



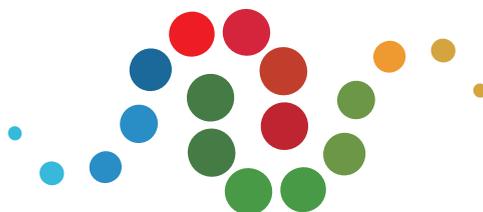
Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in East and North-East Asia

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ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN EAST AND NORTH-EAST ASIA



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PREFACE

This publication highlights challenges and priorities of the East and North-East Asian subregion in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The subregion comprises China (including Hong Kong, China; and Macau, China), Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation, a mix of developed and developing members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The subregion as a whole is well advanced in terms of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the predecessors of the Sustainable Development Goals. Yet, despite having made significant achievements in that regard, there are many unfinished development challenges facing the subregion. In particular, in view of its large population, the ENEA subregion has a large pool of people still living in poverty.

Equally important, the Sustainable Development Goals shed light on various issues which were not within the scope or the main focus of the Millennium Development Goals but are more pertinent to the ENEA subregion, particularly in areas associated with environmental sustainability.

In this publication, an attempt has been made to provide a quick overview of challenges pertinent to the East and North-East Asian subregion, and explore policy responses needed at national, subregional and regional levels to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, utilizing resources, financial and technological advantages, and maximizing the potential for regional and subregional cooperation.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

East and North-East Asia (ENEAA), as **one of the most dynamic, innovative and fast-developing areas** of the world, has made remarkable progress over the past two decades – with annual GDP growth higher than that in the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of world. The ENEAA subregion is well advanced in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Yet many challenges remain. The ENEAA subregion still has a large number of people living in poverty and a large disparity in income among countries, with Japan at one end of the spectrum and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the other. There has been no fundamental trend in reversing environmental and resource losses, or in reducing the growth of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The subregion's resource-intensive economic growth has led to large increases in the demand for materials and energy.

A number of emerging challenges remain to be dealt with. The ENEAA subregion is home to a large number of older persons, with the process of population ageing taking place at unprecedented speed and on a scale never before experienced in human history.

The priority areas for the ENEAA subregion to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development include the following:

- **Promoting poverty reduction and safeguarding basic needs:** In 2012, the population living in extreme poverty – on less than \$1.90 a day in 2011 purchasing power parity (PPP) – in East and North-East Asia reached 127 million, accounting for 7.4 per cent of the total population of the ENEAA subregion. For this reason, it is necessary to give top priority to promoting poverty alleviation and safeguarding the basic living needs of the poverty-stricken people in the ENEAA subregion.
- **Enhancing energy efficiency and optimizing energy structure:** Energy consumption in the ENEAA subregion represents a third of global energy consumption. Except for Japan and the Republic of Korea, the energy efficiency of other countries in the subregion is lower than that of the global average. The share of coal use accounts for 23.7 per cent of total final consumption, double that of the global average. It is therefore very important to increase energy efficiency and to promote sustainable consumption.
- **Addressing climate change:** GHG emissions from countries in the ENEAA subregion constitute about one third of the global total. By developing the necessary technologies and introducing effective policies and measures, the ENEAA subregion could play a key role in helping to mitigate global climate change.
- **Increasing resilience to disasters:** The ENEAA subregion is vulnerable to extreme weather conditions. In 2015, a total of 23 million people in the subregion were affected by natural disasters. It is important to strengthen the capacity of the subregion in fighting against and adapting to disasters related to climate and other natural causes.
- **Enhancing resource efficiency to maintain resource security:** Resource efficiency in the ENEAA subregion is lower than the global average. Actions to increase the efficiency of resource use, adopt cleaner and more environment-friendly technologies and industrial processes to improve the ENEAA subregion's infrastructure and industrial conditions would result in multiple benefits in terms of sustainable development in the subregion.
- **Driving ecological innovation for growth:** Increasing the rate of scientific and technological achievements and translating the innovative results into industrial transformation across the subregion could contribute to shifting economic growth into a resource-efficient and low carbon pathway.

- **Integrating population ageing into national development priorities:** The challenge of population ageing has already begun to affect ENEA countries. Many countries have thus embarked on a new era in establishing supporting structures to deal with a rapidly ageing population and to shift older persons from being idle beneficiaries of welfare to active contributors to society.
- **Transforming the role of development assistance – means of implementation:** Countries in East and North-East Asia are poised to exercise regional and global leadership in terms of the means of implementation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, with best practices emanating from the subregion in such areas as North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, by scaling up and efficiently utilizing their financial assistance, as well as by sharing knowledge and technical support in various areas, including green and eco-efficient technologies.

Addressing such priorities requires developing country-specific goals and Sustainable Development Goal implementation plans, promoting information disclosure, promoting participation of all stakeholders, including the private sector and legislators, and advancing innovation for the financing mechanisms necessary for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. ENEA countries have begun the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and are at an early stage in formulating policies and measures and putting into place the necessary institutional architecture for this purpose. East and North-East Asian countries have already participated in national reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals. China and the Republic of Korea were two of the inaugural 22 countries to present their national voluntary reviews at the 2016 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. In 2017, Japan will present its national voluntary review at the Forum.

ENEA countries could jointly mobilize their contributions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through national measures and enhance both subregional and regional cooperation.

- At the national level,** ENEA countries can establish and improve financing mechanisms, including through public-private partnerships, increase their technical support and promote the dissemination of knowledge and best practices, for instance by investing in education and technological innovation;
- At the subregional level,** despite political difficulties and historical differences, it is important for ENEA countries to promote meaningful partnerships by making full use of existing mechanisms. Deepening cooperation among countries in the existing subregional framework could promote subregional economic cooperation and contribute to regional economic integration. Ongoing environmental cooperation in East and North-East Asia, under the aegis of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, could be intensified to address subregional environmental issues, as well as to build mutual trust and promote cooperation among the countries in the subregion;
- At the regional level,** ENEA countries can take a leadership role in facilitating the means for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by assisting other countries in such areas as finance, knowledge-sharing and technical support by:
 - **Enhancing technical assistance for capacity-building:** Given the key role of ENEA countries in providing development assistance, their assistance could be focused on capacity-building in education, data and statistical systems, governance and institutional frameworks;
 - **Promoting cooperation in technological research and development:** Varying experiences in terms of technological advance in the subregion can potentially lead to the transfer of technologies, responding to the needs of a variety of socioeconomic, cultural and geographic contexts. Various existing initiatives in countries in the subregion promoting technology facilitation could be further strengthened through enhanced cooperation;

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

- **Advancing science and technology in East and North-East Asian countries:** Countries in the subregion have experiences to share in science, technology and innovation policies aimed at creating an enabling environment. The subregion also is home to leaders in environment-related technologies. These technologically advanced ENEA countries could boost their cooperation in science and technology and significantly improve technological transfers and cooperation in Asia and the Pacific;
- **Supporting South-South and triangular cooperation:** As a key source of financial resources and best practices for various cooperation models in Asia and the Pacific, ENEA countries could continue to scale up and efficiently utilize their financial assistance in helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular sharing knowledge and technical support in the areas of green and eco-efficient technologies.



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1. INTRODUCTION: KEY FEATURES OF EAST AND NORTH-EAST ASIA

The East and North-East Asian subregion² plays a central role in Asia and the Pacific, as well as in the world as a whole. The ENEA subregion, comprising China (including Hong Kong, China; and Macao, China), the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, covers an area of almost 28 million km², accounting for more than half the total land area of the ESCAP region. The population of the ENEA subregion alone is about 40 per cent of the total population of the ESCAP region, and almost a quarter of the global population.

Economic aspects of the East and North-East Asian subregion

Advanced economic development: The ENEA subregion is the most developed subregion in Asia and the Pacific.³ The subregion is home to the second and third largest economies in the world, namely China and Japan, respectively, and as of 2015, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation were counted among the world's 15 largest economies.⁴ For the past few decades, East and North-East Asia has been one of the most dynamic and rapidly growing parts of the world. The subregion is at the centre of policy and technological innovations that have enabled it to leapfrog progress in economic and social development. Even during the recent global financial and economic crisis, the subregion showed remarkable resilience. As a group, the ENEA subregion's per capita GDP as of 2014 was higher than that of the Asia-Pacific region. From 1990 to 2013, the annual average GDP growth rate in the ENEA subregion was also higher than that in the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world. However, subregional aggregation masks the disparities among countries. On one hand, the high per capita GDP of the ENEA subregion reflects the economic power of high-income countries, such as Japan and the Republic of Korea (figure 1), while the above-average growth rate reflects mostly the economic dynamism of China, the second largest economy in the world.

Income disparity and incidence of poverty: While the subregion is wealthier than other subregions, there is a large disparity in terms of income among countries within the ENEA subregion, that is, there are higher-income countries (Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation) on one hand, and there are countries with GDP per capita well below the ESCAP average (China, Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) on the other. The Gini coefficient at approximately 42 in China and the Russian Federation (as of 2012) would suggest significant income disparity within these countries. Following the recent prolonged period of economic downturn, there is also risk of a worsening of the poverty situation in the subregion. Above all, despite having the lowest poverty rate among the subregions of Asia and the Pacific, owing to the magnitude of the subregion's population, almost one quarter of the people living below the poverty line in the ESCAP region live in East and North-East Asia.

Environmental aspects of the East and North-East Asian subregion

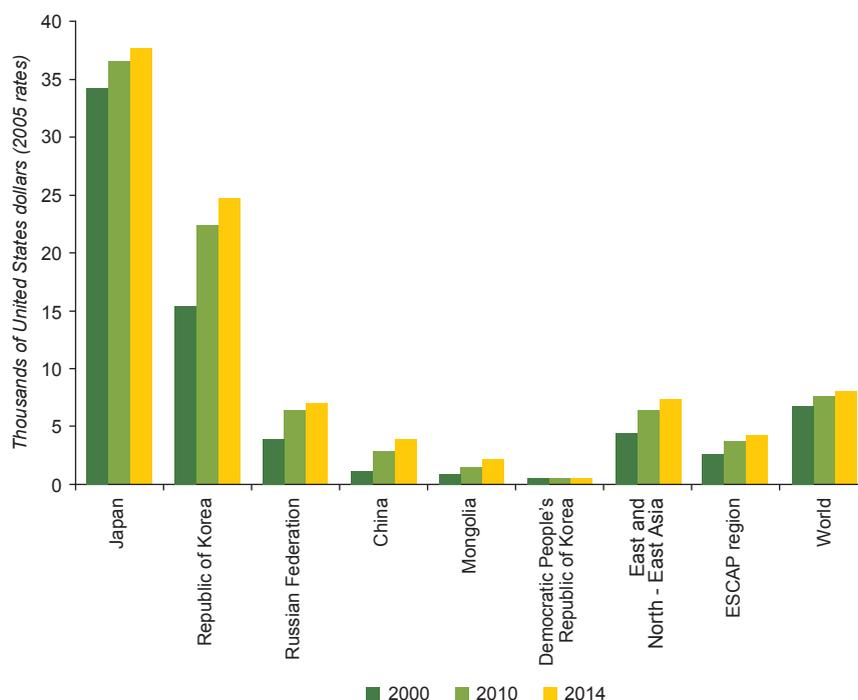
Resource-intensive countries: While ENEA countries differ in terms of their demographic and territorial scale, natural resource endowments, and economic development level and process, it is worth noting that these countries have undergone a similar development path: resource-intensive economic growth involving a large increase in the demand for materials and energy exceeding that of other subregions. In contrast to its advances in terms of socioeconomic development, key challenges for the subregion are increasing its resource efficiency and reducing burdens on the environment.

² Figures for the ENEA subregion may include available data from Hong Kong, China; and Macao, China. The main source of data is the ESCAP statistical database (www.unescap.org/stat/data/).

³ Of six member States and two associate members in the ENEA subregion, five are high-income economies (Japan; the Republic of Korea; the Russian Federation; Hong Kong, China; and Macao, China), including two members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); two are upper-middle-income countries (China and Mongolia); and one is a low-income country (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea), based on World Bank classification (<http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups>).

⁴ According to the World Bank GDP ranking 2015 (2017 update). Available from <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/GDP-ranking-table>.

Figure 1. GDP per capita in East and North-East Asian countries and other regions



Source: ESCAP statistical database. Available from www.unescap.org/stat/data.

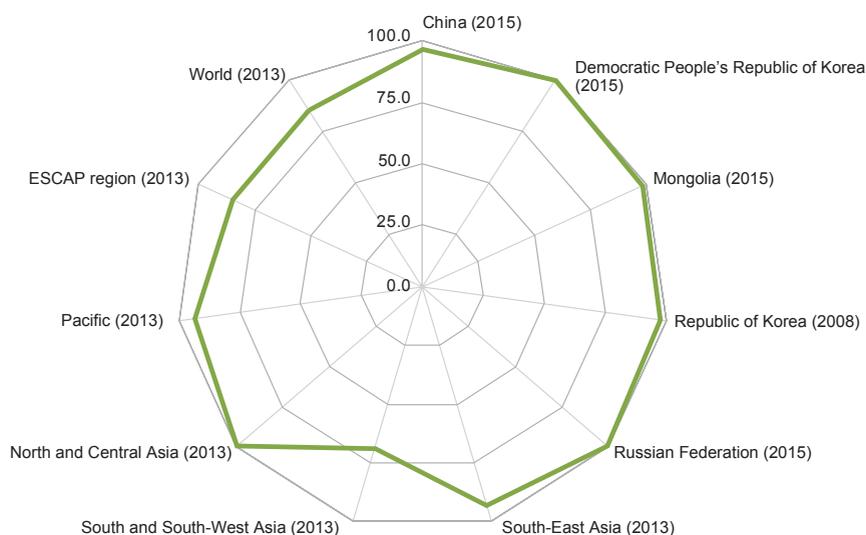
Social aspects of the East and North-East Asian subregion

Diverse progress in social development: The ENEA subregion has made significant progress in social development. For example, such indicators as infant and maternal mortality rates are significantly better than those in the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world, although the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mongolia are lagging behind in this regard. The elementary school enrolment and adult literacy rates in the subregion have also increased rapidly and are now higher than those in the Asia-Pacific region and the world as a whole. The adult literacy rate had exceeded 90 per cent in all ENEA countries by 2000 and was recorded above 96 per cent in all ENEA countries in 2015 (see figure 2).

Demographic shift: The ENEA subregion is experiencing rapid change in demographic structure. Unlike any other subregion in Asia and the Pacific, the total fertility rates of all countries in the ENEA subregion, except for Mongolia, are below 2.0 children per woman, well below the replacement level of fertility.⁵ The share of the child population in the total population is steadily declining, while that of the elderly population is increasing. As discussed in the following sections, this demographic shift towards an ageing population is a key concern in the subregion.

⁵ For replacement level fertility level, see, for example, http://papp.iussp.org/sessions/papp103_s08/PAPP103_s08_030_010.html.

Figure 2. Adult literacy rate



Source: ESCAP statistical database. Available from www.unescap.org/stat/data.

2. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: REPORT CARD FOR THE EAST AND NORTH-EAST ASIAN SUBREGION

2.1 Progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Over the last 15 years, the countries in the ENEA subregion have achieved substantial progress in meeting the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in following areas:

Poverty reduction

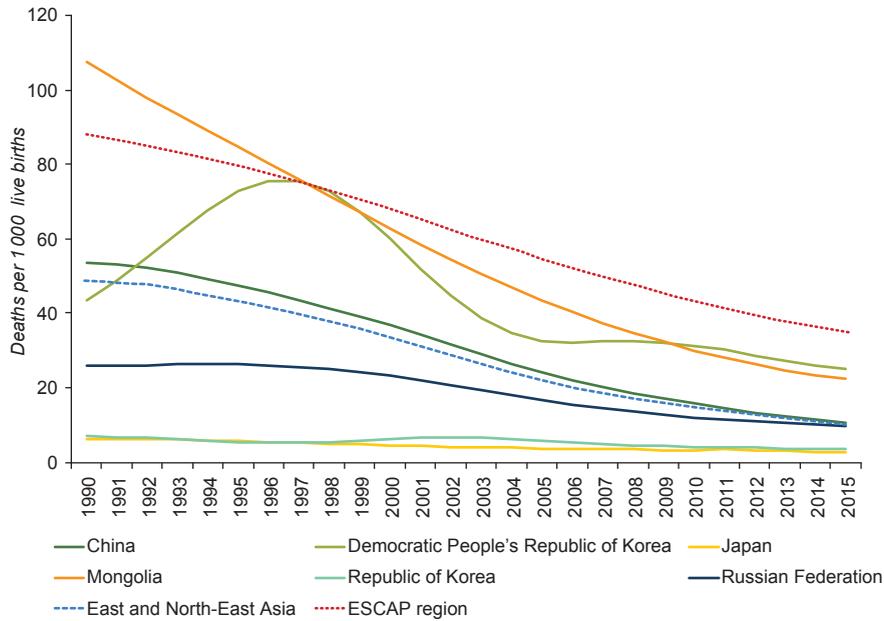
The ENEA subregion has met the Millennium Development Goals target on poverty, having lifted many people out of extreme poverty. Given China's large population size, poverty reduction in the ENEA subregion is largely attributable to poverty reduction in China. During the period from 1990 to 2011, the number of people living in poverty in China decreased by 439 million,⁶ which has significantly promoted global efforts to reduce poverty and met two thirds of the poverty reduction target in the ENEA subregion. The proportion of people in China who lived on less than \$1.00 a day reduced from 61 per cent in 1990 to 4 per cent in 2015⁷ – a significant achievement against the Millennium Development Goals target of reducing by half the number of people living in extreme poverty.

