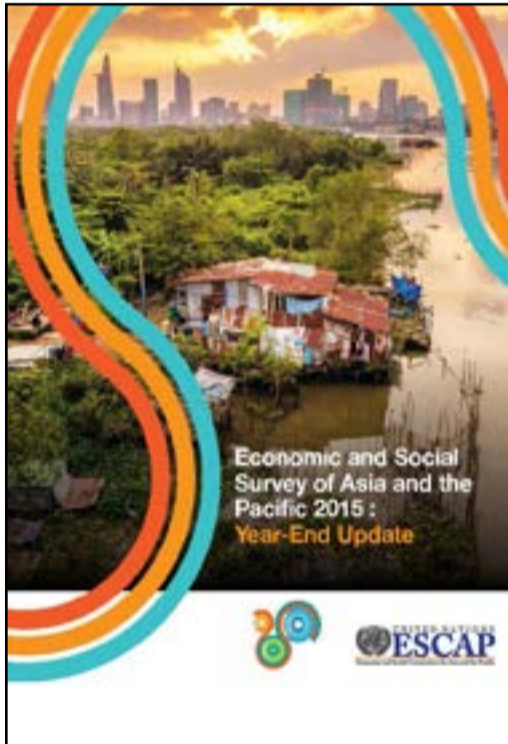


COVER STORY

Reinvigorate Domestic Demand to Revive Growth & Support Sustainable Development



Economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region is neither robust nor inclusive enough to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and countries should take a more proactive stance on fiscal policy and strengthen productivity rather than relying excessively on debt to sustain growth, according to a UN report.

While the 2030 Agenda promotes a broader concept of human welfare, robust growth is important for creating jobs and improving overall development outcomes, according to the *Year-end Update of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2015*. The report suggests that the slowdown in the

region's economic growth is raising doubts about Asia and Pacific's continued ability to lead the way forward to global economic recovery.

The report highlights the challenges facing the region's central banks and financial regulators. While slower economic growth and lower inflation clearly favour further interest rate reductions, capital outflow and exchange rate considerations, together with financial stability concerns in some countries, call for prudence.

The full report can be downloaded at <http://goo.gl/rpktaH>

Watch the launch presentation at <https://goo.gl/8PuuQQ>

CLIMATE CHANGE PAGE 1

Low Carbon Development to fight Climate Change



DISABILITIES PAGE 2

New report covers disabilities issues in Asia and the Pacific



FEBRUARY/MARCH EVENTS PAGE 3

Coming up at ESCAP

Executive Secretary on Low Carbon Development to fight Climate Change



To reach the goal of stabilising global climate change, we must ensure that countries pursue structural investment shifts across the whole economy, domestic resource mobilization and reform of fiscal and regulatory policies to incentivize energy and carbon efficient infrastructure and systems, as well as redirect and mobilize climate-friendly productive investments.

Finance and technology underpinned by sound policy are the keys to addressing climate change. The low carbon transformation required will be capital intensive and often focused on more climate-friendly infrastructure, requiring a large scaling up of existing climate finance flows. Climate adaptation also needs finance to support greater resilience, particularly in climate resilient infrastructure, as well as in the pooling and transfer of climate risks through innovative

insurance.

Strong impetus has also been provided to transform cities and local governments with mayors taking the lead and working in partnership with providers of finance and technologies. Across Asia, momentum for change is underway as a number of countries have promoted smart city initiatives including India's announcement of the establishment of 100 smart cities as satellite towns of larger cities and by modernizing the existing mid-sized cities.

New low carbon smart cities in China are pushing for sustainable transport systems, smart energy grids, and water supply and environmental protection schemes and have set up local government financing vehicles to enable cities to raise funds through bank loans, issuing bonds and via equity market initial public offerings. Success by China in its implementation of a low carbon growth pathway will be

instrumental, offering learnings and positive spillovers, while its advanced technology and governance will have regional and worldwide benefits for both developing and developed countries.

Commitments to low carbon development lend optimism to the prospects of success in addressing climate change. The transformation to low carbon economies, reinforced by additional commitments, will bring high pay-offs and chart a course for all economies striving to pursue low carbon paths of development.

