



# ASIA-PACIFIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT REPORT 2013

**TURNING THE TIDE: TOWARDS INCLUSIVE TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

# TWO KEY MESSAGES OF APTIR 2013

- 1. The Asia-Pacific region continues to outperform the rest of the world while learning to live and prosper without strong external demand.**
- 2. The Asia-Pacific region needs to move beyond the orthodox model of export-led growth, and towards inclusive trade and investment that benefits all.**





**PART 1**  
**RECENT TRENDS**  
**AND**  
**DEVELOPMENTS**

*Over-dependence* on external demand from large countries outside and inside the region is not a good path to sustained growth.



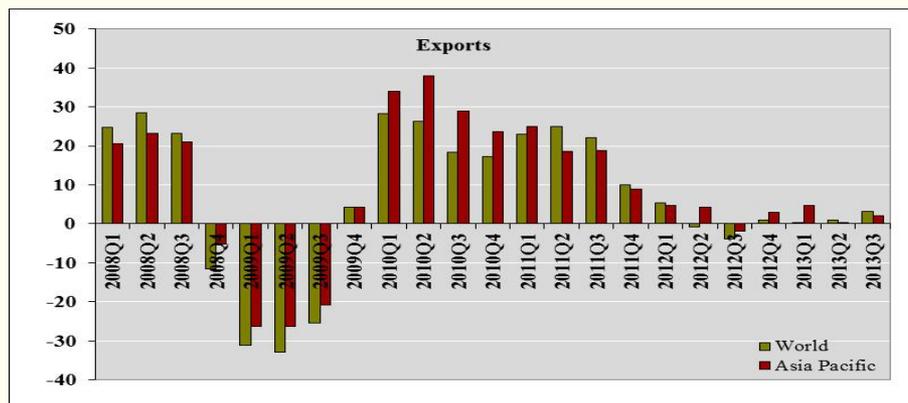
# Highlights of Part I

- APTIR forecasts that export growth will stay below its historical rates – *just over 5% in 2013 and 6% in 2014* .
- China absorbs over 30 per cent of intraregional exports from developing Asia-Pacific economies, and remains an important factor in determining these countries exports.
- The region remains a leading investment destination, with its developing economies absorbing 33% of global FDI inflows and with intraregional FDI playing stronger role.
- Large gaps in trade facilitation performance and trade costs still undermining developing countries' benefits from trade.
- Existence of global production networks, RTAs and WTO rules prevented surge in protectionism.
- Preferential trade underachieved LDCs.

# Trade growth is slowing

## A Return of Trade Contraction

- Since 2011, trade growth has been continuously **slowing down**
  - Asia-Pacific export growth was 2% p.a. in Q3/2013, while import growth lingers around 3% p.a.
- **Intraregional** trade is the most important component of trade