Meanwhile, great progress has been made in dealing with hunger and malnutrition in the ENEA subregion. As of 2013, the proportion of people in the subregion suffering from undernutrition has dropped by half since 1990.

⁶ For details, see www.cn.undp.org/content/china/en/home/post-2015/mdgoverview/overview/mdg1.html.

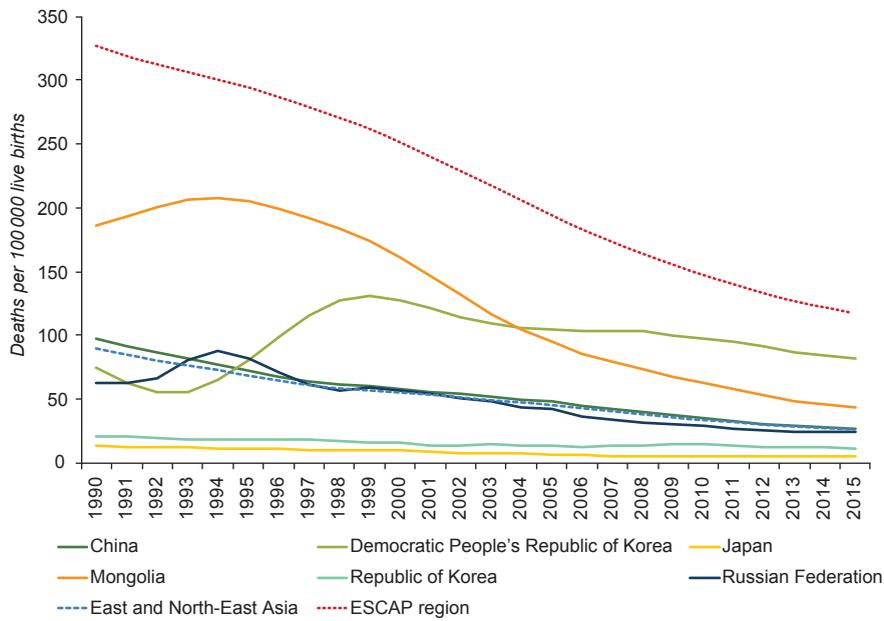
⁷ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015*. Available from www.un.org/millenniumgoals/news.shtml.

Figure 3. Child mortality in East and North-East Asian countries



Source: ESCAP statistical database. Available from www.unescap.org/stat/data.

Figure 4. Maternal mortality in East and North-East Asian countries



Source: ESCAP statistical database. Available from www.unescap.org/stat/data.

Gender equality

The ENEA subregion has also met the target for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, including an increase in the proportion of women among paid workers. Studies indicate that, when the gender parity index for the gross enrolment rate in primary, middle schools and higher education reaches 0.97-1.03, the gender gap may be assumed to have been eliminated. By 2009, all ENEA countries recorded a gender parity index for gross enrolment rate in primary schools in excess of 0.97,⁸ while the index for middle schools reached 1.02, indicating that most girls in the subregion can receive a primary education, and there is no major difference between girls and boys in their access to education.

Child mortality

The under-5 mortality rate in the ENEA subregion was reduced from 49 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 8.8 in 2015, which is within the Millennium Development Goals target of reducing under-5 mortality rate by two thirds between 1990 and 2015. By 2015, the infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) was reduced from 48 to 19 in Mongolia and from 44 to 20 in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, well below the ESCAP average of 28. While these data indicate significant progress, child mortality remains a challenge for these two countries when compared with other countries in the ENEA subregion, which recorded fewer than 10 deaths per 1,000 live births (9.2 in China, 8.2 in the Russian Federation, 2.9 in the Republic of Korea and 2 in Japan) (figure 3).

Maternal health care

The ENEA subregion has also made further progress in maternal health care. The index of maternal mortality (deaths of mothers per 100,000 live births) declined from 90 in 1990 to 26 in 2015 in the ENEA subregion, while the rates in the ESCAP region declined from 327 to 117 during the same period. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mongolia achieved a significant reduction in their maternal mortality rates, at 82 and 44, respectively, which are well below the ESCAP average, although there is still a large gap between other countries in the subregion (27 in China, 11 in the Republic of Korea, 25 in the Russian Federation and 5 in Japan) (figure 4).

The maternal mortality rate fell in the ENEA subregion, with most pregnant women in the subregion having had access to medical health-care services during their pregnancy. For instance, in addition to the maternal health-care service system, women's reproductive health-care services have been further improved in China. Moreover, the teenage delivery rate decreased from 19.8 per 1,000 girls (age 15-19) in 1990 to 7.2 per 1,000 girls in 2015.⁹

Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

The ENEA subregion is actively addressing such diseases and infections as HIV/AIDS and malaria. HIV/AIDS has been contained within the subregion, with the incidence rate of AIDS being kept at a low level. Nonetheless, due to its large population size, China is one of 12 countries in the subregion with the largest number of people living with HIV (estimated at 780,000 people as of 2011)¹⁰ even though those people accounted for less than 0.6 per cent of the total population. China has been implementing voluntary consulting and testing for HIV infection free of cost since 2004. As of 2014, it had put into place an AIDS prevention and control service network covering urban and rural areas. Therefore, the country's target of providing, by 2010, all people living with HIV/AIDS with the necessary treatment has basically been met. Moreover, the rising trend of tuberculosis infection has been effectively curbed. The incidence of malaria has been significantly reduced and contained, and the incidence of other major diseases has also been contained.

⁸ Data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics Database for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are available only for 2009. For details, see <http://data.uis.unesco.org/> (accessed 30 August 2016).

⁹ World Bank Data, "Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)". Available from <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT> (accessed 3 March 2017).

¹⁰ Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, *HIV in Asia and the Pacific: UNAIDS Report 2013* (Geneva, 2013). Available from www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2013/20131119_HIV-Asia-Pacific.

Access to improved drinking water

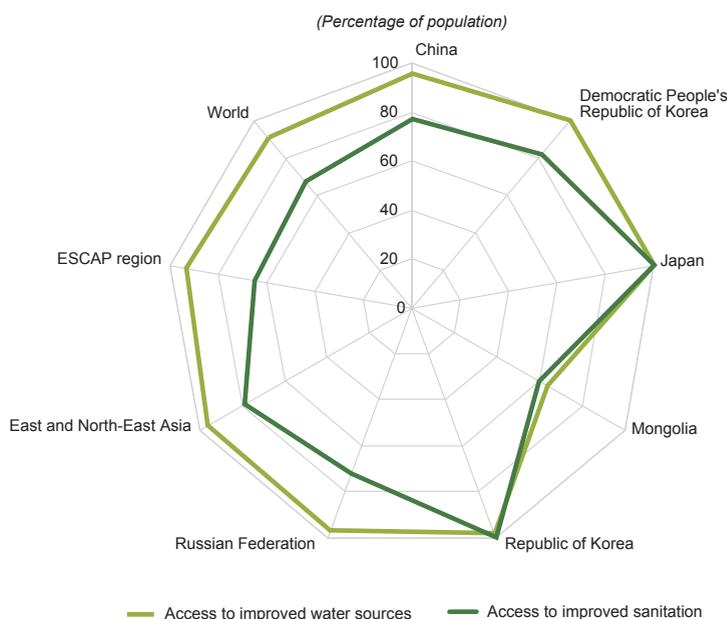
The percentage of the population in the ENEA subregion using improved drinking water sources has grown from 73 per cent in 1990 to 96.5 per cent in 2015. Thus, the ENEA subregion has met its target of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Countries in the ENEA subregion have also been active in improving people’s living conditions (figure 5).

2.2 Unfinished business and emerging challenges

While the ENEA subregion is well advanced in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, there are many remaining gaps. In view of its large population size, the ENEA subregion still has an extensive number of people living in poverty; it is also facing increasing pressure to ensure that people are not pushed back into poverty. In the subregion, some poverty-stricken people live in dense slums; such areas are also characterized by fragile eco-environmental conditions, special social structure, lack of public services and the presence of local diseases. It is very difficult to alleviate poverty in such areas, and high costs are often involved as well. Moreover, there are various socially and economically disadvantaged groups, including older persons, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV/AIDS and migrants. Effective social policy interventions in conjunction with economic and environmental policies are needed to promote the inclusion and participation of such people in society, not only as beneficiaries of social protection schemes, but also as active contributors to society and the economy.

The Sustainable Development Goals shed light on various issues which were not within the scope or the main focus of the Millennium Development Goals but are more pertinent to the ENEA subregion, particularly areas associated with environmental sustainability. For instance, while the percentage of protected terrestrial and marine areas¹¹ in the ENEA subregion grew from 8 per cent in 1990 to 13 per cent in 2014, the condition of biodiversity

Figure 5. Access to improved water and sanitation, 2015



Source: ESCAP statistical database. Available from www.unescap.org/stat/data.

¹¹ Target 7.A (Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources) of the Millennium Development Goals has two relevant indicators: 7.6 (Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected) and 7.7 (Proportion of species threatened with extinction).

conservation in the ENEA subregion is still far from being a cause for optimism, and the proportion of threatened species remains high.¹² Likewise GHG emissions are still on the rise, growing from 6.3 tons per capita¹³ in 1990 to 10.3 tons per capita in 2012. Despite the fact that the principle of sustainable development has been integrated into national plans and programmes, there has been no fundamental trend in reversing environmental and resource loss.

In addition, with the demographic shift towards an ageing population advancing at an unprecedented rate and scale in human history, the subregion potentially faces a new challenge of rising poverty and widening socioeconomic inequalities among the growing elderly population, if the rapid demographic shift is not matched by timely adjustments to embrace it.

3. SUBREGIONAL PRIORITIES UNDER THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In taking into account the current status of the ENEA subregion and national strategies to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the priority areas for the ENEA subregion include the following components:

- (a) Promoting poverty reduction and safeguarding basic needs;
- (b) Enhancing energy efficiency and optimizing energy structure;
- (c) Addressing climate change;
- (d) Increasing resilience to disasters;
- (e) Enhancing resource efficiency to maintain resource security;
- (f) Driving ecological innovation for growth;
- (g) Integrating population ageing into national development priorities;
- (h) Transforming the role of development assistance – the means of implementation.

3.1 Promoting poverty reduction and safeguarding basic needs

Despite the subregion's remarkable achievements in poverty reduction, countries in East and North-East Asia still need to give top priority to promoting poverty alleviation and safeguarding the basic living needs of poverty-stricken people.

According to the recent poverty headcount ratio of \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP), 7.4 per cent of the population in the ENEA subregion live below the poverty line in 2012, which is much lower than the ESCAP average. Despite having the lowest poverty rate in the ESCAP region, the actual number of people in the ENEA subregion living on less than \$1.90 a day is still very large in absolute terms: 127 million people,¹⁴ which is equivalent to 23 per cent of the total poor population in the ESCAP region and 13 per cent of the total poor population worldwide. The challenge of reducing poverty is also illustrated with data on national poverty lines. In Mongolia, 21.6 per cent of the people were living below their country's national poverty line in 2014, although that figure represents a significant reduction from the 38.8 per cent living below that line in 2010. In the case of the Russian Federation, the national poverty rate increased from 10.8 per cent of the total population in 2013 to 13.4 per cent in 2015, which is close to 20 million people living in poverty,¹⁵ reflecting weakening of the macroeconomic environment and falling oil prices. The incomes of the bottom 40 per cent of the population of the Russian Federation have stagnated since 2012, and fell faster than average incomes in 2014.¹⁶ Owing to the prolonged period of economic downturn in that country, there is a risk of a worsening poverty situation in the subregion.

¹² For details, see www.unescap.org/stat/data/.

¹³ Carbon dioxide equivalent. Calculations are based on ESCAP data. Available from www.unescap.org/stat/data/.

¹⁴ ESCAP statistical database (accessed in November 2016).

¹⁵ World Bank Poverty and Equity Database (accessed 31 August 2016).

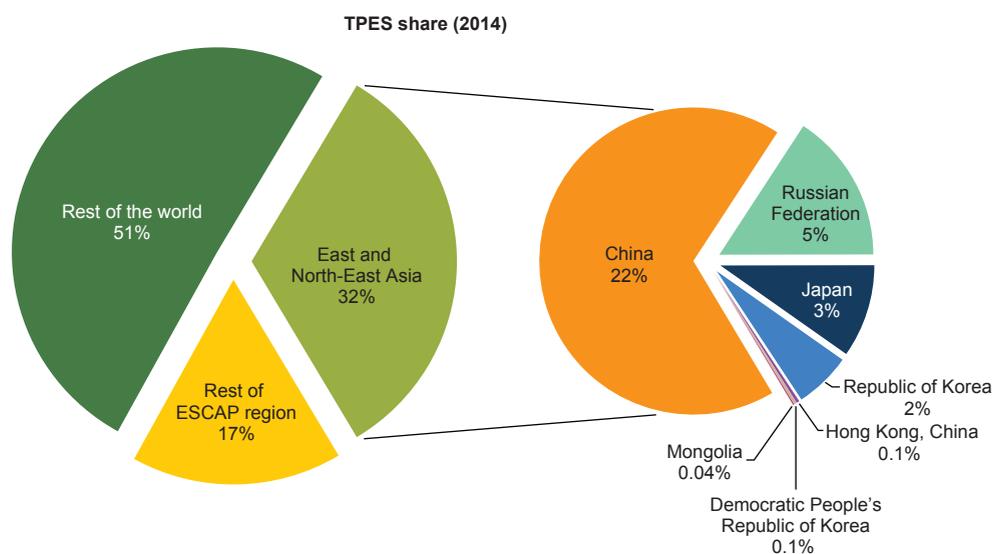
¹⁶ World Bank, "Systematic country diagnostic for the Russian Federation: pathways to inclusive growth". Available from www.worldbank.org/en/country/russia/publication/systematic-country-diagnostic-for-the-russian-federation-pathways-to-inclusive-growth.

3.2 Enhancing energy efficiency and optimizing energy structure

It is critical to increase energy efficiency and promote sustainable consumption in the ENEA subregion. The combined factor of size of the ENEA economies and the high energy intensity of large economies such as China are reflected in the subregion's continued increase in the level of its energy consumption. Total final energy consumption in the ENEA subregion represented about 31 per cent of global energy consumption in 2014.¹⁷ Likewise, total primary energy supply (TPES)¹⁸ shows a similar magnitude of the subregion's share in the global economy (figure 6). TPES per capita (measured in kilograms of oil equivalent) in all countries, except the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is higher than the average for the ESCAP region; that of the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation is more than three times higher than the ESCAP average. Furthermore, TPES per capita increased by more than 75 per cent in China and Mongolia in the 10 years from 2004 to 2014.

Energy efficiency in the subregion varies greatly. Except for Japan and the Republic of Korea, the energy efficiency of other countries in the ENEA subregion is generally lower than that of the global average. One indicator of energy efficiency is energy intensity (TPES/GDP), which may be interpreted as the energy required to produce a unit of GDP. The average energy intensity of the ENEA subregion as a whole in 2013 reached 0.37 tons of oil equivalent/\$1,000 (at 2005 rate), which was 60 per cent higher than the global average of 0.23; in other words, the economy of East and North-East Asia is more energy thirsty than the global average.¹⁹ Energy intensity was particularly high in 2013 for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at 1.08, Mongolia at 0.89, followed by the Russian Federation at 0.74 and China at 0.60, although there has been an improvement since 2005 (figure 7). In terms of energy structure, the share of coal in energy consumption in the ENEA subregion accounts for 23.7 per cent of the total, double that of the global average.

