

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Regional Policy Dialogue on “Financing for Development”

18-19 June 2008 (tentative)

Room G, Level 1 UNCC, UN Building, Bangkok

TENTATIVE ANNOTATED PROGRAMME

DAY 1: Wednesday, 18 June 2008

- 9:00 – 9:30 Registration
- 9:30 - 9:45 Welcome remarks
Mr. Shigeru Mochida, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNESCAP
- Introduction of the meeting
Mr. Aynul Hasan, Chief, Development Policy Section, Poverty and Development Division, ESCAP
- Session I:** *Chair: Mr Shigeru Mochida, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNESCAP*
- 9:45 - 10:20 ***Presentation on “Mobilizing financial resources for development: the role of governments and regional cooperation”***
by Dr Adrianus Mooy, former Executive Secretary of ESCAP and Governor of Bank Indonesia
- This session would focus on issues and challenges for mobilizing domestic and regional resources for financing for development in Asia-Pacific. In particular, it will focus on how sovereign wealth funds and regional special purpose vehicles for public-private partnerships could be used for development financing.
- Discussants:*
- Dr Roberto De Vera, Director, Urban Strategies Group
School of Economics, University of Asia and the Pacific,
Philippines
- Mr. Raj Kumar, Special Advisor and Head Special Unit on
Countries with Special Needs, ESCAP
- 10:20 - 10:45 Open discussion

- 10:45 - 11:05 Coffee break
- Session 2:** *Chair: Mr Ravi Ratnayake, Director, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP*
- 11:05 - 11:40 *Presentation on “**International trade as a driver of growth and development**”
by Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS, India*
- The main focus of this session would be to brainstorm on how international trade could be made a driver of growth in countries where it has not been so and how aid-for-trade could help promote development and reduce poverty.
- Discussants:*
- Dr. Vo Tri Thanh, Director, Central Institute of Economic Management, Viet Nam
- Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Chief, Trade Policy Section, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP
- 11:40 - 12:00 Open discussion
- 12:00 - 13:30 Lunch break
- Session 3:** *Chair: Dr Adrianus Mooy, former Executive Secretary of ESCAP and Governor of Bank Indonesia*
- 13:30 - 14:00 *Presentation on “**International financial and technical cooperation for development**”
by Dr Tilak Rawal, former Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank, Nepal*
- The main focus of this session is to explore ways and means to strengthen financial and technical cooperation in FDI, ODA and managing external debt including debt relief
- Discussant:*
- Dr. Poramettee Vimolsiri, Senior Advisor, NESDB, Thailand
- 14:00 - 14:30 Open discussion
- 14:30 - 14:50 Coffee break

Session 4: *Chair: Mr Kioe Sheng Yap, Chief, Poverty Reduction Section, Poverty and Development Section, ESCAP*

14:50 - 15:20

*Presentation on “**Innovative mechanisms for financing for development**”*

by Mr. S. Sridhar, Chairman & Managing Director, National Housing Bank, India

Lack of access to SME and housing finance from formal financial institutions is a major issue. As a result community based organizations have emerged to fill the gap, but with limited scope and coverage. This session will discuss the issues and challenges faced in SME and housing finance by the low and middle income classes, investigates how to up-scale the community-based SME and housing finance sector and link it to the formal finance sector and discusses the need for information exchange and networking on pro-poor SME and housing finance in the Asia and Pacific Region

Discussant:

Mr. Xia Zuzhang, Director Operations, The Nature Conservancy Program, China

15:20 - 16:00

Open discussion

DAY 2: Thursday, 19 June 2008

Session 5: *Chair: Mr. Raj Kumar, Special Advisor and Head Special Unit on Countries with Special Needs, ESCAP*

9:00 - 9:40

*Presentation on “**Financing Asia's Infrastructure: Prospects and Challenges**”*

by Dr. Biswa Nath Bhattacharyay, Special Adviser to Dean, ADBI

The presentation will mainly focus on the increasing need for upgrading region's infrastructure to sustain its high economic growth and the growing infrastructure financing gap and how regional development banks could respond to the increasing demand for infrastructure financing and the type of modalities that the region could introduce or established for mobilizing regional resources for its own development.

Discussants:

Prof Govindarajulu Naidu, Consultant, Malaysia

Mr Barry Cable, Director, Transport and Tourism Division,
ESCAP

9:40 - 10:30 Open discussion

10:30 - 10:45 Coffee break

Session 6: *Chair: Dr Tilak Rawal, former Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank, Nepal*

10:45 - 11:15 *Presentation on “Averting financial turmoil in Asia: a regional response to mitigate systemic issues”
by Dr Pichit Patrawimolpon, Director of Research, Bank of Thailand*

Financial turmoil, as experienced in the 1997 financial crisis, could hold back economic progress and in a worse case take economies backward negating several decades of hard earned gains within a short period. How to avoid such turmoil? This session will discuss the recent initiatives and how they could be made effective both in terms of scope and coverage along with new initiatives in the current turbulent global context.

Discussant:

Dr Lim Mah Hui, Senior Fellow, Asian Public Intellectuals Programme, Nippon Foundation

11:15 - 12:00 Open discussion

12:00 - 13:30 Lunch break

Session 7: *Chair: Dr Jean-Pierre Verbiest, Country Director, Asian Development Bank Resident Mission in Thailand*

13:30 - 14:00 *Presentation on “From Monterrey to Doha: The Financing for Development Agenda and Asia”
by Dr. Jomo Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General, DESA*

Discussant:

Dr Adrianus Mooy, former Executive Secretary of ESCAP and Governor of Bank Indonesia

14:00 - 14:30 Open discussion

14:30 - 14:50 Coffee break

Session 8: *Chair: Dr Jomo Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General, DESA*

14:50 - 15:10 *Presentation on “A regional action plan for financing for development”
by ESCAP secretariat*

A new regional financial architecture for financing for development will be presented with some basic elements for action at the regional and national level. Some tentative basic features are:

- Regional initiative for the development of a regional bond market;
- Establishing a regional mechanism for financing for development (infrastructure, micro credit and SMEs etc);
- Regional financing for development tax;
- Aid-for-trade;
- Regional cooperation for monitoring private borrowings;
- Regional surveillance mechanism.

This will be refined based on the discussions during the policy dialogue

15:10 - 15:55 Open discussion

15:55 - 16:00 Close of the meeting