

Knowledge products



Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2024: Boosting Affordable and Longer-term Financing for Governments

Developing Asia-Pacific countries are finding it harder to increase public investments to accelerate progress towards the SDGs amid higher public debt levels, rising government borrowing costs, and shorter loan maturities. The *Survey 2024* highlights new perspectives and approaches that policymakers in Asia and the Pacific, donors, multilateral development banks and credit rating agencies should adopt to boost affordable and long-term financing for governments.

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MPFD Working Paper, No. WP/24/01

Increasing domestic resource mobilization through the digitalization of tax administrations in Asia and the Pacific

by Alberto Isgut and Alfonso Pellegrino

The digitalization of tax administrations has potential to enhance tax compliance, expand the tax base and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of domestic resource mobilization, contributing critical tax revenues for sustainable development.

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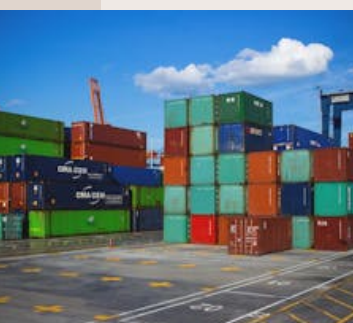
MPFD Working Paper, No. WP/24/02

Towards an integrated national financing framework for Pakistan

by Alberto Isgut

Integrated national financing frameworks offer powerful tools for Pakistan to make the financing of its long-term sustainable development priorities compatible with the implementation of its current macroeconomic stabilization programme.

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Asia-Pacific Quarterly Economic Update, May 2024

Export rebound propelled GDP growth in Q1/2024 in some major Asia-Pacific countries after several quarters of contraction. Yet, such a revival is far from being broad-based. At the same time, despite steady employment conditions, sluggish increases in wages and renewed food price rises are keeping peoples' purchasing power weak.

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Events & workshops



ESCAP Photo/Cory Wright

High-level thematic roundtable on “Socioeconomic outlook, emerging challenges and solutions” during the 80th Commission session*22 April 2024, Thailand*

This roundtable’s eminent experts shed light on how Asia-Pacific countries can navigate through challenging economic environment (such as high interest rates, limited fiscal space and heightened geopolitical tension) and rapidly changing development context (such as climate change, digitalization and demographic shifts) while keeping in view the need to foster inclusive, resilient and sustainable development.

Accelerating financing for climate action: progress across the Asia-Pacific region, a side event during the 80th Commission session*25 April 2024, Thailand*

Co-organized by the government of Finland, the government of the Netherlands and ESCAP, the event focused on what ministries of finance can do to accelerate climate action in the Asia-Pacific region. This side event drew from the experiences of Asia-Pacific countries, the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action, the Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance, and stakeholders to discuss possible ways forward.

**Tajikistan: Meeting with the Government and UN RCO to initiate discussions to develop a green bond market***18 January 2024*

Organized by ESCAP in partnership with the Agency for Securities Market Development and Special Registration of the Ministry of Finance of Tajikistan and the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Tajikistan, this meeting allowed participants to review and discuss the necessary steps that regulators, issuers, investors, and policymakers must take to build a green bond market in Tajikistan. The meeting also explored options to develop a regulatory framework aligned with international best practices.

Mongolia: Stakeholder consultation workshop: climate risks to the financial sector*2 February 2024*

Climate change can pose significant risks to the banking and financial system, making it essential to measure its impact and manage risks effectively. ESCAP is working with the Bank of Mongolia, with financing support from the NDC Partnership, to conduct research to assess climate risks and their potential impact on the financial system. The workshop acted as a first consultation workshop on the topic of climate risks to the financial sector and the discussions gained consensus on the key transition challenges and potential financial stability risks.

**Mongolia: Sustainability and climate reporting workshop***30 April 2024*

The Sustainability and climate reporting workshop aimed to address the increasing importance of sustainability and climate disclosure and its implications for Mongolian financial institutions and businesses. Notably, the event included disseminating climate-related disclosure guidance developed by the Mongolian Sustainable Finance Association with support from ESCAP.

Pakistan: National workshop on public finance for SDGs within the context of the integrated national financing framework*27-28 February 2024*

ESCAP partnered with UNDP Pakistan to organize a comprehensive workshop on the what-why-how of integrated national financing frameworks (INFF), with particular focus of its added value to Pakistan. The event provided a solid understanding of national development plans and aligning financing strategy, to improve policy coherence and exchange national/regional best practices on mobilizing public and private sources of finance in support of the SDGs and Pakistan’s sustainable development objectives.

**ESCAP & DZ BANK Roundtable on "Opportunities to advance thematic bonds"***26 March 2024, Thailand*

Co-organized by ESCAP and DZ Bank, the roundtable is a part of ESCAP’s Climate Invest Project, bringing together debt issuers and stakeholders from the government and the private sector in Thailand with counterparts from Germany. The roundtable highlighted the opportunities and challenges in using thematic bonds to bridge the sustainable finance gap, particularly in enabling flows of finance to better pipelines of green deals, while keeping in view the lessons learned from Germany and the issuer experiences in Thailand.