Figure 6. Total primary energy supply, 2014



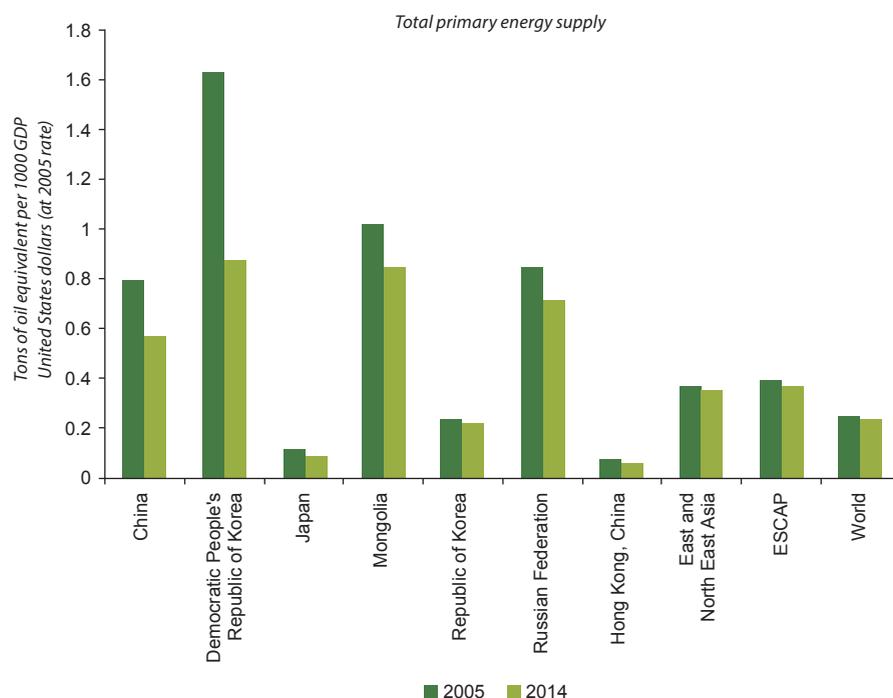
Source: ESCAP statistical database. Available from www.unescap.org/stat/data. For aggregation methods, please see the note in the annex to the present report.

¹⁷ According to data from the Asia Pacific Energy Portal. Available from <http://asiapacificenergy.org/>.

¹⁸ Total primary energy supply (TPES) is made up of production + imports – exports – international marine bunkers – international aviation bunkers ± stock changes. For the global total, international marine bunkers and international aviation bunkers are not subtracted from TPES. For more information, see "Key world energy statistics". Available from www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/KeyWorld2016.pdf.

¹⁹ ESCAP statistical database. Available from www.unescap.org/stat/.

Figure 7. Energy intensity of East and North-East Asian countries and areas



Source: ESCAP statistical database. Available from www.unescap.org/stat/.

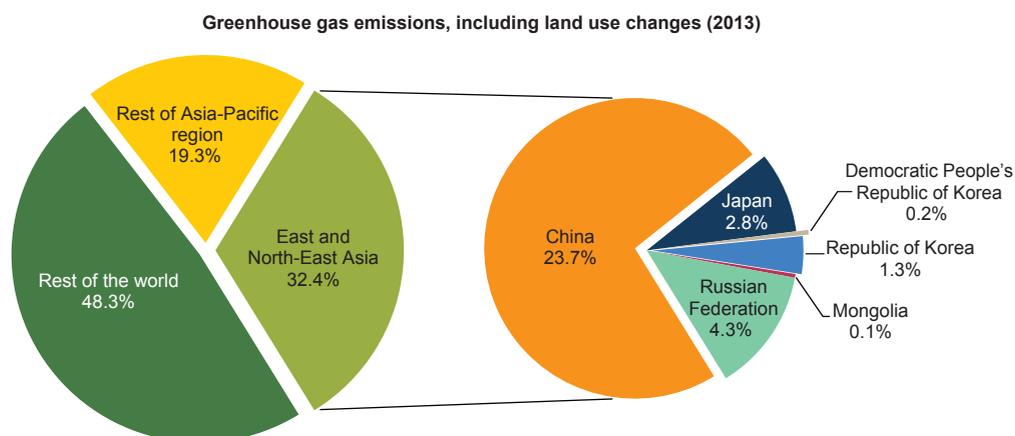
In the subregion, utilization of solar and wind energy has rapidly increased in the last 10 years, notably in China (112 times) and Japan (11 times), as well as electricity production from renewables, which accounted for 3.86 and 3.5 per cent of the total in China and Japan, respectively, in 2015. However, the subregion still faces major challenges in scaling up renewable energy to levels sufficient to mitigate impacts of both climate change and domestic air pollution, and to meet energy demand in more cost-efficient ways.

3.3 Addressing climate change

The share of the ENEA subregion in global GHG emissions increased from one quarter to one third during the last two decades, with an almost triple increase in China (figures 8 and 9). Meanwhile, in the ENEA subregion, notably China and Japan, there has been a rapid expansion in the use of renewable energy. Installed capacity of solar and wind energy accounted for 33 per cent of global capacity (640GW) in 2015.²⁰ National GHG mitigation targets as well as recent progress in this regard indicate that the ENEA subregion as a whole could soon move away from the previous trend of producing larger amounts of GHG emissions. In considering the global magnitude of the subregion's GHG emissions and climate mitigation technology, it may be seen that the East and North-East Asia has a critical role to play in helping mitigate global climate change. In particular, a rapid transition of the ENEA subregion towards low carbon technology and development pathways will significantly contribute to scaling up more efficient and affordable technology for countries beyond the subregion, which would further accelerate global efforts in this regard.

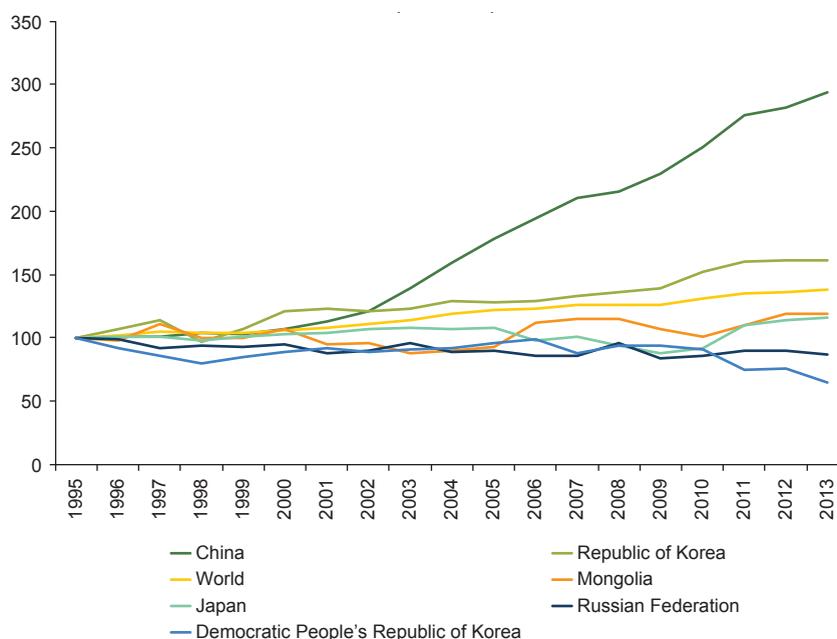
²⁰ International Renewable Energy Agency, *Renewable Energy Statistics 2016* (Abu Dhabi, 2016). Available from www.irena.org/DocumentDownloads/Publications/IRENA_RE_Statistics_2016.pdf.

Figure 8. Share of greenhouse gas emissions, including land use changes (2013)



Source: CAIT Climate Data Explorer. Available from <http://cait.wri.org>.

Figure 9. Trend of greenhouse gas emissions, by country (1995-2013)



Source: CAIT Climate Data Explorer. Available from <http://cait.wri.org>.

3.4 Increasing resilience to disasters

The ENEA subregion is vulnerable to extreme weather conditions and natural disasters. While the number of people affected fluctuates every year, the subregion regularly accounts for a significant proportion of the population so affected in the ESCAP region and in the world. For instance, in 2015 a total of 22.9 million people in the subregion were affected by natural disasters, accounting for almost one quarter of the total population affected worldwide.²¹

²¹ The total number of people affected by natural disasters was obtained from the ESCAP statistical database (accessed in February 2017). In 2012, the total number of people affected by natural disasters was 47.9 million in the ENEA subregion (43 per cent of those affected globally); in 2013, the number was 29.8 million (30 per cent) and in 2014, 65 million (46 per cent).

Nonetheless, the scale of impact and the frequency of occurrence are unpredictable. For example, in 2015 for every 1,000 people in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, 715 were affected by a natural disaster, whereas in 2011 the number of people so affected in that country reached only 2.3 per 1,000. Similarly, in Mongolia, 326 people per 1,000 were affected in 2015; yet there have been years when only about 1 person per 1,000 was affected in that country. It is thus important to fully strengthen the capacity of countries in the subregion in fighting against and adapting to disasters related to climate and other natural causes. The subregion needs to make further progress on adaptation and mitigation efforts, regardless of the development status of the individual economies concerned. For instance, among the 160 countries analysed in 2013 in the Global Climate Risk Index,²² the Russian Federation was ranked 6th in climate-related deaths per 100,000 population while China was ranked 2nd and Japan 14th in climate-related economic loss (calculated in United States dollars, PPP) in the same year.

3.5 Enhancing resource efficiency to maintain resource security

As a major resource consumer, the subregion urgently need to take action to increase the efficiency of its resource use, adopt cleaner and more environment-friendly technologies and industrial processes to improve the subregion’s infrastructure and industrial conditions.

Resource efficiency in the ENEA subregion is at a rather low level. The subregion’s material consumption is significantly large and is growing rapidly in terms of total volume as well as per capita. For instance, the “material footprint” per capita in the ENEA subregion was 19.2 tons in 2015 compared with 10.5 tons in the ESCAP region as a whole. In the ENEA subregion, the intensity of material consumption (resource requirements needed to produce a unit of GDP) is about the same as the ESCAP average, except for Mongolia (figure 10). On the other hand, per capita consumption of material is growing much faster than in other subregions in Asia and the Pacific (figure 11). The ENEA subregion’s consumption of crude steel (53 kg per \$1,000 GDP) was 2.4 times higher than that of the global average in 2013;²³ consumption of cement (144.2 kg per \$1,000 GDP) was 2.67 times higher than global level in the same year;²⁴ and paper consumption intensity was 1.5 times that of the global average.²⁵

Figure 10. Domestic material consumption, intensity

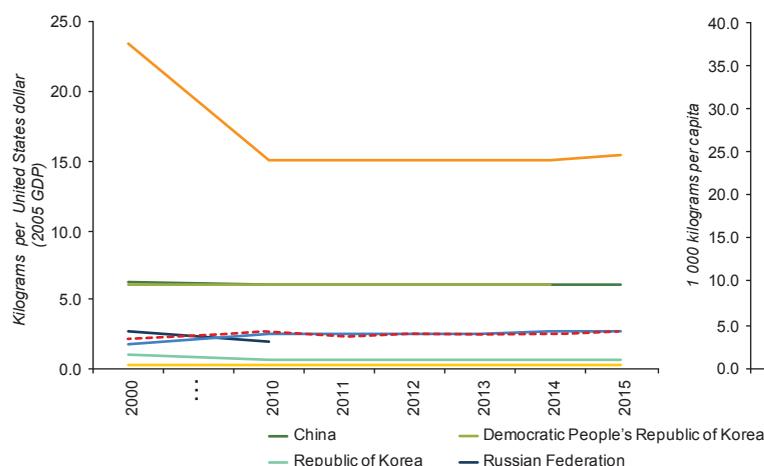
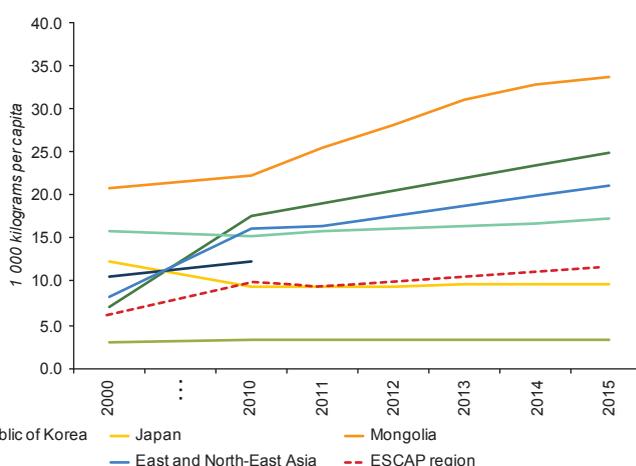


Figure 11. Domestic material consumption, per capita



Source: ESCAP statistical database. Available from www.unescap.org/stat/.

Note: East and North-East Asia in the above figures excludes the Russian Federation after 2010 due to the unavailability of data on that country.

²² Germanwatch, *Global Climate Risk Index 2015: Who Suffers Most from Extreme Weather Events?* Available from <https://germanwatch.org/en/9470>.

²³ Calculation based on World Steel Association, *Steel Statistical Yearbook 2015*. Available from www.worldsteel.org/statistics/statistics-archive/yearbook-archive.html.

²⁴ Apparent cement consumption = cement production + imports – exports. Cement production data are from USGS, *Minerals Yearbook 2013*. Available from <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/cement/>.

²⁵ Paper and paperboard consumption (kg per \$1,000 dollars GDP (current price)). See www.fao.org/forestry/46203/en/.

3.6 Driving ecological innovation for growth

The ENEA subregion needs to accelerate scientific and technological achievements, translate the innovative results into industrial transformation and contribute to shifting economic growth towards a resource-efficient and low carbon pathway. Such a transformation requires supporting long-term investments in research, capacity-building, sustainable innovation and technology, as well as enabling public policies to support the advancement of science, technology and innovation.

China, Japan and the Republic of Korea are front-runners in ecological innovation in the subregion. For instance, Japan and the Republic of Korea take the lead in innovation pertaining to sustainable development, while the innovation capacity of China has steadily increased with the implementation of its national innovation-driven strategy. Of the share of environment-related technological development worldwide in 2012, Japan accounted for more than 23.5 per cent and the Republic of Korea 9.4 per cent. China's share in that year was 4.7 per cent, a more than twentyfold increase since 1990.²⁶

3.7 Integrating population ageing into national development priorities

The ENEA subregion is home to a large number of older persons, with the process of population ageing taking place at a speed and scale unprecedented in human history. If the current rapid demographic shift is not matched by timely adjustment of various support systems and the establishment of an enabling environment for older persons, the subregion could face a new challenge of rising poverty and widening socioeconomic inequalities among the expanding elderly population. The ageing challenge has already begun to affect a wide spectrum of policy areas, with prominent challenges in each area. The phenomenon of rapid population ageing involves a complex and complicated set of policy implications for the labour force and health services, including long-term care, pensions and welfare schemes, housing, poverty and social isolation.

Ageing is among the most pressing issues facing China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. The proportion (percentage of the population) of the persons older than 65 years in 2015 was already 26.3 per cent in Japan in 2015; the proportion is projected to increase to 36.3 per cent in 2050. Ageing in China and the Republic of Korea is also projected to accelerate in the years ahead (figure 12).²⁷ The number of older persons (65 years and older) in the subregion is expected to increase from 190 million in 2015 to more than 300 million in 2030, due mainly to the large population size of China. In other words, one in six persons living in the ENEA subregion will be 65 years or older in 2030.

Current data are already starting to show some strain among the elderly. For example, the Gini coefficient for persons 65 years and older in Japan is 0.341 (2009 data) and in the Republic of Korea 0.430 (2012 data). The poverty rate (relative poverty) among persons 65 years and older in Japan was 19 per cent (2009 data) and in the Republic of Korea 49 per cent (2012 data), while the OECD average is 13 per cent.²⁸

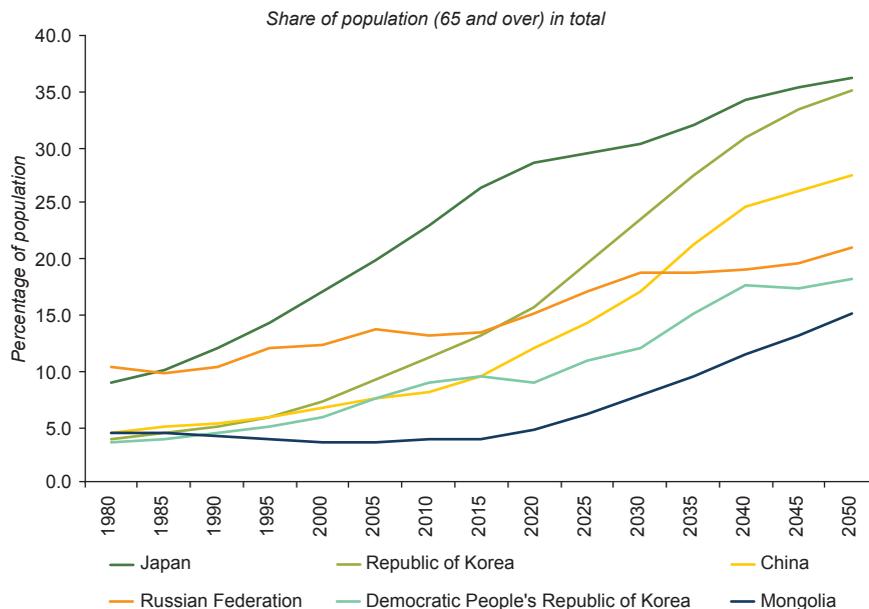
ENEA countries have embarked on a new era in establishing supporting structures, including social protection, pensions, health-care insurance schemes, housing, infrastructure and others, and new economic and market structures for an era characterized by rapid ageing, including labour force structures, planning for older consumers and others. In particular, the subregion has recognized the critical need for shifting older persons from being idle beneficiaries of welfare to becoming active contributors to society. Recent policy responses in ENEA countries include

²⁶ United Nations, ESCAP, *Harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific* (Sales No. E.16.II.F.12).

