



# LIBRARY LINK

## ASIA & PACIFIC



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## SOVEREIGN RATING REPORTS

Email [Library@IMF.org](mailto:Library@IMF.org) to request the full reports; we'll send them to you as quickly as possible! (Reports are from July 14 to Oct 28, 2022)

### Asia & Pacific Region

- Moody's: "Sovereigns – Asia Pacific: Currency depreciation highlights a range of risks across the rating spectrum" (Sept 15)
- S&P: "Asia-Pacific Banking: Government Bailouts Are Still Likely In The Event Of Systemic Crisis" (Oct 10)
- S&P: "Asia-Pacific Banks' Digital Opening Raises Cyber Risks" (Sept 27)
- S&P: "Economic Research: Wage Hikes Are An Inflationary Risk For Parts Of Asia-Pacific" (Aug 31)
- S&P: "Economic Research: Foreign Reserves In Asia's Emerging Markets Are Strained" (Aug 22)

### ASEAN 1-2

- Moody's: "Government of Cambodia – B2 stable: Annual credit analysis" (Sept 23)
- Fitch: "[Fitch Affirms Laos at 'CCC-', Withdraws Ratings](#)" (Oct 10)
- Moody's: "Government of Laos - Caa3 stable: Annual credit analysis" (Aug 17)
- Moody's: "Government of Thailand – Baa1 stable: Regular Update" (Oct 7)
- Fitch: "[Affirms Vietnam at 'BB'; Outlook Positive](#)" (Oct 28)
- Moody's: "Government of Vietnam – Ba2 stable: Update following rating upgrade to Ba2, outlook change to stable" (Sept 7)

## ASEAN 3-4

- Moody's: "Government of Malaysia – A3 stable: Regular update" (Oct 14)
- Moody's: "Government of Singapore - Aaa stable: Annual credit analysis" (Sept 13)
- Moody's: "Government of Indonesia – Baa2 stable: Update following change in forecasts" (Aug 24)
- Fitch: "[Fitch Fitch Affirms Philippines at 'BBB'; Outlook Negative](#)" (Oct 27)
- Moody's: "Government of Philippines – Baa2 stable: Update following rating affirmation, outlook unchanged" (Sept 21)
- S&P: "Philippines' Proposed Senior Unsecured Notes Assigned 'BBB+' Rating" (Oct 5)

## Australia & New Zealand

- Fitch: "Fitch Rtgs: Australia Budget Shows Near-Term Strength, Structural Challenges" (Oct 27)
- Moody's: "Government of Australia - Aaa stable: Annual credit analysis" (Aug 16)
- Moody's: "Research Update: New Zealand 'AA+/A-1+' Foreign Currency Ratings Affirmed; Outlook Stable" (Sept 13)

## China

- Moody's: "Government of China – A1 stable: Update following rating affirmation, outlook stable" (Sept 2)
- Moody's: "Government of Hong Kong SAR, China – Aa3 stable: Regular update" (Aug 19)
- Fitch: "[Taiwan Rating Report](#)" (Sept 28)

## Japan

- Fitch: "[Japan Rating Report](#)" (Oct 13)
- Moody's: "Government of Japan: Weak yen does not pose imminent threat to funding" (Oct 27)
- S&P: "Japan Full Analysis" (Oct 26)

## Korea & Mongolia

- Fitch: "[Korea Rating Report](#)" (Oct 19)
- Moody's: "Government of Korea – Aa2 stable: Update following change in forecasts" (Aug 31)
- S&P: "Korea Full Analysis" (Oct 27)
- S&P: "Research Update: Mongolia 'B' Ratings Affirmed; Outlook Stable" (July 21)

## Pacific Islands

- Moody's: "Government of Fiji - B1 stable: Update following rating affirmation, outlook changed to stable from negative" (Oct 10)
- S&P: "Research Update: Fiji 'B+/B' Ratings Affirmed; Outlook Stable" (Sept 28)
- Moody's Government of Solomon Islands – Caa1 stable: Regular update" (Oct 17)

