

# ASEF OUTLOOK REPORT 2014/2015

## FACTS AND PERSPECTIVES

VOLUME I: FACTS AT A GLANCE



In partnership with



**ASEF OUTLOOK REPORT**  
**2014/2015**  
FACTS AND PERSPECTIVES

**VOLUME I: FACTS AT A GLANCE**

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### List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEF	Asia-Europe Foundation
ASEM	Asia-Europe Meeting
COP21	21 <sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FTT	Financial Transaction Tax
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LDC	Least Developed Countries
ODA	Official Development Assistance
MCD	Measles-containing vaccine
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NCD	Non-communicable disease
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
SD	Sustainable Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEEA	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
SWF	Sovereign Wealth Funds
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNTT	United Nations Task Team
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

#### Notes:

- The publication tries to include data and indicators for all ASEM Countries. If one or more ASEM Countries are missing, the data was not publicly available or outdated.
- At the time of publication Croatia was expected to join at the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit in October 2014. Where possible, data for Croatia was included.

 Asian ASEM Countries

 European ASEM Countries

In each of the statistical representations, Asian ASEM Countries are depicted in red and European ASEM Countries in blue.



Where applicable, the statistical representations show the combined national average for Asian ASEM Countries in a red dotted line and the European ASEM Countries' average in a blue dotted line.

## Preface

In 2012, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) published its first *Outlook Report* that presented an analysis of Asia-Europe relations and its implications on the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process. The two-volume publication included both quantitative indicators on the status quo and a scenario exercise, offering separate but complementary sets of insights into the status and future possibilities for Asia-Europe relations.

The publication, entitled *ASEM Outlook Report 2012 – Foresight is 20/20: Scenario Building for Policy Analysis and Strategy Development* was designed to feed into the biennial ASEM Summit, which saw Heads of State and Government meet from 5–6 November 2012 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) is the only permanently established institution of ASEM. Founded in 1997, ASEF is entrusted with the mission to promote understanding, strengthen relationships and facilitate cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF continues to play the pivotal role of providing platforms where civil societies can develop and share recommendations with the ASEM governments for their consideration. It enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, economy, education, governance, public health and sustainable development. These thematic areas are derived from priorities set by the ASEM leaders, Heads of States and Governments and Ministers.



ASEM is an intergovernmental forum for dialogue and cooperation established in 1996 to deepen relations between Asia and Europe, which addresses political, economic and sociocultural issues of common concern. ASEM brings together 51 members: 29 European and 20 Asian countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat. Indeed, the organisation continues to grow with Croatia due to join at the 10th ASEM Summit in October 2014.

ASEM was initiated in 1996 when 26 ASEM leaders met in Bangkok, Thailand. ASEM has arisen out of a mutual recognition that the relationship between Asia and Europe needed to be strengthened in light of the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

More information on ASEM see [www.aseminfoboard.org](http://www.aseminfoboard.org)

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In order to strengthen the ties between the ASEM process and the work of ASEF, ASEF has decided to publish Outlook Reports biennially in conjunction with each ASEM Summit. Published shortly before the ASEM Summit in October 2014, this report seeks to build on key developments that have taken place since 2012 and offers an analysis of major trends in Asia-Europe relations.

By offering an analysis of emerging global and regional challenges associated with sustainable growth and development, the publication is targeted at governments and other actors and institutions who contribute to the development of Asia-Europe relations. The report also seeks to contribute to a better understanding among Asian and European countries on how to reshape growth in a way that meets the economic, environmental and social responsibilities required by sustainable development.

Similar to the *Outlook Report 2012*, the 2014 publication is divided into two distinct volumes. *Volume I* presents a set of statistics on all ASEM Countries based on ASEF's core thematic areas. They include information related to demography, economy, social development, education and culture, health, energy and carbon emissions. *Volume II* provides a series of perspectives on the prospects for sustainable growth and development across ASEM Countries for a number of selected topics.

While both *Volume I* and *Volume II* function as stand-alone publications, they have been designed to complement one another. The narrative chapters of *Volume II* reference and build on some of the most interesting information revealed in the compilation of statistical data on ASEM Countries presented in *Volume I*. While the selection of statistical data is based on a desire to cover the most relevant statistics and trends in and between the two regions, specific data sets were added at the request of chapter authors of *Volume II*. It is envisioned that the inclusion of these supporting statistics allows *Volume I* to act not only as a reference source but also as a means of complementing the narrative chapters in *Volume II*. For example, while the chapter on health focusses on the accessibility of healthcare with a particular focus on migrants, the statistics in *Volume I* give an insight into the health (care) status of the whole population with government health expenditure, immunisation coverage, mortality rates, etc.

This publication represents ASEF's lead contribution to the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit that takes place from 16-17 October 2014 in Milan, Italy. The key issues that are addressed in the *Outlook Report* are closely aligned with the theme of the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit, *Responsible Partnership for Sustainable Growth and Security*, and it can be expected that the publication will complement the debate and discussions that will take place during the Summit. In addition, the inclusive nature of the topic of sustainable development makes it the ideal prism through which to project the key thematic areas of culture, economy, education, governance, public health and sustainable development that are the key focus of ASEF's work.

It is hoped that the presentation of these two volumes will provide important and interesting analyses of trends and developments in Asia-Europe relations that we might expect to witness over the coming years while also allowing the reader to gain insights into ASEF's work across its key themes.

## Preface to Volume I

The objective of *Volume I* of this publication is the presentation of a core set of facts covering all 49<sup>1</sup> ASEM Countries. These *Facts at a Glance* have been developed through the collation of data developed by many of the world's leading information resources. Bringing these indicators together in one place was considered to be a useful exercise in providing the reader with an opportunity to gain an overview of trends and developments in ASEM members since the 2012 *Outlook Report* which featured a similar volume. The presentation of this information also allows individuals to make easy comparisons between the respective ASEM members, both on a regional basis and under key thematic areas.

It is hoped that this volume will allow the reader to gain an improved understanding of the political, economic, social and cultural conditions in both Asia and Europe, provide background for the ongoing debate on sustainable development, and come to be used as the core reference book on the quantitative indicators of ASEM members.

For each of the following statistics we have tried to cover all ASEM Countries. Where one or more countries are missing, the data was not available at the source and we were regrettably not able to obtain the data within the given time constraints.

**Ambassador ZHANG Yan**  
Executive Director  
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

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<sup>1</sup> Wherever possible, the publication includes indicators for Croatia which, at the time of publication, was expected to join ASEM at the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit in October 2014.

# 1 FACTS AND FIGURES: DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the world's population surpassed the 7 billion mark by late 2011<sup>1</sup>. A separate UN report estimated that the world population would exceed 9 billion by 2050<sup>2</sup>.

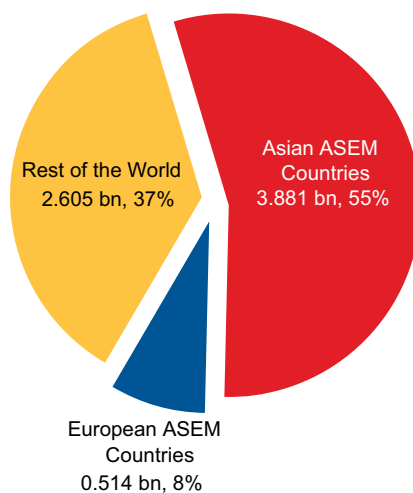
Today, Asia and Europe make up about 2/3 of the world's population, where Asia is the world's largest and most populous continent with 50% of the world population.

The other important global demographic trend is that the world population is ageing. Indeed, the global median age increased from 23.5 years in 1950 to 26.4 years in 1999, and by 2050 the median age is projected to reach 37.8 years. Meanwhile, the number of people in the world aged 60 or older will almost double from the current 1-in-10 ratio by 2050.

The trend will be most pronounced among developed countries, where currently around 1-in-5 persons is aged 60 or older, which will rise to nearly 1-in-3 by 2050.

Today, world life expectancy at birth stands at about 65 years, having increased by 20 years since 1950. By 2050 life expectancy is expected to exceed 76 years.

**1.1 ASEM (Asian and European Countries) share of world population (billion, %)**



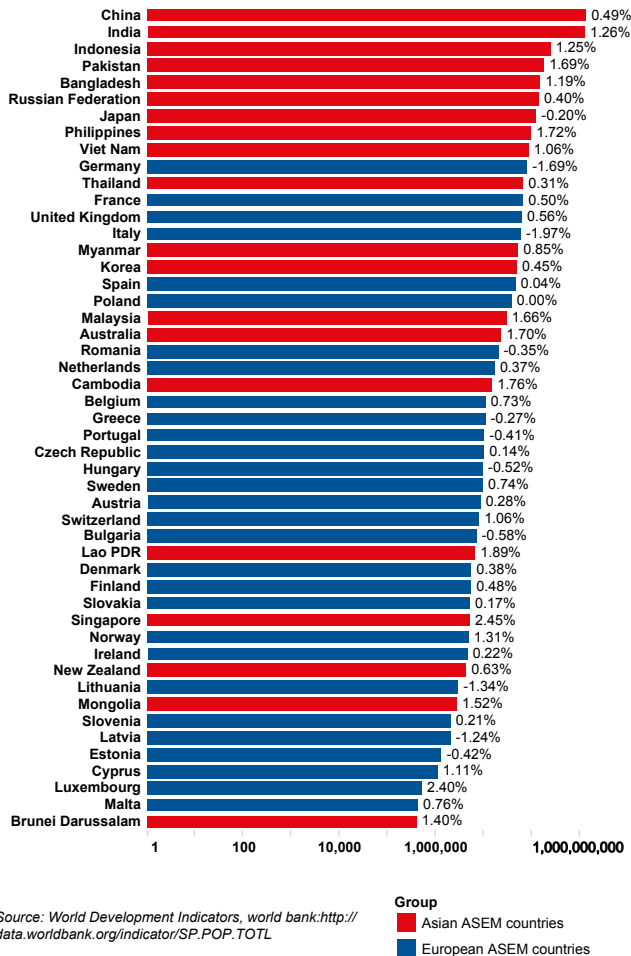
Source: See footnote 1

1 [http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-Data/EXCEL\\_FILES/1\\_Population/WPP2012\\_POP\\_F01\\_1\\_TOTAL\\_POPULATION\\_BOTH\\_SEXES.XLS](http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-Data/EXCEL_FILES/1_Population/WPP2012_POP_F01_1_TOTAL_POPULATION_BOTH_SEXES.XLS).

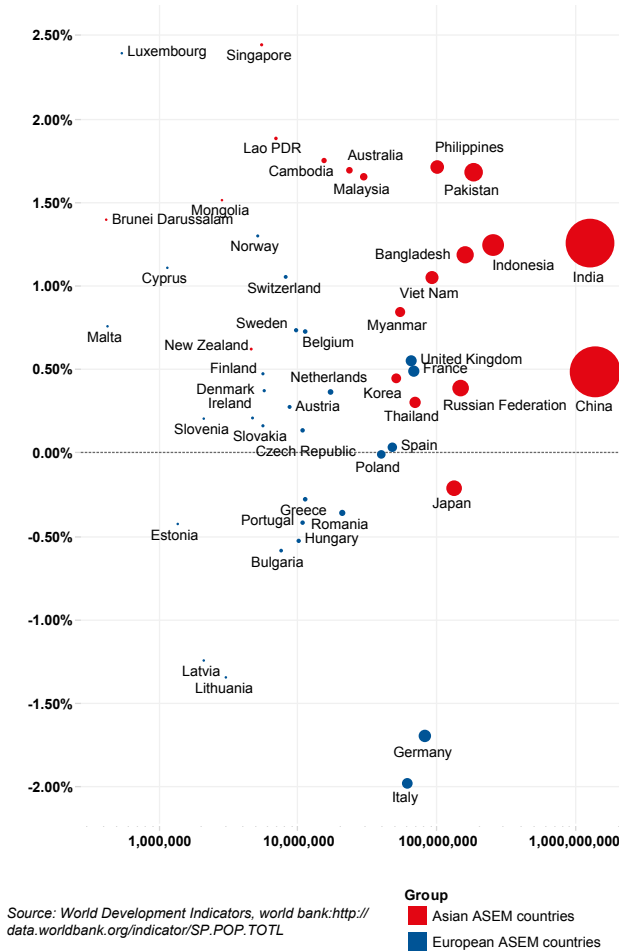
2 <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45165>.

A greater number of people demanding more resources pose a real challenge in the years and decades to come. Some argue that matters could be greatly improved through a more even distribution of resources. Others maintain that population growth rate needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. This section looks at the population size, growth, distribution and ageing patterns among ASEM member states.

1.2a Population (log scale, 2012) and growth rate (% , 2012) of ASEM Countries



1.2b Population (bubble chart, absolute numbers and growth rates in %, 2012)<sup>3</sup>



Asia and Europe make up about 2/3 of the world's population, where Asia is the world's largest and most populous continent with over 50% of the world's population. It is intuitive that many fast growing countries are also still developing, it explains why the relationship between population growth and resource consumption is not just linear.

<sup>3</sup> Graph designed by furryfish.com.

For example, China's population rose by 15% between 1990 and 2005, yet its energy usage nearly doubled. While China is currently the most populous country on the planet, projections show that it will be overtaken by India in 2028.<sup>4</sup> Both countries together will then account for approximately 1/3 of the global population.

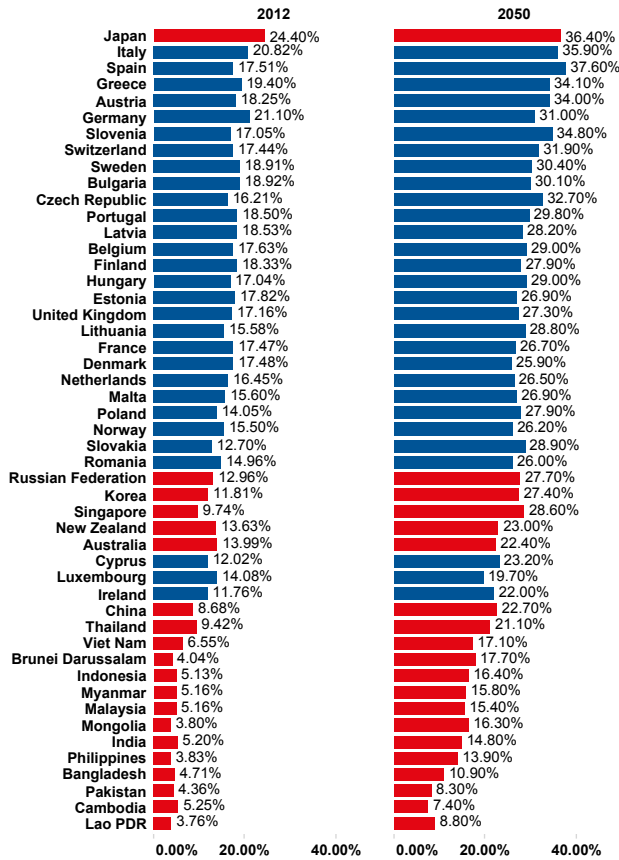
Europe as a region on the other hand, is likely to be the first region in human history to see a long-term population decline, largely as a result of low fertility. Europe's population is projected to decrease from 514 million today to 506 million by 2050 and as of 2015 onwards, deaths in the EU27 are projected to outnumber births<sup>5</sup>.

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4 UN DESA, World Population Prospects, <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/publications/world-population-prospects-the-2012-revision.html>.

5 [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP\\_PRD\\_CAT\\_PREREL/PGE\\_CAT\\_PREREL\\_YEAR\\_2008/PGE\\_CAT\\_PREREL\\_YEAR\\_2008\\_MONTH\\_08/3-26082008-EN-AP.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP_PRD_CAT_PREREL/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2008/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2008_MONTH_08/3-26082008-EN-AP.PDF).

