

## FOREWORD

*Key Indicators 2007* is the 38<sup>th</sup> edition that presents a set of comprehensive social and economic annual data series on the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) developing member countries (DMCs). It is also the 7<sup>th</sup> edition that has a special chapter examining the measurement aspects of a key issue pervading the region. This year's special chapter is titled "Inequality in Asia."

This edition has 38 regional tables that compare indicators of the Millennium Development Goals and other key statistics across the 44 DMCs and 45 country tables, each with 8-year data series on social, economic, and financial statistics. The special chapter and statistical tables are also published on the ADB website (<http://www.adb.org/statistics>).

We value the contribution of DMC governments and international agencies that provided data and information for the *Key Indicators*. These data that we compiled were also uploaded to our central database – the Statistical Database System (SDBS). As part of ADB's role as a key knowledge bank for developing countries in the region and to support the development community and policy makers, we made available a subset of SDBS to the general public, through the Internet, beginning 16 May 2007 (<http://sdfs.adb.org>).

To further enhance the tracking of progress and understanding of the key issues affecting the region, household survey data, which are also the bases of some official statistics reported in the *Key Indicators*, were further analyzed in the special chapter. In particular, data on expenditure and income distributions were analyzed to describe trends in inequality. Factors accounting for inequality as well as increases in inequality were also identified using these survey data. Based on this analysis, the chapter finds that measures of relative inequality have increased in many DMCs over roughly 10 years, spanning the early 1990s to the early 2000s.

Significantly, the special chapter notes that increases in inequality have typically taken place alongside increases in average expenditures and incomes at all points of the distribution. Thus, the increases in inequality in Asia are not so much a phenomenon of "the rich growing richer and the poor growing poorer." Instead, a more accurate description of the situation is one where the rich have grown richer faster than the poor. The fact that the poor have also seen their incomes and expenditures increase has meant that poverty rates have been declining in the region despite growing inequality.

Nevertheless, rising inequality is of concern. In addition to the fact that it can dampen the beneficial impact of economic growth on poverty reduction, rising inequality can also weaken social cohesion and adversely affect prospects for economic growth. For these reasons, policy makers will need to pay considerable attention to ensuring that growth is inclusive.

The special chapter is a good example of how a complex issue such as inequality can be examined objectively through data-intensive research. We will continue to undertake such research and use new technologies to improve the *Key Indicators* so that it could be more responsive in tracking the development in the region.



Haruhiko Kuroda  
President

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Development Indicators and Policy Research Division (ERDI) of the Economics and Research Department (ERD), under the overall guidance of Bishnu Dev Pant, Assistant Chief Economist, ERDI, prepared *Key Indicators 2007*. Dalisay S. Maligalig, assisted by Sining Cuevas and Aleli Rosario, coordinated the production of said publication.

The special chapter was prepared by Rana Hasan, J. Salcedo Cain, and Rhoda Magsombol, with contributions from Duangkamon Chotikapanich and Prasada Rao (Section 4.2 and Appendix 1), Hyun Son (Section 4.5), and Dalisay S. Maligalig (Appendix 2). The chapter benefited considerably from the detailed comments and suggestions of Gary Fields. An interdepartmental review process within ADB further refined the chapter. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of ERDI staff on a variety of issues, including procurement of household survey data sets used in this chapter, as is the research assistance of Arturo Martinez. Thanks are also due to Jesus Felipe, Aashish Mehta, Hyun Son, Ajay Tandon, and Juzhong Zhuang for very useful discussions. Nguyen Thang provided valuable advice on the Viet Nam Living Standards Survey data sets, and Guntur Sugiyarto and Asep Suryahadi, on SAKERNAS data from Indonesia. Copy editing was done by Jonathan Aspin.

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Marie Anne Cagas, Sining Cuevas, Blessila Datu, Redencion Ignacio, Melissa Pascua, Aleli Rosario, and Elena Varona compiled, validated, and uploaded to the Statistical Database System (SDBS) the data obtained from national and international agencies. They also generated the regional and country tables. Rhoda Magsombol and Rana Hasan prepared the regional tables on poverty estimates.

The country and regional tables were reviewed by Kaushal Joshi, Dalisay S. Maligalig, Vaskar Saha, and Benson Sim, with Ma. Priscila del Rosario as copy editor. Evelyn Andrada, Clarita Dalaguit-Truong, and Rowena Vicente rendered secretarial and proofreading services.