Read more on China's Commitment to Low Carbon Development Strategies at <http://goo.gl/F6T51b>

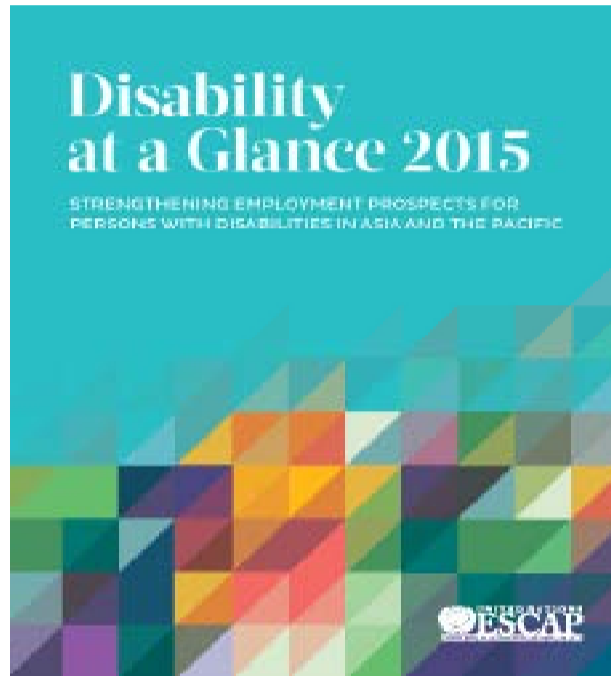
Read more on Climate Finance & Technology at <http://goo.gl/YAvfGL>

Read more on Low Carbon Development in Emerging Cities at <http://goo.gl/jvCh2v>

DISABILITY

New report on disabilities in Asia and Pacific

There are 650 million persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. Policymakers have a responsibility to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy all human rights and freedoms on an equal basis with others. With 160 ratifications since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006, the CRPD is the most rapidly approved United Nations human rights convention in history — a feat that demonstrates the global commitment to disability. In Asia and the Pacific, efforts to implement the rights of persons with disabilities have been strengthened by the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for



DISABILITY AT A GLANCE FOCUSES ON BARRIERS TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific — the world’s first set of regionally agreed disability-inclusive development goals.

Disability at a Glance 2015 focuses on barriers to the employment of persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region, and offers solutions to strengthen their employment prospects. Employment is not only the primary means of livelihood generation; it also provides individuals with the purpose and meaning of playing a productive role in society. Equal access to employment is therefore vital, and barriers to work faced by persons with disabilities must be removed.

The full report can be downloaded at <http://goo.gl/Zvr7YL>

YOUTH

Youth's role on the SDGs

Switched On: Youth at the Heart of Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific is a new publication co-produced by several UN agencies. It aims to highlight the current challenges and opportunities of youth and raise the importance on their role in the achievement of SDGs. The year 2015 represented a pivotal juncture for youth in Asia and the Pacific. It marked

the point at which the Millennium Development Goals made way for the newly adopted SDGs. It is also an opportune moment for policymakers, academia and civil society to assess how health, education, employment and social protection are impacting youth in the region. Revisiting these issues will allow better engagement and stronger empowerment for the 700 million youth in Asia and the Pacific, and unleash their potential to help the region successfully implement the SDGs by 2030.

The report can be downloaded at: <http://goo.gl/Rm5k3F>



Coming up at ESCAP



[ARTNeT Seminar: Assessment of the WTO Nairobi Outcome and Implications for Asia and the Pacific](#)

Bangkok, Thailand
4 Feb 2016

[Launch of the Statistical Yearbook 2015](#)

Bangkok, Thailand
17 Feb 2016

[Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar in preparation for the Commission on the Status of Women 60th session: "Transformative financing for the achievement of the gender equality by 2030"](#)

Bangkok, Thailand
18 Feb to 19 Feb 2016

[Training Workshop on Trade Policy and Sustainable Development in Cambodia](#)

Phnom Penh, Cambodia
18 Feb to 19 Feb 2016

[Twelfth Session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture \(CAPSA\)](#)

Bangkok, Thailand
19 Feb 2016

[Pacific Islands Regional Meeting on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics](#)

Noumea, New Caledonia
22 Feb to 25 Feb 2016

[Third Session of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022](#)

Bangkok, Thailand
2 March to 4 March 2016

[Third Meeting of Legal and Technical Working Groups of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation](#)

Bangkok, Thailand
21 March to 23 March 2016

[Second Meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation](#)

Bangkok, Thailand
23 March to 25 March 2016

[Capacity Building Workshop on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation](#)

Bangkok, Thailand
25 March 2016

[Committee on Social Development, Fourth Session](#)

Bangkok, Thailand
28 March to 30 March 2016

[First High-Level Follow-up Dialogue on Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific](#)

Incheon, Republic of Korea
30 March to 31 March 2016

[Calendar of all upcoming events](#)