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## WORKING PAPERS

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### [Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Women Farmers' Health in South Asia \(ADB Policy Brief, Asian Development Bank\)](#)

Women farmers play a crucial role in South Asia's agricultural sector and contribute significantly, despite facing numerous challenges.

### [Renewable Energy Development: How Close is the People's Republic of China to Achieving Carbon Neutrality? \(Working Paper 1438, Asian Development Bank\)](#)

A large carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitter, the People's Republic of China (PRC), has set the goals of carbon dioxide emissions peaking by 2030 and achieving greenhouse gas neutrality by 2060. We review the PRC's efforts to phase out fossil fuels and analyze the factors that have an impact on the PRC's renewable energy development and its path towards carbon neutrality. To put it simply, the PRC has the potential to develop renewable resources on a large scale, yet it still has a long way to go to achieve carbon neutrality.

### [Impact of Trade Facilitation Indicators on Trade Flows in Transport Corridors of CAREC Region and Policy Implications \(Working Paper 1435, Asian Development Bank\)](#)

Developing stronger trade facilitation indicators along the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation corridors can have a significant positive impact on bilateral trade performance.

### **[Sustainable Finance Benefits from a Gender Lens \(ADBI Policy Brief, Asian Development Bank\)](#)**

This brief outlines why investing in women makes economic sense and explains how financial institutions can incorporate gender into sustainable financing in Asia and the Pacific to better address social inequality and boost climate action.

### **[Seizing the Opportunity: Digital Innovation for a Sustainable Future \(ESCAP for Asia and the Pacific\)](#)**

In an era of rapid digital transformation, Asia and the Pacific is uniquely placed to leverage digital technologies to overcome sustainable development challenges. Already, the region is recognized as a dynamic hub for digitally driven innovation fueled by pioneering technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Digital Finance, GovTech, and the Internet of Things. Yet to encourage further ingenuity and tap digital innovation to bolster the huge collective effort required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the region needs a plan.

### **[People and Planet : Addressing the Interlinked Challenges of Climate Change, Poverty and Hunger in Asia and the Pacific \(ESCAP for Asia and the Pacific\)](#)**

This edition of the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Partnership Report — People and Planet: Addressing Climate Change, Poverty and Hunger in Asia and the Pacific — focuses on how the varying impacts of climate change across the region are interacting with poverty and hunger against a backdrop of continuing cost-of-living pressures, global conflict, and increasing climate shocks, at a time when many countries are still recovering from the fiscal strain of the COVID-19 pandemic, over-extended borrowing, and the high cost of debt.

### **[This Is Going to Hurt: Weather Anomalies, Supply Chain Pressures and Inflation \(Working Paper No. 2024/079, International Monetary Fund\)](#)**

This paper investigates how weather anomalies affect global supply chains and inflation dynamics. Using monthly data for six large and well-diversified economies (China, the Euro area, Japan, Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States) over the period 1997-2021, we implement a structural vector autoregressive model and document that weather anomalies could disrupt supply chains and subsequently lead to inflationary pressures.

### **[Call of Duty: Industrial Policy for the Post-Oil Era \(Working Paper No. 2024/074, International Monetary Fund\)](#)**

We outline the principles of industrial policy to achieve this objective based on the experience of the Asian Miracles and propose a sketch of the strategy required to transform these principles into practice. The key component of the strategy is to select sectors along two dimensions—proximity to the current production structure or capabilities set and a timeframe for results to materialize.

### **[Rise of Digital Money: Implications for Pacific Island Countries \(Departmental Paper No 2024/003, International Monetary Fund\)](#)**

The departmental paper, "Rise of Digital Money: Implications for Pacific Island Countries," delves into the fast-evolving landscape of digital money in a diverse region of extremes in size, remoteness and dispersion, highlighting its significant macroeconomic and financial consequences. It provides an overview of the development of digital money and payment systems in Pacific Island Countries (PICs), assessing potential benefits and risks, with a focus on how they can harness digital technology to enhance financial inclusion and payment efficiency while minimizing risks.

### **[Navigating the Evolving Landscape between China and Africa's Economic Engagements](#) (Working Paper No. 2024/037, International Monetary Fund)**

China and Africa have forged a strong economic relationship since China's accession to the WTO in 2001. This paper examines the evolution of these economic ties starting in the early 2000s, and the subsequent shift in the relationship triggered by the commodity price collapse in 2015 and by the COVID-19 pandemic. The potential effects on the African continent of a further slowdown in Chinese growth are analyzed, highlighting the varying effects on different countries in Africa, especially those heavily dependent on their economic relationship with China. The conclusion offers a discussion of ways how African countries and China could adapt to the changing relationship.

### **[Guidebook on how to Access Climate Finance for Member States of the Association of South-east Asian Nations](#) (United Nations Development Programme Asia and the Pacific)**

The technical guidebook provides an overview of climate finance in the region and sources of climate finance flows, as well as the project development process to access sources of climate finance. It also highlights the development of an overall framework to mobilize and access climate finance.

### **[South Asia Economic Focus: Jobs for Resilience](#) (South Asia Economic Focus, World Bank)**

South Asia is expected to continue to be the fastest-growing emerging market and developing economy (EMDE) region over the next two years. This is largely thanks to robust growth in India, but growth is also expected to pick up in most other South Asian economies. However, growth in the near-term is more reliant on the public sector than elsewhere, whereas private investment, in particular, continues to be weak.

### **[Firm Foundations of Growth](#) (World Bank East Asia and the Pacific Economic Update, April 2024, World Bank)**

Most economies in developing East Asia and Pacific (EAP) are growing faster than the rest of the world but slower than before the pandemic. Slowing global growth, still tight financial conditions, and an increase in trade protection and industrial support in large and rich countries are key aspects of the external environment shaping the region's economic performance. Amplified public and private debt, constrained macroeconomic policy, and increased policy uncertainty are the major domestic issues.

## **USEFUL LINKS**

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