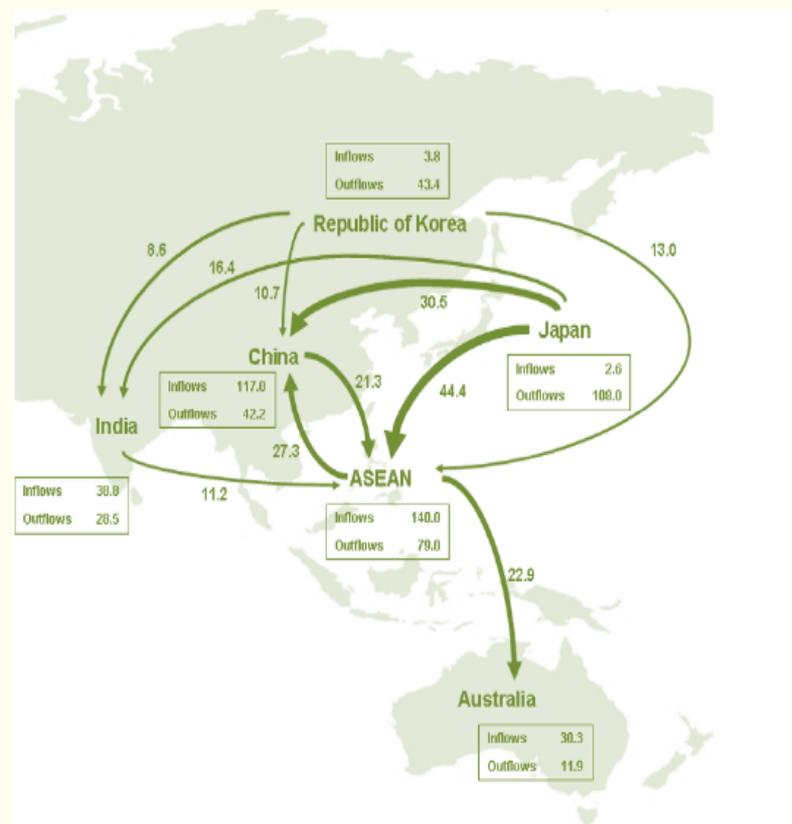


## Services Trade Losing Pace

- Export/import growth **halved** in 2012
- But developing countries' exports **relatively resilient**
  - Driven by exports of computer, ICT and travel services
- **Travel services** most dynamic: driven by intraregional demand

# The Region is a Leading Investment Destination

- Developing Asia Pacific accounts for **33% of global FDI** inflows
- FDI inflows to **LDCs up by 10%** reached a new peak of \$5.5 billion in 2012
- **Intraregional FDI** are replacing those from developed countries
  - China and ASEAN being the most attractive destinations



Intraregional greenfield FDI

# Large Gaps in Trade Facilitation Performance

- TF performance varies a lot: from the **world's top performers to LDCs staying far behind**
- Trade **between subregions is costlier** than trade with countries outside the region
- Trade costs are particularly high for **agricultural** goods
- **New index ISCCI** – ranks countries in terms of connectivity to international supply chains

Economy	TAB Rank 2012	LSCI Rank 2012	ISCC Rank 2012
Singapore	1	4	1
Hong Kong, China	2	3	2
Rep. of Korea	3	5	3
China	68	1	4
Malaysia	11	6	5
United States	22	7	8
Germany	13	9	9
Japan	19	20	17
Thailand	20	49	33
Viet Nam	74	29	37
Sri Lanka	56	38	41
Indonesia	37	72	46
New Zealand	25	88	48
Australia	44	67	49
Mongolia	175	2a	57



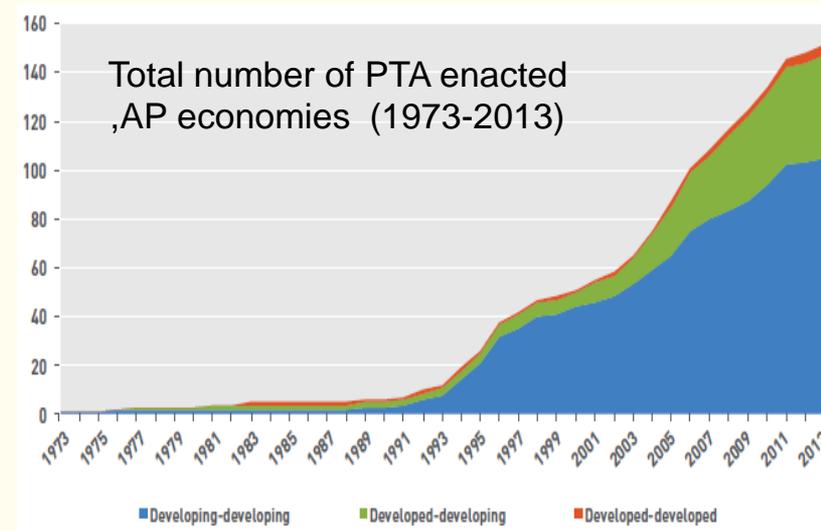
# Mixture of Promotion and Protection

- Trade liberalization happened mainly through **tariff reduction**
- **Non-tariff measures** used more frequently even within PTAs
  - Affecting minerals, machinery, vehicles and food items
- Index of **protectionism severity** finds many small developing and LDCs not using trade policy instruments at all



# Refocus Regional Integration to Benefit Small Developing and LDCs

- The number of agreements still grow, albeit slower, with **overlapping memberships**
  - 220 agreements currently involve AP economies (150 are already in force)



- LDCs and LLDCs remain largely **excluded** or are not sufficiently integrated
- Unilateral tariff concession, e.g. **GSP** increasingly provided by Asian developing countries
  - improve **supply capacity** of LDCs (Aid for Trade)
  - **Open regional cumulation** RoO



## PART 2

### TURNING THE TIDE

towards  
inclusive  
trade and  
investment

The end of the “trade and invest now, distribute gains later” model.



