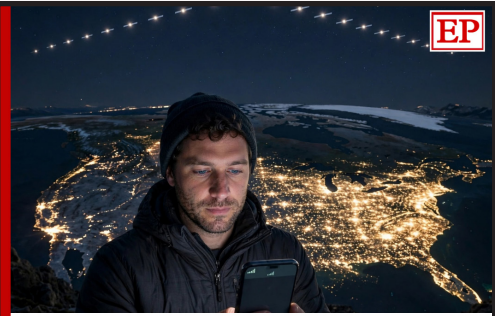


BRIEF



BRIEF. SPACEX

SpaceX Acquires Nationwide Low-Band Spectrum, Starlink Set To Become Major US Mobile Carrier With Direct-To-Cell Broadband

SpaceX announced the purchase of a portfolio of low-band spectrum nationwide with the aim of turning Starlink into a big mobile carrier in the USA. Starlink Mobile will enable high-speed broadband coverage in every corner of America, alongside Gen2 constellation, which will create a network of dead zones and therefore directly challenge the traditional telecom giants.



BRIEF. OCHA

What Real Development Looks Like: 95% Food Security Success in Cameroon

UN CERF and FAO cash support provided for 9,400 vulnerable people had a 95% improved food security rate in Cameroon. This is the new development playbook direct, local and effective as opposed to export factory model in developing economies that have failed.



BRIEF. FAO

71% Of World's Forests Are Publicly Owned, Only 24% Private

According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025, produced by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), 71% of forest area is publicly owned, 24% private and 4% other. Governments are playing a pivotal role in forest conservation, climate action, and sustainable forest management as public control is the predominant position in the world's forests.



BRIEF. WORLD BANK

1 in 5 Youth Idle in Developing Nations, World Bank Warns of Lost Workforce Future

One in five young people in low- and middle-income countries are neither studying nor working, the World Bank reports. The loss of those crucial skill development years poses a risk to jobs, income and development opportunities in the future, and is already causing concerns about a future global workforce shortage and loss of economic productivity.

Why The Old Economic Development Model No Longer Works

Why the Old Development Playbook No Longer Works

Gordon Hanson, Dani Rodrik, and Rohan Sandhu contend in this essay that an established blueprint for economic growth based on exporting, education, and job generation is outdated and irrelevant in relation to the current state of developing economies. The role of national security and geopolitics in government policy formation allows for skepticism about export-based industrialization as a source of job generation; on top of this, the transition to green energy and concern about climate change affects new industry development in countries that are economically less developed. The writers predict that in the future most workers in developing countries, excluding China, will not have any higher education. Additionally, most people will be employed in non-tradable, non-college-level jobs that aren't influenced by international trade or digital outsourcing. In fact, two-thirds of the global labor force will be accounted for by jobs that are both non-college and non-tradable. These jobs include all sorts of low-paid jobs like street vending, domestic work, food service, and subsistence farming. In this context, the introduction of progressive education programs and efforts to create another boom in manufacturing exports will not create many job opportunities for the majority of the population.



The main challenge for the developing countries, as per the authors, is to find ways to increase labor productivity in the informal service sector. Manufacturing's Shrinking Role and the Rise of ServicesManufacturing remains important and continues to offer benefits such as productivity improvements, attracting investments, and supporting strategic independence; however, it has become more automated and requires more capital than before and uses less labor. While manufacturing achieves high productivity in certain production areas or export zones, this does not lead to improvements in labor productivity nationwide unless this productivity benefits regular workers. Since most of the workforce is employed in the nontrade sector, it is argued that development strategies must replace factory-based industrial policies with policies focused on the nontrade sector.