1.3 Ageing population trends among ASEM Countries (population aged 65+, % of total population, 2012 and 2050)



Source: World Development Indicators, world bank: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.65UP.TO.ZS>  
 UN 2050: <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/worldageing19502050/countriesorareas.htm>

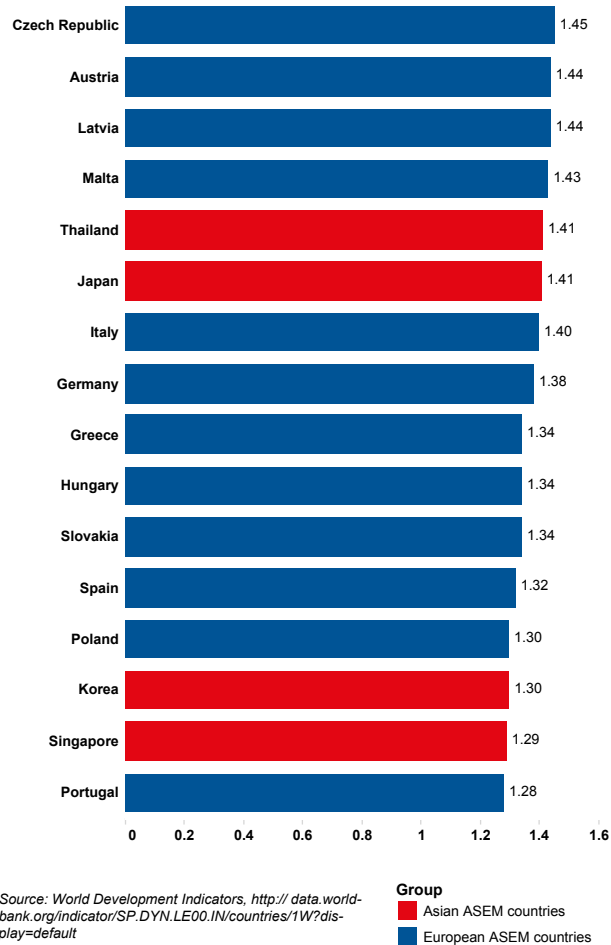
Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

Nowhere is the contrast between Asian and European ASEM Countries more glaring than at the level of their current demographic structure. With the exception of just a few countries, most European countries are ageing fast whilst all Asian countries remain comparatively youthful, with the notable exception of Japan.

The demographic transition (a change from high to low rates of mortality and fertility) has been more dramatic in Asia during this century than in any other region or historical period. Thus, the productive-age population (ages 35–50), currently the largest population share across practically all Asian countries, will reach retirement in 15–30 years. Over the coming decades, these countries will thus face the challenge of an ageing population, putting more pressure on the social sector and raising the dependency ratio.



## 1.5 Fertility rate, lowest among ASEM Countries (2012)

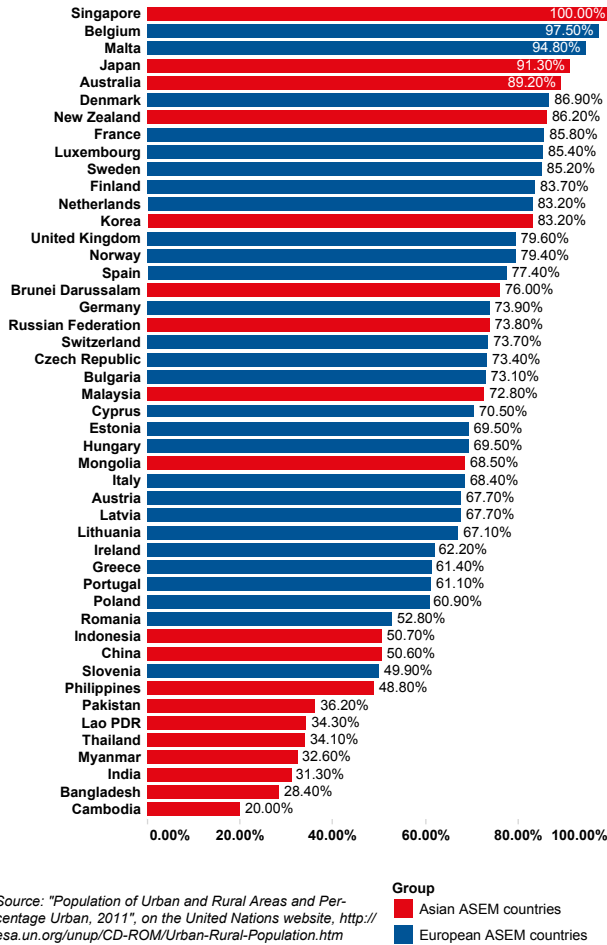


The fertility rate of a population is the average number of children that would be born to a woman over her lifetime if she were to experience the exact current age-specific fertility rates through her lifetime, and assuming she will survive from birth through the end of her reproductive years.

The countries depicted in this graph are the countries with the lowest fertility rates in the world, and they all happen to be ASEM member. This, combined with the high life expectancy rates shown in the previous graph, explains why ageing is perhaps the most important common problem that all ASEM Countries are facing, more than any other region of the world. Globally, the total fertility rate at replacement is 2.33 children per woman<sup>6</sup>. Most ASEM Countries are far from such a replacement level and are therefore ageing and indeed declining rapidly in demographic terms, presenting vast health, social and economic challenges to their societies.

<sup>6</sup> UN DESA, [un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/.../total\\_fertility\\_rate.pdf](http://un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/.../total_fertility_rate.pdf).

1.6 Urban Population among ASEM Countries (% ,2011)



Source: "Population of Urban and Rural Areas and Percentage Urban, 2011", on the United Nations website, <http://esa.un.org/unup/CD-ROM/Urban-Rural-Population.htm>  
 Data for Viet Nam could not be found.

Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

The world is undergoing the largest wave of urban growth in history. As of 2014, 54% of the world’s population lives in urban areas. By 2050, this figure is expected to increase to 66%, with urban growth concentrated in Africa and Asia.<sup>7</sup> While mega-cities have captured much public attention, most of the new growth will occur in smaller towns and cities, with fewer resources to respond to the magnitude of the change.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/population/world-urbanization-prospects-2014.html>.

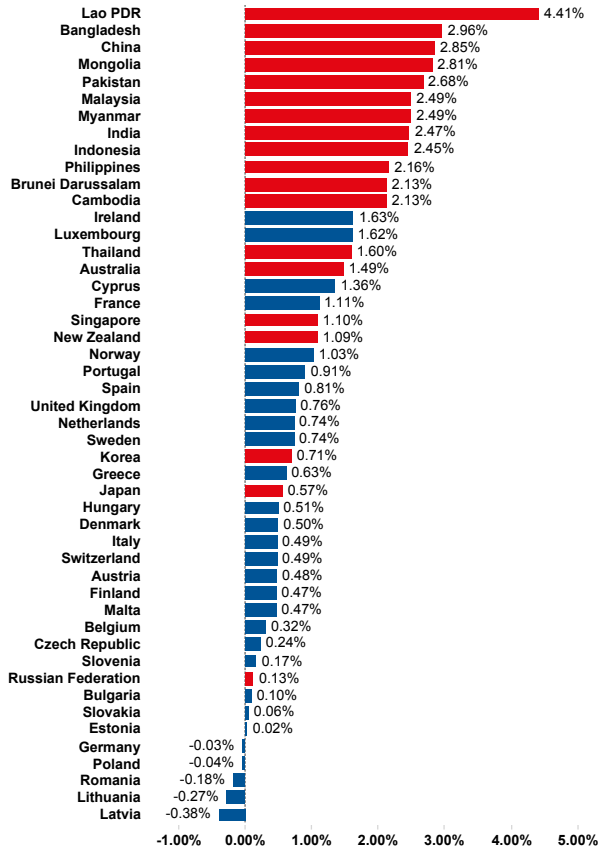
In principle, cities offer a more favourable setting for the resolution of social and environmental problems than rural areas. Cities generate jobs and income. With good governance, they can deliver education, healthcare and other services more efficiently than less densely settled areas simply because of their advantages of scale and proximity.

Cities also present opportunities for social mobilization and empowerment. The density of urban life can also relieve pressure on natural habitats and areas of biodiversity. The challenge for the next few decades is learning how to exploit the possibilities that urbanization offers.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.unfpa.org/pds/urbanization.htm>.

## 1.7 Average annual rate of change of the urban population among ASEM Countries (% , 1950-2050)



Source: "World Urbanization Prospects, the 2011 Revision, Data on Urban and Rural Populations", on the United Nations website, <http://esa.un.org/unup/CD-ROM/Urban-Rural-Population.htm>

## Group

■ Asian ASEM countries

■ European ASEM countries

Globally, urban growth peaked in the 1950s, with a population expansion of more than 3% per year. Today, the number of urban residents is growing by nearly 60 million every year. The global urban population is expected to grow roughly 1.5% per year, from 2025-2030. By the middle of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the urban population will almost double, increasing from approximately 3.9 billion in 2014 to 6.4 billion in 2050.<sup>9</sup> Almost all urban population growth in the next 30 years will occur in cities of developing countries, notably in Asia and Africa.<sup>10</sup> Between 1995 and 2005, the urban population of developing countries grew by an average of 1.2 million people per week, or around 165,000 people every day.<sup>11</sup>

9 UN DESA, "World's population increasingly urban with more than half living in urban areas," <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/population/world-urbanization-prospects-2014.html>.

10 ODI, "Urbanisation," [http://www.odi.org/odi-on/3039-urban-towns-cities-climate-change-adaptation-resilience#\\_ftn1](http://www.odi.org/odi-on/3039-urban-towns-cities-climate-change-adaptation-resilience#_ftn1).

11 WHO, "Urbanization and health," <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/88/4/10-010410/en/>, accessed September 2014.

It is important to note that while the highest urban population growth rates are expected from Asia, the growth rate itself within the region has slowed down, from annual rate of roughly 4% from 1950-1975 to a projected 1.55% per year from 2025-2050, according to WHO. In high-income Asian countries, on the other hand, the urban population is expected to remain largely unchanged over the next two decades, increasing from 920 million people to just over 1 billion by 2025. In these countries, immigration (legal and illegal) will account for more than 2/3 of urban growth. Without immigration, the urban population in these countries would most likely decline or remain static.<sup>12</sup>

The total population of Europe reached its peak in the year 2000 at 729.3 million, of whom 306.6 million were located in Eastern Europe, 93.7 million in Northern Europe, 144.8 million in Southern Europe and 184 million in Western Europe.

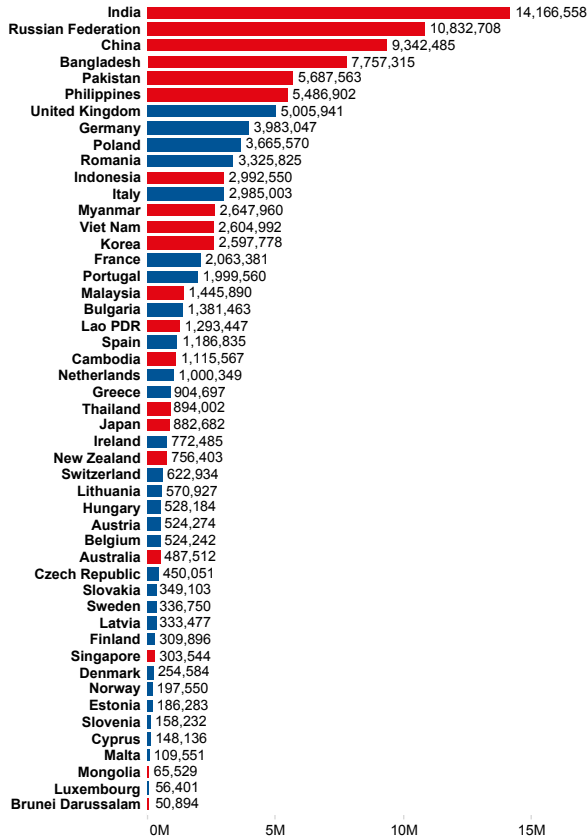
Urban settlements in size classes below 500,000 inhabitants are accommodating the majority of the urban population in Europe. The estimations for 1985 showed that only 35.8% of the urban population of Europe lived in cities with more than 0.5 million people. Projections for 2015 do not mark sufficient changes, showing that 36.5% of urban population will be residing in cities of this size.<sup>13</sup>

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12 WHO, "Urban population growth," [http://www.who.int/gho/urban\\_health/situation\\_trends/urban\\_population\\_growth\\_text/en/](http://www.who.int/gho/urban_health/situation_trends/urban_population_growth_text/en/); Creative Innovation Works, "Smart City, Smart People," <http://www.creativeinnovationworks.com/thinking/smart-city-smart-people/>.

13 UN Habitat, "Tools and Statistics Unit," <http://ww2.unhabitat.org/habrdd/trends/europe.html>.

## 1.8a Emigrants from ASEM Countries (2013)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013).

Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

International migration is a component of population change that receives an exceptionally high level of public and political scrutiny. In reality however, while the population of international migrants has increased (from 214 million in 2009 to 232 million in 2013), migrants remain a small part (about 3%) of the global population.

Amongst Asian ASEM countries, India, the Russian Federation and China are the largest sending Asian countries of migrants – not only in comparison to other ASEM countries but also globally. In Southeast Asia, the Philippines and Indonesia are the top sending countries, while Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are the top receiving countries in the region. It should be noted that while Asia remains one of the top sending regions, it has also grown (2009-2013) as a receiving region, at levels comparable to Europe.

Almost 43% of all Asian migrants move within the region<sup>14</sup> (IOM 2013). From South Asia, the majority of its 1.5 million migrant worker move to the Gulf region (ibid).

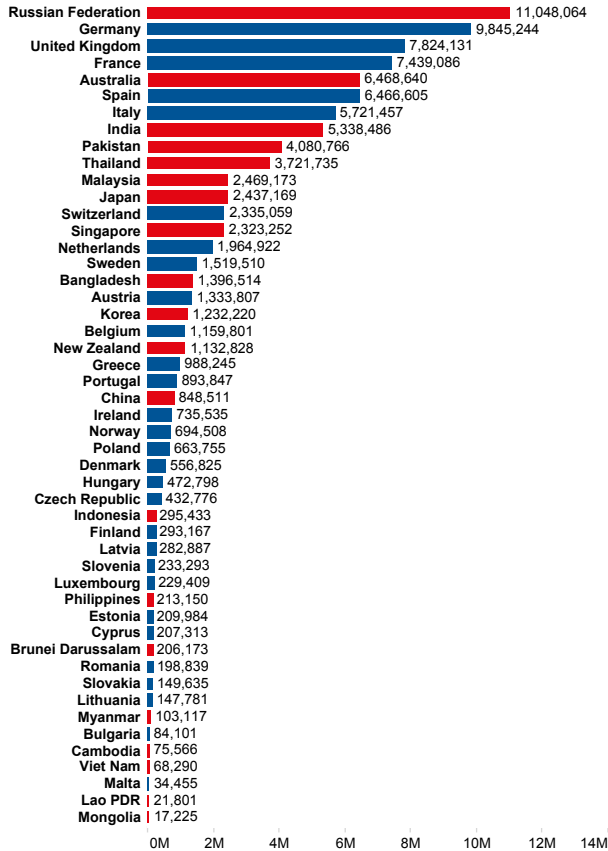
Europe continues to remain a popular destination for immigrants with Germany, the United Kingdom and France being the top hosting countries. According to Eurostat,<sup>15</sup> in 2013 there were 20.4 million non-EU nationals living in the EU while 13.7 million EU nationals were residing in an EU country of which they were not citizens. Overall, the median age of foreign immigrants is lower than that of EU nationals.

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<sup>14</sup> IOM 2013 - <https://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/where-we-work/asia-and-the-pacific.html>.

<sup>15</sup> EUROSTAT , [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics\\_explained/index.php/Migration\\_and\\_migrant\\_population\\_statistics](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics).

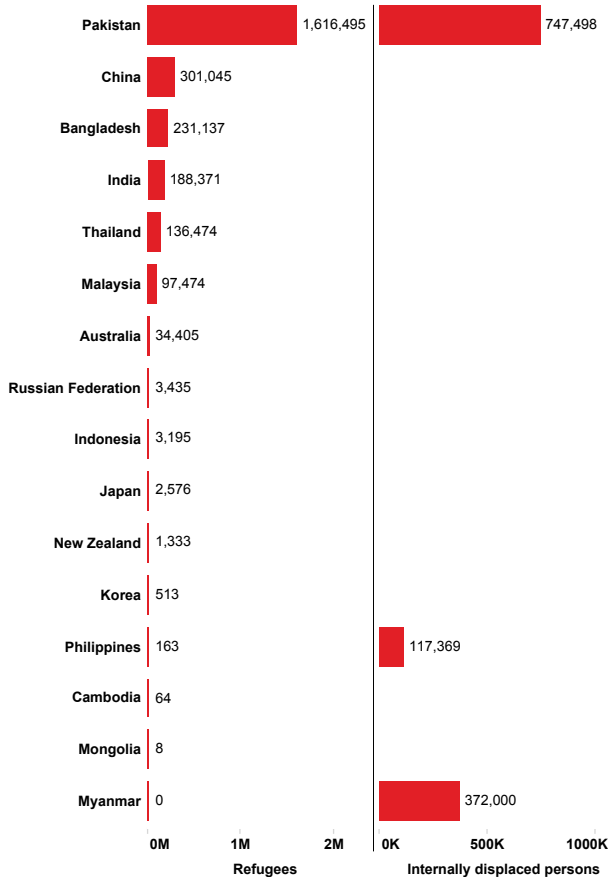
1.8b Immigrants to ASEM Countries (2013)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013).

Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

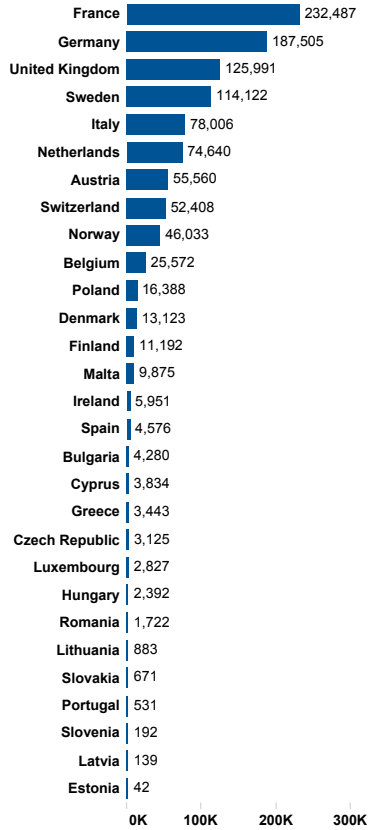
1.9a Refugees and internally displaced population in Asian ASEM Countries (2013)



Source: "Overview – Persons of concern to UNHCR", the UNHCR Population Statistics Reference Database, <http://popstats.unhcr.org/Default.aspx>  
 Data for Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Singapore, and Viet Nam could not be found.

For the indicator “total number of refugees”, we follow the UNHCR definition of refugees which is based on the criteria set out in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. Similarly, following the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, internally displaced persons (IDPs) are “people or groups of people who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border”.

1.9b Refugees and internally displaced population in European ASEM Countries (2013)



Source: "Overview – Persons of concern to UNHCR", the UNHCR Population Statistics Reference Database, <http://popstats.unhcr.org/Default.aspx>

# 2 FACTS AND FIGURES: ECONOMY

Global activity strengthened during the second half of 2013, and is expected to improve further in 2014–15, largely on account of the recovery in the advanced economies. Global growth is now projected to be slightly higher in 2014, at around 3.7%, rising to 3.9% in 2015. But downward revisions to growth forecasts in some economies highlight continued fragilities, and downside risks remain. In advanced economies, output gaps generally remain large and, given the risks, the monetary policy stance should stay accommodative while fiscal consolidation continues. In many emerging market and developing economies, stronger external demand from advanced economies will lift growth, although domestic weaknesses remain a concern. Some economies may have room for monetary policy support. In many others, output is close to potential, suggesting that growth declines partly reflect structural factors or a cyclical cooling and that the main policy approach for raising growth must be to push ahead with structural reform. In some economies, there is a need to manage vulnerabilities associated with weakening credit quality and larger capital outflows.<sup>1</sup>

## Trends in Asia

Most forecasts made by governments, think-tanks and independent experts foresee that, by 2030, Asia will have surpassed North America and Europe combined in terms of global power based upon GDP, population size, military spending and technological investment. On the ground, however, Asia seems a more nervous place than these forecasts imply. Peace, a foundation stone of the region's economic boom over the past 20 years, is under threat. Moreover, two of the main inputs that fuelled the boom, labour and capital, have become more expensive as wages are rising and the workforces of core economies like Japan, China, and Korea will soon peak, or are already in decline.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> IMF, World Economic Outlook (WEO). „Is the tide rising?“ (January 2014).

<sup>2</sup> The Economist, “How to keep roaring”, Special Report, Business in Asia (31 May 2014).

The continent's success to date has also created a new set of problems. Growth has been rapid but lopsided: Asia generates 45% of the world's carbon emissions but owns only 10% of its biggest brands. Across emerging Asian countries, a vast new middle class wants better governance and less polluting capitalism. In fact some economists worry that China and Southeast Asia will be caught in a "middle-income trap", with a lack of innovation slowing down development

At the same time, and despite all its diplomatic discord, in economic terms Asia is more integrated than ever before. Some 54% of the continent's trade is within the region, up from about 25% in 1990. Dense supply chains link multinational firms with factories across the continent which has become a giant industrial cluster.

Yet Asia is not only huge but hugely diverse, ranging from rich and ageing Japan, to still much less rich but also ageing China, to much poorer and younger India and Indonesia, to places like Myanmar, only just emerging after decades of political isolation. All Asian leaders are keen on reform, but given their different starting points they face different challenges.<sup>3</sup>

### Trends in Europe

The financial crisis of 2008 and 2009 significantly reduced economic output in Europe, and whilst the overall European recovery remains intact, it got off to a disappointing start in the first months of 2014, when GDP rose by just 0.3% across the 28-strong European Union and a still poorer 0.2% across the 18-state euro area, according to figures from Eurostat. GDP in the EU will expand by 1.6% in 2014 and 2.0% in 2015. Euro-wide GDP will rise by 1.2% in 2014 and 1.7% in 2015. This year's growth will be too feeble to counter worryingly low inflation, prompting further monetary stimulus from the European Central Bank.

The main impetus behind the eurozone's recovery remains Germany, which makes up nearly 30% of the currency club's collective output, and which is predicted to grow by 1.8% in 2014. The strengthening of the upturn in 2015 comes as the other three big economies, France, Italy and Spain do better. However both France and Italy will still be below the eurozone average of 1.7%. Outside the euro area, the United Kingdom is now experiencing a robust recovery and GDP will expand by 2.7% in 2014 and 2.5% in 2015.

However, the eurozone recovery will not be strong enough to make much of a dent on unemployment, forecast to fall from 12% last year to 11.8% in 2014, although it will drop more in 2015, to 11.4%. That labour market slack will be one of several factors keeping inflation low, though the euro area is expected to avoid outright deflation. Instead inflation will fall from 1.3% in 2013 to 0.8% this year, rising to 1.2% in 2015.<sup>4</sup>

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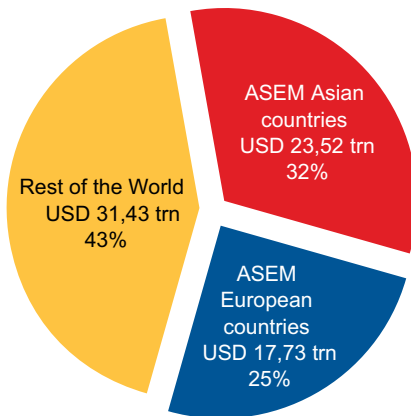
<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> European Commission. EU Economic Forecast "Growth becoming broader-based" ( 5 May 2014).

Europe, like Asia, is affected by rapid population ageing trends which are starting to lead to major policy shifts and structural adjustments as European economies cannot sustain the welfare systems that were put in place during the periods of hyper growth of the 1950s and 60s. Hence economic and demographic projections suggest that the influence of today's wealthiest economies will continue to lessen as other countries and regional power blocs become increasingly important – economically, politically and diplomatically. As global interdependence and trade expands, however, Europe has opportunities to benefit from improving its resource efficiency and knowledge-based economy.<sup>5</sup>

Another powerful economic trend affecting Europe concerns the growing competition for resources. The European economy is structurally dependent on imported resources which are constantly under threat from persistent instability in energy-producing regions such as the Middle East, a fragmented internal European energy market, and a growing need to shift fuels in order to address climate change policy. As a result, energy supply security has become a key concern for European nations and the European Union (EU).<sup>6</sup>

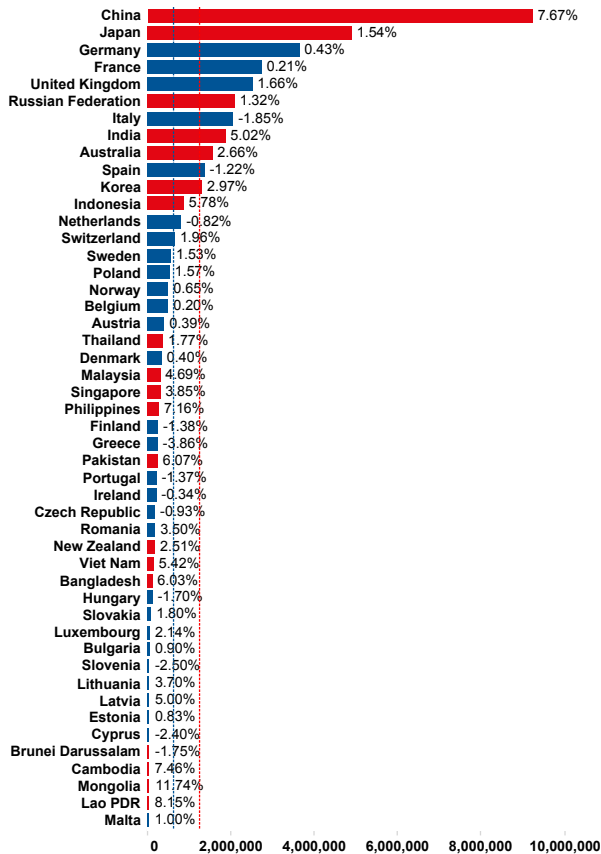
### 2.1 ASEM (Asian and European Countries) share of world GDP (USD trillions, %, 2012)



<sup>5</sup> OECD, "Looking to 2060: Long-term global growth prospects". A going for growth report (November 2012).

<sup>6</sup> Congressional Research Service, Europe's Energy Security (August 2013).

## 2.2 GDP (USD millions, 2013) and GDP growth (% , 2013) of ASEM Countries



Source: "GDP (current US\$)", on the World Bank website, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD>  
 "GDP growth (annual %)", on the World Bank website, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG>

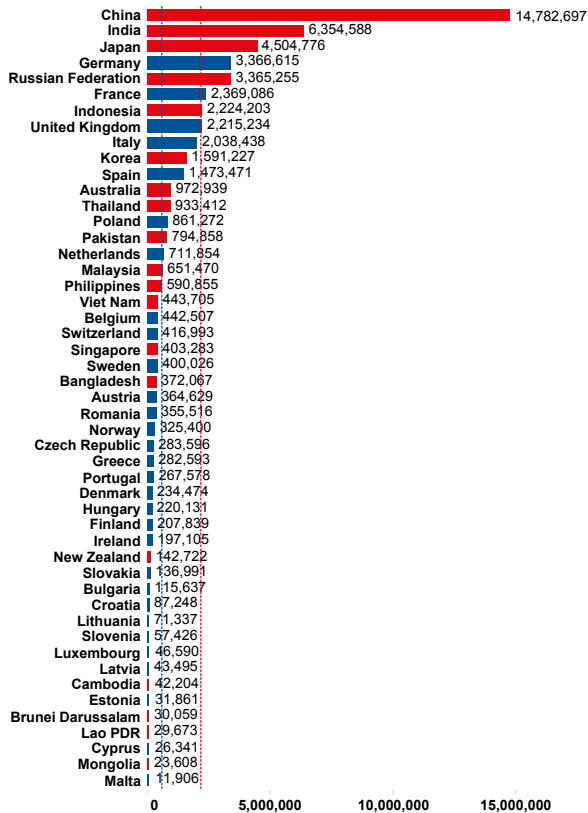
Group  
 ■ Asian ASEM countries<sup>7</sup>  
 ■ European ASEM countries

In 2013, China's GDP overtook Germany, France and the UK's GDP combined. Indeed, China's much-debated growth rate appears to be stabilising around 7.5% as the government tries to rebalance China's economy away from an export and investment-led growth model, to one more driven by domestic consumption. If one omits Japan and the Russian Federation, China's GDP also exceeds that of all the remaining Asian ASEM Members combined.

Meanwhile, almost half of ASEM Members in Europe experienced negative growth rates in 2013, with only a handful, mostly Eastern European states and notably the Baltic States, experiencing moderate to solid growth.

<sup>7</sup> Data on Myanmar not available.

2.3 GDP at purchasing power parity of ASEM Countries (current international USD millions, 2013)



Source: "GDP, PPP (current international \$)", on the World Bank website, [http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.PP.CD/countries/order%3Dwbapi\\_data\\_value\\_2012%20wbapi\\_data\\_value%20wbapi\\_data\\_value-last?order=wbapi\\_data\\_value\\_2012%20wbapi\\_data\\_value%20wbapi\\_data\\_value-last&sort=desc&display=default](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.PP.CD/countries/order%3Dwbapi_data_value_2012%20wbapi_data_value%20wbapi_data_value-last?order=wbapi_data_value_2012%20wbapi_data_value%20wbapi_data_value-last&sort=desc&display=default)

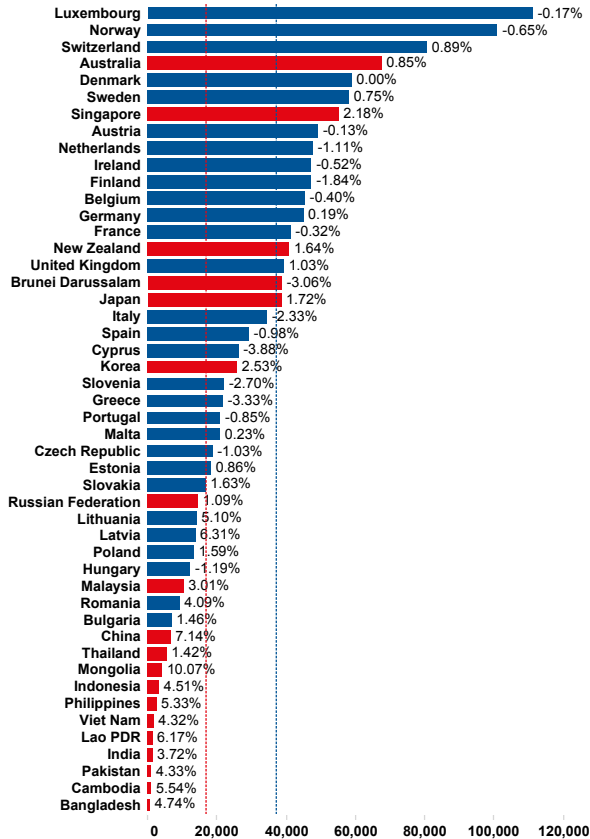
Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries <sup>8</sup>  
■ European ASEM countries

As expected, the GDP based on purchasing power parity (PPP) sheds a very different light on ASEM Members compared to the previous nominal GDP rates. Most Asian member states double, or even triple, their GDP in purchasing power whilst most European member states stay close to the same level.

The PPP conversion factor is the number of units of a country's currency required to buy the same amount of goods and services in the domestic market as US dollars would buy in the United States. For most economies, PPP figures are extrapolated from the 2012 International Comparison Programme (ICP) benchmark estimate. For most high-income economies conversion factors are provided by Eurostat and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

<sup>8</sup> Data on Myanmar not available.

## 2.4a GDP per capita of ASEM Countries (current USD, 2013)



Source : "GDP per capita (current US\$)", on the World Bank website, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD>  
 Note: Myanmar data unavailable

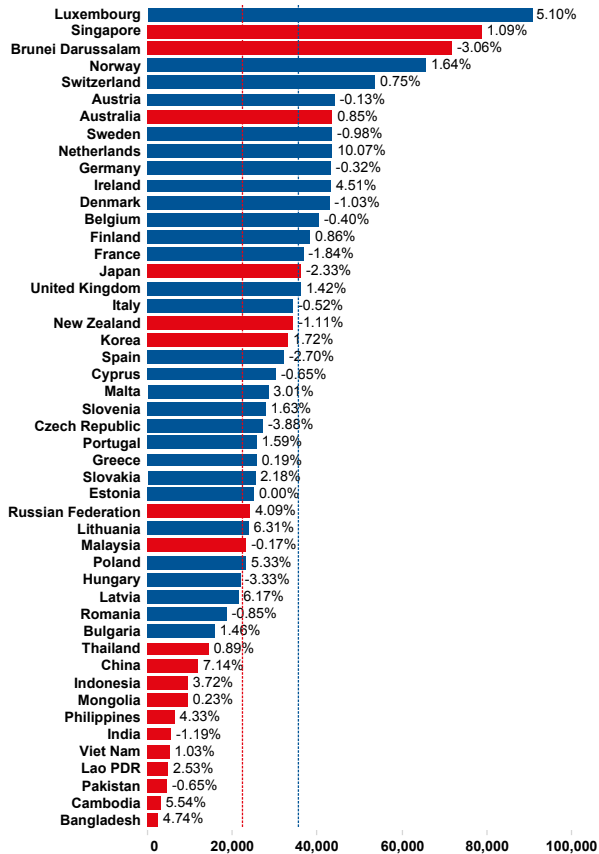
Group  
 Asian ASEM countries<sup>9</sup>  
 European ASEM countries

More so than absolute GDP figures it is, of course, the GDP per capita that is more relevant as an indicator of a country's material standard of living. Here the picture is the reverse of the previous statistics on GDP data, with countries like Luxembourg or Norway having nearly twice the GDP per capita of Singapore or Japan. At the same time, GDP per capita is strictly speaking not a measure of standard of living, as GDP is intended to be a measure of total national economic activity and not a measure of personal income. Thus, a rise in per capita GDP signals growth in the economy and tends to translate as an increase in productivity, which might or might not lead to a rising the citizens' standard of living and income.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Data on Myanmar not available.