²⁷ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*. Available from <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>.

²⁸ Data are from OECD database. Available from www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/data/oecd-social-and-welfare-statistics/income-distribution_data-00654-en; and OECD Factbook 2014. Available from www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/302013081e1t024.pdf?expires=1423791207&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=0031EB0CB44D978A53B1ACA213A75A54 (accessed 13 February 2015).

Figure 12. Population ageing estimates in East and North-East Asian countries



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*. Available from <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>.

the reform of pension schemes. For instance, in 2015 the Government of China abolished its one-child policy and removed the dual-track urban pension system under which government employees had been exempted from making pension contributions. Recent measures in Japan include extending employees' pension insurance to more part-time workers, shortening the pay-in period needed to become eligible for the national pension from 25 to 10 years and setting up a new pension service to reduce the operating cost of public pension schemes. The Republic of Korea undertook extensive pension reforms, extended mandatory severance-pay plans to firms with five or fewer workers, increased childcare benefits, including providing a lump-sum grant on the birth of children, and set up an electronic information system for collecting social security contributions.²⁹

3.8 Transforming the role of development assistance – means of implementation

The ENEA subregion is home to key development cooperation players in Asia and the Pacific: Japan and the Republic of Korea as members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, and China and the Russian Federation as emerging donors. In particular, China has rapidly expanded its scale of development cooperation, often defined as South-South cooperation. For instance, at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015, China announced the establishment of a special fund, making an initial contribution of \$2 billion, to support South-South cooperation and assist developing countries in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Japan reiterated its commitment to assist countries in improving the quality of growth and emphasized its development cooperation focus on high-quality infrastructure, health, education and disaster risk reduction. The Republic of Korea also announced its focused-ODA programme on health and girls' education in support of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2008, the Russian Federation re-emerged as a donor, with the creation of a new federal agency for international humanitarian cooperation under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, namely "Rossotrudnichestvo", as well as the adoption in 2014 of a new legal framework for development assistance.

²⁹ United Nations, ESCAP, "Population ageing and fiscal sustainability in East and North-East Asia", MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 33, April 2016. Available from www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/MPFD%20Policy%20Briefs-ENEA-Population-ageing.pdf.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

4.1 Issues and challenges

Despite the ENEA subregion's advanced level of economic development and its significant achievements with regard to key development targets, it faces various challenges in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and these vary in degrees of urgency and significance in terms of the challenges across different countries in the subregion. The broad scope of the Sustainable Development Goals requires that all the economies in the ENEA subregion develop sustainable development strategies for implementing the 2030 Agenda that meet their international commitments. There is significant disparity among countries in their potential capability to address these priorities, such as financial resources and technological capacity, as well as their underutilized potential for cooperation, such as in development cooperation. Some of the issues and challenges in ENEA countries are highlighted below.

Challenge in the subregional approach

The formation of a common development idea and vision for the ENEA subregion is particularly challenging. Compared with Europe and some other subregions in Asia and the Pacific, the ENEA subregion is characterized by complicated political and security situations, prominent historical issues, major differences in social systems and ideology, and multilevel economic development, among other such issues.³⁰ In addition, ENEA countries have taken different development paths, and are characterized by very diverse levels of economic development. In general, a sense of subregional identity is absent in the ENEA subregion. All these elements thus make it difficult to establish a cohesive regional approach to solving shared regional problems.³¹

In addition, localization of Sustainable Development Goals at the national and subregional levels poses another challenge for the ENEA subregion. Achievement of the Goals at the national level – tailored to suit respective national circumstances – is key to achieving those Goals globally. In view of the uneven economic development and different economic systems in the subregion, ENEA countries have different levels of understanding and interpretation of sustainable development priorities and approaches. As a result, it is difficult to develop a subregional programme and/or road map that would correspond to the development stage of these economies, as well as translate into regional development.

Platform or mechanism to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

As with other parts of the world, the ENEA subregion is faced with the challenges of interpreting, prioritizing, implementing and monitoring the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals and targets. The formulation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the development and implementation of effective policies at different levels, the monitoring of progress and the influence of policies are all interconnected. Without systematic data support, policymakers would find it difficult to formulate appropriate policies and decision makers would find it difficult to make evidence-based decisions.

An interactive mechanism and system is needed which can demonstrate accountability to stakeholders in the light of defining the goals, performance assessment standards and action plans of Governments, the private sector and civil society organizations. Some of the key economic indicators, including those relating resource and environmental problems with economic growth pattern, are insufficient to capture the challenges facing ENEA countries. Similarly, the environment-related indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals do not fully capture some environmental problems in the ENEA subregion that are caused by air, water, soil, chemicals and solid wastes that have adverse effects on the environment and on human health.

³⁰ Li Wen and Wang Yuyi, "Impact of political factors on regional cooperation in Northeast Asia", *Northeast Asia Forum*, vol. 24, No. 1 (December 2014), pp. 53-60.

³¹ Fang Hua, "The situation and prospect of regional economic cooperation in Northeast Asia", *Contemporary International Relations*, 2008(11), pp. 57-62 (in Chinese). Available from http://www.cicir.ac.cn/chinese/Article__245.html.

Scarcity and allocation of funding

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires substantial funding in, among other areas, infrastructure development, eco-environmental protection and the establishment of social security systems. Limitation of financial resources is particularly challenging for the developing members of the ENEA subregion where poverty alleviation remains a priority. ENEA countries face a multitude of challenges and regional imbalances that inhibit the countries from making the necessary allocation of funding.

Significant disparity exists in domestic resources, even with the ENEA subregion's total gross domestic savings in 2014 of \$7 trillion, excluding that of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Of this amount, China accounts for 73 per cent and Japan 21 per cent. In terms of savings per capita, Mongolia has about \$1,200 compared with the subregional average at \$4,100.³²

While China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation have been or are becoming key players in development assistance, international aid extended to countries in the subregion is far from being sufficient to meet the demands of its developing members. In 2015, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mongolia received a total of only \$367 million in net official development assistance and official aid (based on the current prices in United States dollars).

Moreover, while the above-mentioned four countries have emphasized their commitment to support other developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, lack of political trust between countries within the subregion has contributed to weak regional cooperation in terms of funding. The net flow of bilateral aid that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mongolia received totalled \$2.7 billion during the period 2010-2015 (total net official development assistance (ODA) at current prices); of that amount, Mongolia accounted for 75 per cent. The Republic of Korea provided \$184 million of net ODA to Mongolia, and Japan provided the country with \$604 million during the same period. Thus Japan and Republic of Korea together provided almost 30 per cent of the total bilateral aid that Mongolia received;³³ however, suppliers of bilateral aid for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are mainly European countries. Owing to geopolitical concerns and military threats, Japan and the Republic of Korea have not provided any bilateral aid to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Gaps in innovation and technical cooperation

Innovation, new technology and related skills are important accelerators to push forward sustainable development in the ENEA subregion, especially for improving resource efficiency, energy efficiency and developing renewable energy and related technologies for combating climate change, including mitigation, adaptation and reducing ozone-depleting substances.

A country can either promote technical progress by enhancing its innovation and increasing investment in research and development or achieve technical excellence by making use of international technology transfer and technological cooperation. While the subregion may be considered to be in a leading group in terms of innovative ability, the development of innovation is uneven. According to the global innovation index,³⁴ the Republic of Korea, Japan, China, the Russian Federation and Mongolia ranked 14th, 19th, 29th, 48th and 66th, respectively, on the list of countries. China, Japan and the Republic of Korea are among the world's top five countries in patenting innovations in 3D printing, nanotechnology and robotics.³⁵

³² World Development Indicators database. Available from <http://databank.worldbank.org> (accessed 2 September 2016).

³³ Data obtained from <http://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 3 March 2017).

³⁴ Cornell University, INSEAD and the World Intellectual Property Organization, *The Global Innovation Index 2015: Effective Innovation Policies for Development* (Ithaca, New York; Fontainebleau, France; and Geneva, 2015). Available from www.globalinnovationindex.org/userfiles/file/reportpdf/GII-2015-v5.pdf.

³⁵ World Intellectual Property Organization, *World Intellectual Property Report: Breakthrough Innovation and Economic Growth*. Available from www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_944_2015.pdf. Quoted in United Nations, ESCAP, *Harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*. (Sales No. E.16.II.F.12).

Limited financial resources constrain technological progress. For instance, technical cooperation grants include free-standing technical cooperation grants and investment-related technical cooperation grants. The technical cooperation grants that the subregion has received, however, remain insufficient, and the gap is enormous. According to the World Bank,³⁶ China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mongolia received \$3.29 billion in technical cooperation aid during the period 2010-2013, whereas technical cooperation globally reached \$127 billion, of which amount the three previously mentioned countries accounted for only 2.6 per cent. Moreover, the imbalance becomes especially apparent with comparison of the countries. China received \$2.92 billion of the total, whereas Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received only \$360 million and \$6 million, respectively.

Capacity constraints

Institutional capacity is required to enable individuals, organizations and whole societies to manage sustainable development, especially the Goals that go beyond their countries' respective national development plans. ENEA countries need to take into account their own national conditions and integrate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within their national development strategies. This arduous undertaking includes the ability to enhance governance, establish legal systems, develop think tanks, streamline statistics monitoring and manage human resources, tasks for which some ENEA countries have insufficient capacity.

ENEA countries vary largely in terms of political and economic systems, and some countries have to address serious problems related to corruption, government transparency and law enforcement. For instance, according to the WDI Governance Indicators on the rule of law, ENEA country rankings in 2014 were: China, 43; Japan, 89; the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 2; the Republic of Korea, 81; Mongolia, 41; and the Russian Federation, 26.³⁷

As described below, problems are prominent in statistics, data collection as well as survey and data monitoring in the ENEA subregion. However, equally important as data collection and monitoring is the capacity and system to utilize the information for policymaking, including capacity for research and analysis. For instance, East and North-East Asia is an important subregion with many think tanks. According to a recent report,³⁸ there are 6,846 think tanks around the globe, with 10.3 per cent of them being located in the ENEA subregion, of which 93 per cent are in China, Japan and the Russian Federation. According to the report, 10 think tanks in the ENEA subregion are ranked among the global think tank "Top 50".

Systemic challenges and coordination problems

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the ENEA subregion will go beyond the confines of the ENEA subregion. In economic terms, the current wave of globalization is continuing to advance, with capital flows and information technology as the impetus; countries around the world are increasingly becoming integrated as a result. A financial crisis in one country may have a profound impact on the economic development of other countries. In ecological terms, the ecosystem is a system with integrity, involving cross-border river basins and oceans, as well as climate change. In such a setting, coordination is critical, and the ENEA subregion will have to make full use of various platforms to enhance coordination and communication.

³⁶ World Bank, World Development Indicators 2016. Available from <http://databank.worldbank.org/>.

³⁷ The concept of "rule of law" captures perceptions of the extent to which the agents concerned have confidence in and abide by the rules of society, in particular the quality of contract enforcement, property rights, the police and the courts, as well as the likelihood of crime and violence occurring. Percentile rank indicates a country's rank among all countries covered by the aggregate indicator, with 0 corresponding to the lowest rank and 100 the highest rank. The rankings are from the WDI Governance Indicators.

³⁸ James G. McGann, "2015 global go to think tank index report", *TTCSP Global Go To Think Tank Index Reports*, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) Paper, No. 10. Available from http://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1009&context=think_tanks.

³⁹ Li Wen and Wang Yuyi, "Impact of political factors on regional cooperation in Northeast Asia", *Northeast Asia Forum*, vol. 24, No. 1 (December 2014), pp. 53-60.

Sustainable development should be kept consistent in all aspects of policy and management. With regard to regional environmental cooperation projects in the ENEA subregion, bilateral cooperation is remarkably effective. Most multilateral environmental cooperation is conducted – albeit in various ways – by way of dialogue, which makes implementation rather difficult. Moreover, lack of coordination and stable financial support for the mechanisms concerned, the role of government as the main subject in such cooperative efforts³⁹ and various other problems have combined to impede countries' progress in achieving cooperation. In particular, when attempts are made to solve a transboundary environmental crisis, lack of effective integration and combined emergency-handling capacity have led to low efficiency.

4.2 Plans and strategies for sustainable development

Countries in the ENEA subregion have differing priorities in their national plans and strategies, with varying degrees of association and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. Some countries have aligned their national plans with those Goals. Others, even without explicit reference to the Goals, have many elements in their plans and strategies which are consistent with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. For instance, the Government of Mongolia in June 2014 adopted its green development policy⁴⁰ in order to “transform Mongolia into a development model that ensures the improved well-being and prosperity of Mongolian citizens by safeguarding the sustainability of ecosystem services, increasing the effective consumption of natural resources and ensuring economic growth that is inclusive and environmentally sound”. Moreover, Mongolia translated the principles and policies of the 2030 Agenda into its national strategy, “Mongolia’s 2030 Sustainable Development Vision”, which was adopted in February 2016.⁴¹

China’s 13th Five-year Plan (2016-2020)⁴² shares many elements of the Sustainable Development Goals, such as its targets: to lift 10 million people out of poverty every year; to cap total energy consumption under 5 billion tons of coal equivalent by 2020 (compared with 4.3 billion tons in 2015); to cut energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by 15 and 18 per cent, respectively, from 2015 levels by the year 2020; to incorporate climate change factors into town planning and infrastructural development; as well as to improve its capacity in forecasting and responding to extreme weather events. The Government of China has also established at the national level an interagency coordination mechanism for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁴³ Subsequently, in September 2016 it released “China’s Actions on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”⁴⁴ outlining overall approaches and implementation plans for each Goal and target of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Republic of Korea’s Third National Basic Plan for Sustainable Development (2016-2035), which was adopted in 2016, envisions “harmonized development of the environment, society, and economy”, reflecting the Government’s efforts to translate the Sustainable Development Goals into national policies and plans. The Government also adopted in 2014 the Road Map to Achieve National Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals, which contains detailed implementation plans for achieving the national greenhouse gas reduction goals set in 2009.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ For details, see www.un-page.org/countries/page-countries/mongolia.

⁴¹ Statement by the President of Mongolia at the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly on 20 September 2016. Available from www.president.mn/eng/newsCenter/viewNews.php?newsId=1969.

⁴² For further information, see <http://www.china-un.org/eng/zt/China123456/>.

⁴³ Statement by Ambassador Wang Min at the 54th session of the Commission for Social Development, 4 February 2016. Available from <http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/7656174/china.pdf>.

⁴⁴ China’s National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, dated September 2016. Available from www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/W020161014332600482185.pdf.

⁴⁵ Voluntary National Review of the Republic of Korea. Available from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/republicofkorea>.

Japan's Fourth Basic Environment Plan, approved in 2012, emphasizes integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, as well as increasing the country's resilience to disasters, drawing from its extensive experience in dealing with natural disasters. The Russian Federation's policy foundations for sustainable development are set out in the Presidential Decree, entitled "Concept for Transition by the Russian Federation to Sustainable Development".

In addition, laws and regulations have been enacted to contribute to sustainable development, although they may not specifically refer to the Sustainable Development Goals or even to the term sustainable development. Examples include the Energy Conservation Law and Circular Economy Promotion Law of China, and the Framework Act on Low Carbon and Green Growth of the Republic of Korea.

4.3 Institutional arrangements and responses

Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals requires involvement of a wide range of stakeholders across various sectors in a country in terms of formulating strategies and executing policies.

Governments' institutional responses in the ENEA subregion vary. For instance, the establishment of the Presidential National Commission on Sustainable Development in the Republic of Korea dates back to 2000, which evolved into the National Commission on Sustainable Development under Presidential Decree to the Framework Act on Sustainable Development in 2007. As mentioned above, the Government of China has established an interagency coordination mechanism at the national level for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Government of Japan in 2016 established a task force for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; it is chaired by the Prime Minister, and a multi-stakeholder round table acts as an advisory body,⁴⁶ reflecting the increasing level of recognition of the need to integrate the Goals into plans and strategies of line ministries.