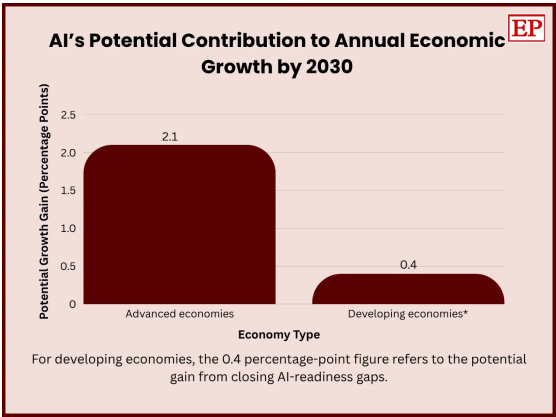
A Two-Pronged Fix: Skills and Firm-Level Productivity

In this paper, the authors propose a plan aiming to cover both aspects of the labor market. They recommend changes to education programs on the supply side, as most young people will move directly from secondary schools into the workforce. The current system of education lacks the educational programs that equip young people with both the necessary technical skills and the required soft skills. Moreover, the system should be adapted to the new trends in the sphere of education, as countries start setting the compulsory upper

secondary education as an obligatory requirement. Thus, it would become possible to implement vocational education into the learning process. The authors refer to the positive experiences of some countries, which show how such programs can help young people build successful careers in fields such as IT support, healthcare, personal services, and construction. Policy must facilitate small businesses' productivity in order to increase demand. This can be accomplished by encouraging large companies and platforms to support suppliers and gig workers with marketing and technology or by persuading governments to adopt regulations requiring large companies/agencies to improve local supply chains. Providing micro and small firms with direct public support such as loans, management training, and access to technologies resolved the issues faced by micro and small enterprises and contributed to increased production and jobs in the shadow economy.

The authors caution against applying a rigid type of top-down scheme involving the government picking business winners beforehand. On the contrary, it is their preference to use a flexible, experimental approach involving making adjustments as evidence appears since uncertainty needs to be treated as an inherent feature of policy design rather than something to be avoided from the start.

AI Could Boost Economic Growth in Asia by 2.1 Percentage Points by 2030



Data sources: ADB

Artificial intelligence is becoming an increasingly significant engine of economic growth in Asia and the Pacific, but its benefits so far are largely confined to countries that produce AI chips, data center equipment, and AI-enabled devices, say economists at the Asian Development Bank.

AI Gains Remain Concentrated

Exports are soaring in Asian economies, advancing much of the way through 2024 and 2025 in shipments of chips, computers, and phones outstripping export growth in most of the rest of the world. Developing economies have only recently started to catch up and are also showing an expansion driven more by higher chip prices than by more chips. AI investment is uneven globally; the risk is that investment in AI could exacerbate development disparities, according to ADB. AI could boost annual growth in the advanced economies of the region by as much as 2.1 percentage points by 2030—far higher than most developing economies will experience.

Infrastructure, Workers Vital to Broader Impact

The ADB recommended that developing countries should help their local industry adopt AI as well as bring in data centers. Budget-hosting trials, low-cost cloud computing, local-language AI tools, and public sector use of AI could help narrow the AI-readiness gaps. Furthermore, adequate power and internet are a necessity. As for power, the bank lists it as the number one constraint, then water, and suggests that investments in regional power grids and electricity cooperation should be increased.

Meanwhile, governments need to get people ready for a transformation like the one automation will bring. Better social protection, training, and apprenticeships for freelancers and gig workers, for example, would ensure that displaced workers find jobs where they benefit from AI rather than are replaced by it.

High-Income Countries Hold 16% of World Population but Create 29% of Global Waste, World Bank Data Shows

The world today has 16% of its population living in the high-income countries that produce 29% of the waste, with the highest amount of waste per person produced in 2022, according to the World Bank report What a Waste 3.0. 42% of all waste generated was from upper-middle-income countries, which encompassed 35% of the world's total population and 4% of low-income countries, with 9%.

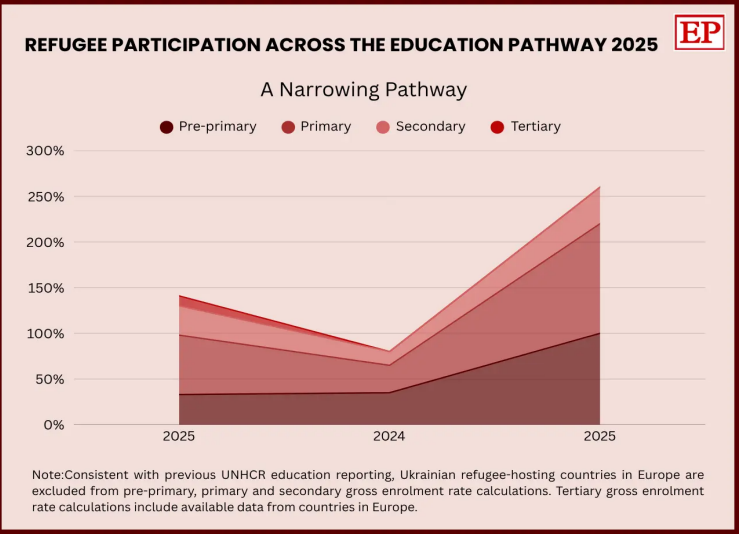
Waste is piling up: In 2022, the world generated 2.56 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste, and by 2050, that number is expected to reach 3.86 billion

