ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared under the overall direction and guidance of Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Hong-joo Hahm, Deputy Executive Secretary, provided valuable advice and comments. The report was coordinated by a core team under the direction of Aynul Hasan, Director of the Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division. The core team led by Hamza Ali Malik, included Shuvojit Banerjee, Steve Loris Gui-Diby, Achara Jantarasaengaram, Daniel Jeongdae Lee, Oliver Paddison, Kiatkanid Pongpanich and Vatcharin Sirimaneetham. Others who contributed from the Division were Alper Aras, Sudip Ranjan Basu, Alberto Isgut, Zheng Jian, Naylin Oo, Yusuke Tateno and Heather Taylor.

ESCAP staff who contributed substantively include: Stefanos Fotiou (Director), Hitomi Rankine, Donovan Storey and Ram Tiwaree of the Environment and Development Division; Shamika N. Sirimanne (Director), Sung Eun Kim and Sanjay Srivastava of the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division; Laura Lopez (Officer-in-Charge), Vanessa Steinmayer, Srinivas Tata, Soojung Ko and Xuan Wang of the Social Development Division; Margarita Guerrero (Director) and Eric Hermouet of the Statistics Division; Susan F. Stone (Director), Wittada Anukoonwattakha, Soo Hyun Kim and Mia Mikic of the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division; Yuwei Li (Director), Peter O’Neill and Madan Regmi of the Transport Division; Josefa Maiava (Director) and Sanjesh Naidu of the ESCAP Pacific Office; Kilaparti Ramakrishna (Director) and Yejin Ha of the ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia; Tiziana Bonapace (Director) and Hong Pum Chung of the ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia; Nagesh Kumar (Director), Matthew Hammill and Swayamsiddha Panda of the ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia; and Masakazu Ichimura (Head) of Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture. Comments were received from Patrik Andersson, Cai Cai, Srinivas Tata, Therese Bjork, and Marco Roncarati of the Social Development Division.

Valuable advice, comments and inputs were received from many staff of the United Nations who include Phu Huynh and Matthieu Cognac of the International Labour Organization.

The following consultants provided inputs: Zafar Berdinazarov and Bakhodur Eshonov, Center for Economic Research, Tashkent, Uzbekistan; Filipe Lage de Sousa, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Economics, Federal Fluminense University Gragoatá Campus, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Arup Mitra, Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University Enclave, India; Vijay Naidu, Head, School of Government, Development and International Affairs, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji; Richard Pomfret, Professor, School of Economics, University of Adelaide, Australia; Vo Tri Thanh, Vice President, Central Institute for Economic Management, Hanoi, Viet Nam; Upali Wickramasinghe, Agricultural Development and Food Policy, Colombo, Sri Lanka; and Yanqun Zhang, Professor, Institute of Quantitative and Technical Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China.

The report benefited from extensive comments and suggestions from an eminent group of policymakers, scholars and development practitioners, acting as external peer reviewers, namely: Jose Ramon G. Albert, Senior Research Fellow, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Manila; Aisulu Amanova, Head, Division of Sustainable Development Policy, Ministry of Economy, Kyrgyzstan; Deabpriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh; Saovanee Chantapong, Senior Expert in Macroeconomic Modelling, Macroeconomic and Monetary Policy Department, Bank of Thailand, Bangkok; Sangay Chophel, Researcher and Publication Officer, Centre for Bhutan Studies, Thimphu; Sipaphaphe Chounramany, Technical Officer, Planning Department, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao People's Democratic Republic; Melam Chozang, Centre for Bhutan Studies and GNH Research, Thimphu; Khashchuluun Chuluundorj, Professor, National University of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar; Paula Cirikiyasawa, Acting Chief Economist, Ministry of Finance, National Development and Strategic Planning, Fiji; Lal Shnaker Chimire, Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission Secretariat, Nepal; Abdul Hakim Hellali, Manager of Result Based Monitoring, Ministry of Economy,
Afghanistan; Moinul Islam, Additional Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh; Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka, Colombo; Vanne Khut, Economist, Macroeconomic and Fiscal Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Cambodia; Ahmed Moustafa, Team Leader of Inclusive Growth, United Nations Development Programme, Fiji Multi-Country Office, Suva; Kemueli Naiqama, Chief Economist, Ministry of Finance, National Development and Strategic Planning, Fiji; Ugyen Norbu, Chief, National Accounts and Price Division, National Statistics Bureau, Bhutan; Theng Pagnathun, General Directorate of Planning, Ministry of Planning, Royal Government of Cambodia, Phnom Penh; Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment, Nepal; Lux Rachana, Assistant to the Secretary General, Council for the Development of Cambodia, Phnom Penh; Binayak Sen, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Dhaka; Ibragim Tangiev, Chief Expert, Department of Social and Migration Policies, Ministry of National Economy, Kazakhstan; Rokoua Teunroko, Senior Economist, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Kiribati; Talublugkhana Thanadhidhasuwanna, Senior Economist, Macroeconomic and Monetary Policy Department, Bank of Thailand, Bangkok; Kairat Torebayev, Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of National Economy, Kazakhstan; Trevor Mele Trief, Economist (Real Sector), Department of Finance and Treasury, Vanuatu; Luvsan Tuvshinjargal, Officer, Development Policy and Planning, Economic Policy Department, Mongolia; Karma Ura, President, Centre for Bhutan Studies and GNH Research, Thimphu; Seljan Verdiyeva, Second Secretary, Department of Economic Cooperation and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Azerbaijan; Khin Nwe Yee, Director, Planning Department, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; and Naoyuki Yoshino, Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute, Japan.

Chawarin Klongdee and Pannipa Jangvithaya of the Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, ESCAP, provided research assistance.

The manuscript was edited by John Loftus. The graphic design was created by QUO Bangkok, Ltd., and the layout and printing were provided by Clung Wicha Press.

Sutinee Yeamkitpibul, supported by Sirinart Suanyam and Nopharat Rojanasupsakul of the Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, proofread the manuscript and undertook all administrative processing necessary for the issuance and launch of the publication.

Katie Elles, Martin Dessert, Patricia de la Torre Rodriguez and Chavalit Boonthanom of the ESCAP Strategic Publications, Communications and Advocacy Section coordinated the launch and dissemination of the report.