



FOREWORD

The Asia and the Pacific region is the most economically dynamic in the world, yet despite significant progress in recent years it still possesses the largest number of people who need to overcome extreme poverty. Development outcomes in Asia and the Pacific will therefore be central to the progress of the world towards implementing the sustainable development vision of the United Nations beyond 2015.

The 2014 edition of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific* tackles the important issue of increasing government revenue to finance sustainable development. The *Survey* demonstrates that there is significant potential for Governments in the region to increase financing by better mobilizing domestic resources and by strengthening the relevant institutional frameworks. The *Survey* also shows that the burden on individual citizens does not have to rise in order to achieve this objective, since improvements in efficiency and the reconfiguring of priorities can provide significant welfare gains for all.

Enhanced regional economic cooperation and partnerships will also be crucial for the success of the new development framework and goals. The *Survey* suggests how the countries of the region can more effectively spread the benefits of public policies across borders by focusing on linkages in the areas of transport, energy and information and communications technology.

I commend this publication to the widest possible audience as a useful input to the region's deliberations during this important year as we work together to address climate change and shape a bold and inspiring future development agenda that leads the world on a more sustainable, equitable, peaceful and prosperous path.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ban Ki-moon".

BAN Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

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