

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

FOREWORD TO 2011 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SURVEY
OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
April 2011

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.

25/03/11

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.

Ki Moon Ban
BAN Ki-moon

APR - 7 2011

ESCAP/CENTRAL

11-02977



Request for clearance of the Foreword for the 2011 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific

Aina liyambo to: Ruxandra Ferascu, Elizabeth Wanic

25/03/2011 06:25 AM

Cc: Aynul Hasan, Nagesh Kumar

Dear Ruxandra and Liz,

On behalf of Ms. Heyzer, I am herewith forwarding a draft Foreword by the Secretary-General for your clearance. We would like to include the Foreword in ESCAP's Flagship publication *The 2011 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*. It would be appreciated if you can send us the final version, together with the Secretary-General's signature by 4 April 2011.

Should you need additional information on the scope and nature of the Survey, please contact Mr. Aynul Hasan who is copied on this email.

Thank you for your kind cooperation.

With best regards,
Aina



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