<sup>10</sup> New World Encyclopedia. Measures of national income and output.

2.4b GDP per capita (PPP, current international USD, 2013) and GDP per capita growth (% 2013) of ASEM Countries



Source : "GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$)", on the World Bank website, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD>

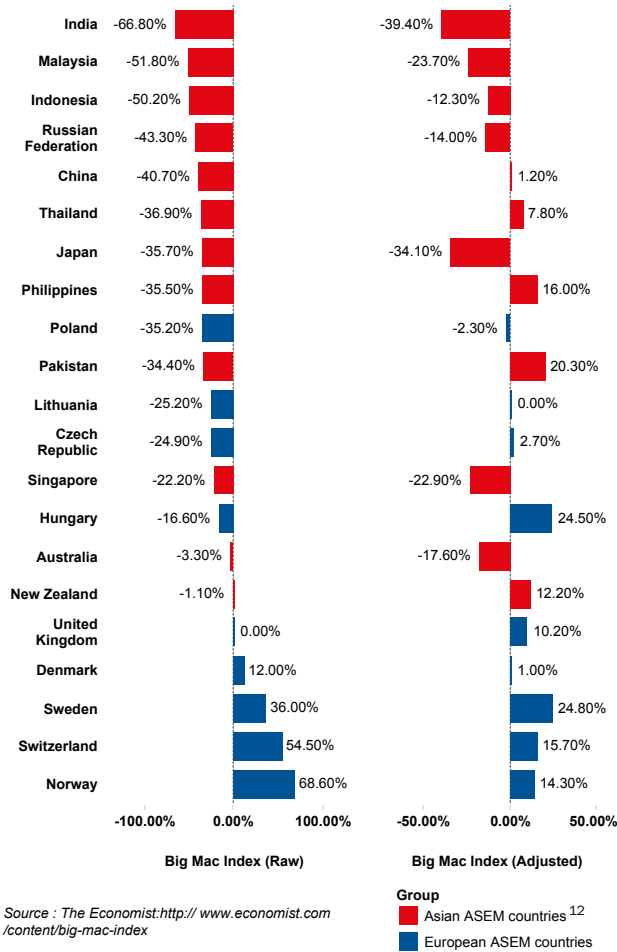
Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries <sup>11</sup>  
■ European ASEM countries

Using a PPP basis is arguably more useful when comparing generalised differences in living standards between nations because PPP takes into account the relative cost of living and the inflation rates of the countries. As with the previous statistics based on GDP data, they are a good indication of a country's overall productivity and national economic activity.

As expected, a somewhat more balanced picture emerges between Asian and European ASEM Members with several Asian countries occupying the top half of the chart. Also striking is China's position in the bottom quartile which indicates how much more room for increase there is in China despite nearly three decades of astonishing growth and development.

11 Data on Myanmar not available.

2.5 The Economist Big Mac Index (2014)



The Big Mac Index was invented by *The Economist* in 1986 as a light-hearted guide to whether currencies are at their “correct” level. It is based on the theory of purchasing power parity (PPP) whereby, in the long run, exchange rates should move towards the rate that would equalise the prices of an identical basket of goods and services in any two countries. For example, the average price of a Big Mac in the USA in January 2014 was USD 4.62; in India it was only USD 1.54 at market exchange rates. So the “raw” Big Mac index says that the rupee was undervalued by 66.8% at that time. *Burgernomics* was never intended as a precise gauge of currency misalignment, and yet the Big Mac Index has become a global standard, included in economic textbooks and the subject of many academic studies.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Data on Myanmar not available.  
<sup>13</sup> *The Economist*. The Big Mac Index (24 July 2014).

## 2 Facts and Figures: Economy

This adjusted index addresses the criticism that one would expect average burger prices to be cheaper in poor countries than in rich ones because labour costs are lower. PPP signals where exchange rates should be heading in the long run, but it says little about today's equilibrium rate. The relationship between prices and GDP per person may be a better guide to the current fair value of a currency. The adjusted index uses the "line of best fit" between Big Mac prices and GDP per person for 48 countries (plus the euro area). The difference between the price predicted by the zero line for each country and its actual price gives a better measure of currency under- and over-valuation.<sup>14</sup>

### 2.6 The World Bank classification of ASEM economies

High income: OECD	High income: non-OECD	Upper middle income	Lower middle income	Low income
Australia	Russian Federation	China	India	Bangladesh
Brunei	Singapore	Malaysia	Indonesia	Cambodia
Darussalam	Cyprus	Thailand	Lao PDR	Myanmar
Japan	Latvia	Bulgaria	Mongolia	
Korea	Lithuania	Hungary	Pakistan	
New Zealand	Malta	Romania	Philippines	
Austria			Viet Nam	
Belgium				
Croatia				
Czech Republic				
Denmark				
Estonia				
Finland				
France				
Germany				
Greece				
Ireland				
Italy				
Luxembourg				
Netherlands				
Norway				
Poland				
Portugal				
Slovakia				
Slovenia				
Spain				
Sweden				
Switzerland				
United Kingdom				

Source: "World Bank list of economies (February 2014)", on the World Bank website, [http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/DATAS-TATISTICS/0\\_contentMDK:20421402-menuPK:64133156-pagePK:64133150-piPK:64133175-theSitePK:239419,0.html#Lower\\_middle\\_income](http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/DATAS-TATISTICS/0_contentMDK:20421402-menuPK:64133156-pagePK:64133150-piPK:64133175-theSitePK:239419,0.html#Lower_middle_income)

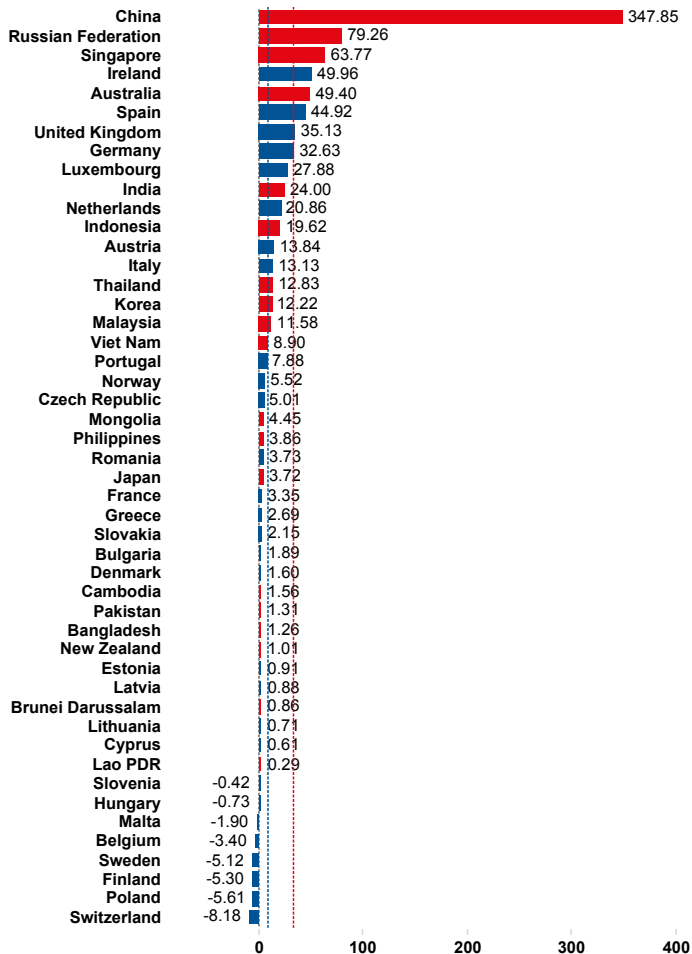
Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

This table classifies all World Bank member economies and all other economies with populations of more than 30,000. For operational and analytical purposes, economies are divided among income groups according to 2012 gross national income (GNI) per capita, calculated using the World Bank Atlas method. The groups are: low income, USD 1,035 or less; lower middle income, USD 1,036–4,085; upper middle income, USD 4,086–12,615; and high income, USD 12,616 or more. Other analytical groups based on geographic regions are also used.

Geographic classifications and data reported for geographic regions are for low-income and middle-income economies only. Low-income and middle-income economies are sometimes referred to as developing economies. The use of the term is convenient; it is not intended to imply that all economies in the group are experiencing similar development or that other economies have reached a preferred or final stage of development. Classification by income does not necessarily reflect development status.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

### 2.7a Foreign Direct Investment in ASEM Countries, Balance of Payments (net inflows, current billions USD, 2013)



Source: "Foreign direct investment, net inflows (BoP, current US\$)", on the World Bank website, [http:// data.world-bank.org/indicator/BX.KLT.DINV.CD.WD](http://data.world-bank.org/indicator/BX.KLT.DINV.CD.WD)

#### Group

- Asian ASEM countries<sup>15</sup>
- European ASEM countries

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is the net inflow of investment to acquire a lasting management interest (>10% of voting stock) in an enterprise operating abroad. It is the sum of equity capital, earning reinvestments, other long-term capital, and short-term capital as shown in the balance of payments.

<sup>15</sup> Data on Myanmar not available.

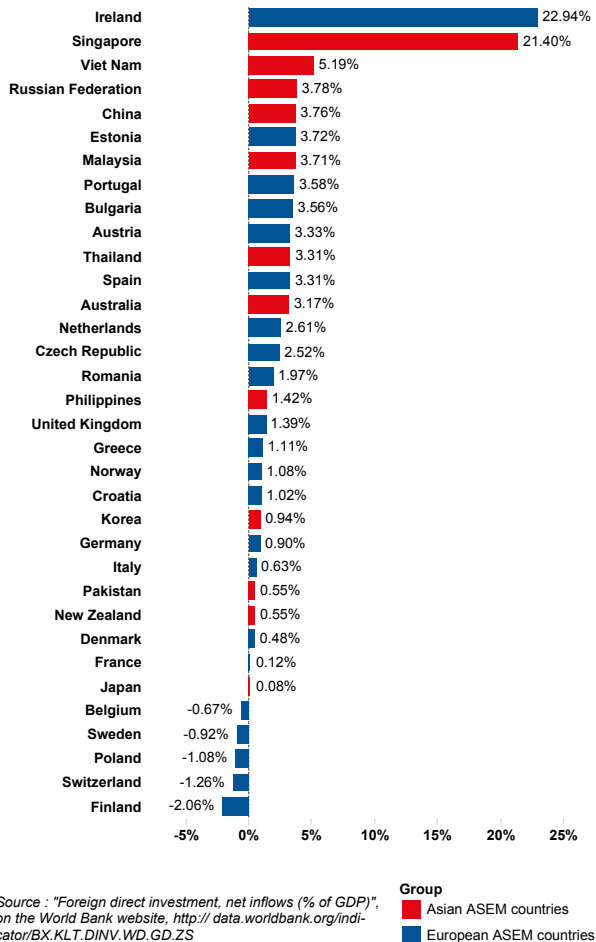
Global inflows of FDI fell by 18% in 2013 to USD 1.35 trillion, as the world economy slowed and uncertainty in some big economies made investors cautious. The European Union alone accounted for 2/3 of this decline. Inflows to developed countries fell by 1/3 to USD 561 billion, the lowest for a decade. Developing countries received 52% of global inflows, overtaking rich countries for the first time.

China again ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world, closing the gap with the USA to some USD 40 billion. FDI growth slowed in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as inflows to Singapore – the largest recipient in Southeast Asia – stagnated at USD 56 billion. However, prospects for this regional grouping continue to be promising, as more FDI arrives from China and Japan in a wide range of sectors, including infrastructure, finance and manufacturing. In 2013, FDI inflows to the 21 member economies of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) amounted to some USD 757 billion, which is on par with the FDI of the G20 and represents an 8% increase over 2012. Their share in global FDI inflows rose to 52%, which was 15 percentage points higher than that of the pre-crisis level.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> UNCTAD. Global Investment trends Monitor (28 January 2014).

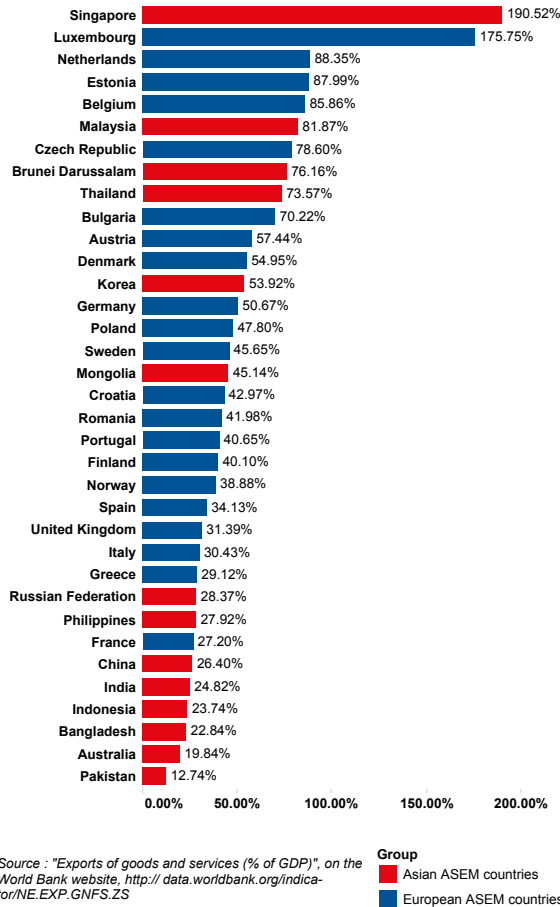
### 2.7b Foreign Direct Investment as percentage of GDP in ASEM Countries (net inflows, % of GDP, 2013)<sup>17</sup>



As a % of GDP, Ireland and Singapore are by far the largest recipients of FDI.

<sup>17</sup> Data provided only for 34 ASEM countries.

2.8a Exports of goods and services from ASEM Countries (% of GDP, 2012)<sup>18</sup>

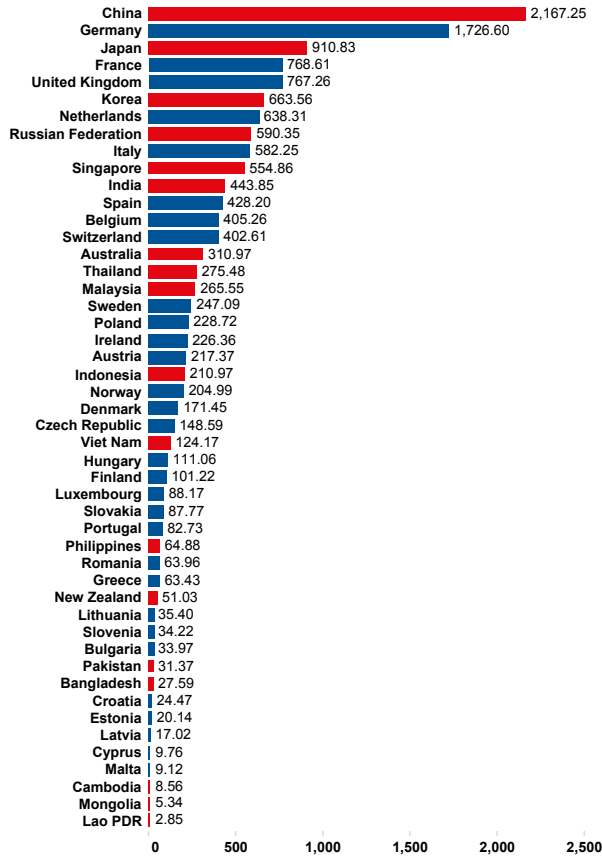


Exports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services provided to the rest of the world. They include the value of merchandise, freight, insurance, transport, travel, royalties, license fees, and other services, such as communication, construction, financial, information, business, personal, and government services.