Rhommell Rico adapted the design of Hera Julianne I. Baliwas, second prize winner of the 2006 *Key Indicators* Cover Design Competition, for this year's cover. Typesetting was done by Mercedita Cabañeros and Rhommell Rico. The ADB Printing Unit under the supervision of Raveendranath Rajan was responsible for printing. Sabyasachi Mitra planned and coordinated the dissemination of *Key Indicators 2007*.



Ifzal Ali  
Chief Economist

## STATISTICAL CONTACTS

- Afghanistan - Central Statistics Office  
Da Afghanistan Bank
  - Armenia - Central Bank of Armenia  
National Statistical Services
  - Azerbaijan - National Bank of Azerbaijan  
State Statistical Committee
  - Bangladesh - Bangladesh Bank  
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
  - Bhutan - Ministry of Finance  
National Statistical Bureau  
Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan
  - Brunei Darussalam - Department of Economic Planning and Development  
Ministry of Finance
  - Cambodia - Ministry of Economy and Finance  
National Bank of Cambodia  
National Institute of Statistics
  - China, People's Republic of - National Bureau of Statistics  
People's Bank of China
  - Cook Islands - Statistics Office
  - Fiji Islands - Bureau of Statistics  
Reserve Bank of Fiji
  - Georgia - Ministry of Finance  
National Bank of Georgia  
State Department for Statistics of Georgia
  - Hong Kong, China - Census and Statistics Department  
Hong Kong Monetary Authority
  - India - Central Statistical Organization  
Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance  
Reserve Bank of India
  - Indonesia - Badan Pusat Statistik Indonesia  
Bank Indonesia
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Kazakhstan	-	Agency on Statistics National Bank of Kazakhstan
Kiribati	-	National Statistics Office
Korea, Republic of	-	Bank of Korea National Statistical Office
Kyrgyz Republic	-	National Bank of Kyrgyz Republic National Statistical Committee
Lao PDR	-	Bank of the Lao PDR Ministry of Finance National Statistical Center
Malaysia	-	Bank Negara Malaysia Department of Statistics
Maldives	-	Maldives Monetary Authority Ministry of Finance and Treasury Ministry of Planning and National Development
Marshall Islands	-	Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office
Micronesia, Federated States of	-	Department of Economic Affairs
Mongolia	-	Bank of Mongolia National Statistical Office
Myanmar	-	Central Statistical Organization Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development
Nauru		Bureau of Statistics
Nepal	-	Central Bureau of Statistics Nepal Rastra Bank
Pakistan	-	Federal Bureau of Statistics Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs State Bank of Pakistan
Palau	-	Bureau of Budget and Planning, Ministry of Finance
Papua New Guinea	-	Bank of Papua New Guinea National Statistical Office
Philippines	-	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Bureau of the Treasury National Statistical Coordination Board National Statistics Office

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- Samoa – Central Bank of Samoa  
Statistical Service Division, Ministry of Finance  
Treasury Department of Samoa
- Singapore – Department of Statistics  
Economic Development Board  
International Enterprise Singapore  
Ministry of Finance  
Ministry of Manpower  
Monetary Authority of Singapore
- Solomon Islands – Central Bank of Solomon Islands  
Solomon Islands National Statistics Office
- Sri Lanka – Central Bank of Sri Lanka  
Department of Census and Statistics
- Taipei,China – Central Bank of China  
Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics
- Tajikistan – National Bank of Tajikistan  
State Committee on Statistics
- Thailand – Bank of Thailand  
National Economic and Social Development Board  
National Statistical Office
- Timor-Leste – Banking and Payments Authority  
National Statistics Directorate
- Tonga – Ministry of Finance  
National Reserve Bank of Tonga  
Statistics Department
- Turkmenistan – Central Bank of Turkmenistan  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
National Institute of State Statistics and Information
- Tuvalu – Central Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance,  
Economic Planning and Industry
- Uzbekistan – Cabinet of Ministers  
Central Bank of Uzbekistan  
State Committee on Statistics
- Vanuatu – Reserve Bank of Vanuatu  
Statistics Office
- Viet Nam – General Statistics Office  
Ministry of Finance  
State Bank of Viet Nam
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## International Organizations

Data were also obtained from the following international organizations:

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)  
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)  
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)  
International Labour Organization (ILO)  
International Monetary Fund (IMF)  
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)  
Third World Institute (TWI)  
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
United Nations Population Division (UNPD)  
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)  
World Bank  
World Health Organization (WHO)  
World Institute for Development Economic Research (WIDER)  
World Resources Institute (WRI)