The following aspects of the institutional arrangements would need to be addressed at the **national level** in the ENEA subregion:

Developing feasible goals and implementation plans

The Sustainable Development Goals represent the global common good and short-term goals. At the national level, countries urgently need to develop a country-specific indicator system and implementation plans according to their own development stages and characteristics. While the Sustainable Development Goals provide guidance, countries will be the leading actors in formulating and implementing policies related to the Goals. They will be responsible for developing their own sustainable development policies, plans and programmes, and for ensuring that these policies, plans and programmes can be aligned with their global commitments.

Promoting information disclosure

Making information available is essential to ensure success in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. For some countries in the ENEA subregion, capacity for data collection and management is by itself a key challenge. Equally important is the urgent need to establish an information disclosure system to promote the availability of information to the public. Such a mechanism for effective participation by all stakeholders is essential as it would enable awareness and transparency, and can in turn enhance confidence and reduce resistance to policies on sustainable development and green transformation. Most importantly, information can be utilized to monitor progress, identify gaps, inform decision-making and make changes as needed along the way. Making information available to the public will facilitate the utilization of social resources and help monitor and develop new actions and responses. This is of particular importance for effectively achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, when considering the very broad spectrum of targets and their complex interactions.

⁴⁶ For more information, see www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/about/doukou/page23_000779.html.

Encouraging participation of all stakeholders, including the private sector and legislators

A rational incentive mechanism should be established to raise the awareness of related organizations, the private sector and legislators concerning sustainable development. Improvement of relevant laws, rules and regulations will more clearly define the role of private enterprises and create an enabling environment for private sector participation in efforts to achieve the Goals. All the major agreements reached in 2015, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,⁴⁷ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁴⁸ the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴⁹ the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁵⁰ and the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention,⁵¹ acknowledge the importance of stakeholder participation. For example, the Sendai Framework defines the responsibilities of the private sector in disaster risk management and the quantitative methods concerned. It also shifted private enterprises' social response to disasters towards active risk information investment and commercial operations. However, to effectively translate the Sendai Framework into action, more effort is needed to better understand the risks, improve governance capacity and invest more resources. Governments can encourage companies to invest in the disaster mitigation field, for example by offering them tax incentives and government subsidies.

Advancing financing mechanisms initiated by the ENEA subregion

A sound financing mechanism is crucial for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. Several financing mechanisms initiated by ENEA countries, including those related to infrastructure investment development, provide the basis for the establishment of a regional financing system. For instance, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank initiated by China could play an important regional financing role in reducing infrastructure gaps, and the New Development Bank set up by BRICS countries could provide the financing and expertise required for the development of infrastructure. The Silk Road Infrastructure Fund⁵² was established by China in 2014 to support megaprojects under the Belt and Road Initiative⁵³ through investments in various infrastructure projects. While public-private partnerships are one of the ways to finance projects to support countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, business evaluation methods still need to be developed to ensure that the benefits of such partnerships are shared. Such business evaluation methods could also encourage enterprises to pool more investments in such areas as disaster prevention. For instance, the Development Bank of Japan's business continuity management rating system linked to loan conditions⁵⁴ has become an important instrument for encouraging enterprises to carry out disaster management.

Multilevel cooperation mechanism

Unlike other ESCAP subregions, there is a very limited sense of subregional identity in East and North-East Asia and a limited intergovernmental framework to address the Sustainable Development Goals. Nonetheless, there are diverse levels and models of cooperation among the subsets of the ENEA subregion. Such multilateral and subregional platforms could potentially identify areas of collective response to specific Goals for subregional cooperation and develop progressive action plans. Knowledge-sharing and learning best practices are also important and effective elements of subregional and regional cooperation. Cooperation in the ENEA subregion can leverage from the following levels:

⁴⁷ General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

⁴⁸ General Assembly resolution 69/313.

⁴⁹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁵⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁵¹ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

⁵² For details, see www.silkroadfund.com.cn/enweb/23773/index.html.

⁵³ State Council of the People's Republic of China, "The Belt and Road Initiative". Available from <http://english.gov.cn/beltAndRoad/> (accessed 21 September 2016).

⁵⁴ For further information on these details, see www.preventionweb.net/organizations/6720.

Conducting subregional/multilateral cooperation through existing multilateral mechanisms, including the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat and the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting, involving China, Japan and the Republic of Korea; the Greater Tumen Initiative, involving China, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation; and the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, involving all six of these countries in the subregion. Furthermore, new initiatives for economic cooperation and integration are directly relevant in this context. Such initiatives include the “Silk Road Economic Belt” proposed by China, which would be integrated with the Russian Federation’s Trans-Asian Railway and Mongolia’s Steppe Road plan to create a China-Mongolia-Russian economic corridor and boost transboundary transportation.

Actively promoting cooperation among local governments, such as the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments, a network of more than 70 local governments in all six ENEA countries, and the annual Conference of Major Cities in the Japan Sea Rim Region, with membership of 12 cities in four countries. Cooperation among these local governments has provided them with the opportunity for collective learning about policies and practices pertaining to sustainable development. Region-wide initiatives include the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform, which ESCAP launched in collaboration with the Seoul Metropolitan Government and CityNet to promote and support knowledge-sharing and city-to-city cooperation for sustainable urban development.⁵⁵

Promoting the involvement of non-governmental organizations. Compared with intergovernmental actors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), owing to their flexibility, can play a more effective role in many fields. In particular, achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals requires the involvement of diverse stakeholders, and in this connection, NGOs, as key agents of communication and partnership with civil society, can take on that part very well indeed. Thus, Governments could support building subregional networks of NGOs, as well as provide opportunities for their participation in multilateral processes.

Monitoring and data-sharing system for Sustainable Development Goal performance

Indicator monitoring and data-sharing provide preconditions for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Capacity for data collection and analysis, as well as the compatibility and availability of data, varies across countries in the ENEA subregion. Challenges in some countries include: (a) incomplete monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal index; (b) different definitions for some indicators and the scope for monitoring data statistics; and (c) data forging, which is serious but difficult to verify.

In this respect, there are two major tasks. The first is to establish a data monitoring and sharing mechanism. Efforts can be made to promote the establishment of a data collection and monitoring system and an information use and disclosure mechanism through legislation, or bilateral or multilateral agreements involving different countries in the subregion. The second task is to set up a task force responsible for establishing indicators, acquiring data and conducting analyses. The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, established by the United Nations Statistical Commission, has been tasked with developing and refining the Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework at the global level, with the list currently including 230 proposed indicators.⁵⁶ However, eventually national statistical systems would be largely responsible for collecting and collating the data needed for preparing those indicators. In this regard, it is indicative to see how much data has been captured so far in the global database of Sustainable Development Goal indicators,⁵⁷ although it is premature to link the current status of data availability related to the indicators with the statistical capacity of the countries concerned. Nonetheless, with regard to the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, in ENEA countries data are available for less than one third of the total of 230 indicators.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ For more information, see www.unescap.org/2030-agenda/sustainable-development-knowledge-platforms.

⁵⁶ For specifics, see <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>.

⁵⁷ For more information, see <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>.

⁵⁸ Counting the number of indicators for which some data are available. Indicator availability is counted as one where more than one set of data is given under the same indicator. Staff calculation is based on data from <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>.

Some ENEA countries have already taken the initiative to review their progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals on the global stage. The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) presented by several member States at the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development were aimed at facilitating the sharing of experiences, including success, challenges and lessons learned. China and the Republic of Korea participated in VNRs in 2016, and Japan plans to do so in 2017.⁵⁹

ENEA countries have also shown a great deal of interest in the role that big data can play in the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. China and the Republic of Korea are members of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics. China is a member of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. Active engagement with United Nations processes on how to utilize big data can transform into partnerships with the United Nations to integrate big data approaches into national or subnational achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Moreover, at the subregional level, an information-sharing platform could also be established, with focus on common subregional issues associated with sustainable development. For instance, as population ageing is a common and urgent issue facing countries in the ENEA subregion, the ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia has developed the Knowledge-Sharing Platform for Building Sustainable Ageing Societies. Through this platform, stakeholders can share information on best practices in meeting the challenges of the population ageing process, as well as in monitoring indicators and data related to the population ageing phenomenon.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 National measures

Strengthening capacity in the ENEA subregion is an important means of achieving the targets and Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The strategy for the subregion may include the following elements:

- **Establish and improve the financing mechanism for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals:** The financial resource requirements of ENEA countries should be made clearer so that multichannel investment patterns meet the demands identified for each country. The political commitment to the effective use of domestic resources for development, domestic savings for example, should be retained. Public-private partnerships (PPP) need to be enhanced, and franchising and the PPP mode should be introduced to make effective use of social capital. Resources available from the Green Climate Fund and AIIB should be effectively and fully utilized.
- **Increase technical support and promote the widespread dissemination of knowledge and best practices:** ENEA countries should continue to give priority to technological innovation and education, enhance independent innovation and make use of trade and foreign direct investment to promote technological innovation.

5.2 Enhancing subregional cooperation

While it is still currently difficult to contemplate effective subregional cooperation, it is important to work on establishing political trust and gradually move to promote meaningful partnerships by making full use of existing mechanisms and undertaking the following:

- **Boost subregional economic cooperation and gradually promote regional economic integration:** (a) cooperation in existing subregional cooperation zones (e.g. the Tumen River Area and the Yellow Sea Rim) should be deepened in order to link logistics and trade in these areas and significantly promote the integration of the ENEA subregion; (b) priority should be given to promoting cooperation with related countries and regions; and (c) encourage local governments to play a proactive role in supporting subregional cooperation.

⁵⁹ For details, see <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>.

- **Promote subregional environmental cooperation:** To some extent, environmental cooperation in the ENEA subregion is a less controversial issue; therefore, more rapid progress can be made in the area of environment-related issues. The environment can be used as a key area and an opportunity for cooperation so as to build mutual trust and gradually promote cooperation between and among countries in the ENEA subregion as well as in other areas. The current mechanisms and efforts under the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia, the Northwest Pacific Action Plan and the project on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollutants in North-East Asia should be expanded. On this basis, an environmental cooperation mechanism with binding effect should be constructed, and corresponding financial support should be provided.
- **Reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency:** As the largest emitters of GHGs and the largest consumers of resources within the ESCAP region and the world, ENEA countries should take a leading role in transforming the subregion into low carbon and less resource-intensive economies. There are enormous potential gains to be realized from subregional cooperation as East and North-East Asia also has a wealth of knowledge and technologies which could effectively address the challenges. For instance, renewable energy production has gained pace in the subregion during the past 10 years, although scaling up remains the main challenge. There have been new initiatives in China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation for grid interconnections among these countries, with the goal of harnessing the vast potential of renewable solar and wind energy in Mongolia, wind in China and hydro in the Russian Federation. At the subregional level, Governments, power companies and research institutions have come forward with various initiatives based on renewable energy, such as multilateral grid interconnections: “Asia Super Grid”, “Northeast Asia Super Grid” “East Asia Super Energy Ring”, and “Gobitec Initiative”.

5.3 Regional cooperation: contributions of countries in East and North-East Asia to sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

As a key source of financial resources and information on best practices to foster North-South cooperation and South-South cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, ENEA countries are poised to exercise regional and global leadership in the means of implementation by scaling up and efficiently utilizing their financial assistance, in particular sharing knowledge and technical support as follows:

- **Enhance technical assistance for capacity-building:** (a) integrate capacity-building as a key part of development assistance, provide aid for capacity-building in assistance programmes and constantly increase related assistance; (b) enhance the role of educational assistance and training programmes in providing assistance for building schools, offering scholarships, or conducting educational cooperation projects; (c) strengthen cooperation and exchanges between think tanks; (d) improve data monitoring and statistical systems, establish and improve information platforms so as to effectively supervise national progress in sustainable development; and (e) explore the development of a governance system and an institutional framework that are in line with basic national priorities.
- **Make full use of respective advantages and promote cooperation in technological research and development:** Technology needs vary according to the socioeconomic, cultural and geographic context. In this respect, technological advancement in the subregion potentially is in the best position to lead the transfer of technologies, matching needs in local contexts. Various initiatives in technology facilitation in countries in the subregion could be further strengthened through enhanced cooperation.
- **Advancement of science and technology in East and North-East Asian countries:** Science, technology and innovation (STI) today has been driven to a large extent by the strong interest of respective Governments and their policies to create an enabling environment – in finance, legislation, institutions and human resources development, among other areas. Sharing experiences in STI policies and supporting STI development could be key contributions of the subregion for the means of implementation. The subregion is home to leaders in environment-related technologies. For instance, Japan has led in the development of such areas as life sciences, communications, environment, nanotechnology, energy efficiency and renewable energy, manufacturing, and the basic and frontier fields of science. The Republic of Korea has become one of the advanced countries in broadband, mobile services and green technologies. The Russian Federation has made achievements in solid

state physics, new materials and biology, while China has made great efforts in basic and applied research. For these reasons, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation could boost their cooperation and increase their resources in the fields of science and technology, and significantly improve technological transfer and cooperation in Asia and the Pacific.

- **South-South and triangular cooperation:** As a key source of financial resources and best practices for various cooperation models in Asia and the Pacific, ENEA countries could continue to scale up and efficiently utilize their financial assistance in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, sharing knowledge and technologies.

ANNEX^a

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL PROGRESS IN EAST AND NORTH-EAST ASIA



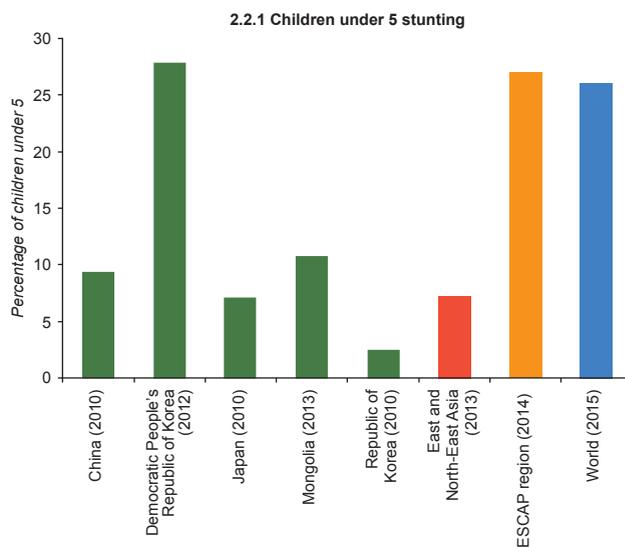
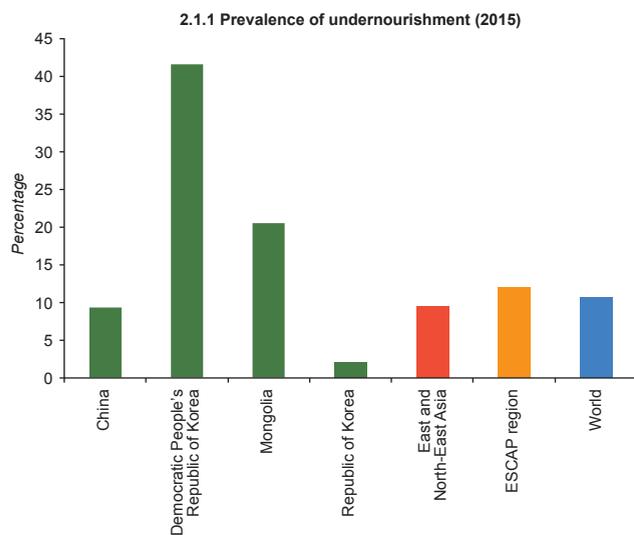
End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Targets	Indicators		Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World
1.1	1.1.1	Population living in poverty at \$1.90 a day in 2011 PPP (percentage of population)	2012	6.4					0.3		0.04		12.7 (2011)	12.4
1.2	1.2.1	Population living below the national poverty line (percentage of population)	2015						21.6 (2014)		13.4 (2015)			
1.3	1.3.1	Share of unemployed receiving unemployment benefit / percentage	2011	9.1			21.5		10.0 (2010)	45.5 (2012)	20.6 (2012)	11.8		11.3
1.3	1.3.1	Social health protection / percentage of population	2010	96.9		100	100		81.9 (2009)	100	88 (2011)			
1.a	1.a.2	General government health expenditure / percentage of government expenditure	2014	10.4			20.3		6.7	12.3	9.5	13.7	13.1	15.1

^a Unless specifically mentioned, all the data used in the annex are from the ESCAP statistical database. Available from www.unescap.org/stat/data/statdb/DataExplorer.aspx. With regard to aggregation methods, aggregate values are presented for subregional, regional, special economic and world groupings. World aggregates are taken directly from the data source when available. Subregional, regional and economic groupings have been calculated using ESCAP country groupings to ensure consistency throughout. Some aggregates have been calculated by agencies responsible for the compilation and production of indicators under their area of expertise. These include some education indicators (aggregates calculated by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics). In such cases, the methodology may differ from the methods described below; additional information may be obtained from the respective agencies. The calculation of aggregates involves three steps: (a) determining whether "enough" data are available (at least two thirds of the population for social indicators, and at least two thirds of GDP for economic indicators); (b) imputing missing values (not employed for all indicators); and (c) calculating the aggregate sum or weighted average.



