



South Asia Policy Dialogue on
Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2022
BUILDING FORWARD FAIRER
Economic Policies for an Inclusive Recovery and Development
31 May 2022 (14:30 – 16:30 Hours, Indian Standard Time)

Introduction

The 2022 edition of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2022*, the flagship publication of ESCAP, was launched recently at the UNESCAP headquarters in Bangkok, on Tuesday, 12 April 2022. The *Survey 2022* discusses at length how the rapid development of Asia-Pacific economies over the past few decades has lifted millions out of poverty, but the high economic growth has masked key social issues, particularly inequality, and the global financial crisis and COVID-19 pandemic have forced such issues into the mainstream. This 75th issue of the *Survey* released during the auspicious occasion of ESCAP's 75th anniversary, suggests Asia-Pacific economies must prioritize inclusive growth – whereby citizens of all socio-economic groups are able to improve their livelihoods, incomes, health and education levels. An important opportunity to shift the paradigm that was missed in 2009, so it is vital that Asia-Pacific economies make full use of this post-COVID-19 rebuilding process.

The strong recovery that was made in the first half of 2021 was curtailed largely by the impact of the virus' Delta variant. Recovery is thus difficult not only due to the unequal devastation of the pandemic, but also because of constrained fiscal and monetary policy spaces faced by economies in the region. However, a robust and inclusive recovery is very much possible, and this is where the *Survey 2022* hopes to provide useful insights.

The Policy Dialogue will provide a forum for discussion of the key messages of the 2022 *Survey* especially relating to the major challenges including those created by COVID-19 that South Asia is facing and policy options to address them. The Dialogue will take the form of an interactive discussion following an introductory presentation followed by remarks by eminent panelists and open discussion with participants.

The Policy Dialogue which will be held in a hybrid mode.

Tentative Programme

14:30 – 14:40	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, Head, Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, UNESCAP, New Delhi
14:40 – 15:05	Presentation on “Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2022: Perspectives for South Asia” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Michal M. Podolski, Economic Affairs Officer, MPFD, UNESCAP
15:05 – 16:00	Moderated panel discussion: (Time: 7 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Nagesh Kumar, Director, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi • Prof. Shaleen Singhal, Dean (Research and Relationships), TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi • Prof. Shahid Ahmed, Professor, Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi • Dr. Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh • Prof. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM, Bangladesh • Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan
16:00 – 16:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open discussion
16:25 – 16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap up

Information on the Panelists

Prof. Nagesh Kumar

Prof Nagesh Kumar is Director of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (**ISID**), a New Delhi-based public-funded policy think-tank under the Indian Council of Social Science Research. From 2009 until April 2021, he served as Director at the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**, Bangkok, where he has held several senior management roles, including its Chief Economist, Division Director, and Head, South Asia Office. From 2002 to 2009, Dr Kumar was the **Director-General** of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (**RIS**), a New Delhi-based policy think-tank of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. During 1993-98, he served as an Economist at **UNU-MERIT**, Maastricht, the Netherlands. He has also served on the boards of Exim Bank of India, ICTSD-Geneva, SACEPS-Dhaka/Kathmandu. Additionally, he has also served as a consultant for the World Bank, ADB, ILO, UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNDP, Commonwealth Secretariat, among others. A PhD from Delhi School of Economics, Dr Kumar is the recipient of the Exim Bank's first International Trade Research Award and GDN's Research Medal. Dr. Kumar has researched extensively on different aspects of economic development, resulting in the publication of 18 books, over 30 flagship reports of United Nations and RIS, over 120 peer-reviewed papers, and numerous popular articles and columns, attracting over 7350 Google citations. He tweets @nagehkum



Prof. Shaleen Singhal

Shaleen Singhal is a Professor and Dean (Research & Partnerships) at TERI School of Advanced Studies. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, United Kingdom and had been a Visiting Fulbright Fellow at Yale University in 2018. Dr Singhal has over 24 years of research, consultancy and teaching experience in areas relating to sustainable smart cities, climate change, sustainable consumption, redevelopment, public policy and planning. His PhD from Ulster of University, UK (now Ulster University) received the Global Emerald/EFMD Outstanding Doctoral Research Award 2009 and the Best Thesis in Built Environment, University of Ulster, Faculty Award 2009. He had worked as a lecturer in Sustainability Design at the School of the Built Environment, University of Ulster.