## South Asia 1-2

- Moody's: "Government of India – Baa3 stable: Update following change to forecasts" (Sept 6)
- Moody's: "Government of Sri Lanka: IMF staff-level agreement reopens door to external financing, a credit positive" (Sept 2)
- S&P: "Research Update: Sri Lanka Bonds Downgraded To 'D' After Missed Payments; Sovereign Ratings Affirmed" (Aug 15)
- Fitch: "Bangladesh Rating Report" (Oct 20)
- Moody's: "Government of Bangladesh – Ba3 stable: Update following change to external vulnerability risk score" (Sept 16)
- S&P: "Research Update: Bangladesh 'BB-/B' Ratings Affirmed; Outlook Stable" (Aug 25)
- Fitch: "Fitch Revises the Maldives' Outlook to Negative; Affirms at 'B-' (Oct 13)

- Moody's: "Government of Maldives - Caa1 stable: Annual credit analysis" (Oct 19)

## WORKING PAPERS

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### [Characterizing Regionalism in Asia: A Modern Global Supply Chain Perspective](#) (ADB Economics Working Papers No. 671, Asian Development Bank)

It shows that global value chain linkages in value-added terms across economies have grown faster than value-added linkages through final goods trade. Stronger value-added linkages between two economies tends to make it more likely for the pair to have membership in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership or Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

### [Digital Divide Decoded: Can E-Commerce and Remote Workforces Enhance Enterprise Resilience in the COVID-19 Era?](#) (ADB Economics Working Papers No. 667, Asian Development Bank)

After controlling for firm characteristics, macroeconomic conditions, and pandemic prevalence, the paper finds that digital technology had a significant and positive effect on firm performance during the pandemic. The evidence suggests that key channels of resilience are electronic commerce and remote work.

### [The Emerging Era of Digital Identities: Challenges and Opportunities for the G20](#) (ADBI Policy Brief No. 2022-3, Asian Development Bank Institute)

Digital identities have become popular worldwide given their potential to improve the efficiency, functionality, scalability, and coverage of government schemes and policies. A digital identity system must be situated within government to ensure inclusion, security, and sustainability. A robust accountability mechanism should be at the core of a digital identity system characterized by clearly designated roles and responsibilities for all parties involved, in tandem with a redressal mechanism to address logistical or systematic errors. Digital identity systems should be guarded with stringent cybersecurity and data privacy norms. Mandating digital identities for access to public services can lead to exclusion, especially in countries where internet penetration and digital literacy are relatively low. Mutual recognition of digital identities can enable cross-border economic integration and cooperation, though this needs to be supported by a robust and coordinated governance framework.

### [Towards Central Bank Digital Currencies in Asia and the Pacific: Results of a Regional Survey](#) (FinTech Notes No 2022/009, International Monetary Fund)

Drawing on survey responses from 34 Asian economies and country case studies, this note takes stock of recent developments related to central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) and crypto assets in Asia. The survey finds that there is significant heterogeneity in terms of stage of development, but the emergence of private crypto assets has created an impetus to consider CBDCs. While most countries are engaged in research and development, with some at advanced stages of testing and pilots, very few countries are likely to issue CBDCs in the near-to-medium term, reflecting the still considerable uncertainties. Still, country experiences so far provide some key insights for others in their journey in this area.

### [Funding the Future: Tax Revenue Mobilization in the Pacific Island Countries](#) (Departmental Paper No 2022/015, International Monetary Fund)

Pacific Island Countries (PICs) face daunting spending needs related to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and adapting to the effects of climate change. Boosting tax revenues will need to be an essential pillar in creating the fiscal space to meet SDG and climate-adaptation spending needs. This paper assesses the additional tax revenue that PICs could potentially collect and discusses policy options to achieve such gains. The main objectives of the paper are to (1) review the critical medium-term development spend-

