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The *Asia-Pacific Development Journal* is published twice a year by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Its primary objective is to provide a medium for the exchange of knowledge, experience, ideas, information and data on all aspects of economic and social development in the Asia-Pacific region. The emphasis of the *Journal* is on the publication of empirically based, policy-oriented articles in the areas of poverty alleviation, emerging social issues and managing globalization.

The *Journal* welcomes original articles analysing issues and problems relevant to the region from the above perspective. The articles should have a strong emphasis on the policy implications flowing from the analysis. Analytical book reviews will also be considered for publication.

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Announcement

This issue marks the retirement from the United Nations of Shahid Ahmed, Editor of the *Journal*. As Editor from 1997 to 2004, Shahid Ahmed served the *Journal* with skill, dedication and commitment, contributing to its success in numerous ways. We wish to thank him for his valuable contributions over the years. I am pleased that Shahid Ahmed has accepted our invitation to be a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal*, with effect from the next issue to be published in June 2005, to provide continuity and lend his experience.

Raj Kumar

Chief Editor