Instead of trying to be self-sufficient and make all the products their population needs, small countries with high productivity like Singapore and Luxembourg specialise in a few highly-profitable industries. These industries thus produce more income from exports than the entire domestic economy.

At the same time exports as a percentage of GDP also provide us with a good estimation of a country’s sensitivity to external demand shocks. Several Asian countries, in particular, are currently trying to shift their economies from a mostly (external) demand-focused to a more (internal) consumption driven economy, in order to avoid shocks such as the one experienced with the ongoing global financial crisis affecting global demand patterns.

18 Data provided only for 35 ASEM countries.

2.8b Exports of goods and services from ASEM Countries (BoP, current USD billions, 2012)<sup>19</sup>

Source : "Exports of goods and services (BoP, current US\$)", on the World Bank website, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.GSR.GNFS.CD>

Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

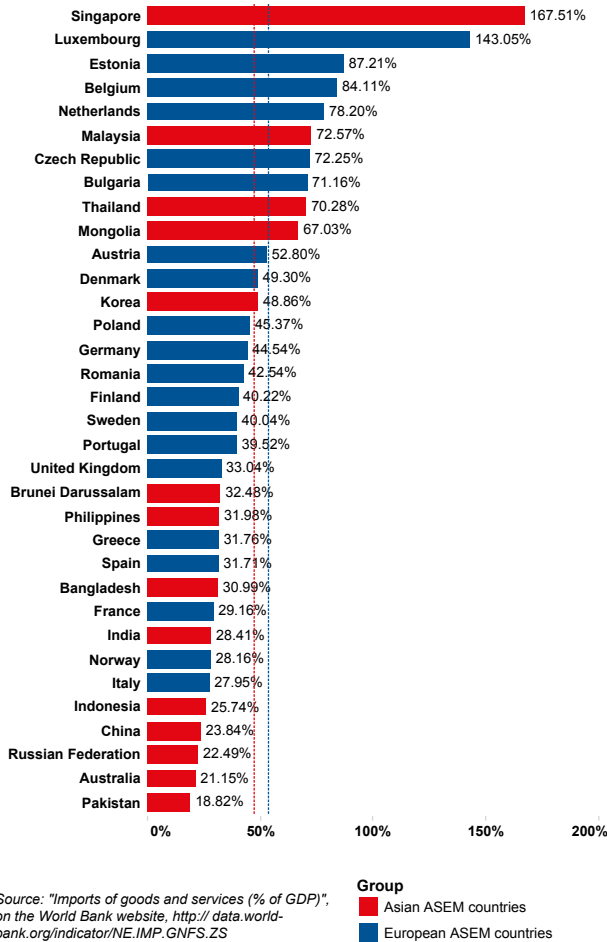
China has overtaken Germany as ASEM's (and the world's 2<sup>nd</sup>) largest exporter in the year 2009. At the same time, the role of exports as a driver of China's growth has been steadily diminishing in recent years: Between 2001 and 2008, exports contributed at least 30% of China's annual growth each year. Now that exports are growing at a rate less than 1/3 of that, their contribution to overall growth has also dropped substantially, possibly to between 10 and 13%.<sup>20</sup>

As a result of the European integration process, inter-European trade accounts for about 70% of the EU's total trade. Interestingly Asia has also been integrating rapidly in recent years, with trade within Asia accounting for about 50% of the region's total trade, up from about 25% in 1990.

<sup>19</sup> Data provided only for 35 ASEM countries.

<sup>20</sup> LSE. Xiaojun Li. China as a Trading Superpower and ECB-China's Economic Growth and Re-balancing (February 2013).

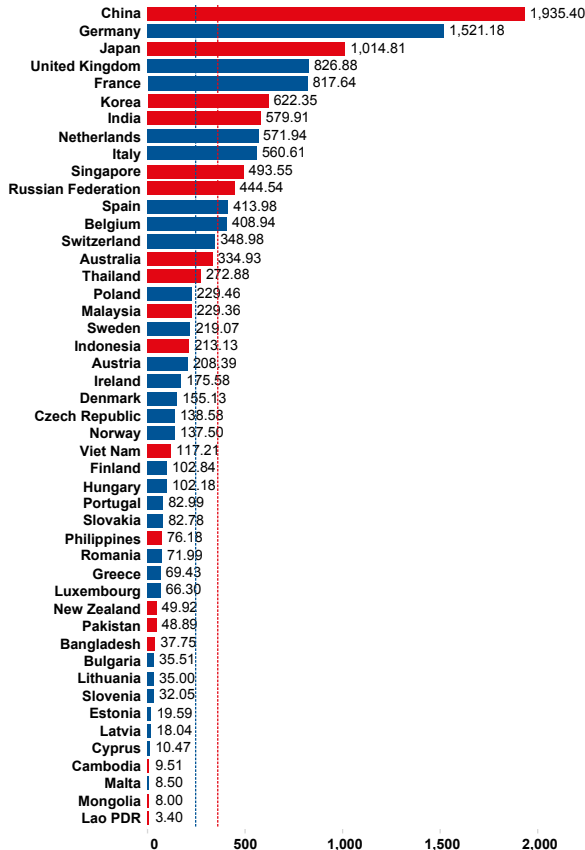
2.9a Imports of goods and services by ASEM Countries (% of GDP, 2013)<sup>21</sup>



Imports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services received from the rest of the world. They include the value of merchandise, freight, insurance, transport, travel, royalties, license fees, and other services, such as communication, construction, financial, information, business, personal, and government services. They exclude compensation of employees and investment income and transfer payments.

Just as is the case with their exports, small, high productivity economies like Luxembourg and Singapore, instead of trying to be self-sufficient and produce all the products their population needs, specialise in a few highly-profitable industries. These industries may produce more money from exports than the entire domestic economy. This money from exports allows them, in turn, to purchase imports far in excess of what their domestic economy could otherwise support.

21. Data provided only for 34 ASEM countries.

2.9b Imports of goods and services by ASEM Countries (BoP, current USD billions, 2012)<sup>22</sup>

Source: "Imports of goods and services (BoP, current US\$)", on the World Bank website, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BM.GSR.GNFS.CD>

**Group**  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

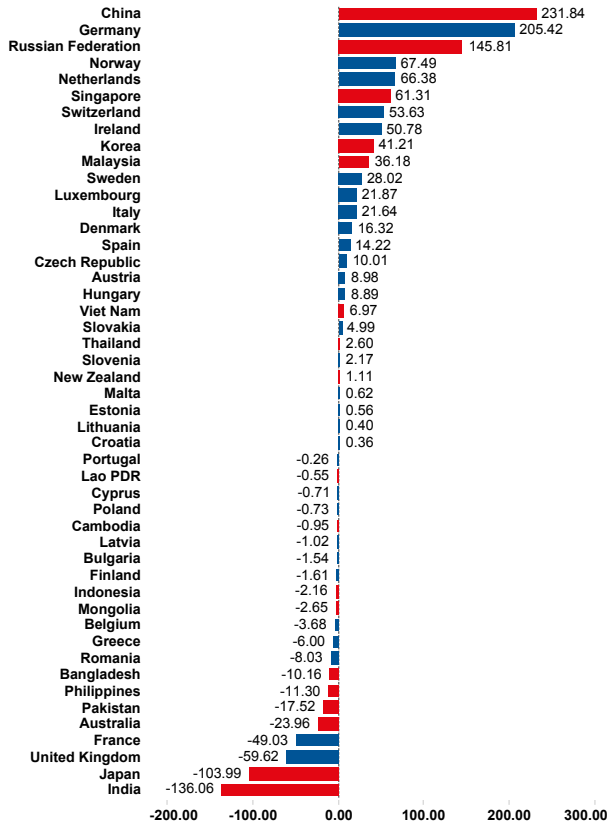
Imports of goods and services comprise all transactions between residents of a country and the rest of the world involving a change of ownership from non-residents to residents of general merchandise, non-monetary gold, and services.

In 2013, China surpassed the United States to become the world's biggest trading nation as measured by the sum of exports and imports of goods, and for many countries around the world, China is becoming the most important bilateral trade partner. By the end of the decade, many European countries will be doing more individual trade with China than with bilateral partners in Europe.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Data provided only for 35 ASEM countries.

<sup>23</sup> The Guardian. China Overtakes US in World Trade (11 February 2013).

2.10 ASEM Countries' trade balance (USD billions, 2012)



Source : "Exports of goods and services (BoP, current US\$)", on the World Bank website, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.GSR.GNFS.CD>  
 "Imports of goods and services (BoP, current US\$)", on the World Bank website, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BM.GSR.GNFS.CD>

Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries <sup>24</sup>  
■ European ASEM countries

In 2012, extra-euro-area imports and exports of goods accounted for almost 39% of euro area GDP, up from 25% in 1999. Trade in goods accounts for about three-quarters of total euro area external trade. Comparing the sectoral composition of extra-euro-area imports and exports, imports tend to have a larger share of energy and raw materials, while exports appear more heavily focused on processed goods. This reflects the international division of labour and the scarcity of raw materials in the euro-area. Trade in services makes up for the remaining quarter of total trade, with a rather similar sectorial breakdown for imports and exports

24 Data on Myanmar not available.

Both France and the United Kingdom have been posting systemic trade deficits for the last 10 years due the gradual erosion of their export-oriented industries and their increasing dependency on imports of fuel. Similarly, and despite being a leading exporter of petroleum products, gems and jewellery, textiles, engineering goods, chemicals and services, India had been recording sustained trade deficits due to a low export base and high imports of coal and oil for its energy needs. Lastly, and despite recording consistent large annual trade surpluses from 1970 to 2010, Japan has been posting trade deficits since 2011 as costs for imports have surged due to the weakening of the Japanese yen and increased purchases of fossil fuels and gas to make up for the loss of nuclear power following the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> ECB. External Trade in Goods and Services of the euro-area in 2012 and Japan Balance of Trade – 1963/2014 in Trading Economics.

### 2.11 Sovereign Wealth Funds assets of ASEM Countries, largest funds (USD, billions, 2014)

Member	Fund	Assets (USD Billions)
<b>Australia</b>	Australian Future Fund	\$95
<b>Brunei Darussalam</b>	Brunei Investment Agency	\$40
<b>China</b>	China Investment Corporation	\$653
	China-Africa Development Fund	\$5
	National Social Security Fund	\$202
	SAFE Investment Company	\$568
<b>France</b>	Strategic Investment Fund	\$26
<b>Ireland</b>	National Pensions Reserve Fund	\$27
<b>Italy</b>	Italian Strategic Fund	\$6
<b>Korea</b>	Korea Investment Corporation	\$72
<b>Malaysia</b>	Khazanah Nasional	\$41
<b>New Zealand</b>	New Zealand Superannuation Fund	\$22
<b>Norway</b>	Government Pension Fund-Global	\$878
<b>Russian Federation</b>	National Welfare Fund	\$88
	Reserve Fund	\$86
	Russian Direct Investment Fund	\$13
<b>Singapore</b>	Government of Singapore Investment Corporation	\$320
	Temasek Holdings	\$177
<b>Viet Nam</b>	State Capital Investment Corporation	\$1

Source: "Sovereign Wealth Fund Rankings, Largest Sovereign Wealth Funds by Assets Under Management", on the SWF website, updated 08/2014, <http://www.swfinstitute.org/fund-rankings/>

A sovereign wealth fund (SWF) is a state-owned investment fund investing in real and financial assets such as stocks, bonds, real estate, precious metals, or in alternative investments such as private equity funds or hedge funds. Sovereign wealth funds invest globally. Most SWFs are funded by revenues from commodity exports, or from foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank.

Some sovereign wealth funds may be held by a central bank, which accumulates the funds in the course of its management of a nation's banking system. This type of fund is usually of major economic and fiscal importance. Other sovereign wealth funds are simply the state savings that are invested by various entities for the purposes of investment return, and that may not have a significant role in fiscal management.

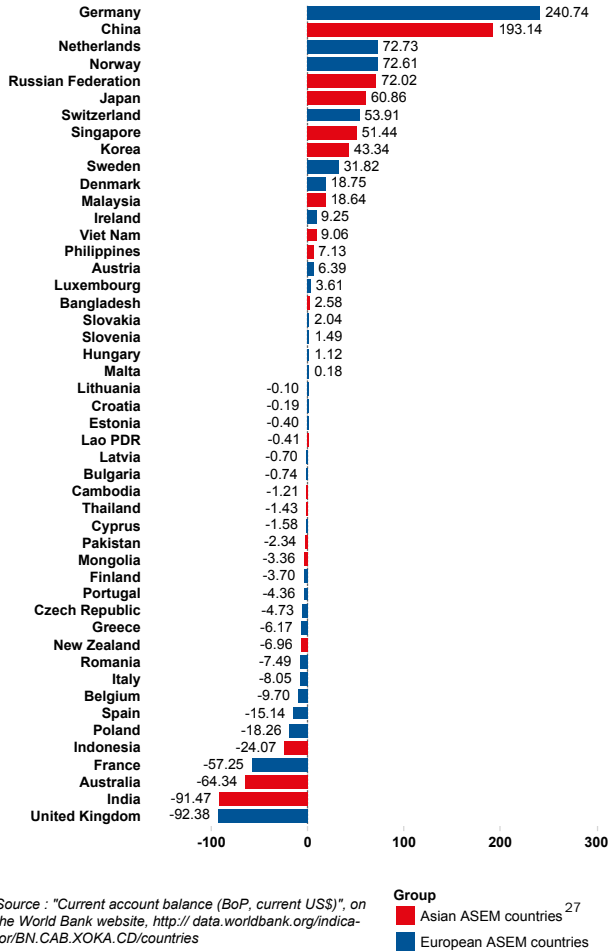
Common SWF objectives include: the protection and stabilisation of the economy from excess volatility in revenues and exports; the diversification from non-renewable commodity exports; earning greater returns than on foreign exchange reserves; assisting monetary authorities in dissipating, unwanted liquidity; or increasing the savings for future generations.

Since 2005, at least 30 SWFs have been created around the world, with their assets skyrocketing, fuelled by rising commodity prices led by oil and gas.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Sovereign Wealth Funds Institute (August 2013).

2.12 Current account balance of ASEM Countries (BoP, current USD billions, 2012)



The balance of payments (BoP) is the place where countries record their monetary transactions with the rest of the world. A country's current account is therefore one of the two components of its balance of payments, the other being the capital account. The current account consists of the balance of trade, net factor income (earnings on foreign investments minus payments made to foreign investors) and net cash transfers.

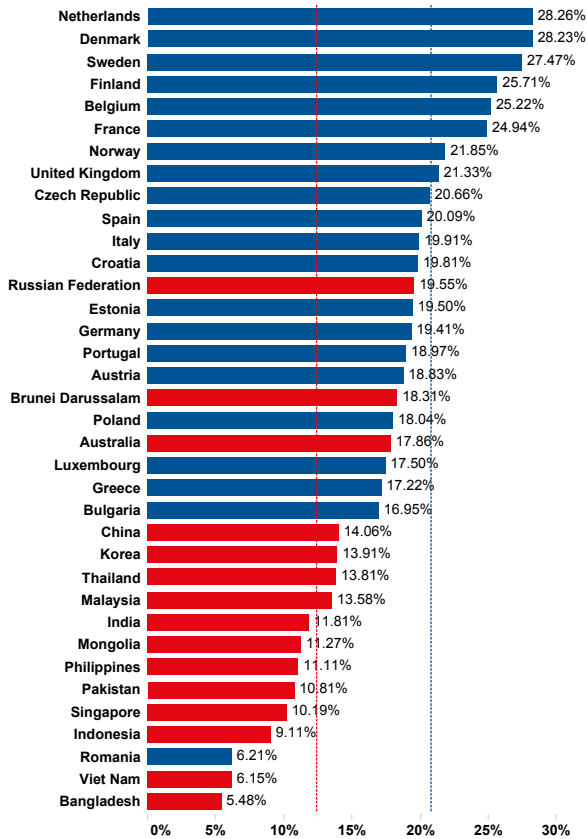
27 Data not provided for Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar.

Germany's ever-widening current account surplus has raised many intense debates in recent years among European policy-makers and economists. Germany has indeed maintained a large (and growing) current account surplus throughout the euro area financial crisis, and since 2011, Germany's nominal current account surplus is larger than that of China. Meanwhile, Germany's anaemic pace of domestic demand growth and dependence on exports have hampered a rebalancing at a time when many other euro area countries have been under severe pressure to curb demand and compress imports in order to promote adjustment. The net result, according to some economists, has been a deflationary bias for the euro area, as well as for the world economy.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> The Telegraph "US says German exports harming Eurozone Economy" (30 October 2013).

