PART III

Regional Trends and Tables
Introduction to the Regional Trends and Tables

The 2014 issue of the *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific* contains 101 regional tables illustrating economic, social, and environmental developments in Asia and the Pacific. The regional trends and tables are grouped into eight themes containing several subtopics. Each theme focuses on selected indicators and provides a brief analysis of key trends, highlighting important recent developments. The analyses are illustrated by charts and figures that compare indicators for Asian Development Bank (ADB) member economies for the latest year available, e.g., 2012 or 2013; and often, the latest year is compared with an earlier year such as 1990 or 2000.

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

**People** presents demographic indicators—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 poverty and inequality, and the Human Development Index (HDI). The HDI combines a range of economic and social statistics into an index reflecting the overall level of well-being in each economy. This theme evaluates the distribution of population across and within the region, population growth rates, population aging, and urbanization. A more detailed discussion on poverty, which is a relevant part of this theme, is included in a special chapter on “Poverty in Asia: A Deeper Look” and 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, is 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 national accounts statistics such as gross national income, value added, consumption expenditure, capital formation, exports and imports, and gross domestic saving; and indicators on production. This theme, using data on GDP in purchasing power parity terms, compares the relative size of economies both within the region and in the world as a whole. The Economy and Output section also discusses how the structure of the economy, in terms of GDP shares of agriculture, industry, and services, has changed since 2000, 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 other monetary and financial statistics. These include data on money supply, interest rates, bank lending, official exchange rates, and stock markets. The discussion for this theme focuses on trends in inflation, exchange rates, money supply, interest rates, and nonperforming bank loans, as well as the impacts of volatile capital flows in 2013.

**Globalization** gives the latest statistics on external trade, balance of payments, international reserves, capital flows, external indebtedness, and tourism. The expansion of trade with economies in other regions and within the region is an important aspect of globalization; and so are the international movements of labor and capital. This theme discusses trends in merchandise exports and imports; the increasing importance of
services exports in some economies; remittances from migrant workers, a significant source of income for many economies in the region; net official loans and grants; and net private capital flows.

**Transport and Communications** covers statistics on road and rail networks, air carrier departures and container port traffic, and motor vehicle injuries and fatalities. This theme also includes statistics on mobile and fixed telephone subscriptions, and broadband internet penetration rates. The discussion covers the expansion of road and rail networks across the region, increases in vehicle ownership and road fatalities, and the surge in mobile telephone and broadband internet subscriptions.

**Energy and Electricity** comprises statistics on energy productivity, supplies and uses of primary energy, and electricity consumption and generation. The discussion focuses on trends in demand for energy, dependence on energy imports, energy efficiency, and fossil fuel subsidies; and the rapidly rising rates of electricity generation across the region that are accompanying industrialization and household electrification.

**Environment** includes indicators related to land use, forest resources, and air and water pollution. The discussion covers greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and freshwater resources. 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. The section on 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 governments’ tax revenue, fiscal balances, and expenditure on health and education services, and on social security and welfare. Statistics on the cost involved and time required to register a new business, as well as the latest global rankings for Transparency International’s corruption perceptions index, are also included. Discussed under this theme are trends in fiscal performances, government spending and spending priorities, and tax revenue; gains in improving the business climate in the region; and the persistence of corruption.