tonnes, a 50 percent jump if things keep going the way they are. The most rapid growth of waste volumes will be in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia and in low-income countries.

Collection Gaps and the Road Ahead

What a country throws away is only half the story. High-income countries manage nearly all their waste in controlled facilities, but low-income countries manage only 3 percent that way and collect just 28 percent. Globally, about 30 percent of waste is dumped openly or never collected. The report's high-ambition scenario shows waste generation could be capped at today's levels despite population and economic growth. Separately, it estimates that basic universal collection and management would cost about 0.3 percent of GDP in middle-income countries, a modest share compared with the costs of inaction.

UNHCR education report 2026
pathways future 44 percent
refugee out of school



Data sources: UNHCR

In UNHCR's education report 2026, which is titled "Pathways to the Future," it has been mentioned that there are nearly 35.6 million individuals who are the subjugates of UNHCR, among whom there are nearly 5.8 million children who are supposed to attend school, which means approximately 44% of youth that have to go to the school are already dropping out of it, which indicates some improvements from the year 2024 when the number remained approximately 46%, but the absolute numbers did not change, as the number of refugees kept increasing. In the beginning enrollment is high, with the maximum value at 65% in primary education, while the other stages, please see the pre-primary education, secondary education, and higher education stages, drop sharply, consisting of only 33%, 32%, and 11%, respectively, which indicates that there is a narrow path every stage. The challenges faced by schoolchildren refugees who live in poor or war-torn countries are much more severe since they have much greater access to secondary education. In contrast to other students, girls suffer more due to many factors tied to their age.

Progress and Priorities

It is good to note that the third-level entry into education is at its highest-ever level of more than 450,000 refugees, thanks to the rise in technical/vocational education as well as the availability of scholarships such as DAFI and the university corridor program in Italy and France. Many teachers, many of whom are refugees themselves, particularly women teachers at the pre-primary level, continue to be at the center of access to education and quality. The report identifies the need for inclusion into national systems, continuing financing, qualified teachers, and better learning-outcome data in order to overcome enrollment gaps and ensure that education contributes to the self-reliance of youth.

Mongolia Raised Tax-to-GDP by 5% and \$1 Billion Revenue:
How IMF's 17 Centers Build Stronger Economies

The issue of economic stability is determined not only by the inflow of money but also by the functioning of the institutions and mechanisms that ensure their efficient use, minimize the risks, and appropriately make economic decisions. This process can be facilitated through the provision of capacity development, which is performed through technical assistance, including training and peer-to-peer learning programs provided to countries by the International Monetary Fund.