2.13 General government final consumption expenditure of ASEM Countries (% of GDP, 2013)<sup>29</sup>



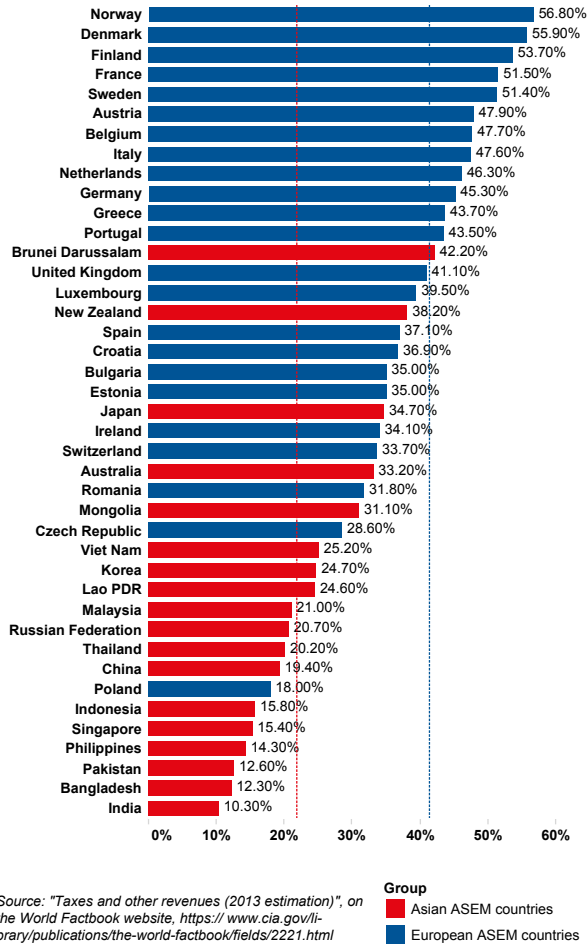
Source : "General government final consumption expenditure (% of GDP)", on the World Bank website, <http://data.world-bank.org/indicator/NE.CON.GOVV.ZS>

Group  
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■ European ASEM countries

General government final consumption expenditure (formerly general government consumption) includes all government current expenditure for purchases of goods and services (including compensation of employees). It also includes most expenditure on national defence and security, but excludes government military expenditure that is part of government capital formation.

Data on government final consumption expenditure sheds light on the involvement of governments in providing goods and services for the direct needs of the population. A high government share in the provision of individual consumption goods and services is often found in countries known as welfare states.

<sup>29</sup> Data provided only for 36 ASEM countries.

2.14 Taxes and other revenues of ASEM Countries (% of GDP, 2013 estimate)<sup>30</sup>

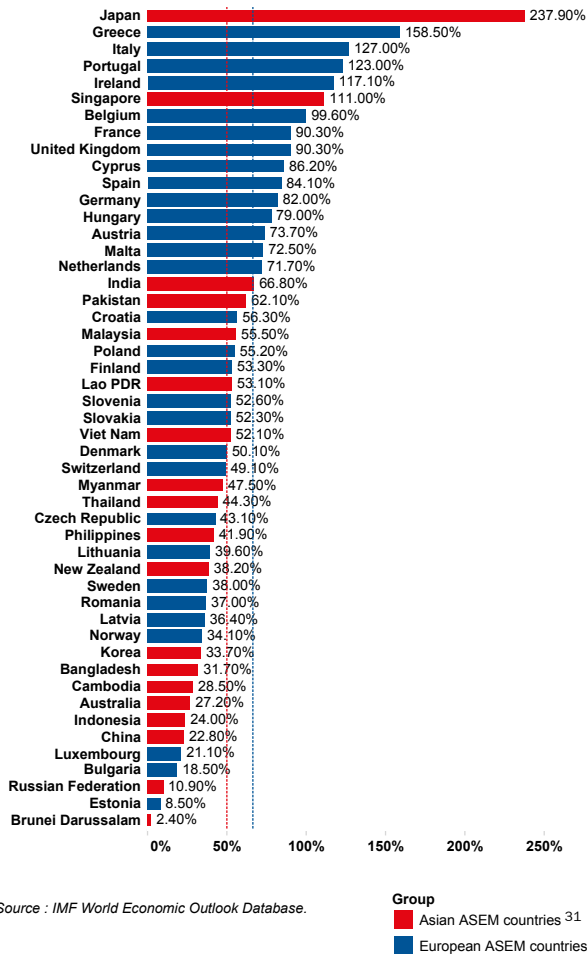
The data captures the total taxes and other revenues received by the national government during the time period indicated, expressed as a percentage of GDP. Taxes cover personal and corporate income taxes, value added taxes, excise taxes, and tariffs. Other revenues allow for social contributions – such as payment for social security and hospital insurance – grants, and net revenues from public enterprise.

<sup>30</sup> Data provided only for 41 ASEM countries.

As of 2013, the share of taxes and other revenues received by governments of Asia and Europe ranges from as much as 56.8% of GDP for Norway to 4.1% of GDP for Myanmar. In addition to inequalities of opportunity to create wealth through trade and other economic activities, countries are also unequal with regards to availability of funds to provide for public services and other necessary investments. Unsurprisingly, the governments receiving the largest share of taxes and other revenues as a percentage of GDP are European countries, where income on taxes and other revenues accounts for around half of GDP in countries like France, Sweden, Germany and the United Kingdom. Brunei Darussalam is somewhat surprising compared to its Asian counterparts, as its gain on taxes and other revenue amounts to 42.2% of GDP before Japan, Singapore, Australia and other European countries such as the UK, Luxembourg and Ireland.

The majority of South and Southeast Asian states are counted amongst the least remunerated governments when it comes to taxes and other revenues. This may trigger a need to boost tax revenue and public spending, together with the necessity to develop the domestic economy and wealth creation.

2.15 Public debt in ASEM Countries (% of GDP 2012, estimate)



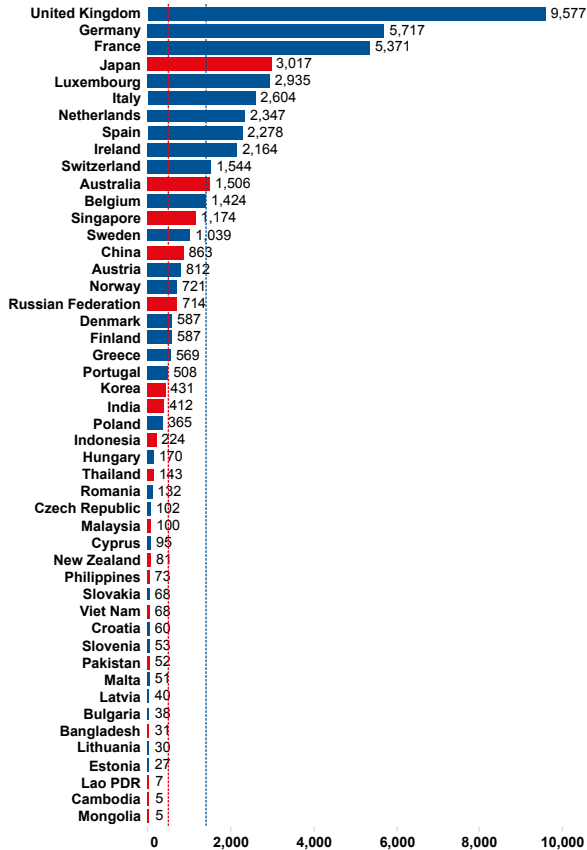
The debt-to-GDP ratio is the ratio between a country’s government debt and its gross domestic product (GDP). A low debt-to-GDP ratio indicates an economy that produces and sells goods and services sufficient to pay back debts without incurring further debt. Governments aim for low debt-to-GDP ratios, but geopolitical and economic considerations - including interest rates, war, recessions, and other variables - influence the borrowing practices of a nation and the choice to incur further debt.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Data not provided for Mongolia.

<sup>32</sup> What does Debt-to-GDP-ratio stand for? In Acronyms and Abbreviations, a member of the STANDS4 NETWORK.

Japan has the highest debt-to-GDP ratio in the world, but unlike most other countries with a high debt-to-GDP ratio, Japan's debt is mostly held by its citizens, rather than foreign entities which only hold 5% of the Japanese debt. Japan's debt load has passed the numerically staggering level of Yen 1 quadrillion (Yen 1,000,000,000,000,000). In US dollar terms, it is around USD 10.5 trillion.<sup>33</sup>

### 2.16 External debt of ASEM Countries (USD billions, 2012 or 2013 estimate)



Source : "Debt - external", on the World Factbook website, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2019rank.html>

Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries<sup>34</sup>  
■ European ASEM countries

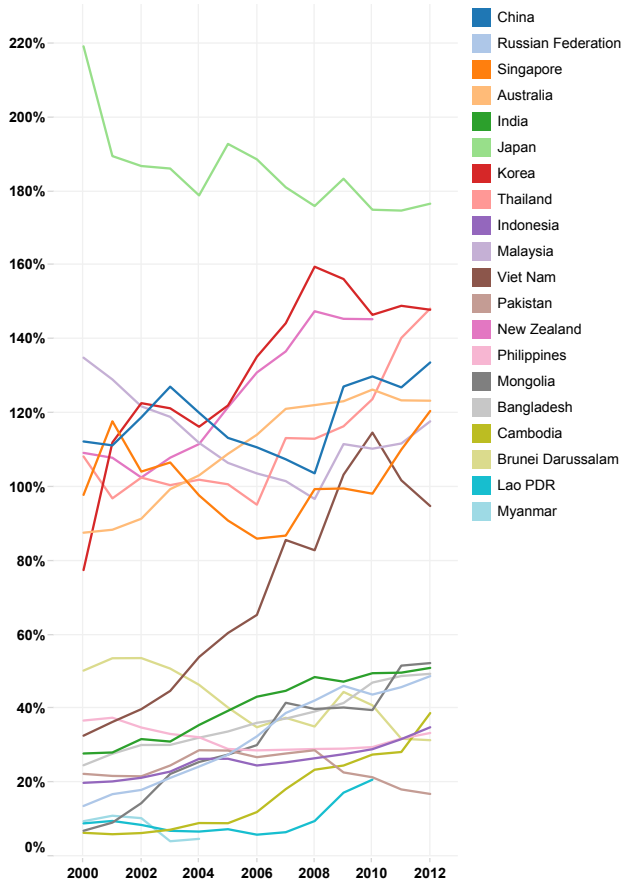
The external debt compares the total public and private debt owed to non-residents repayable in foreign currency, goods, or services. These figures are calculated on an exchange rate basis.

<sup>33</sup> Quartz. With a duadrillion in debt, there is only one way out for Japan (12 August 2013).

<sup>34</sup> Data not provided for Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar.

The United Kingdom has comparatively large amounts of overseas debt, of which the biggest component is the banking industry. Its high debt-to-GDP ratio (the former being more than 4 times the size of the latter) is explained by the country's active financial sector, which typically has a lot of capital movement.<sup>35</sup> This level of overall external debt is generally not seen as a problem because the United Kingdom also holds high-value assets.

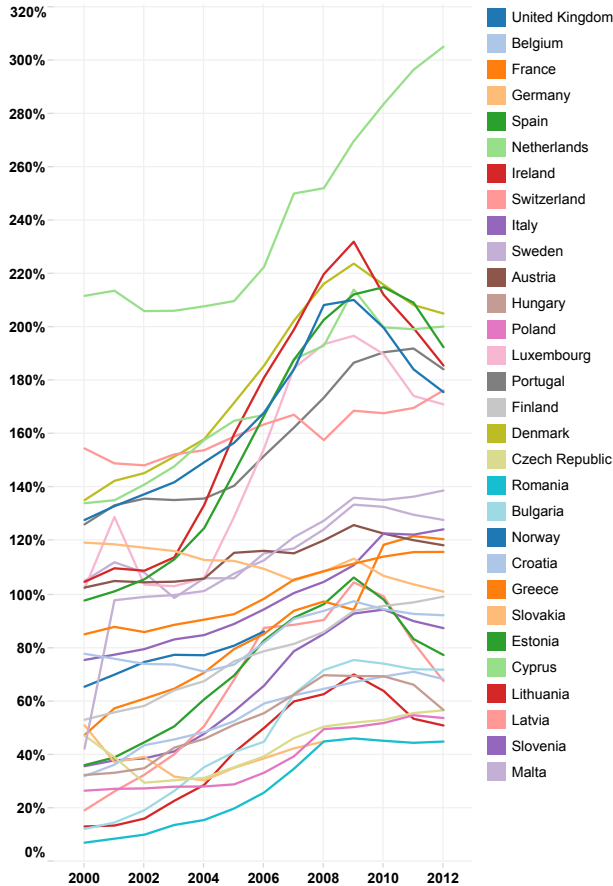
**2.17a Domestic credit to private sector in Asian ASEM countries (% of GDP, 2000-2012)**



Source : "Domestic credit to private sector (% of GDP) ", on the World Bank website, [http:// data.worldbank.org/indicator/FS.AST.PRVT.GD.ZS](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FS.AST.PRVT.GD.ZS)

35 IMF. G7. Borrowing from Abroad, Finance and Development (June 2012).

2.17b Domestic credit to private sector in European ASEM countries (% of GDP, 2000-2012)



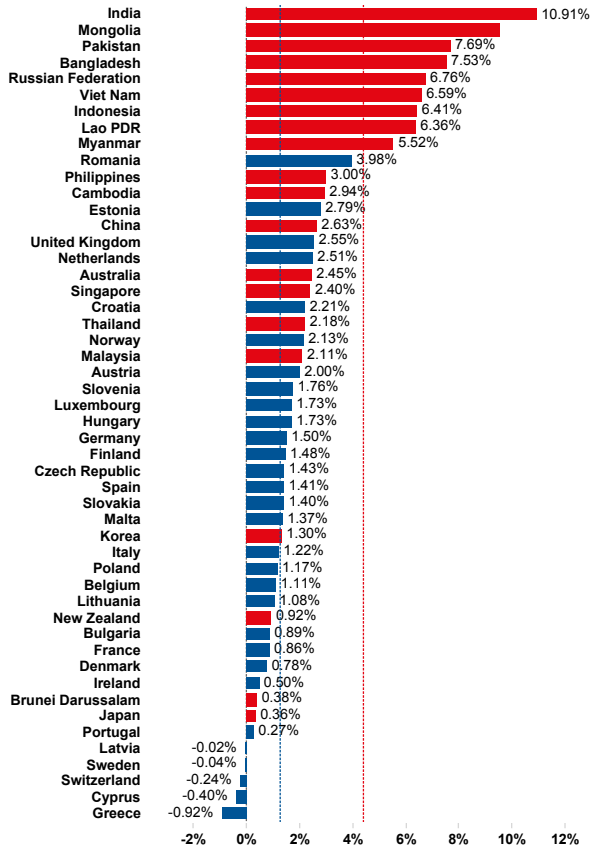
Source : "Domestic credit to private sector (% of GDP) ", on the World Bank website, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FS.AST.PRVT.GD.ZS>

Domestic credit to private sector refers to financial resources provided to the private sector, such as loans, purchases of nonequity securities, and trade credits and other accounts receivable, that establish a claim for repayment. For some countries, these claims include credit to public enterprises.

In the aftermath of the global financial crisis, households in the advanced economies have been consuming less to shed debt and bolster their balance sheets, a trend often referred to as deleveraging and clearly visible after 2008/09. This followed a period of unusual credit expansion enabled by the globalisation of banking and low interest rates among mature economies.

Asia, on the other hand, may have been relatively unscathed by the global financial crisis in this respect, as most Asian economies did not build up unsustainable debt levels during this period, having perhaps learned their lesson from the 1997/98 Asian financial crisis.

