Introduction to the Regional Trends and Tables

The 2013 issue of the *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific* contains 112 regional tables illustrating economic, social, and environmental developments in Asia and the Pacific. The regional trends and tables are grouped into seven themes containing several subtopics. Each theme has a brief analysis of key trends of selected indicators highlighting important recent developments. The analyses are illustrated by charts and figures that compare indicators for Asian Development Bank member economies for the latest year available, e.g., 2011 or later; and often, the latest year is compared with an earlier year such as 1990 or 2000.

The seven themes are: People; Economy and Output; Money, Finance, and Prices; Globalization; Transport, Electricity, and Communications; Energy and Environment; and Government and Governance.

**People** presents demographic indicators such as the size and growth of the population; birth, death, and fertility rates; and life expectancy, together with information on international migration, urbanization, employment and unemployment, and health and education resources. The section also includes statistics on the extent of poverty at $2 a day in the region and the human development index, which combines a range of economic and social statistics into an index number reflecting the overall level of well-being in each economy.

The theme evaluates the distribution of population across and within the region and the share of the region’s urban population in that of the world. Other issues discussed include population growth rates, population aging, urbanization, and the rankings in the human development index.

A discussion on poverty, a relevant part of this theme, is included in the earlier analysis of trends for *Millennium Development Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger*, which aims to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than $1 a day. Education, another important part of this theme, was discussed in the analysis of trends for *Millennium Development Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education*, which aims to make sure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

**Economy and Output** focuses on the levels and growth of gross domestic product (GDP); related statistics taken from the national accounts such as gross national income, value added, consumption expenditure, capital formation, exports and imports, and gross domestic saving; and related indicators on production.

This theme compares the relative size of economies both within the region and in the world as a whole using data on GDP adjusted by purchasing power parity. The “Economy and output” section shows how the GDP shares of agriculture, industry, and services changed since 1990, and which economies are consuming more and which are investing more in capital for future growth.

**Money, Finance, and Prices** contains tables on inflation and on monetary and financial statistics. These include data on money supply, interest rates, bank lending, and stock markets. The data also include official exchange rates and purchasing power parity conversion factors.

The discussion for this theme focuses on trends in inflation, exchange rates, money supply, interest rates, and the level of nonperforming bank loans.
Globalization gives the latest statistics on external trade, balance of payments, international reserves, capital flows, external indebtedness, and tourism. The expansion of trade with countries in other regions and within the region is an important aspect of globalization; international movements of labor and capital are also important.

The theme discusses trends in merchandise exports and imports, the increasing importance of services exports in some economies, remittances by migrant workers, which are significant sources of income for many countries in the region, and foreign direct investment.

Transport, Electricity, and Communications covers statistics on road and rail networks and on road motor vehicles and traffic injuries and fatalities. This theme also covers electricity consumption, electrification, electricity generation—which is growing rapidly in the region to support industrialization and household electrification—and the fuel sources used in generation. Statistics on telephone and internet subscriptions are given.

The discussion covers the expansion of road networks across the region, increase in vehicle ownership (and in road fatalities), demand for electricity, and the surge in cellular telephone subscriptions.

Energy and Environment comprises statistics on energy productivity; supply and use of primary energy; and indicators related to the environment, which includes land use, forest resources, and air and water pollution.

The discussion includes trends in demand for energy, dependence on energy imports, fossil fuel subsidies, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Discussion of deforestation, an important aspect of this theme, is included in the earlier analysis of key trends for Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensure environmental stability, which seeks to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources. Millennium Development Goal 7 also includes data on forests, protected areas, carbon dioxide emissions, and consumption of ozone-depleting substances.

Government and Governance contains statistics on tax revenue, government fiscal balances, and government expenditure on health and education services and on social security and welfare, as ratios of GDP. It also includes statistics on the cost involved and the time required to register a new business, and the corruption perceptions index.

The theme discusses trends in fiscal performances, government spending and spending priorities, and tax revenue. It also presents the improvement in cost and time required to start a business in the region, and discusses the perceptions of corruption in the region.