



Forum on

Inclusive Growth and Poverty Reduction in the New Asia and Pacific

8-9 October 2007 • ADB, Manila, Philippines



Session 1: Opening

KEY MESSAGES FOR THE CONFERENCE

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- Background and objectives: The forum
 - will discuss challenges of development in the region in the coming decade.
 - will launch the 2007 MDG Update prepared jointly by ADB, ESCAP and UNDP
 - will exchange on the lessons learned from projects financed through two poverty reduction funds supported by DFID and the Netherlands
 - is particularly relevant and timely to ADB as it is in the process of preparing a new long-term strategic framework.
- Two overarching questions:
 - Where will Asia and the Pacific be in 2020 in relation to poverty reduction, social inclusion, and economic growth?
 - What should be the role of each of us in influencing the direction that the 'New Asia and Pacific' takes in this regard?
- Two faces of Asia:
 - unprecedented economic success and reducing income poverty, versus
 - persistent social and environmental poverty and rising inequality, especially in rural areas; social exclusion of specific groups; countries and regions left behind
- New challenges for inclusive growth and poverty reduction in the region:
 - climate change,
 - demographic transition,
 - migration
- Questions for an inclusive growth strategy:
 - Do we need new development strategies? Should the emphasis be more on 'growth' or more on 'inclusion'?
 - How would 'inclusive growth' more effectively address persistent poverty and vulnerability?
 - What is the new role of central and/or local governments, private sector, and civil society?
 - How shall development institutions adopt to the new development challenges in the region of today and tomorrow?