

Version 19 February 2024

## **Future forward Development Planning in Asia and the Pacific a UNDESA Global Policy Dialogue**

**Side event at the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)**

**Bangkok, Thailand, 20 February 2024**

**1:00-2:15pm ICT (Bangkok) / 1:00-2:15am EST (New York)**

**ESCAP Theatre**

**Join UNDESA and UNESCAP for a hybrid stocktake and discussion of the current economic outlook for Asia and the Pacific, using new data from the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report launched in January 2024. In-person experts from both organizations and other stakeholders from the region will consider the challenges that the current outlook presents to the delivery of the SDGs, in particular related to SDG 1, No Poverty, and offer suggestions for sound policies to ensure the well-being of people in Asia and the Pacific. A focus will be on highlighting solutions that will help developing countries in the region limit their risk to emerging vulnerabilities, including wage stagnation (BJ) and inflation, and**

**This event will be part of the long running UNDESA Global Policy Dialogue Series, which has been offering monthly online discussions on the SDGs since launching in 2020 and has a passionate, built-in virtual audience. UNDESA is prepared to hire a video producer to make this event look professional for the online audience.**

### **Platform**

**The audience can watch via Zoom or via ESCAP platform (tbc). They can also access the Slido platform (via QR code or provided link) to enhance engagement by audience members who wish to participate in the polls, submit their own questions or upvote questions posed by others.**

### **Language**

**The event will be held in English with multilingual captioning available on Zoom.**

### **Host/moderator**

**Bee Xomsai, a professional moderator based in Bangkok, hired by UNDESA, will guide the discussions.**

## **Draft programme**

### **Introduction (5 minutes)**

**Moderator welcome remarks/logistical information**

**Moderator to launch interactive poll 1**

### **Opening video (2 minutes)**

**[World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021](#) (UNDESA video, 2:20)**

### **Discussion 1: Understanding the latest economic forecasts for Asia and the Pacific (35 minutes)**

### **Speakers**

**Mr. Shantanu Mukherjee, Director, Economic Analysis and Policy Division, UNDESA**

**Video (2minutes)**

**“Asia Pacific SDG Progress Report,” UNESCAP video (2:20)**

**Discussion 2 Smart sustainable development planning to leave no one behind (25 minutes)**

**Speakers**

**Ms Alison Gulpin, Senior Social Statistician, The Pacific Community (SPC)**

**Ms Vilany Renengsau**