

# Recent Progress of Regional Integration and Cooperation in Asia

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Philippe Benedic, Resident Director General  
European Representative Office (ERO)

# Asia and the Pacific

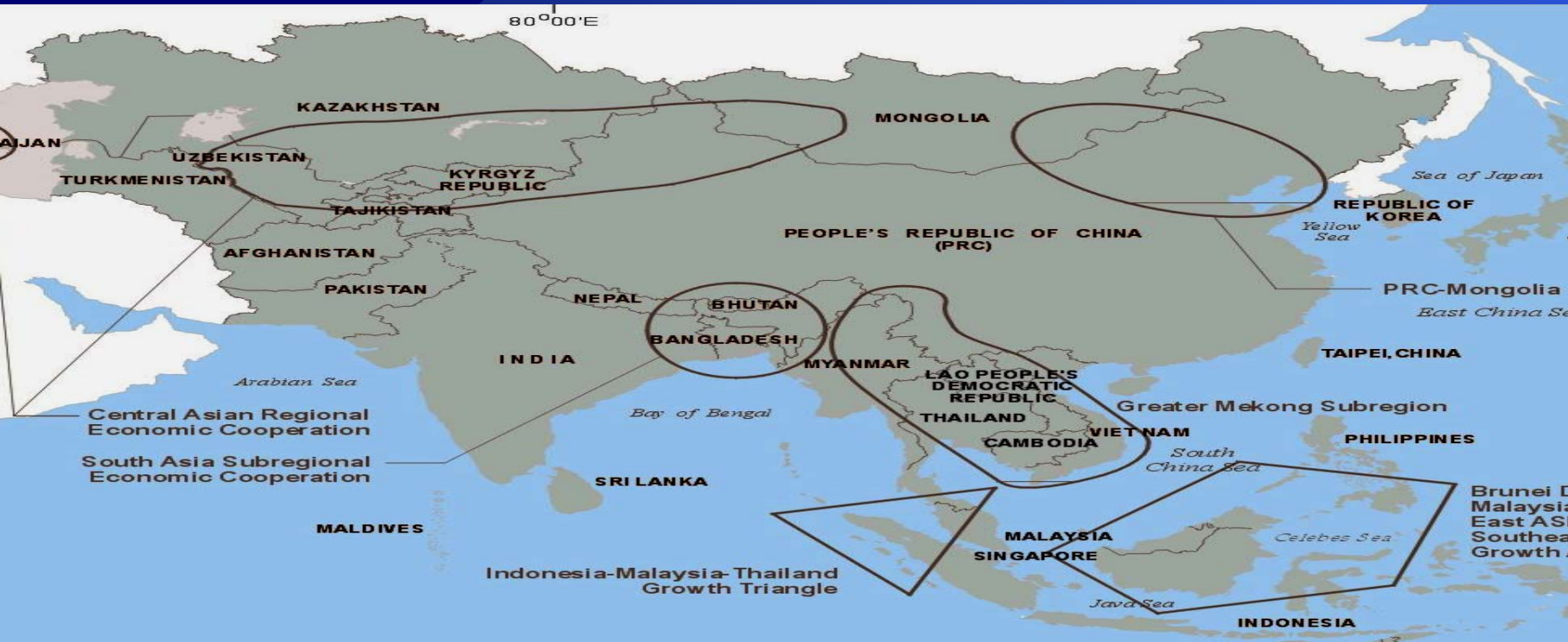
## Progress in Growth and Integration

- **Robust economic growth, rapid advances in technology, and liberalized regimes**
- **Foreign direct investment grew from \$ 4 bn in 1980 to over \$ 100 bn in 2003 (48% of ASEAN and China FDI coming from 4 NIEs)**
- **Increase of intra-regional trade from 35% in 1980 to 54% in 2003**

# Asia and the Pacific Strategic Objectives

- **Gearing up resilience to crisis at both country and regional levels**
- **Reducing poverty although the region still remains home to 2/3 of the world's poor (620 million people)**
- **Building confidence among countries for further cooperation and integration**