## 2.18 Inflation, consumer prices in ASEM Countries (annual %, 2013)



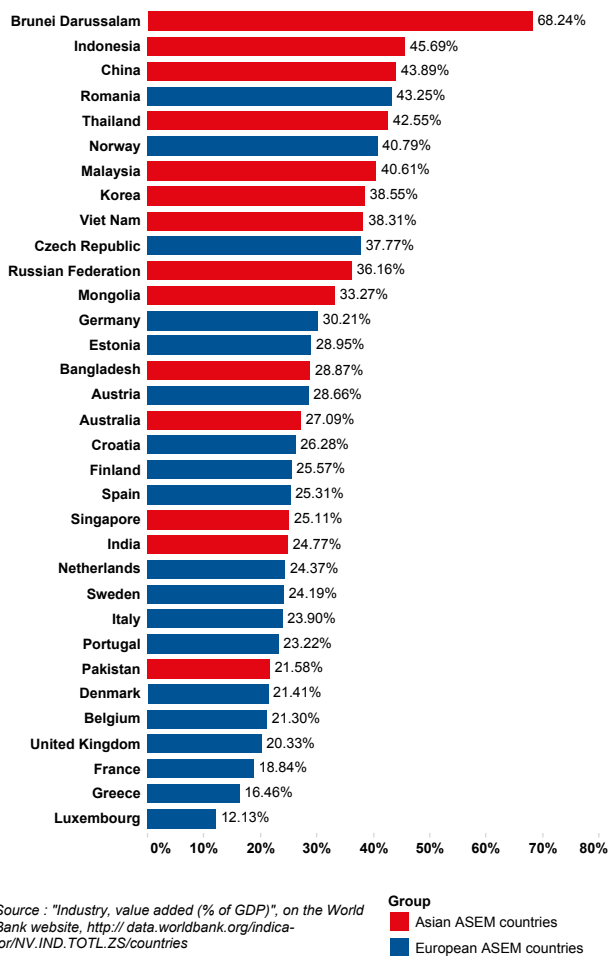
Source : "Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)", on the world bank website, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FP.CPI.TOTL.ZG>

Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

Inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), reveals the annual percentage change in the cost to the average consumer of acquiring a basket of goods and services that may be fixed or changed at specified intervals, such as yearly. Here, the percentage increase on the price of a (given) basket of goods and services is measured for the year 2013, i.e. the increase in price for a basket of goods between 2012 and 2013.

Asian countries with high inflation rate include India, Mongolia, Pakistan and Bangladesh, all of them being above 7%. Inflation is low in Europe, with some countries experiencing deflation.

### 2.19 Value added by industry in ASEM Countries (% of GDP, 2013)<sup>36</sup>



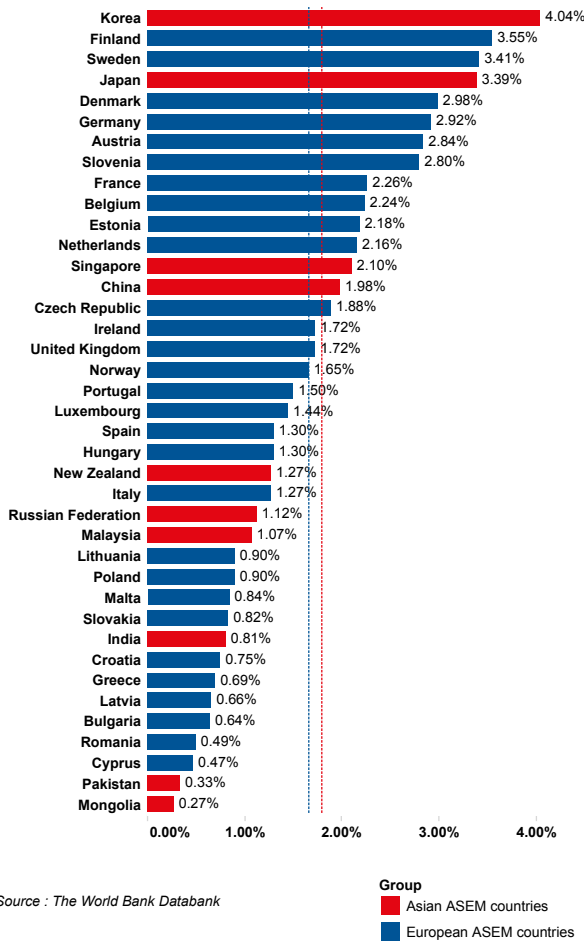
Industry corresponds to the classification under the divisions 10-45 and 15-37 by the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC). It comprises value added in mining, manufacturing, construction, electricity, water, and gas. Value added denotes the net output of an industry after adding up all outputs and subtracting intermediate inputs, and is calculated without making deductions for the depreciation of fabricated assets or depletion and degradation of natural resources.

<sup>36</sup> Data provided only for 33 ASEM countries.

Over the 2000-2013 period, the world value added in relevant industries decreased by around 9.1%. This indicates that the value created in the different sectors observed is now less important than it used to be in 2000.

Except for Romania and Norway, whose industry value added accounted respectively for 43.25% and 40.79% of GDP in 2013, most of the value added by industry is generated in Asia: countries like Indonesia, China, Thailand and Malaysia are among the largest producers of manufactured goods and the best performing countries in terms of industry value added as a % of GDP in 2013. Brunei Darussalam is a special case due to its specialization in fossil fuel production.

2.20 Research and Development expenditure in ASEM Countries (% of GDP, 2012)<sup>37</sup>



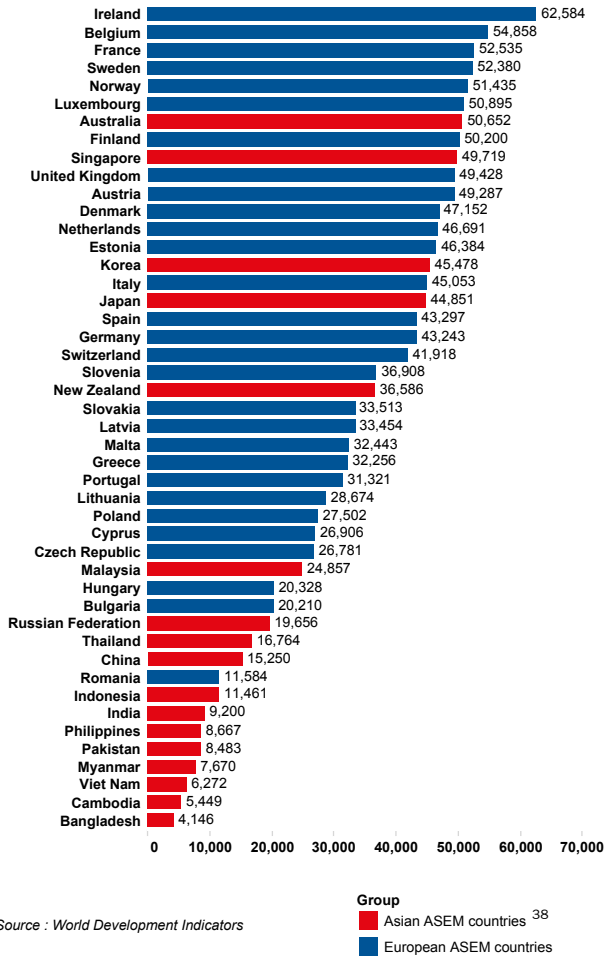
Research and development (R&D) expenditure as percentage of GDP refers to current and capital expenditure (both public and private) on creative work undertaken systematically to increase knowledge, including knowledge of humanity, culture, and society, and the use of knowledge for new applications. It covers basic research, applied research and experimental development.

R&D is an important component of public policy as it seeks to foster innovation and creativity and to generate knowledge in areas as diverse as technology, business, education, culture and security. It is a way to secure economic growth and prosperity for future generations.

Although many voices among academics and politicians praise the benefits of R&D, and the public policy discourse promoting its importance is well-known, the budget reserved to its delivery remains scarce. Only a few countries allocate up to 3% or more of GDP to R&D.

<sup>37</sup> Data provided only for 35 ASEM countries.

2.21 GDP per person employed in ASEM Countries (PPP, constant 1990 USD, 2012)



GDP per person employed is gross domestic product (GDP) divided by total employment in the economy. Purchasing power parity (PPP) GDP is GDP converted to 1990 constant international dollars using PPP rates. An international dollar has the same purchasing power over GDP that a US dollar has in the United States.

38 Data not provided for Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar.

GDP per person employed is also a general measure of labour productivity for the entire economy. Despite finding itself in the midst of a major economic downturn, the productivity of the Irish workforce in 2012 was 43% higher than the EU average.<sup>39</sup>

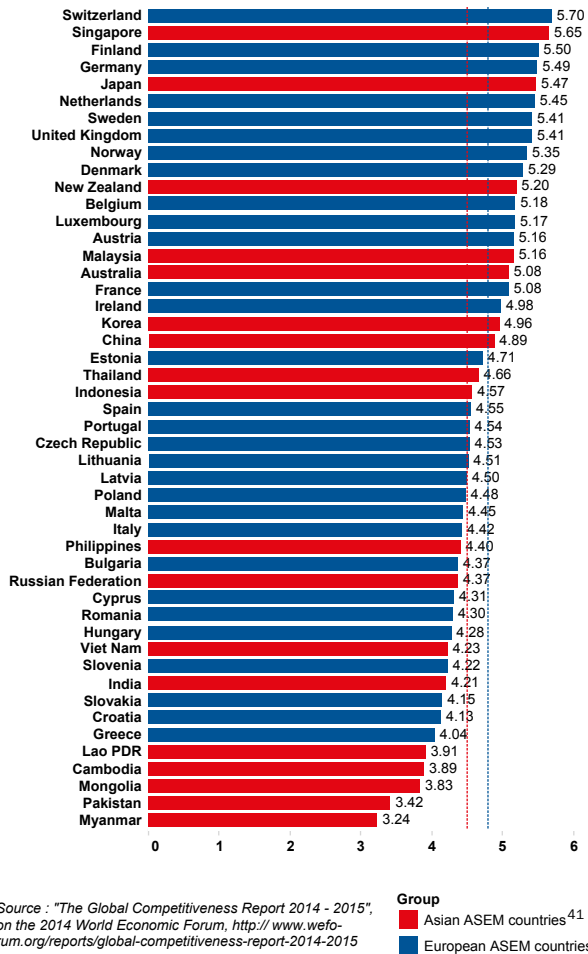
Meanwhile, although Singapore had the 2nd highest level of GDP per capita among all ASEM Countries, it had a relatively low level of GDP per person employed. The difference is related to Singapore having the highest average annual hours worked per employed person and the highest employment to population ratio.<sup>40</sup>

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39 Ireland Central Statistics Office. Measuring Ireland's progress, 2012.

40 BLS International Comparisons of GDP per Capita and per Hour (7 November 2012).

## 2.22 The Global Competitiveness Index, World Economic Forum (2014-2015)



The Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) from the World Economic Forum (WEF) provides a useful benchmark for assessing a country's competitiveness that is widely accepted as the key driver for sustaining prosperity and raising the well-being of its citizens.

The top of the rankings continue to be dominated by highly-advanced European economies and several Asian tigers. For the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Switzerland leads the top 10, and again this year Singapore ranks as the 2<sup>nd</sup> most competitive economy in the world. Overall, the rankings at the top have remained rather stable, although it is worth noting the significant progress made by Japan, which rose 3 ranks to 6<sup>th</sup> position.

41. Data not provided for Bangladesh and Brunei Darussalam.

Many countries in Southern, Central and Eastern Europe, such as Portugal, Italy, Bulgaria, Romania, and Greece, score relatively low. This wide-ranging performance within Europe highlights the persistence of a competitiveness divide between a highly competitive Northern Europe and a less competitive Southern and Eastern Europe.

The competitiveness landscape in Asia and the Pacific remains very mixed. The region is home to some of the most competitive nations and some of the most dynamic and rapidly improving economies such as Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. On the other hand, according to “the Global Competitiveness Report”, a number of mostly South Asian countries have been unable to improve their competitiveness.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> Same source as graph.

## 2.23 The Doing Business Index, World Bank (ASEM Rank/World Rank, 2014)

	ASEM Rank of Doing Business Index	Doing Business Index (World Rank)
Singapore	1	1
New Zealand	2	3
Denmark	3	5
Malaysia	4	6
Korea	5	7
Norway	6	9
United Kingdom	7	10
Australia	8	11
Finland	9	12
Sweden	10	14
Ireland	11	15
Lithuania	12	17
Thailand	13	18
Germany	14	21
Estonia	15	22
Latvia	16	24
Japan	17	27
Netherlands	18	28
Switzerland	19	29
Austria	20	30
Portugal	21	31
Slovenia	22	33
Belgium	23	36
France	24	38
Cyprus	25	39
Poland	26	45
Slovakia	27	49
Spain	28	52
Hungary	29	54
Bulgaria	30	58
Brunei Darussalam	31	59
Luxembourg	32	60
Italy	33	65
Greece	34	72
Romania	35	73
Czech Republic	36	75
Mongolia	37	76
Croatia	38	89
Russian Federation	39	92
China	40	96
Viet Nam	41	99
Malta	42	103
Philippines	43	108
Pakistan	44	110
Indonesia	45	120
Bangladesh	46	130
India	47	134
Cambodia	48	137
Lao PDR	49	159
Myanmar	50	182

## Group

 Asian ASEM countries

 European ASEM countries

Source : "Economy Rankings", on the Doing Business website, <http://www.doingbusiness.org/rankings>

The World Bank's Doing Business Index ranks countries on their ease of doing business. A high ranking on the ease of doing business index means the regulatory environment is more conducive to the starting and operation of a local firm.

Singapore topped the global ranking on the ease of doing business. Joining it on the list of the top 10 economies with the most business-friendly regulatory environments are Hong Kong SAR (China); New Zealand; the United States; Denmark; Malaysia; the Republic of Korea; Georgia; Norway and the United Kingdom. Meanwhile, the Russian Federation and the Philippines were among the ASEM economies improving the most in 2012/13 in areas tracked by Doing Business.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> Same source as graph.

### 2.24a Remittance inflows into ASEM Countries, absolute (USD, millions, 2010-2013) and as percentage of GDP (% of GDP, 2010-2013)<sup>44</sup>

Migrant remittance inflows (USD millions)	2010	2011	2012	2013E	Remittances (% of GDP)
Australia	1,587	1,846	2,006	2,186	0.10%
Austria	2,529	2,919	2,754	2,897	0.70%
Bangladesh	10,850	12,071	14,120	13,776	12.20%
Belgium	10,287	10,975	10,123	10,566	2.10%
Bulgaria	1,333	1,483	1,449	1,609	2.80%
Cambodia	153	160	256	278	1.80%
China	52,460	61,576	57,987	60,000	0.70%
Croatia	1,212	1,348	1,385	1,499	2.50%
Cyprus	135	127	117	121	0.50%
Czech Republic	2,016	2,075	2,026	2,186	1.00%
Denmark	1,078	1,357	1,274	1,280	0.40%
Estonia	320	407	401	455	1.80%
Finland	848	751	866	1,081	0.30%
France	19,462	22,562	21,676	22,863	0.80%
Germany	12,789	14,647	13,964	14,496	0.40%
Greece	1,499	1,186	681	830	0.30%
Hungary	2,144	2,278	2,144	2,272	1.70%
India	53,480	62,499	68,821	69,969	3.70%
Indonesia	6,916	6,924	7,212	7,614	0.80%
Ireland	658	755	700	722	0.30%
Italy	6,803	7,025	7,326	7,536	0.40%
Japan	1,684	2,132	2,540	2,651	0.00%
Korea	7,058	8,373	8,474	8,765	0.80%
Lao PDR	42	110	59	64	0.60%
Latvia	614	695	730	770	2.60%
Lithuania	1,674	1,956	1,508	1,964	3.60%
Luxembourg	1,629	1,768	1,681	1,767	2.90%
Malaysia	1,103	1,211	1,320	1,443	0.40%
Malta	36	37	33	35	0.40%
Mongolia	266	279	320	343	3.10%
Myanmar	115	127	127	127	
Netherlands	1,696	1,759	1,617	1,638	0.20%
Norway	680	765	767	808	0.20%
Pakistan	9,690	12,263	14,006	14,626	6.10%
Philippines	21,369	23,058	24,641	25,351	9.80%
Poland	7,575	7,641	6,935	7,157	1.40%
Portugal	3,545	3,778	3,904	4,288	1.80%
Romania	3,879	3,889	3,674	3,862	2.20%
Russian Federation	5,250	6,103	5,788	6,862	0.30%
Slovakia	1,591	1,753	1,928	1,971	2.10%
Slovenia	347	489	644	700	1.40%
Spain	9,099	9,917	9,633	10,133	0.70%
Sweden	762	928	812	1,113	0.20%
Switzerland	2,829	3,116	3,039	3,161	0.50%
Thailand	3,580	4,554	4,713	5,555	1.30%
United Kingdom	1,696	1,796	1,776	1,784	0.10%
Viet Nam	8,260	8,600	10,000	11,000	7.10%

Source: "Remittances Data", under the "Migration & Remittances Data", on the World Bank website, <http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTDECPROSPECTS/0,,content-MDK:22759429~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:476883,00.html>