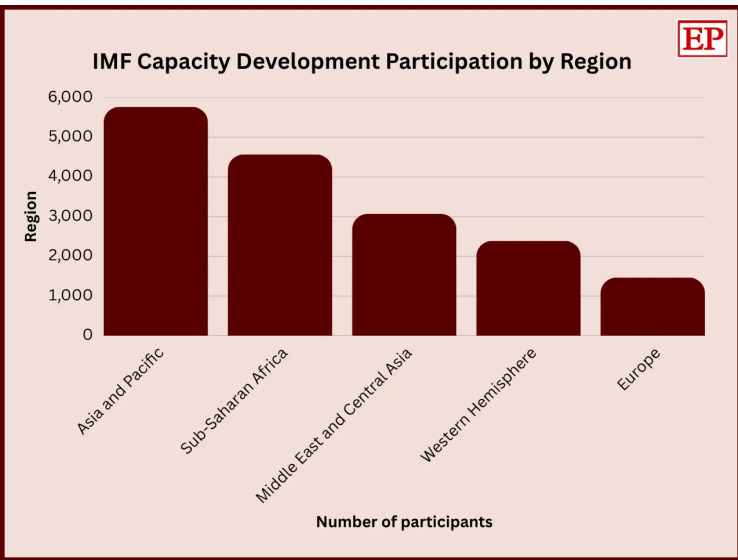
Peer-to-Peer Learning and Assistance

The Fund is considered vital in ensuring nations' growth, employment, and stability through the development of their institutions and strengthening their governing capabilities. This approach addresses a wide range of areas, from the Ministry of Finance and Central Bank management and operations to revenue administration and statistical systems and financial sector supervision. However, it should be noted that the IMF does not promote a one-size-fits-all method but rather the unique development of each country's capabilities in demand.

Thus, the main purpose of the Fund's capacity development is to ensure that countries have the practical knowledge and institutional and procedural expertise to make balanced economic and financial decisions. In addition, the institution offers a high level of technical assistance through training, seminars, webinars, and learning programs. Moreover, the IMF has a network of 17 regional centers that provide countries with the opportunity to learn in a familiar environment.

Focus on Broader Macroeconomic Issues and Legal Framework

The areas covered by the IMF's capacity-building programs are extremely wide. They include not only tax and customs administration, budget, and public expenditure policies, and preparation of the state budget, management of its execution, and public financial management but also macroeconomic framework, economic statistics, and legal framework. It is known that one of the most pressing issues for governments in ensuring stability and economic growth is the collection of revenues



Data sources: IMF

through taxes and the allocation of these funds to specific government expenditures. However, the Fund also helps nations build capabilities in areas of public debt management, including analyzing government debt dynamics and developing strategies and policies within the framework of this sector. The IMF also works with the World Bank through the Joint Debt Management Facility, which provides technical assistance to countries in this area.

As a result of such interventions, the positive results of the IMF's work in this area can be seen as early as Mongolia, where, thanks to technical assistance, the tax-to-GDP ratio was increased by 5% from 2020 to 2024, and revenues increased by one billion dollars.

Financial Sector Stability

Another critical area of the IMF's activity is the strengthening of the financial system through the provision of technical assistance to central banks and nations' financial authorities. At the same time, supervising and regulating frameworks, analysis of systemic risk, crisis management, monetary policy, and central bank operations are also considered. The experts of the Fund are working on developing, implementing, and improving micro- and macroprudential policy, supervision, regulation, and safety nets via the Financial Sector Stability Fund, allowing them to timely respond to emerging risks. Country-specific solutions are developed to assess the capacity of a nation's authorities to analyze and monitor financial stability and respond to emerging risks, follow up on recommendations, and provide technical assistance.

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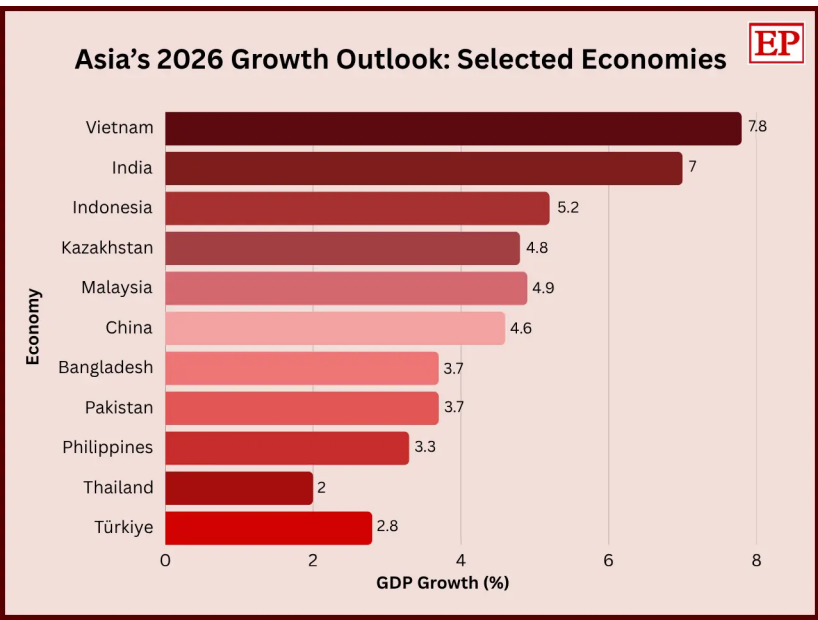
Asia's Economy Stays Resilient, but Energy and Climate Risks Threaten Growth

