devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan have added to the uncertainties that policymakers in the region and beyond must grapple with during 2011. That tragic event has also underscored the need for collective disaster preparedness in the region.

The *2011 Survey* should be of great interest inside and outside the Asia-Pacific region. It aims to help ESCAP economies to implement policies that will protect their hard-won development gains and ensure that progress at the aggregate level translates into far more rapid improvements in the lives of the poor and vulnerable. I commend the information and analysis contained here to a wide global audience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ban Ki-moon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ban" being more prominent and the last name "Ki-moon" written in a more connected, flowing style.

BAN Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

April 2011

PREFACE



The economies of Asia and the Pacific recovered strongly in 2010 from the depths of the “Great Recession” of 2008/09 but they face fresh challenges in 2011. These include rising inflationary pressures, the return of food and fuel crises that are threatening hard-won development gains, sluggish recovery in the advanced economies, and a deluge of short-term capital flows that are causing volatility in capital markets and other problems. Furthermore, the devastation wrought by the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan provides another stark reminder of the region’s vulnerability to natural disasters. These challenges pose significant downside risks to an otherwise robust growth outlook as the region emerges as the growth pole of the global economy.

The key immediate challenge is to address rising food prices that are threatening to seriously undermine the process of poverty reduction. ESCAP projections reported in the *Survey 2011* suggest that as many as 42 million more people could remain in poverty in 2011 as a result, in addition to 19 million already affected in 2010. The challenge has to be addressed through a combination of policies at the national, regional and international levels including tariffs and tax policies, regulation of hoarding and speculative activity in food commodities, disciplining the conversion of food into biofuels, using buffer stocks in a countercyclical manner, and protecting vulnerable households through targeted subsidies. In the medium term, it is critical to increase food supply by paying greater attention to agriculture and rural development and to foster a new green revolution based on sustainable agriculture.

Another fundamental challenge for the medium term will be to boost domestic and regional sources of demand to sustain growth and reduce global macroeconomic imbalances. For that purpose, consumption can be boosted through the creation of employment for men and women and by strengthening social protection programmes, including the establishment of a minimum social floor. In the case of investment, funds should be directed to narrowing development gaps within and across countries, which are particularly large in the area of infrastructure.

The Asia-Pacific region is already moving towards exploiting the potential of regional economic integration for sustaining its dynamism. This is reflected in the rising shares of intra-regional trade and intra-regional foreign direct investment flows, and in improvements in connecting the region through transport, energy and ICT networks. However, much more can and should be done.

On the trade front, the region could leverage its regional trading arrangements so that they become building blocks for the creation of a seamless, broader and unified Asia-Pacific market. In light of the large trade complementarities across subregions, a broader approach to regional integration which focuses not just on deepening integration within subregions but also in fostering trade links across subregions would be fruitful. Promoting cooperation in energy security, strengthening transport connectivity covering not only its *hard* but also its *soft* dimension viz. trade and transport facilitation, and developing mechanisms for the financial intermediation between the region's huge savings and its equally huge investment needs are also key areas which should receive a high priority in the region's policy agenda.

Last but not least, for the benefits of regional integration to truly contribute to a more inclusive and balanced pattern of economic growth, special attention should be paid to the development of the least developed countries of the region. The *Survey* argues that a critical reason for their slow progress is their poor productive capacities, which do not allow them to take advantage of emerging opportunities in the region and beyond. These countries need to be assisted in building capacities-- not only to produce more of the same but to produce and trade new and more sophisticated products. The *Survey* argues that productive capacities can be built through a process of strategic diversification by the combined efforts of the State and the private sector, with a supportive role played by development partners, and it outlines a policy agenda for such an effort in the context of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries.

In sum, the Asia-Pacific region emerged from the global financial crisis as a growth driver and anchor of stability of the global economy. It now has the historic opportunity to rebalance its economic structure in favour of itself to sustain its dynamism with strengthened connectivity and balanced regional development and make the twenty-first century a truly Asia-Pacific century. The 2011 edition of the *Survey* reviews some of these issues and policy challenges. I hope that it will help shape the policy debate in the region.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码

<https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?report>