# Regional Cooperation Initiatives in Asia



# **A. Regional Cooperation Programs**

**The Greater Mekong Subregion - GMS**

**Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation - CAREC**

**South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation – SASEC**

**Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines -East ASEAN Growth Area  
(BIMP-EAGA)**

**Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT)**

**India-Singapore Cooperation Agreement**

# **GMS – A Striking Example of Regional Cooperation**

- **GMS: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Yunnan, PRC**
- **A prominent example of regional cooperation benefits**
- **3Cs: connectivity, competitiveness, and community**

# **GMS Regional Cooperation Projects**

- **East-West and North-South Economic Corridors**
- **Power interconnection and inter-country power trade**
- **Telecommunications Backbone**
- **Environment and Natural Resources Management**
- **Cross Border Issues (communicable diseases, trafficking etc.)**

# **B. Regional Financial and Monetary Integration**

- **ASEAN + 3 Finance Ministers Process**
  - **Economic Review and Policy Dialog**
  - **Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI)**  
**Bilateral swap agreements**
  - **Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI)**  
**Local currency bond issues**
  - **ASEAN+3 Research Group**  
**Foreign Reserves Management**



# Challenges in Broadening Regional Integration in Asia

- **Asia Integration: a long-term process**
- **Diverse socio-economic conditions, cultures, governments, income levels**
- **Environmental and social impact of rapid economic growth**
- **Production chain, complementarities and competition**
- **Unequal linkages to global economy**

# Challenges in Broadening Regional Integration in Asia (cont'd)

- **Global investment trends are changing**
- **Harmonization of FTAs with WTO**
- **Response to Demographic Transition**
- **Urban and Rural Development**
- **Employment Generation**

# ADB's Role in Asia and the Pacific

- **ADB – a strategic partner in the region**
  - **responsive, relevant and results oriented**
  - **\$6bn lending program a year contributing to at least \$10bn investments**
  - **proactive role as a catalyst for public-private partnership**
  - **network of 28 resident missions**

# **ADB's Role in Asia and the Pacific (cont'd)**

- **Serve as a regional knowledge base**
- **Help raise additional financing of both domestic and external resources**
- **Leverage cofinancing and facilitate access to financial markets**
- **Support private sector development**
- **Foster business and partnership opportunities between Asia and EU**

# Relevant ADB Web Links

## **ADB Activities & Opportunities**

- Country and Regional Strategies and Programs (CSP/RCSP): [www.adb.org/countries](http://www.adb.org/countries)
- ADB Business Opportunities: [www.adb.org/opportunities](http://www.adb.org/opportunities)

## **ADB Operations –**

- ADB, Manila - [www.adb.org](http://www.adb.org)
- ADB ERO - [www.adb.org/ERO/default.as](http://www.adb.org/ERO/default.as)

## **Consulting and Procurement –**

- DACON - [www.adb.org/Consulting/dacon.asp](http://www.adb.org/Consulting/dacon.asp)
- DICON - [www.adb.org/Consulting/dicon.asp](http://www.adb.org/Consulting/dicon.asp)
- EOI - [www.adb.org/Consulting/faqs/con\\_firms-eoi.asp](http://www.adb.org/Consulting/faqs/con_firms-eoi.asp)

## **Asia Regional Information Center**

- OREI: [www.adb.org/OREI/default.asp](http://www.adb.org/OREI/default.asp)
- ARIC: [www.aric.adb.org/index.asp](http://www.aric.adb.org/index.asp)

# ADB European Representative Office

Rahmhofstraße 2  
60313 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Tel: (49 69) 21 93 64 00

[adbero@adb.org](mailto:adbero@adb.org)

[www.adb.org/ero](http://www.adb.org/ero)

E-Newsletter:

[www.adb.org/Documents/Periodicals/ERO/Newsletter/default.a](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Periodicals/ERO/Newsletter/default.a)