

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was carried out under the general direction of the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Kim Hak-Su. A team under the overall guidance of Ravi Ratnayake, Director of the Poverty and Development Division, prepared this report. The core team, led by Shamika Sirimanne, included Amarakoon Bandara, Shuvojit Banerjee, Somchai Congtavinsutti, Michael Francis, Eugene Gherman, Juthathip Jongwanich, Nobuko Kajjura, Muhammad H. Malik and Hirohito Toda.

Many others within ESCAP provided inputs and helpful comments. Valuable advice was received from the Advisory Committee on the *Survey*. Substantive contributions were made by Tiziana Bonapace, Daniel Esser, Bhakta Gubhaju, Siliga Kofe, Mia Mikic, Aneta Nikolova and Syed Nuruzzaman, and other inputs were received from Lisa Ainbinder, Adnan Aliani, Kelly Hayden and Marie Sicat. Comments are noted with thanks from Aynul Hasan, Beverly Jones, Amitava Mukherjee, Hitomi Rankine, Hiren Sarkar, and Yap Kioe Sheng. Pietro Gennari and the Statistics Division (tables 10-29), and Somchai Congtavinsutti (tables 1-9), of the Poverty and Development Division were responsible for the preparation of the Statistical Annex.

Written inputs were provided by the following external consultants: Mushtaq Ahmad, Tarun Das, Ron Duncan, Sushma Kapoor, Muhammad Allah Malik Kazemi, Mohammad Kordbache, Panom Lathouly, George Manzano, Hang Chuon Naron, Penjore, Prakash Kumar Shrestha and Vo Tri Thanh.

The team appreciates the excellent logistical support in processing and administration provided by Woranut Sompitayanurak. Support from Dusdeemala Kanittanon on financial matters and Anong Pattanathanes on proof-reading is appreciated. Research assistance was provided by Kiatkanid Pongpanich, Amornrut Supornsinchai and Nuankae Wongthawatchai.

The report benefited from the comments and suggestions of an external peer review meeting held in Bangkok. Participants in the meeting were a group of prominent Asian policymakers and scholars: G.K. Chadha, Member, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, Government of India; Stephen Y.L. Cheung, Professor (Chair) of Finance, City University of Hong Kong; Jovi Dacanay, Professor, University of Asia and the Pacific, Philippines; Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka; Ashfaq H. Khan, Director-General, Debt Office, and Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Pakistan; Shoab Sultan Khan, Chairman, Rural Support Programme Network, Pakistan; Santosh Mehrotra, Senior Consultant and Advisor, Rural Development Division, Planning Commission, Government of India; Pichit Patrawimolpon, Director, Department of Central Banking Studies, Bank of Thailand; Tilak Rawal, Former Governor, Central Bank of Nepal; Andrey E. Shastitko, Director-General, Bureau of Economic Analysis Foundation, Russian Federation; and Pawadee Tonguthai, Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University, Thailand.

Substantive editing of the manuscript was performed by Communications Development Incorporated, headed by Bruce Ross-Larson. The Editorial Unit of ESCAP edited the manuscript. The layout and printing were provided by TR Enterprise. Special thanks to Tjerah Leonardo who contributed to the design of the report, and Margaret Hanley, Hak-Fan Lau and other members of the ESCAP communications team, who organized the launching of the report.