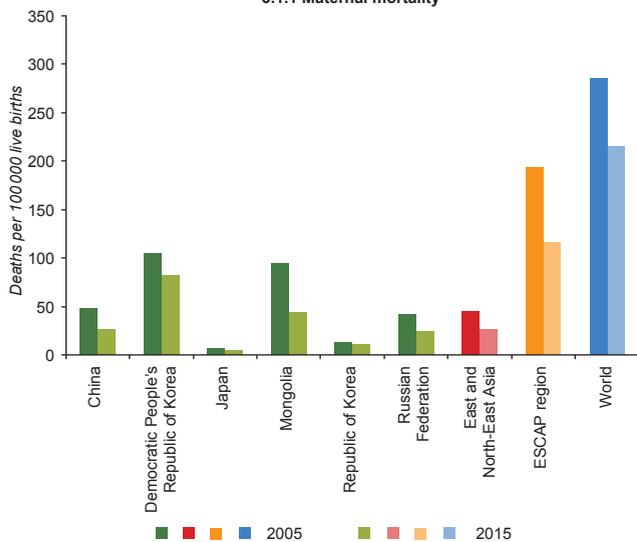
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



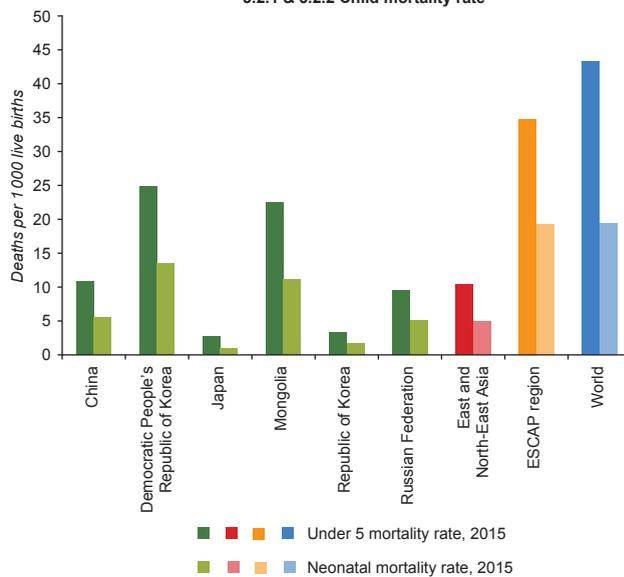
Targets	Indicators	Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World
2.1	2.1.1	Prevalence of undernourishment (percentage)	2015	9.3	41.6			20.5	2.0		9.6	12.1	10.8
2.2	2.2.1	Children under-5 stunting (percentage of children under-5)	2015	9.4	27.9		7.1	10.8	2.5	7.3	27.0	26.1	
	2.2.2	Under-5 overweight (percentage children under-5)	2015	6.6			1.5		10.5	7.3	5.9	4.5	5.4
		Under-5 severe wasting (percentage children under-5)	2013	0.7	0.6		0.2		0.4	0.1	0.5	3.5	3.2
2.a	2.a.1	Agriculture orientation index (Index)	2012	0.3				0.2	1.9	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
2.b	2.b.1	Producer support estimate / US dollars	2015	307 395			33 510		20 118	15 248			

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

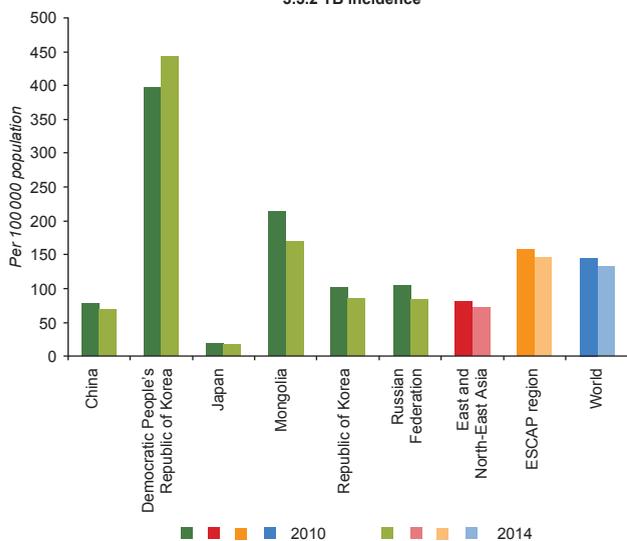
3.1.1 Maternal mortality



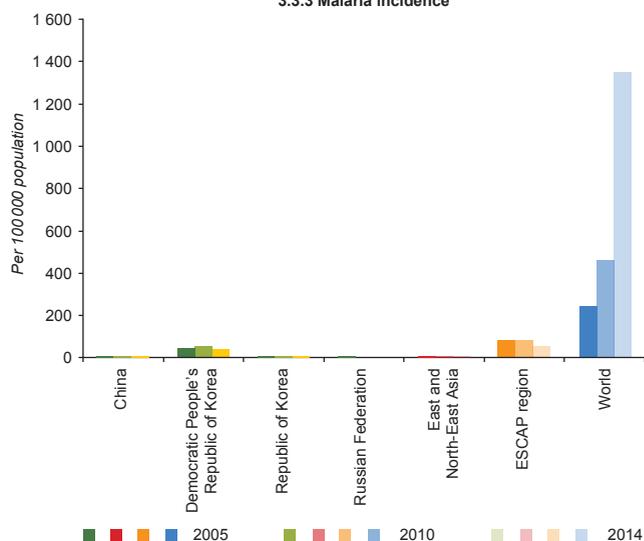
3.2.1 & 3.2.2 Child mortality rate

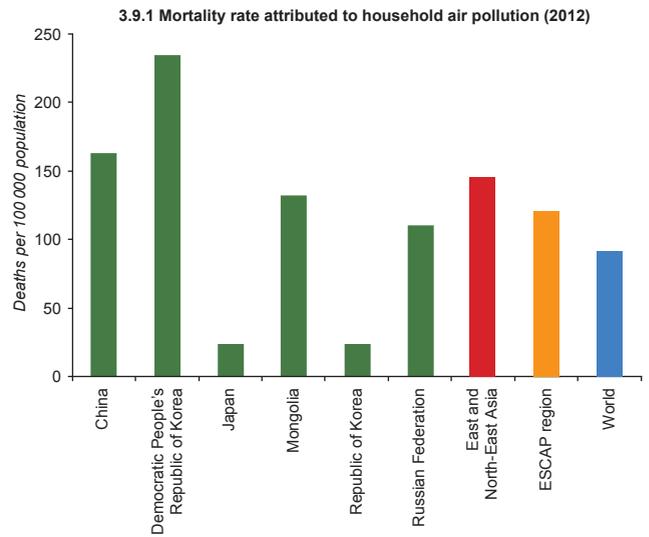
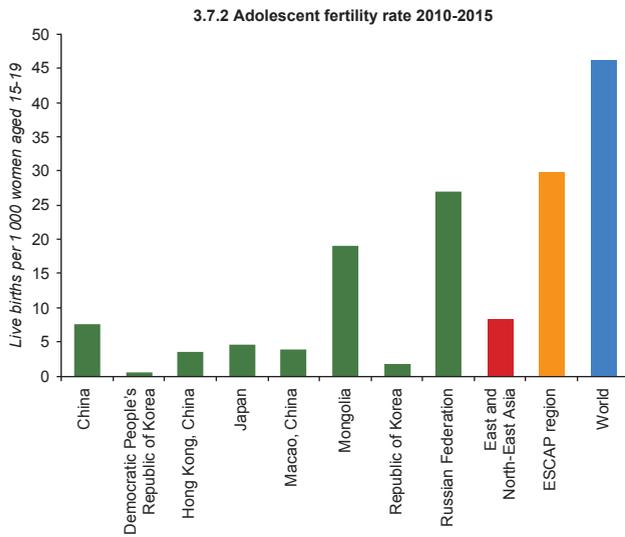
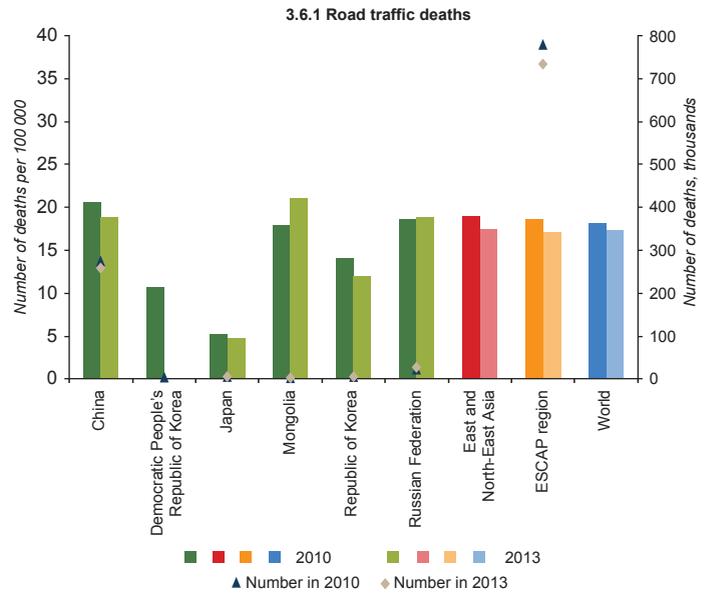
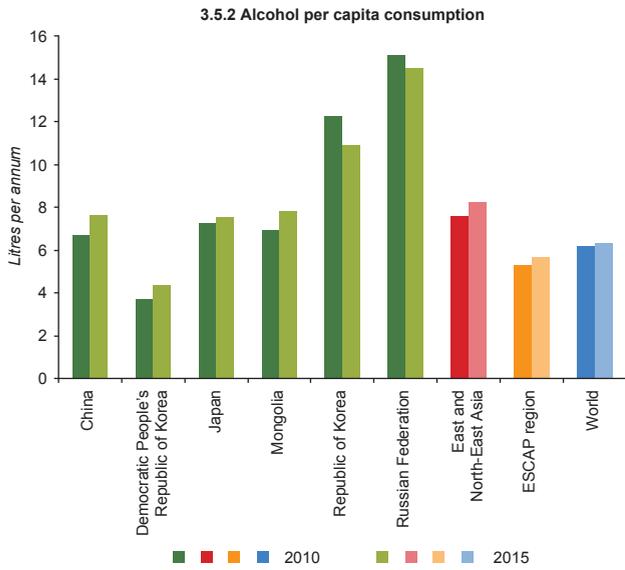


3.3.2 TB incidence



3.3.3 Malaria incidence

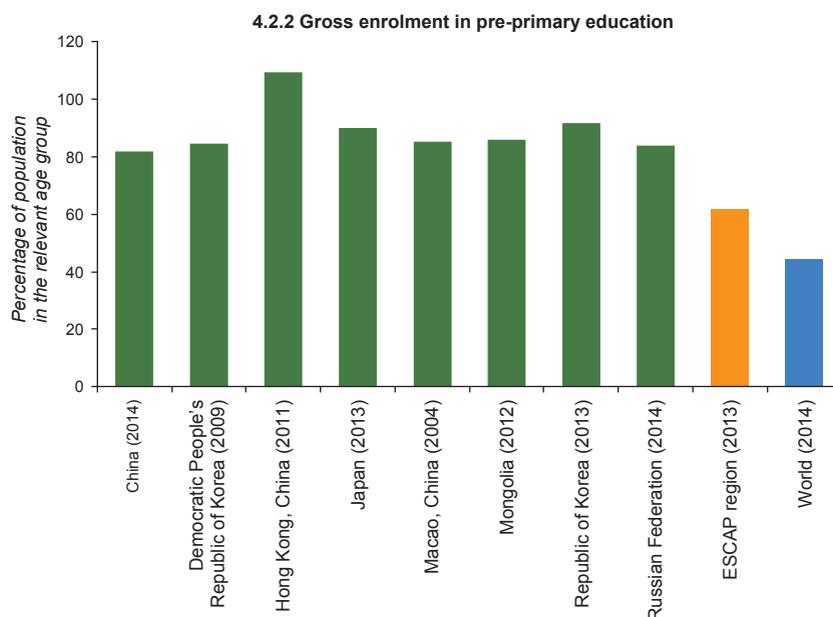




Targets	Indicators	Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World	
3.1	3.1.1	Maternal mortality (deaths per 100,000 live births)	2015	27.0	82.0		5.0		44.0	11.0	25.0	26.4	116.8	216.1
	3.1.2	Births attended by skilled health personnel (percentage of live births)	2014	99.9 (2014)	100.0 (2009)				98.9 (2014)		99.7 (2010)			
3.2	3.2.1	Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2015	10.7	24.9		2.7		22.4	3.4	9.6	10.3	34.7	43.3
	3.2.2	Neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2015	5.5	13.5		0.9		11.1	1.6	5.0	5.3	19.2	19.4
3.3	3.3.2	Tuberculosis incidence rate (per 100,000 population)	2014	68.0	442.0		18.0		170.0	86.0	84.0	71.8	146.8	133.6
	3.3.3	Malaria incidence rate (per 100,000 population)	2014	0.0	42.1					1.1	0.0 (2011)	0.8	57.5	1350.4
	3.3.5	People requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases per 1,000 people	2014	26 228	5 643						0.0	31 871	983 640	1 727 853
3.4		Mortality rate attributed to cancer per 100,000 population	2013			104.4	101.9			103.5	134.1 (2011)			
		Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease per 100,000 population	2013			64.7	77.3			78.4	464.5 (2011)			
	3.4.1	Mortality rate attributed to chronic respiratory disease per 100,000 population	2013			54.7	39.3			30.8	36.3 (2011)			
		Mortality rate attributed to diabetes per 100,000 population	2013			2.5	3.5			14.7	4.1 (2011)			
	3.4.2	Suicide rate: both sexes per 100,000 population	2012	7.8	38.5		18.5		9.8	28.9	19.5	10.6	12.9	11.3
3.5	3.5.2	Alcohol per capita consumption, total (litres per annum)	2015	7.6	4.4		7.5		7.8	10.9	14.5	8.2	5.6	6.3
3.6	3.6.1	Road traffic deaths (per 100,000 population)	2013	18.8	10.7 (2010)		4.7		21.0	12.0	18.9	17.5	17.2	17.4
3.7	3.7.1	Demand for family planning satisfied with modern methods (percentage of women of reproductive age)	2015	95.8	87.9	94.0	77.7		82.9	93.3	92.0	94.2	86.3	82.2
	3.7.2	Adolescent fertility rate (live births per 1,000 women (aged 15-19))	2015	6.2 (2011)	0.7 (2008)	2.7 (2013)	4.4 (2013)	2.9 (2013)	26.7 (2014)	1.7 (2013)	26.6 (2013)	7.4 (2011)	26.6 (2013)	44.1 (2015)
3.9	3.9.1	Mortality rate attributed to household air pollution (per 100,000 population)	2012	163	234		24		132	24	110	145	120	92
	3.9.2	Mortality rate attributed to unsafe WASH service per 100,000 population	2012	0.4	1.4		0.1		3.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	10.4	12.6
	3.9.3	Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning per 100,000 population	2013			1.5	0.4			0.4	17.0 (2011)			
3.a	3.a.1	Age-standardized prevalence of tobacco use: adults (15+) (percentage of population aged 15 and older)	2013	25.9			22.8		26.8	27.4	39.5	26.9	22.3	21.5
3.b	3.b.2	Total official flows for medical research and basic health sectors (millions of 2014 US dollars)	2014	81.3	28.3				6.9			116.5	1 866.5	6 985.2
3.c	3.c.1	Health worker density and distribution per 10,000 population	2011	31.5			131.6 (2010)		64.6	71.5 (2012)				