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## INTRODUCTORY NOTES

Out of the total 45 country tables, 44 pertain to ADB's developing member countries (DMCs) and one unclassified regional member country, Brunei Darussalam. Each of the eight Millennium Development Goal (MDG) tables represents one MDG goal while the 30 regional tables compare the DMCs and Brunei Darussalam in terms of key social and economic indicators. The country groups in the regional and MDG tables are aligned with those of ADB's regional departments. The data series are compiled from two major sources, namely, the statistical contacts in ADB's DMCs and international statistics agencies. The data obtained from the DMCs are comparable to the extent that the individual countries follow the standard statistical concepts, definitions, and estimation methods that the United Nations and other applicable international agencies recommend. However, countries invariably develop and apply their own concepts, definitions, and estimation methodology to suit their individual conditions and these may not necessarily conform with the recommended international standards. Hence, although attempts are made to present the data in comparable and uniform format, they are subject to variations in the statistical methods used by individual countries. These variations are reflected in the footnotes of the statistical tables.

### General Guidelines

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The cut-off date for the data to be included in this issue was 30 June 2007.

Nineteen countries have varying fiscal years not corresponding to the calendar year. Whenever the statistical series, e.g., national accounts or government finance, are compiled by fiscal year, these are presented under single year captions corresponding to the period in which most of the fiscal year falls, as follows:

Developing Member Country	Fiscal Year	Year Caption
Afghanistan	21 March 2006–20 March 2007	2006
Cook Islands (before 1990)	1 April 1990–31 March 1991	1990
Cook Islands (after 1990)	1 July 2005–30 June 2006	2006
Hong Kong, China	} 1 April 2006–31 March 2007	2006
India		
Myanmar		
Singapore		
Indonesia (until 1999)	1 April 2000–31 March 2001	2000
Bangladesh	} 1 July 2005–30 June 2006	2006
Bhutan		
Pakistan		
Samoa		
Timor-Leste		
Tonga		
Taipei, China (until 1999)	1 July 1999–30 June 2000	2000

Nepal	16 July 2005–15 July 2006	2006
Lao PDR Marshall Islands Micronesia, Fed. States of Palau	} 1 October 2005–30 September 2006	2006

## Key Symbols

...	Data not available at cut-off date
–	Magnitude equals zero
0 or 0.0	Magnitude is less than half of unit employed
*	Provisional/Preliminary/Estimate/Budget figure
I	Marked break in series

Unless otherwise specified, "\$" refers to US dollars.

## Measurement Units

bbbl	barrel	lb	pound
bn	billion	m	meter
c	cent	mn	million
cu. m.	cubic meter	m.t.	metric ton
ha	hectare	pc	piece
kg	kilogram	sq km	square kilometer
kgoe	kilogram of oil equivalent	sq m	square meter
kl	kiloliter	'000	thousand
km	kilometer	toe	ton of oil equivalent
kWh	kilowatt-hour		

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BOP	balance of payments
c.i.f.	cost, insurance, and freight
CEO	chief executive officer
CEPD	Council for Economic Planning and Development
CPI	consumer price index
CPS	Current Population Survey
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys
DMC	developing member country
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
f.o.b.	free on board
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FIES	Family Income and Expenditure Survey
FISIM	financial intermediation services indirectly measured



FY	fiscal year
GDP	gross domestic product
GE	generalized entropy
GFD	gross fiscal deficit
GIC	growth incidence curve
GNI	gross national income
GNP	gross national product
GQ	generalized quadratic
HDI	human development index
HIES	Household Income and/or Expenditure Survey
HSC	harmonized system classification
ICP	International Comparison Program
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LGU	local government unit
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MPCE	monthly per capita expenditures
MPS	material product system
MRP	mixed recall period
n.e.s.	not elsewhere stated
n.i.e.	not indicated elsewhere
NAS	national account statistics
NFA	net foreign assets
NIR	net international reserves
NSS	National Sample Survey
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
p.a.	per annum
PEGR	poverty equivalent growth rate
PPP	purchasing power parity
SDR	special drawing rights
SITC	standard international trade classification
SNA	system of national accounts
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
URP	uniform recall period
US	United States
VHLSS	Viet Nam Household Living Standard Survey
VLSS	Viet Nam Living Standard Survey
WAIR	weighted average interest rates
WHO	World Health Organization
WIDER	World Institute for Development Economic Research
WIID	World Income Inequality Database