Asia's growth is strong, but risks from energy trade and climate are rising. Developing Asia and the Pacific economies would remain resilient despite an economic growth slowdown, while rising energy costs, geopolitical tensions, and climate risks create new challenges. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) pegged growth in the region to slow to 5% in 2026 and recover to 5.1% in 2027 after growth of 5.5% in 2025. Its 2026 forecast is slightly better than the 4.9% forecast ADB published in July. Economic activity in developing Asia is being supported by strong investment, government stimulus, and technology exports related to the global AI investment cycle.

Simultaneously, the region is facing rising risks that threaten to weaken the outlook. An intensifying El Niño event combined with prolonged disruption in energy markets and growing geopolitical conflicts could add further pressure on economies, mainly via higher food and energy prices.

Demand Remains Strong Despite New Challenges
The ADB sees inflation in developing Asia and the Pacific averaging 4.2% in 2026, still below the previous forecast of 4.3%. Value containment arrangements are helping to cushion the blow from continuously elevated energy prices. Nonetheless, the forecast for inflation will be 3.5% in 2027, compared with 3.4% in the previous forecast, which is still above 3% achieved in 2025.

The regional picture is uneven. The gross domestic product of developing Southeast Asia is expected to grow 4.7% in 2026 and 4.9% in 2027, a little more than previously forecast, after a better-than-expected performance in the first half of 2026, according to the ADB. The ADB has kept a steady outlook for developing East Asia, including the People's Republic of China. Major economies' growth projections are China at 4.6%, Indonesia at 5.2%, Thailand at 2%, the Philippines at 3.3%, Vietnam at 7.8%, and Malaysia at 4.9%.



Data sources: ADB

The subregion of South Asia is one of the stronger performers. The growth projection for India was raised to 6.4% for 2026 from 6%, supported by solid public investment and firm export growth. According to forecasts, India's economy will double in size between 2026 and 2027, growing at a rate of 7 percent. However, the outlook suggests lower growth rates for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, and Nepal, as other shocks such as trade, energy, and weather were added to the list.

Geopolitical and Climate Risks Threaten the OutlookWhat threatens the region's resilience are risks outside the region's economic environment, according to the ADB. These include risks of an increased intensity of conflict, including an expansion of the Middle East conflict and escalation of Russia's war in Ukraine. Long-lasting conflicts could keep world energy prices high and volatile, with spillovers onto other commodities. Another significant factor of uncertainty is the climate. A very strong El Niño is likely to continue into the first quarter of 2027. If it remains drier, it may impact food production and hydroelectricity as well as raise energy demand. This would lead to higher prices for food and fuel, impacting households and economies across the region. There are also risks from financial markets. AI-led correction in equity prices, financial conditions tightening, and recovery in trade policy uncertainty could set back investment and activity.

Uneven Prospects Across Asia and the Pacific
Growing disparities between the subregions point to how imbalanced the economic outlook of the region has become. Downward revisions in the Caucasus and Central and West Asia push growth in 2026 to 3.7% and 4.1% in 2027. The ADB cites the primary reason for the weaker outlook as slow growth in external demand for the region, led by Turkey at 2.8%. Largest downward revisions for Pacific economies: Growth is now forecast at 3% in 2026 and 2.9% in 2027, due to continued disruptions to the energy markets and the anticipated impacts of El Niño on mining and agriculture.

The ADB's outlook comes with a caveat: it shows a region that continues to grow, yet whose risks are only rising in complexity. Investment, government interventions, and exports of technology are acting as key cushions, but unrest in geopolitics, energy markets, climate-related shocks, and financial markets might decide how long that cushion lasts.

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G20 trade mixed: 0.9% export growth, 0.5% import drop, but services shine with 1.4% export and 1.2% import growth

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