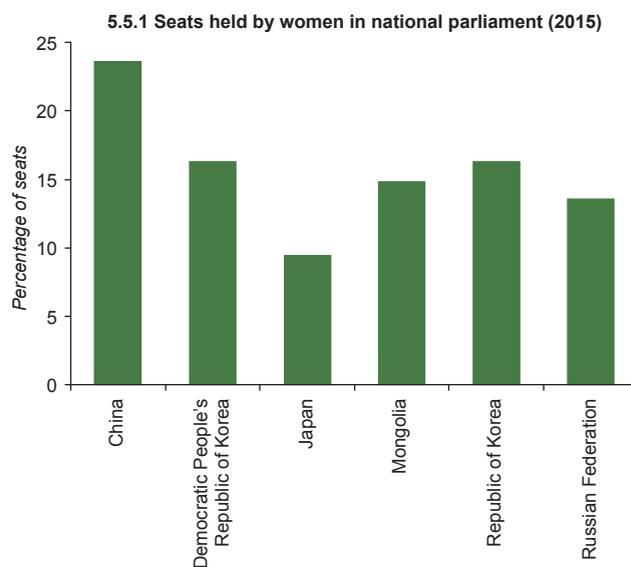


Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



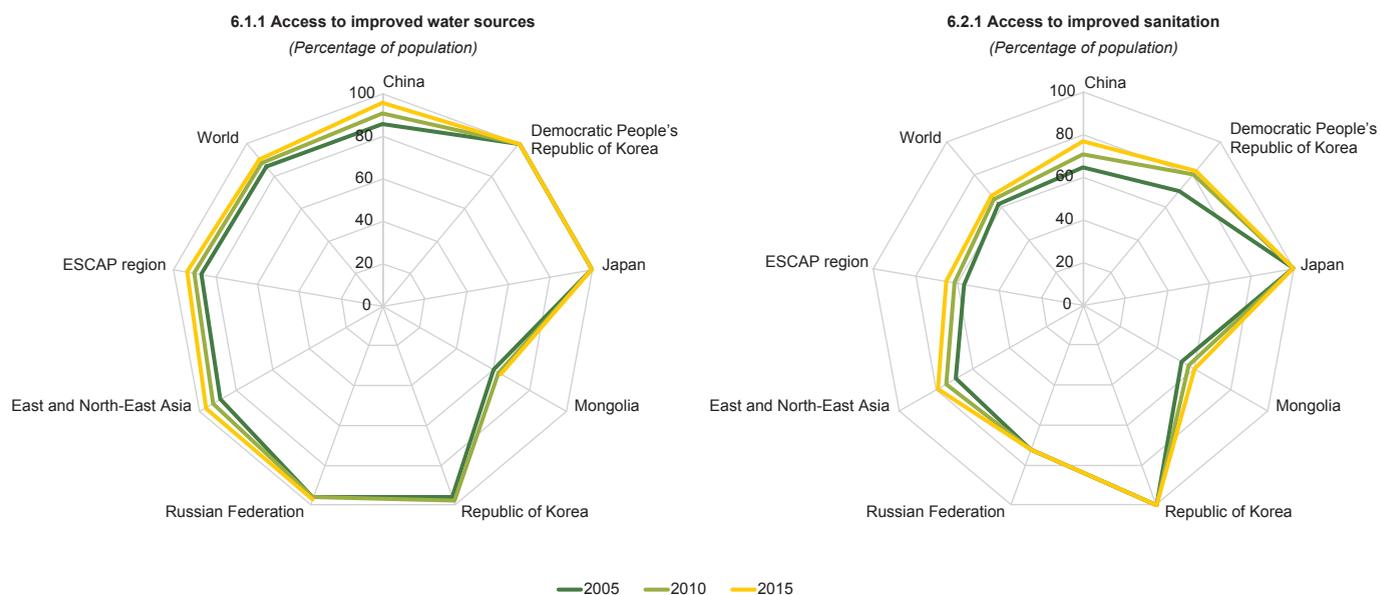
Targets	Indicators	Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World
4.2	4.2.2	Gross enrolment in pre-primary education (percentage of the population in the relevant official age group)	2014	81.61 (2014)	84.50 (2009)	109.41 (2011)	89.93 (2013)	85.26 (2004)	85.87 (2012)	91.64 (2013)	83.81 (2014)	61.9 (2013)	44.05 (2014)
4.5	4.5.1	Gross enrolment ratio, primary, gender parity index (GPI)	2014	1.00	1.00 (2009)	0.99	1.00 (2013)	0.96 (1993)	0.98	0.99 (2013)	1.01		0.99
		Gross enrolment ratio, secondary, gender parity index (GPI)	2014	1.02	1.00 (2009)	0.96	1.00 (2013)	0.98	1.03	0.99 (2013)	0.98		0.99
		Gross enrolment ratio, tertiary, gender parity index (GPI)	2014	1.16	0.50 (2009)	1.15	0.91 (2013)	1.31	1.44	0.75 (2013)	1.21		
4.b	4.b.1	Total official flows for scholarships (millions of 2014 US dollars)	2014	33.1	0.4				16.5		50.0	515.1	874.4

Gender quality and empower women and girls



Targets	Indicators		Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World
5.4	5.4.1	Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work – female (percentage)					14.9 (2011)		19.9 (2011)	14.4 (2014)				
5.5	5.5.1	Seats held by women in national parliament (percentage of seats)	2015	23.6	16.3		9.5		14.9	16.3	13.6	19.7	18.1	22.4
	5.5.2	Female share of employment in senior and middle-management (percentage)	2014					32.5	34.2					
5.b	5.b.1	Individuals using a mobile cellular telephone: females (percentage)	2014			94.2	72.3	91.8 (2015)		98.4				
		Individuals using a mobile cellular telephone: males (percentage)	2014			95.5	75.1	92.6 (2015)		99.3				

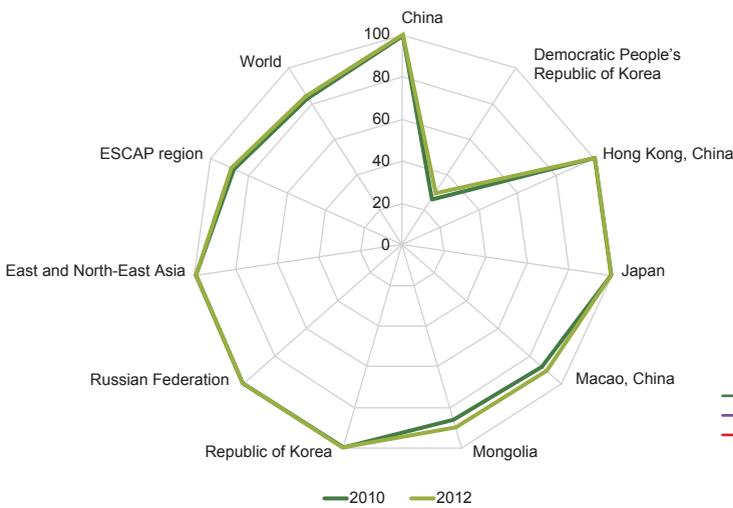
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



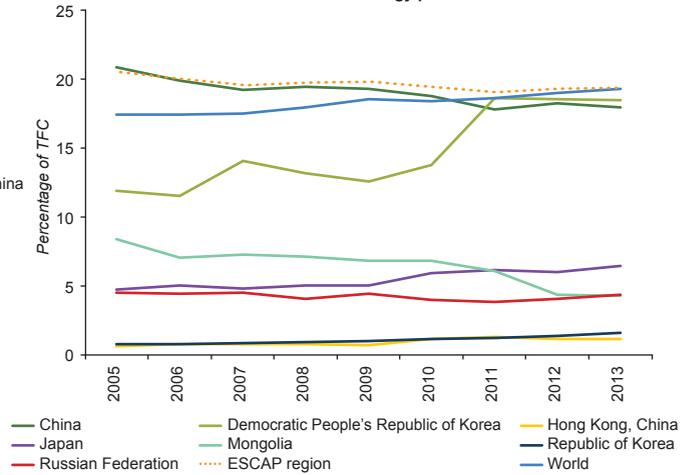
Targets	Indicators		Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World
6.1	6.1.1	Access to improved water sources (percentage of population)	2015	96.0	100.0		100.0		64.0	98.0 (2014)	97.0	96.5	93.7	90.6
6.2	6.2.1	Access to improved sanitation (percentage of population)	2015	77.0	82.0		100.0		60.0	100.0	72.0	79.0	65.3	67.4
6.4	6.4.2	Total freshwater withdrawal (percentage of total renewable water per annum)	latest	19.5 (2005)	11.2 (2005)		18.9 (2009)		1.6 (2009)	41.9 (2005)				
6.a	6.a.1	Total official flows for water supply and sanitation (millions of 2014 US dollars)	2014	164.9	4.4				18.4			187.6	2 350.4	6 633.6

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

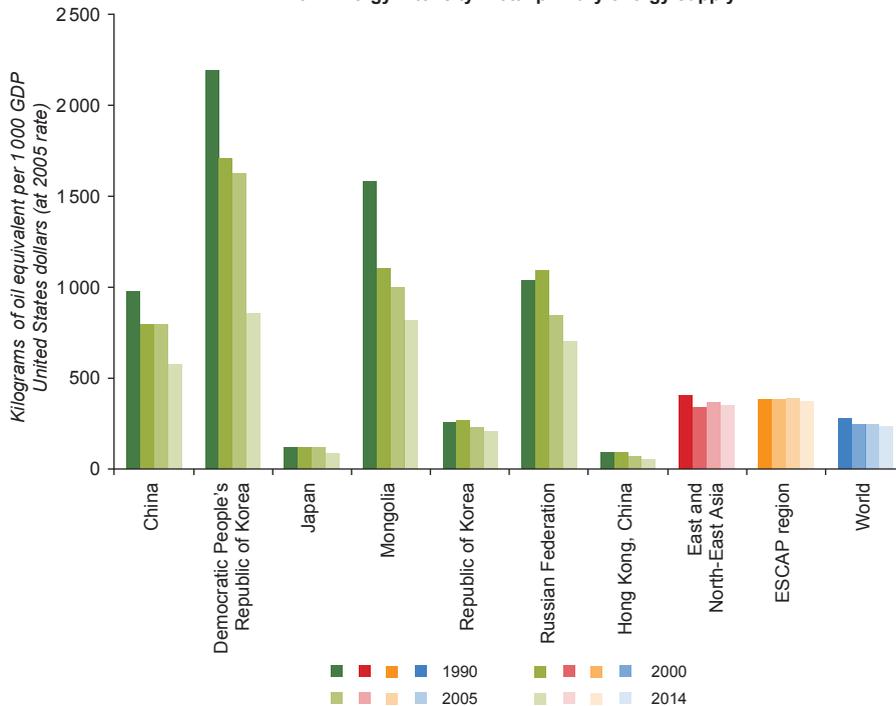
7.1.1 Access to electricity
(Percentage of population)



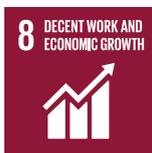
7.2.1 Renewable energy production



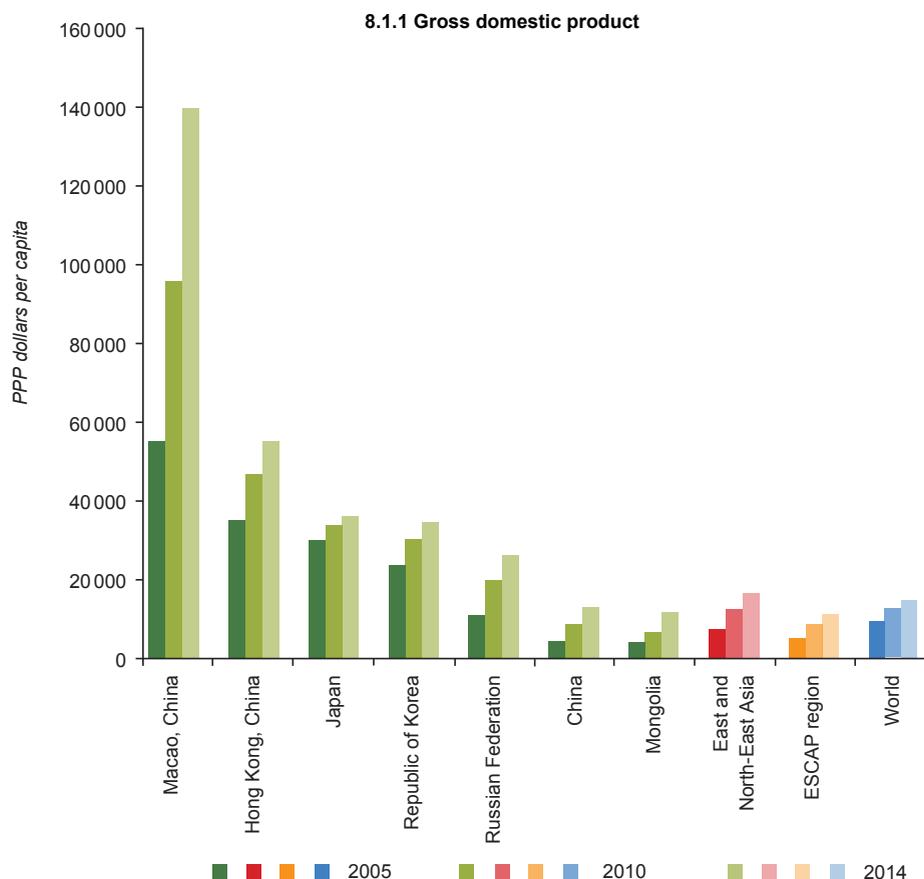
7.3.1 Energy Intensity: Total primary energy supply



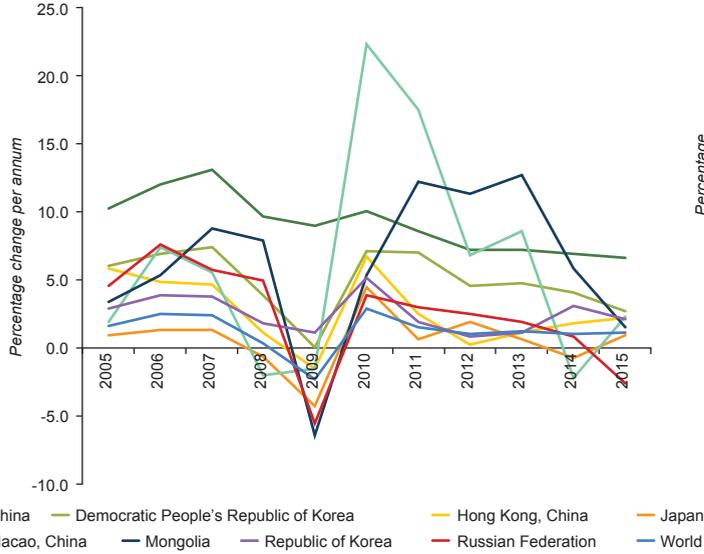
Targets	Indicators	Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World
7.1	7.1.1	2012	100.0	29.6	100.0	100.0	90.5	89.8	100.0	100.0	99.0	89.3	84.6
	7.1.2	2014	57.2	6.6		95.0		31.9	95.0	95.0	63.5	49.6	55.7
7.2	7.2.1	2014	17.2	22	2.1	7.2		6.0	2.3	4.0	15	19.0	20.1
7.3	7.3.1	2014	573.57	881.39	57.48	92.40		846.72	216.69	711.13	356.4	369.20	237.28



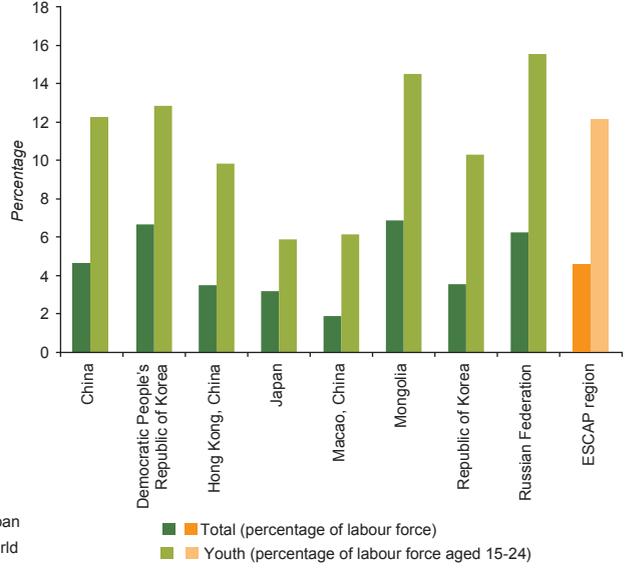
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work



