

SEADS Spotlight • January 2022



The Clock Is Ticking on Central Bank Digital Currencies: Are You Ready?

Central banks are taking digital currencies more seriously. Here is how commercial banks can get ahead to make adoption a reality.

This story is published in collaboration with [Visa](#).

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Enhancing Poverty Measurement through Big Data

With insufficient data for almost half of the SDG indicators in Southeast Asia, governments are now exploring big data and machine learning to address the data gaps.

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

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What Will It Take for Southeast Asia to Build Back Better from COVID-19? Go Green

Taking a green growth path is key to the region's exit strategy from the pandemic. An ADB report says taking a green recovery path will reduce the risk of future pandemics, address climate change, create jobs, increase competitiveness, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Takes Effect

As RCEP comes into force in January, a UNCTAD study says the trade deal will eliminate about 92% of tariffs among signatory countries over a period of 20 years and boost intraregional exports by \$42 billion from about \$2.3 trillion in 2019 through trade creation and diversion.

This article was first published by [BIMP-EAGA](#).

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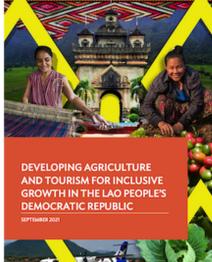
Tourism Grows 4% in 2021 but Remains Far Below Pre-Pandemic Levels—UNWTO

Asia and the Pacific arrivals still 65% below 2020 levels and 94% when compared to pre-pandemic values as many destinations remained closed to non-essential travel.

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Publications

Developing Agriculture and Tourism for Inclusive Growth in the Lao People's Democratic Republic



This report from ADB analyzes Lao PDR's development achievements and discusses policy recommendations for further development of the agriculture and tourism sectors.

ADB

Labor Mobility and Remittances in Asia and the Pacific during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic



This report from ADB examines the impact of the pandemic on labor mobility and remittances in Asia and the Pacific and looks at policy recommendations.

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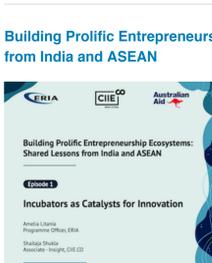
Towards Reducing Single-Use Plastics in Lao PDR: Options for a National Policy Strategy and Action Plan



This report from SWITCH-ASIA assesses Lao PDR's situation in dealing with single-use plastic wastes and recommends policy options based on lessons from other countries and recommendations from stakeholders and experts.

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Building Prolific Entrepreneurship Ecosystems: Shared Lessons from India and ASEAN



This report from ERIA looks at the evolution of the incubation ecosystems in India and ASEAN and compares some of the major policies.

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Developing the Philippine Blue Economy: Opportunities and Challenges in the Ocean Tourism Sector



This paper from ADB Institute examines how ocean tourism and economic development intertwine in archipelagic nations, examining national statistical data on tourism and economic development in the Philippines over the last several years.

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Events

Southeast Asia Development Symposium 2022: Sustainable Solutions for Southeast Asia's Recovery

16-17 March 2022 | 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Manila Time

The pandemic has had a deep and profound impact throughout Southeast Asia. Many of the region's hard-won gains in reducing poverty, creating jobs, and enhancing health and well-being have been reversed, with the poor and vulnerable particularly hard-hit. This year's Southeast Asia Development Symposium (SEADS) will highlight innovative solutions to help countries "build back better" and rebound from the COVID-19 crisis.

[Learn More](#)

Europe and Asia Partnerships to Support and Link Governments and SMEs to Adopt Sustainable Textile Consumption and Production Practices

21 February 2022 | 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m., Bangkok Time

Valued at over \$1.7 trillion, the textile and garments sector is a major contributor to the global economy and employs more than 300 million people. Despite this, the sector is far from being sustainable. This webinar will look at the partnerships and collaborations between Europe and Asia in implementing sustainable consumption and production policies and practices to support small and medium enterprises to transition toward a low-carbon, resource-efficient, and a more circular economy.

[Register](#)



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