

SEADS Spotlight • November–December 2021



### Vaccines against Antimicrobial Resistance: Short- and Long-Term Solutions to End the Invisible Pandemic

While the world is still battling with the COVID-19 crisis, another pandemic has been steadily growing. Antimicrobial resistance, often described as the “slow” or “unseen” pandemic, is responsible for approximately 700,000 deaths annually and estimated to rise to 10 million yearly with an annual cost of \$100 trillion by 2050 if no action is taken.

Antibiotic-resistant superbugs represent a global threat not just in spreading drug-resistant infections but also by compromising basic infection control for standard operations and cancer treatments, warn Marianne Holm and Jerome Kim of the International Vaccine Institute in this op-ed for SEADS, noting that developing vaccines is key to fighting superbugs.

**Vaccines are critical to the prevention and control of infectious diseases and an important tool for global health security. This has been clearly illustrated in the COVID-19 pandemic, where vaccines—combined with other preventive measures such as masks and distancing—have been central to pandemic control efforts and responsible for turning the deadly disease into a much more limited and manageable one.**

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Jerome Kim  
Director General  
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This article is published in collaboration with the [International Vaccine Institute](#).

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### Housing, Buildings Are Key to Sustainable Development

In the transition to a low-carbon, resilient, and sustainable society and economy, buildings and construction activities play a critical role as they are the biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions. They are in fact responsible for more than 38% of global energy-related carbon-dioxide emissions, higher than any other sector. In this op-ed, Cosima Stahr from SWITCH-Asia Sustainable Consumption and Production Facility and Rebecca Ochong from Habitat for Humanity International examine solutions to help minimize the impact of the building sector on climate change.

This article is published in collaboration with [SWITCH-Asia](#) and [Habitat for Humanity](#).

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### How Big Data Is Helping Transform Indonesia's Public Transport System

The affordability of public transport in Indonesia makes it the go-to option for millions of citizens. But for some passengers, such as women, the elderly and people with disabilities, the journey is not always seamless. For instance, the lack of barrier-free walkways and other elderly-friendly infrastructure often makes movement between the waiting area and boarding point challenging for elderly passengers. Thanks to big data, Indonesia's national railway company is now able to provide a more people-centric approach to transport.

This story is published in collaboration with [Pulse Lab Jakarta](#).

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### Building a Sustainable Future for Travel

There is a lot to consider when it comes to booking travel: price, health and safety, environmental impact, and more. In this article, Richard Holden of Google shares how to find sustainable options while traveling.

This article is published in collaboration with [Google](#).

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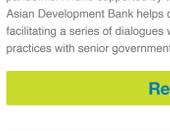
### How the Republic of Korea e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund Is Helping Southeast Asian Countries amid COVID-19

Southeast Asian countries continue to reel from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. A fund supported by the Republic of Korea and managed by the Asian Development Bank helps countries recover from the pandemic by facilitating a series of dialogues which shares cutting-edge knowledge and best practices with senior government officials on responding to the crisis.

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## Publications

### Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Trends 2021/2022: Preferential Trade Agreements in Asia and the Pacific



About half of the preferential trade agreements in force worldwide were forged by countries from Asia Pacific, making the region a major contributor of such deals, says a new report from UNESCAP.

### E-Economy SEA 2021—Roaring 20s: the SEA Digital Decade



Southeast Asia's digital economy is expected to reach \$1 trillion in value by 2030 thanks to continued shifts in consumer and merchant behavior, matched with strong investor confidence, says a new report from Google, Temasek, and Bain & Company.

### Policy Actions for COVID-19 Economic Recovery: A Compendium of Policy Briefs



As countries continue to grapple with the pandemic, they must also lay the groundwork to ensure a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth. This report from ADB features recommendations and actionable insights for Southeast Asian countries and the People's Republic of China as they try to recover from the crisis.

### Adaptation Gap Report 2021



There is a need to step up climate adaptation finance as the estimated adaptation costs in developing countries are 5 to 10 times greater than current public adaptation finance flows, says a new report from the United Nations Environment Programme.

## Events

### Curbing the Invisible Pandemic: Effective Solutions to Collectively Combat Antimicrobial Resistance

7 December 2021 | 5:00 P.M.–6:30 P.M., Seoul Time

Antibiotic-resistant superbugs kill 700,000 people annually. This webinar co-hosted by the International Vaccine Institute, Asian Development Bank, Institut Pasteur Korea, the Embassy of Denmark in the Republic of Korea, and the International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions will examine solutions to fight this "invisible" pandemic.

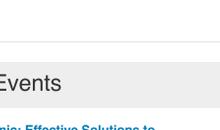


[Register](#)

### Cambodia and the Fourth Industrial Revolution

7–8 December 2021 | 8:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M., Bangkok Time

The fourth industrial revolution could have transformational impact on skills and jobs in Cambodia. This webinar will look at the country's policies, technologies, and human capital readiness for the fourth industrial revolution and explore avenues to ease its transition to this new industrial model by 2030. The webinar is organized by Cambodia's Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, in partnership with UNIDO Cambodia and ADB Cambodia.



[Register](#)

### 8th Asia-Pacific Housing Forum: Building Forward Better for Inclusive Housing

7–9 December 2021 | 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M., Bangkok Time

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, 1.6 billion people were in need of adequate shelter. With the pandemic exacerbating the housing crisis, it has become more urgent to provide safe, secure, and adequate housing for people around the world. Organized by Habitat for Humanity in partnership with the EU SWITCH-Asia Programme, the event will look at policies and practical solutions that widen access to safe, decent, and affordable housing.



[Register](#)

### Social Enterprises and Disability: Fostering Innovation, Awareness, and Social Impact in the ASEAN Region

8 December 2021 | 2:00 P.M.–3:15 P.M., Jakarta Time

Social enterprises have emerged as key actors for developing new, innovative, and scalable forms of support for persons with disabilities. In this webinar, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia will present the results of a study analyzing the role of social enterprises in fostering innovation, awareness, and inclusion for people with disability in ASEAN.



[Register](#)

### Healthy Oceans Tech and Finance Forum

26–28 January 2022 | 9:00 A.M.–5:30 P.M., Manila Time

How can innovation, technology, and finance protect our oceans, increase resilience, and accelerate the growth of sustainable blue economies? Find out at ADB's first Healthy Oceans Tech and Finance Forum on 26–28 January 2022. Discover technologies, businesses, good practices, projects, case studies, and solutions that enhance ocean health and coastal resilience.



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