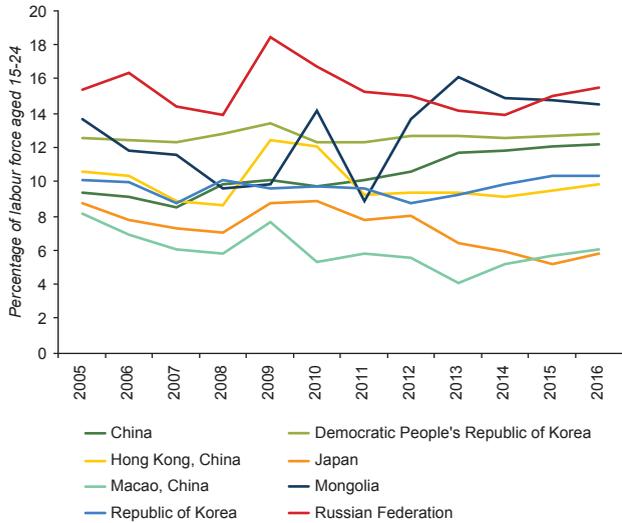
8.2.1 GDP growth rate



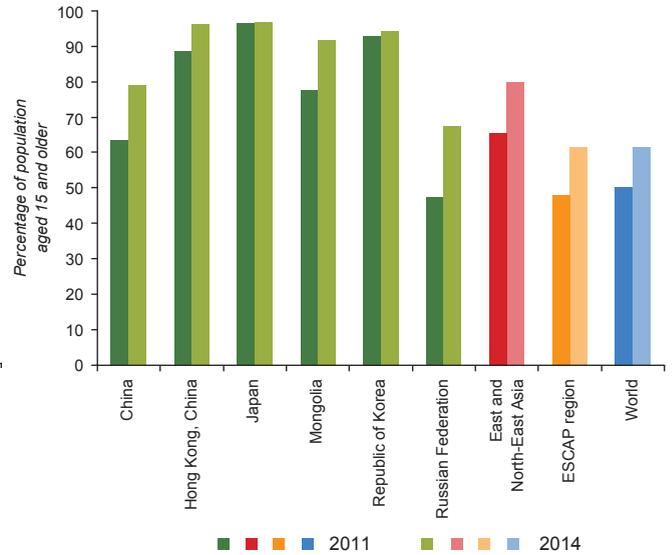
8.5.2 Unemployment rate (2016)



8.5.2 Youth unemployment rate

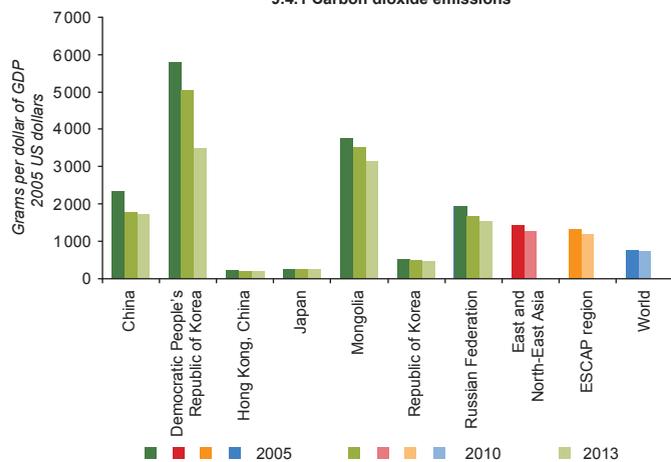


8.10.2 Adults with bank account

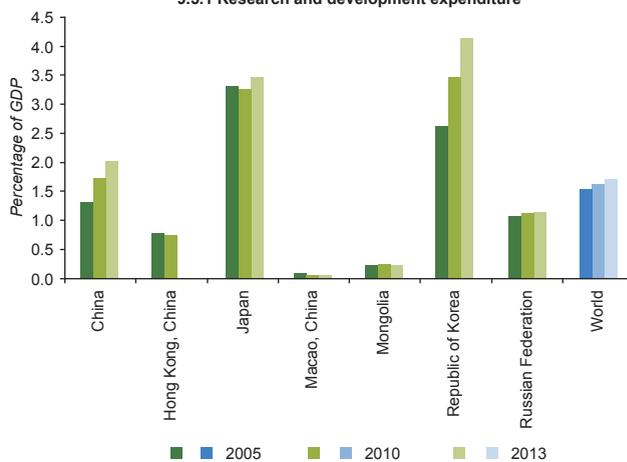


Targets	Indicators	Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World		
8.1	8.1.1	Gross domestic product (GDP) (PPP dollars per capita)	2014	13 157		55 197	36 523	139 767	11 946	34 596	26 111	16 843	11 483	15 067	
		Gross domestic product (GDP) (2005 US dollars per capita)	2014	3 885	540	34 293	37 706	52 256	2 182	24 737	6 970	7 324	4 221	8 028	
8.2	8.2.1	Growth rate of GDP per employed person (percentage change per annum)	2016	6.1	2.9	3.1	1.3	2.8	1.9	2.2	0.6	2.4	2.2	1.6	
8.4	8.4.1	Material footprint total by type (kilograms per US dollar (2005 GDP))	2015	5.1	1.8 (2014)	3.8 (2010)	0.6		7.1	1.0	1.3 (2010)	2.6	2.4	1.3 (2010)	
		Material footprint total by type (millions of tons)	2015	29 188.9	24.5	847 (2010)	2651.5		46.0	1 311.6	1 148.7 (2010)	33 222.5	46 193.3	69 627.0 (2010)	
		Material footprint total by type (tons per capita)	2015	21.2	1.0	121.11 (2010)	20.9		15.5	26.1	8.02 (2010)	19.2	10.5	10.0 (2010)	
	8.4.2	Domestic material consumption intensity (kilograms per US dollar (2005 GDP))	2015	6.0	6.0 (2014)	0.2 (2010)	0.3	0.1 (2010)	15.4	0.7	1.9 (2010)	2.8	2.7	1.3 (2010)	
		Domestic material consumption per capita / percentage change per capita per annum	2015	6.2	-0.5	9.7 (2010)	1.2	-21.5 (2010)	2.7	2.8	3.6 (2010)	6.0	5.4	3.2 (2010)	
			Domestic material consumption per capita (tons per capita)	2015	24.9	3.2	7.8 (2010)	9.7	3.8 (2010)	33.8	17.3	12.3 (2010)	21.1	11.7	10.1 (2010)
			Domestic material consumption: total (millions of tons)	2015	34 267.4	81.3	54.6 (2010)	1 231.3	2.0 (2010)	100.0	872.3	1 763.7 (2010)	36 552.3	51 368.7	69 874.7
	8.5	8.5.2	Unemployment rate (total)	2016	4.7	6.7	3.5	3.2	1.9	6.9	3.5	6.2	4.7	4.6	5.8
(Females)			2016	4.0	6.8	3.2	3.0	1.6	7.0	3.3	5.9	4.1	4.6	6.3	
(Males)			2016	5.2	6.6	3.8	3.3	2.2	6.8	3.7	6.6	5.1	4.6	5.5	
(Youth)			2015	12.3	12.9	9.8	5.9	6.1	14.5	10.3	15.5	11.8	12.1	13.2	
8.6	8.6.1	Youth not in education, employment or training (percentage of population aged 15-24)	2014		6.6	3.7	5.3 (2013)	8.2		12.0					
8.7	8.7.1	Proportion of children aged 5-17 years engaged in labour total (percentage)	2013					15.2							
8.9	8.9.1	Inbound tourism expenditure (percentage of GDP)	2014	1.4		15.8	0.5	92.9	1.8	1.6	1.1	1.7	2.0	1.9	
8.10	8.10.1	Number of automated teller machines (ATMs) (per 100 000 adults)	2015	76.4		49.8	127.6	254.1	72.7	278.7	173.0	94.6	57.6	58.6	
		Number of commercial bank branches (per 100 000 adults)	2015	8.4		22.3	34.1	38.9	70.4	16.9	32.9	12.9	13.3	17.0	
	8.10.2	Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank (percentage of population aged 15 and older)	2014	78.9		96.1	96.6		91.8	94.4	67.4	79.9	61.4	61.3	
8.a	8.a.1	Aid for Trade commitment (millions of US dollars)	2014	314.2	2.7	0		0	57.9	0		374.8	23 907.8	47 645.7	
		Aid for Trade disbursement (millions of US dollars)	2014	272.1	2.9	0		0	184.9	0		459.9	17 150.4	36 382.0	

9.4.1 Carbon dioxide emissions



9.5.1 Research and development expenditure



Targets	Indicators	Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World		
9.1	9.1.2	Air transport freight (millions of tons/km)	2015	19 806	2	11 294	8 869	25	7	11 297	4 761	56 060	76 915	188 000	
		Port container traffic (millions of TEU)	2014	181.6		22.3	20.7			23.8	3.9	252.4	386.6	679.3	
		Railway freight (millions of tons/km)	2014	2 308 669			20 255			11 418	10 459	2 298 564	4 649 365	5 716 080	9 679 490
		Railway passenger kilometres (million of passengers/km)	2014	807 065			260 014			1 399	22 626	128 820	1 219 924	2 488 004	3 049 392
		Air transport freight (tons)	2014	5 907 105	10 521	2 167 753	2 325 844	15 788	6 699	2 311 971	826 130	19 723 984	13 571 814	48 327	
		Air transport passengers carried (millions)	2014	436.2	0.2	41.9	113.8	2.3	0.5	65.5	76.8	737.2	1 362.8		
9.2	9.2.1	GDP by activity: manufacturing (percentage of value added)	2014	35.4	18.4	1.8	20.9	1.3	5.4	29.8	14.0	26.9	23.9	16.7	
		GDP by activity: manufacturing (2005 US dollars per capita)	2014	1 374.1	99.6	625.5	7 897.0	683.4	116.9	7 366.3	978.1	1 970.5	1 009.7	1 328.6	
9.4	9.4.1	Carbon dioxide emissions from fuel combustion (IEA) (grams per dollar of GDP (2005 US dollars))	2013	1 811	3 565	190	258		3 168	477	1 553	1 348	1 232	751	
9.5	9.5.1	Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (percentage of GDP)	2014	2.0		0.7 (2013)	3.6	0.1	0.2	4.3	1.2			1.7 (2013)	
		Researchers, full-time equivalents (per million inhabitants)	2014	1 113		3 136 (2013)	5 386	1 053		6 899	3 101			1 083 (2013)	
9.a	9.a.1	Total international support to infrastructure (million of 2014 US dollars)	2014	2 131.2	0.6				209.3			2 341.1	25 309.0	50 515.0	
9.b	9.b.1	Medium and high-tech industry value added (percentage of total value added)	2013	0.4		0.3	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.3				
9.c	9.c.1	Percentage of the population covered by a mobile-cellular network (percentage of population)	2015	99.5		100.0	99.9	99.9	99.0	99.9	89.0	98.7		95.7	



Reduce inequality within and between countries

Targets	Indicators		Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World
10.1	10.1.1	Growth rates (percentage) in per capita real survey mean consumption or income, bottom 40 per cent	Latest	7.2 (2010)							5.9 (2012)			
		Growth rates (percentage) in per capita real survey mean consumption or income, total	Latest	7.9 (2010)							5.3 (2012)			
10.4	10.4.1	Labour share of GDP (percentage of GDP)	2012	6.8 (2010)		5.2	23.6 (2011)	5.1 (2011)	8.9	9.3	16.0 (2011)			19.8 (2011)



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Targets	Indicators		Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World
11.1	11.1.1	Urban slum population (percentage of urban population)	2014	25.2					42.7			25.2	26.9	29.7
11.6	11.6.2	Annual mean concentration of PM10 in cities (micrograms per m ³)	2010	89.9			21.0		139.7	50.5	32.5 (2009)	78.5		
		Annual mean concentration of PM2.5 in cities (micrograms per m ³)	2010	41.3			9.6		64.1	23.2	21.8 (2009)	36.0		



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Targets	Indicators	Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World	
12.2	12.2.1	Material footprint total (tons per capita)	2015	21.2	1.0	121.1 (2010)	20.9	0.0 (2010)	15.5	26.1	8.02 (2010)	19.2	10.5	10.0 (2010)
		Material footprint total (kilograms per US dollar (2005 GDP))	2015	5.1	1.8 (2014)	3.8 (2010)	0.6	0.0 (2010)	7.1 (2015)	1.0	1.3 (2010)	2.6	2.4	1.3 (2010)
		Material footprint total (millions of tons)	2015	29 188.9	24.5	847 (2010)	2 651.5		46.0	1 311.6	1 148.7 (2010)	33 222	46 193	69 627 (2010)
	12.2.2	Domestic material consumption per capita (tons per capita)	2015	24.9	3.2	7.8 (2010)	9.7	3.8 (2010)	33.8	17.3	12.3 (2010)	21.1	11.7	10.1 (2010)
		Domestic material consumption intensity (kilograms per US dollar (2005 GDP))	2015	6.0	6.0 (2014)	0.2 (2010)	0.3	0.1 (2010)	15.4	0.7	1.9 (2010)	2.8	2.7	1.3 (2010)



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Targets	Indicators	Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World	
13.1	13.1.2	Natural disasters, deaths (per 100,000 population)	2016	0.04	0.13 (2015)	0.01 (2010)	0.04		1.16 (2009)	0.01	0.02 (2015)	0.04	0.4	0.5



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Targets	Indicators		Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World
14.5	14.5.1	Coverage of protected area in relation to marine areas (percentage)	2016	3.5	0.0	0.0	34.8	0.0	-	7.1	5.7			



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Targets	Indicators		Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World
15.1	15.1.1	Forest area (percentage of land area)	2015	22.1	41.8		68.5		8.1	63.7	49.8	38.4	30.4	30.7
	15.1.2	Proportion of important sites for fresh water biodiversity (percentage)	2016	20.8	0.0	0.0	23.7	0.0	10.5	6.5	6.6			19.3
		Proportion of important sites for terrestrial biodiversity (percentage)	2016	31.1	0.0	0.0	26.0	0.0	16.2	6.5	6.6			19.3
15.4	15.4.1	Coverage by protected area of important sites for mountain biodiversity (percentage)	2016	45.0	0.0		12.5		23.8		20.0			20.1
15.5	15.5.1	Red list index	2016	0.75	0.91	1.0	0.79	1.0	0.95	0.78	0.96			



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all

Targets	Indicators		Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World
16.1	16.1.1	Intentional homicide (per 100,000 population)	2014	0.8 (2012)	4.7 (2012)	0.9 (2013)	0.3	1.0	7.5	0.7	9.5	1.5 (2012)	2.8 (2012)	5.5 (2012)
16.3	16.3.2	Persons held untried or pre-trial (percentage of prison population)	2014			16.7	11.1	20.7	15.0	33.5	16.6			29.8
16.9	16.9.1	Birth registration, under 5 years old, total (percentage of children under-5)	2015		100.0 (2009)		100.0		99.3 (2013)		100.0			



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Targets	Indicators	Year	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Kong, China	Japan	Macao, China	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	East and North-East Asia	Asia-Pacific region	World
17.1	17.1.1	Total government revenue (percentage of GDP)	2014	11.0 (2013)	-		36.8	20.8 (2013)	23.3	20.4	13.9 (2013)	14.9 (2013)	
		Social contributions	2014	0.0 (2013)			0.0	0.0 (2013)	3.8	0.0	0.4 (2013)	0.3 (2013)	
		Tax revenue (percentage of GDP)	2014	10.0 (2013)			35.7	15.6 (2013)	13.9	14.6	11.2 (2013)	12.1 (2013)	15.9 (2013)
		Total grants (percentage of GDP)	2014	0.0 (2013)			0.0	0.6 (2013)	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	
	17.1.2	Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes (percentage of total government revenue)	2014	90.4 (2013)		87.3							
17.3	17.3.2	Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP (percentage of GDP)	2014	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0 (2013)	2.1	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.7
17.4	17.4.1	Debt service (percentage of exports of goods, services and income from abroad)	2013	0.4				4.5					
17.6	17.6.2	Fixed-broadband 256 Kbit/s to less than 2 Mbit/s subscriptions (per 100 population)	2015	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.7	0.0	1.9	0.3		
		Fixed-broadband 2 Mbit/s to less than 10 Mbit/s subscriptions (per 100 population)	2015	5.6	4.6	2.0	13.4	5.3	0.0	4.7	5.1		
		Fixed-broadband equal to or above 10 Mbit/s subscriptions (per 100 population)	2015	13.1	27.4	27.3	15.1	0.1	39.8	12.0	14.9		
17.8	17.8.1	Internet users (percentage of population)	2015	50.3	84.9	93.3	77.6	21.4	89.9	73.4	56.7	39.9	43.8
		Internet users (percentage change per annum)	2015	5.0	6.4	4.7	11.2	7.5	2.3	4.1	4.8	9.9	8.3
17.10	17.10.1	Weighted tariff-average: agricultural (percentage weighted average)	2014	9.2	0.0	19.8	0.0	5.9 (2013)	93.4	11.6			
		Weighted tariff-average: industrial (percentage weighted average)	2014	6.2	0.0	1.7	0.0	4.9 (2013)	3.9	5.7			
		Weighted tariff-average: petroleum (percentage weighted average)	2014	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.0	5.0 (2013)	3.1	4.6			
17.11	17.11.1	Exports of merchandise (billions of US dollars)	2015	2 274.9	3.8	510.6	624.9	1.3	4.7	526.8	3 947.1	6 316.5	16 481.2



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