Analysis and interpretations in this Guidebook are based on available data and information up to the middle of February 2012.

The term "Asia and the Pacific" in this SME Policy Guidebook refers to the 58 regional members and associate members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). They include the following group of countries and territories: Afghanistan; American Samoa; Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Cook Islands; Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; Fiji; French Polynesia; Georgia; Guam; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Micronesia (Federated States of); Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; New Caledonia; New Zealand; Niue; Northern Mariana Islands; Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam.

A. Countries and territories by geographic subregion

Time series data are presented according to geographical classification, with the exception of developed economies, which are grouped separately. Throughout this Guidebook, countries and territories may be referred to by a shortened version of their official name or, for some of the graphs presented, their International Organization for Standardization (ISO) code. Where the designation “country or area” appears, it covers countries, territories, areas and/or cities.

Developed Economies: Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

East and North-East Asia: China; Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; Hong Kong, China; Macao, China; Mongolia; Republic of Korea.

South-East Asia: Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; Indonesia; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Myanmar; Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Viet Nam.

South and South-West Asia: Afghanistan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Maldives; Nepal; Pakistan; Sri Lanka; Turkey.

North and Central Asia: Armenia; Azerbaijan; Georgia; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Russian Federation; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan.

Pacific: American Samoa; Cook Islands; Fiji; French Polynesia; Guam; Kiribati; Marshall Islands; Micronesia (Federated States of); Nauru; New Caledonia; Niue; Northern Mariana Islands; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Tonga; Tuvalu; Vanuatu.

B. Notes on legal responsibilities

The opinions and estimates set forth in this publication are the responsibility of the authors, and should not necessarily be considered as reflecting the views or carrying the endorsement of the United Nations. Any errors are the responsibility of the authors.

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Bibliographical and other references have, wherever possible, been verified. The United Nations bears no responsibility for the availability or functioning of URLs.

C. Notes on style

References to dollars ($) are in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.

A space is used to distinguish thousands and millions.

Use of a hyphen between dates (e.g., 2005-2010) indicates the full period involved, including the beginning and end years.

The following symbols have been used throughout the publication:

- A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable.
- A point (.) is used to indicate decimals.
- A space is used to distinguish thousands and millions.
- Totals may not add precisely because of rounding.