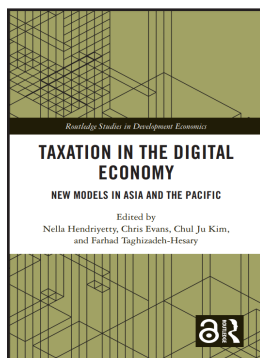
ing requirements and available financing options, (2) document the main stylized facts about tax revenues in the PICs and estimate the additional tax revenue that countries could raise, (3) highlight the main bottlenecks preventing the PICs from further increasing their tax revenue collection with an emphasis on weaknesses in VAT systems, (4) draw lessons from successful emerging and developing countries that have managed to substantially and durably increased their tax revenues, and (5) propose tax policy and revenue administration reform priorities for Pacific Island Countries to boost tax revenues.

## **[World Bank East Asia and Pacific Economic Update, October 2022: Reforms for Recovery](#)** **(World Bank)**

Growth in most countries in the East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) region rebounded in the first half of 2022, but China lost momentum. In much of the region, domestic demand revived after the distress of the COVID-19 Delta wave. In China, the public health measures to contain outbreaks of the highly infectious Omicron variant inhibited consumption. Most of the region is projected to grow faster and have lower inflation in 2022 than other regions. Beyond the end of 2022, three factors could be a drag on growth: global deceleration, rising debt, and policy distortions. Current measures to contain inflation and debt are adding to existing distortions in the markets for food, fuel and finance in ways that could hurt growth. In each case, more efficient measures could address current difficulties without undermining longer-term objectives.

## **BOOKS**

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### **[Taxation in the Digital Economy: New Models in Asia and the Pacific](#)** **By Asian Development Bank**

A robust and efficient tax administration in a modern tax system requires effective tax policies and legislation. Policy frameworks should cover all aspects of tax administration and include the essential processes of capturing, processing, analyzing, and responding to information provided by taxpayers and others concerning taxpayers' affairs. By far the greatest challenges facing tax administrations in all countries are those posed by the continuing developments in the digital economy. Whereas societies are grappling to come to terms with the transitions from the Third Industrial and digital revolutions, revenue authorities must grapple with the consequences for the sustainability of their tax bases and the efficient administration and collection of taxes.

## **ARTICLES**

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### **[Asia's Financial Interconnectedness: Evolution, Implications, and Insights from Past Crises](#)** (*Economic Analysis and Policy* 76 (December 2022): 685-707)

Against the backdrop of past financial crises and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we document and analyze trends in Asia's financial interconnectedness over the past 3 decades, as well as its possible role in predicting financial crises. Employing a vector-autoregressive model and a panel probit regression, we find that financial interconnectedness increased across Asia and the Pacific, being particularly pronounced during past crises, including the present COVID-19 pandemic.

### **[The Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises in Asia and Their Digitalization Responses](#)** (*Journal of Asian Economics* 82 (October 2022): 101533)

Soon after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, many governments began extending financial and other forms of support to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and their workers because smaller firms

are more vulnerable to negative shocks to their supply chain, labor supply, and final demand for goods and services than larger firms. Since MSMEs are diverse, however, the severity of the pandemic's impact on them varies considerably depending on their characteristics. Using online survey data of MSMEs from eight developing economies in South, Southeast, and Northeast Asia, this paper attempts to deepen our understanding of the impact of the pandemic on MSMEs, especially their employment, sales revenue, and cash flow.

### **[Efficiency Evaluation of Asia's Cultural Tourism Using a Dynamic DEA Approach \(Socio-Economic Planning Sciences \(September 2022\): 101426\)](#)**

Cultural tourism has become important for economic transformation. This study aims to construct a model that assesses the performance of cultural tourism for various tourist destinations in Asia through a dynamic data envelopment analysis (DEA) approach with consideration of various aspects of the development of cultural tourism and the formulation of related government policies. According to the overall efficiency values, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, and Singapore were the top performers throughout the study period. Moreover, the results obtained with the dynamic DEA model differ significantly from those obtained with the static DEA model.

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