He is a founding member of the International Universities Climate Alliance, member of the Global Urban Competitiveness Project Council, US, and member of the ProSPER.Net alliance in the Asia-Pacific region. Dr Singhal has successfully led several multi-disciplinary research and consultancy assignments focusing on India and other developing countries. He had been the Principal Investigator of the EU-UNEP funded Switch Asia initiative on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP); and the Indian Lead Collaborator of the Indian European multi-level climate governance research networking programme. Inter-disciplinary research by him and his PhD scholars examines the challenges and solutions for cities. He had pioneered in structuring a first-of-its-kind MTech programme on Urban Development Management in India, and the first master's course on Sustainable Consumption and Production with emerging economies perspective. He contributes to the doctoral programmes at leading architecture and planning schools in India.

Prof. Shahid Ahmed

Prof. Shahid Ahmed is presently a Professor in the Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia-A Central University, New Delhi. Prof. Ahmed has a teaching and research experience of 24 years. His present research broadly deals with Macroeconomics, International Trade and Development Issues.



Earlier, Prof. Ahmed has served in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) with progressively increasing responsibilities as a Consultant, Economist, and Senior Economist. During his association with UNCTAD, he has provided technical advice to the Department of Commerce, GOI on different aspects of WTO and bilateral trade negotiations. He has also served as Head, Department of Economics; Director, Centre for Jawaharlal Nehru Studies and Finance Officer of Jamia Millia Islamia. He has also been a member of the highest academic bodies, such as the University Court, Executive Council (EC), Academic Council (AC), and Finance Committee (FC) of Jamia Millia Islamia. Prof. Ahmed has acted as an external member of the Board of Studies in Economics of various universities, including M.D. University, Rohtak; Tripura University, Tripura; AMU, Aligarh; Amity University; Banasthali University, Rajasthan; etc

Dr. Fahmida Khatun

Dr. Fahmida Khatun is the Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a leading think tank in South Asia. She has accomplished her Master's in Economics from Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh. She did another Master degree in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics and PhD in Economics from the University College London, UK. She did her Post-Doctoral research at the Earth Institute, Columbia University, USA as a Fulbright Scholar in 2015. She worked on ICT and SDGs with Professor Jeffery Sachs during her Fellowship at Columbia University. She was a Visiting Fellow at Christian Michelsen Institute (CMI), Norway (1994), Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade (KIET), South Korea (2012) and the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), India (2016).



Dr. Selim Raihan

Dr. Selim Raihan is a Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Executive Director at the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM). He is working with Professor Kunal Sen on ESID's research project, The political economy determinants of economic growth. Selim has a range of research interests, including international, regional and domestic trade policy; poverty and inequality; labour market issues; and economic modelling: Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models, GTAP models, Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) techniques, WITS/SMART partial equilibrium model, dynamic stochastic general equilibrium (DSGE) model, micro and macro-econometric modelling. His ESID research is focused on the analysis of economic growth, as well as the political economy analysis of growth and development.



Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director, SDPI

Dr Vaqar Ahmed serves in an advisory capacity at many national, regional and international institutions and forums, such as the Fauji Foundation and the Creative Cities project of the British Council Pakistan. He is also a member of the steering committee of Southern Voice Think Tanks Network and a council member of the energy committee of the National University of Science & Technology (NUST). An honorary research fellow at Partnership for Economic Policy at the University of Laval in Canada, he has earlier worked as an advisor to United Nations Development Program and as the head of the macroeconomics section at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives. He has also done various assignments with the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, United Nations Economic and



Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as well as with ministries of finance, planning and commerce. Dr Ahmed has been a part of the government's Advisory Panel of Economists in 2008, Task Force on Private Sector Development in 2009, Working Group on Macroeconomic Framework for 10th Five Year Plan (2010-15) and Working Group on Social Sector Development for Vision 2025. He is also a visiting faculty member and researcher at different institutions, including the University of Le Havre in France, the National University of Ireland, IMT Institute of Advanced Studies in Italy, Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad and Pakistan Institute of Trade and Development. His research work on inclusive growth, trade, public finance and sustainable development has been published extensively, and he has received fellowships from Germany's Zeit-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, France's Young Leaders Programme and IMF's Civil Society Organizations initiative. He holds a PhD in economics.