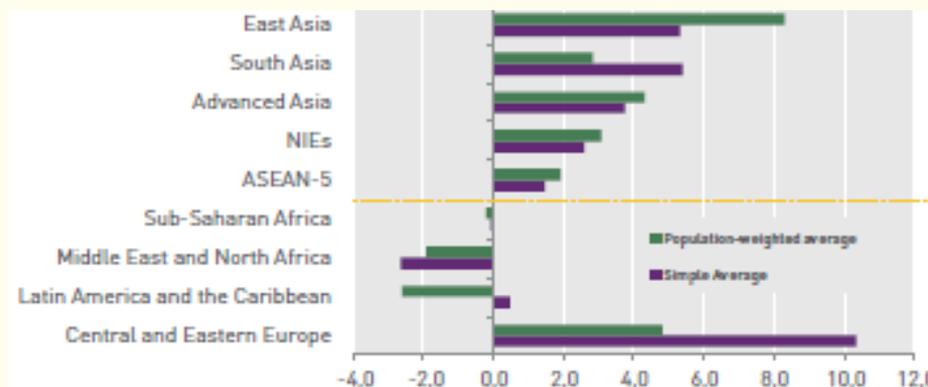
# Different Results for Poverty Reduction and Other Inclusivity Dimensions

- Absolute **poverty** was **reduced** significantly; MDG 1 achieved on a whole
- However **inequality worsened** and weak results with respect to other inclusivity dimensions:
  - Access to economic opportunities
  - Access to education, health
  - Inclusive process

People living on less than \$1.25 (% of population) in

	1990	2010
<b>Asia</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>20.80</b>
Bangladesh	70.2	43.2
China	60	11.6
India	47	32.7
Indonesia	54.3	18.1
Nepal	68	24.8
Philippines	30.7	18.4
Viet Nam	40.1	14
East Asia and Pacific	56.2	12.48
South Asia	53.8	31.03

Change in Gini index (in Gini points)



# Complementary Policies

Can be seen as prerequisites as they refer to the existence of an appropriate regulatory environment; institutions; infrastructure; and transparent social dialogue.

Some examples:

- Improve the inclusion of workers in the formal economy through trade adjustment programmes
- Setting wages based on productivity and principles of collective bargaining
- Increase ICT connectivity as it is an increasingly important factor in increasing productivity
- Increase investment in infrastructure to improve competitiveness
- Provide gender balanced access to education
- Ensure a social dialogue on policy reforms



# Turning the Tide: Moving Towards Inclusive Trade and Investment

## National Policies

- Trade policy measures
- Trade facilitation measures
- FDI promotion
- SME development
- Encourage CSR business practices
- Consultation and coordination

## Regional Co-ordination mechanisms

- Secure fair and free market access for LDCs producers
- Regional trade finance mechanism for SMEs
- A regional cross-border paperless trade facilitation
- Promote regional Aid-for-Trade projects
- Promote regional/subregional PPPs



# ESCAP's Role

- **Regional technology bank already set up by the ESCAP Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT)**
- **Regional patent licence pool to be established and ad interim managed by ESCAP secretariat**
- **ARTNeT and UNNExT continue to support developing local research capacity and promotion of knowledge sharing in the region and between different stakeholder groups**



# In Conclusion

- The region continues to face the **risks** and uncertainties associated with sluggish economic recovery in developed countries and rebalancing in China and other large emerging economies.
- Jobless growth and worsened inequalities may lead to increased **vulnerability** of the poor and heightened **social instabilities**.
- **The answer is not to abandon trade-and investment-led growth, but to base it on principles of inclusive trade and investment.**



**APTIR 2013 is available in full text with country profiles**

[www.unescap.org/tid/ti\\_report2013/home.asp](http://www.unescap.org/tid/ti_report2013/home.asp)

THANK YOU





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