44 No data provided for Brunei Darussalam and Singapore.

2.24b Remittance outflows from ASEM Countries (USD, millions, 2010-2013)<sup>45</sup>

Migrant remittance outflows (USD million)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Australia	1,531	2,051	2,981	3,366	3,224	4,025	4,819	5,116
Austria	2,120	2,245	2,651	3,123	2,897	3,123	3,216	3,154
Bangladesh	5	3	3	14	8	9	12	12
Belgium	2,427	2,564	3,202	4,048	4,238	4,150	4,573	4,243
Brunei Darussalam	376	405	430	420	445			
Bulgaria	35	50	103	162	101	25	26	27
Cambodia	128	120	118	171	159	171	150	152
China	3,123	3,025	4,372	6,349	4,444	1,754	3,566	4,274
Croatia	96	118	154	177	167	145	159	144
Cyprus	241	240	305	501	345	363	460	468
Czech Republic	1,163	1,460	2,075	3,348	2,746	2,276	2,303	2,002
Denmark	1,488	1,766	3,020	3,977	3,425	2,826	3,134	2,949
Estonia	50	75	93	98	78	94	86	87
Finland	266	331	391	457	454	517	467	821
France	4,182	5,511	5,998	6,253	13,899	11,937	12,725	12,404
Germany	12,710	12,700	14,082	15,234	15,770	14,674	16,202	15,392
Greece	902	982	1,460	1,912	1,843	1,932	1,941	1,438
Hungary	912	981	1,367	1,536	1,229	1,193	1,292	1,168
India	1,348	1,562	2,059	3,812	2,890	3,829	4,078	4,963
Indonesia	1,179	1,359	1,654	1,971	2,702	2,840	3,164	3,634
Ireland	1,441	1,853	2,520	2,672	2,549	2,267	2,194	1,996
Italy	7,546	8,352	11,182	13,058	12,868	11,580	13,017	10,754
Japan	1,150	3,332	3,639	4,548	3,932	4,366	4,536	4,043
Korea	7,014	7,563	8,112	7,980	7,611	9,954	10,276	10,084
Lao PDR	1	5	6	9	22	19	76	70
Latvia	20	30	45	58	46	43	47	68
Lithuania	47	426	567	652	680	553	1,028	1,135
Luxembourg	6,556	7,383	9,055	10,807	10,553	10,226	11,345	10,976
Malaysia	5,679	5,597	6,388	6,786	6,529	1,753	1,971	2,305
Malta	28	43	49	53	47	47	37	34
Mongolia	40	77	90	172	83	169	336	523
Myanmar	19	31						
Netherlands	3,519	3,755	8,714	11,120	10,237	9,259	10,741	10,674
New Zealand	55	53	66	93	82	93	119	125
Norway	2,174	2,597	3,577	4,750	4,174	4,118	4,427	4,860
Pakistan	3	3	2		8	9	28	34
Philippines							133	162
Poland	738	820	1,208	1,741	1,378	1,575	1,583	1,636
Portugal	1,131	1,211	1,129	1,234	1,298	1,259	1,444	1,174
Romania	27	49	344	651	299	359	363	339
Russian Federation	6,827	12,104	19,881	29,719	21,148	21,454	26,010	31,648
Slovakia	39	48	73	144	138	70	70	154
Slovenia	91	140	248	380	246	196	198	187
Spain	7,668	10,755	14,000	14,022	12,144	11,557	12,283	10,458
Sweden	537	585	885	915	822	820	1,103	953
Switzerland	13,311	14,409	16,378	19,150	19,834	22,277	28,431	28,598
Thailand					2,558	2,397	2,631	2,683
United Kingdom	2,876	3,501	3,440	3,255	2,240	2,300	2,073	2,010

Source: "Remittances Data", under the "Migration & Remittances Data", on the World Bank web-site, <http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTDECPROSPECTS/0,,contentMDK:22759429~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:476883,00.html>

45 No data provided for Singapore and Viet Nam.

Remittances constitute an important share of GDP for a vast number of countries around the world. For countries like Bangladesh, the Philippines or Pakistan, it constitutes a substantial share of their GDP.

In the balance of payments statistics framework, workers' remittances cover goods and financial instruments transferred by migrants living and working in new to residents of economies in which the migrant formerly resided.

Remittances can be defined as the sum of selected balance of payment inflows and outflows such as personal transfers, personal remittances and total remittances.

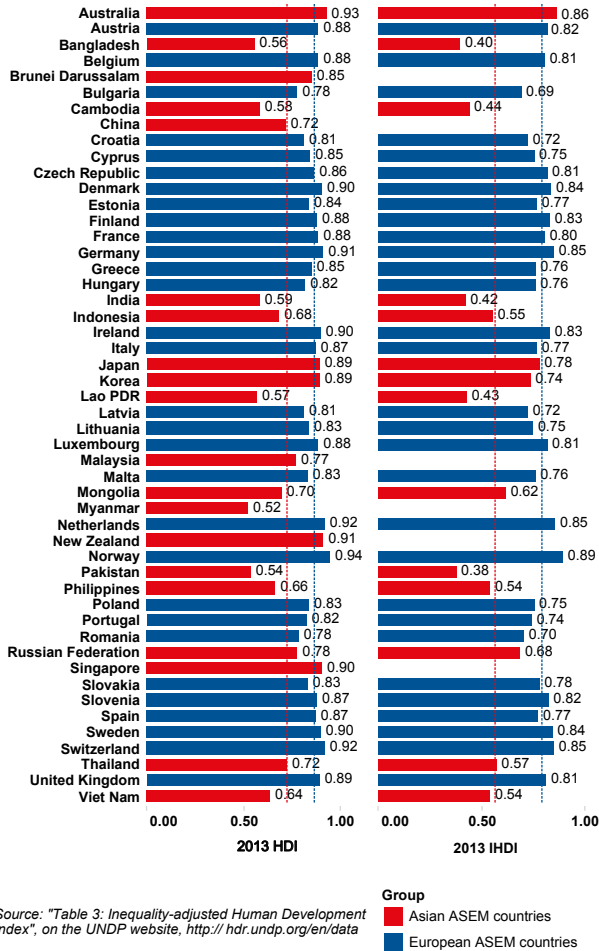
In Bangladesh, the Philippines, Viet Nam and Pakistan, remittances inflows represent a very significant share of GDP.

# 3 FACTS AND FIGURES: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Social development describes the mostly qualitative changes in the structure and framework of society.

Here, we selected the latest Human Development Index (HDI) and the Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI), the Gini Index as well as selected labour and gender specific statistics to illustrate the progress of social development among ASEM member states, although all other sections of this volume (culture, education, public health and energy) are naturally also part of the broader human social development spectrum.

3.1 Human Development Index (HDI, 2013) and Inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI, 2013) in ASEM Countries



UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite indicator of life expectancy, education, and income indices used to rank countries in terms of their human development level.

In 2010, the UNDP Human Development Report introduced a further, Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI). While the simple HDI remains useful, it stated that "the IHDI is the actual level of human development (accounting for inequality)" and "the HDI can be viewed as an index of "potential" human development (or the maximum IHDI that could be achieved if there were no inequality)".

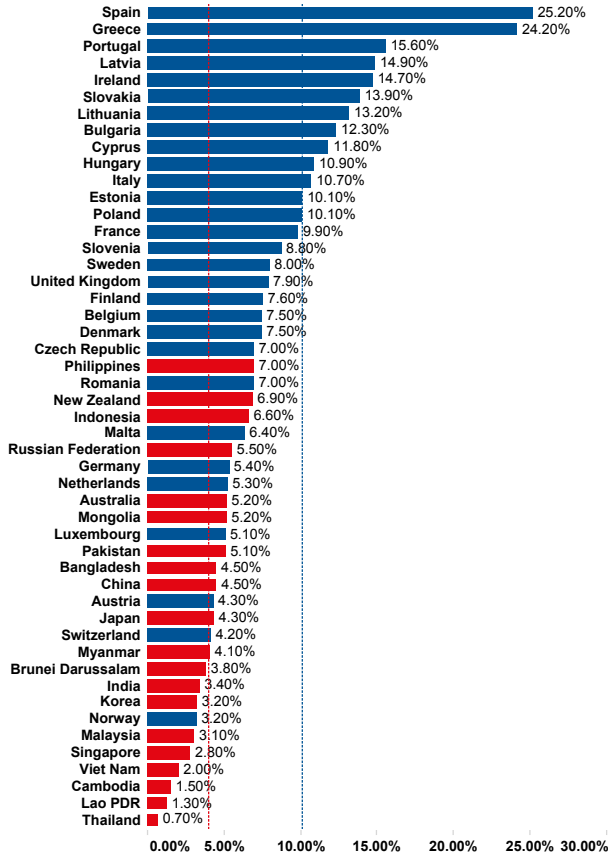
When the difference in rank between the HDI and the IHDl for each country is calculated, some interesting observations come to the fore. First of all, it appears that many Asian and notably Eastern European countries perform relatively better in terms of the IHDl if compared to the HDI. This in turn means that incomes are somewhat equitably spread among the population, and/or that government efforts to boost education have narrowed inequalities between income groups.

A major exception is Korea, which falls 14 places when its HDI and IHDl are compared. This points to the existence of deep structural inequalities in both income and access to education within Korean society.<sup>1</sup>

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1 Same source as graph.

3.2 Total unemployment rate of ASEM Countries (% , 2012)



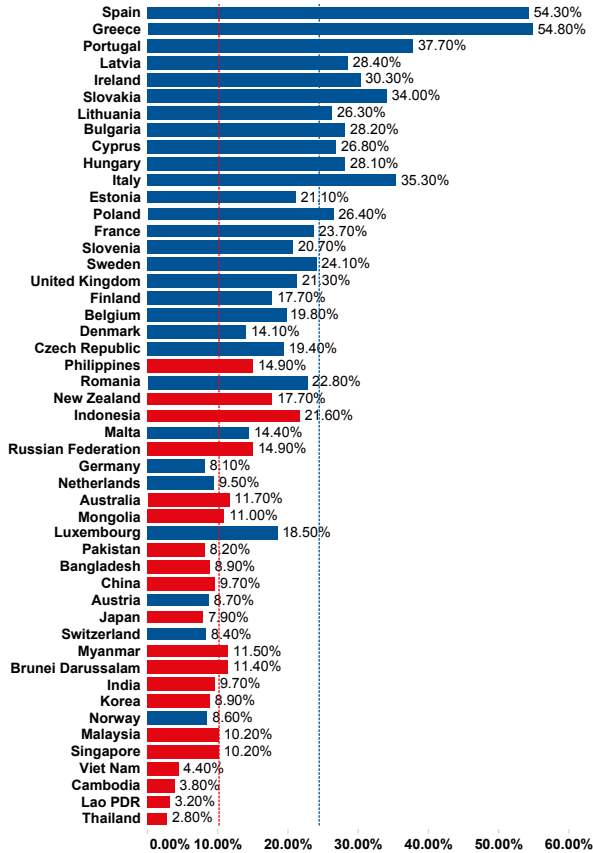
Source: International Labor Organization, ILO: [http://www.ilo.org/empelm/what/WCMS\\_114240/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/empelm/what/WCMS_114240/lang-en/index.htm)

Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

The unemployment rate is probably the best known labour market measure and certainly one of the most widely quoted by the media in many countries. Unsurprisingly, unemployment has been rising and remains stubbornly high in those European ASEM countries most affected by the financial crisis. The eurozone recovery is indeed not yet strong enough to make much of a dent on unemployment. The European Commission forecasts that it will remain at an average of about 11.8% in 2014.<sup>2</sup>

2 E.C. Spring 2014 forecast: growth becoming broader based.

3.3 Youth unemployment rate of ASEM Countries (% , 2012)



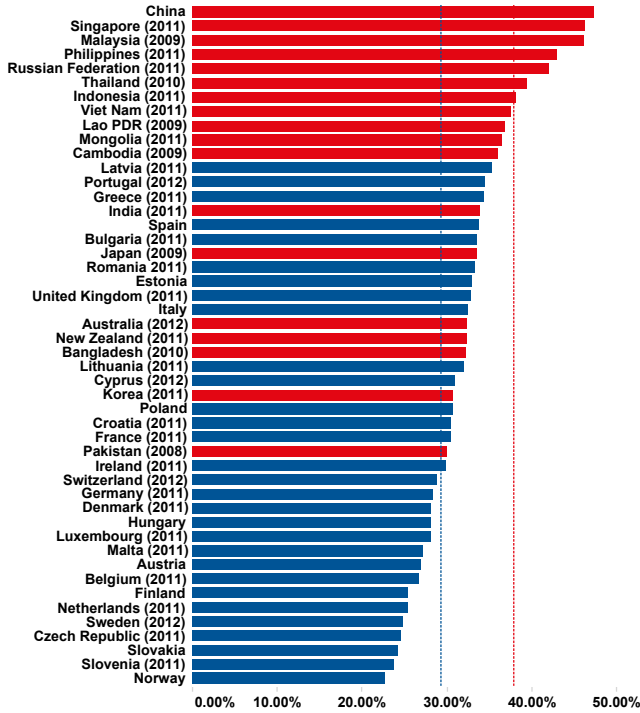
Source: "Youth unemployment (ILO estimates; by sex)", on the ILO website, [http://www.ilo.org/em-pe/m/what/WCMS\\_114240/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/em-pe/m/what/WCMS_114240/lang-en/index.htm)

Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

Youth unemployment is an important policy issue for many countries, regardless of the stage of development. For the purpose of this indicator, the term “youth” covers persons aged 15 to 24. Almost 5 million young Europeans are currently unemployed, and over time, cyclical joblessness can become entrenched and further slow down Europe’s recovery.<sup>3</sup>

3 E.C. Eurostat. Unemployment statistics (August 2014).

3.4 Distribution of family income - Gini Index in ASEM Countries (2013 or latest available year)



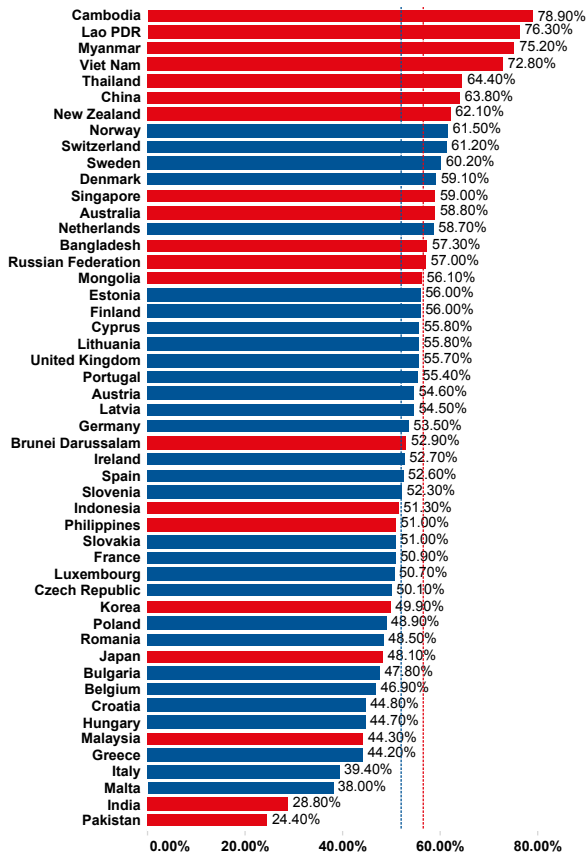
Sources:  
 1. "Gini coefficient of equivalised disposable income (source: SILC) [lc\_d112]", on the Eurostat website, [http:// appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do)  
 2. "Income Distribution and Poverty: by country-INEQUALITY", on the OECD StatExtracts website, [http:// stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?queryid=46022](http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?queryid=46022)  
 3. "GINI index", on the World Bank website, [http:// data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI/](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI/)  
 4. "Distribution of family income - Gini index", on the World Factbook website, [https:// www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2172rank.html](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2172rank.html)

The Gini coefficient is a measure of statistical dispersion intended to represent the income distribution of a nation's residents. It was developed by the Italian statistician Corrado Gini and published in 1912.

The Gini coefficient measures the inequality among values of a frequency distribution (for example levels of income). A Gini coefficient of zero expresses perfect equality, where all values are the same (where everyone has the same income). A Gini coefficient of one (or 100%) expresses maximal inequality among values (where only one person has all the income). However, a value greater than one may occur if some persons represent negative contribution to the total (i.e. have negative income or wealth). For larger groups, values close to or above 100% are very unlikely in practice.<sup>4</sup>

4 FAO.UN.Inequality Analysis. The Gini Index Model (Easypol, Module 40).

3.5 Female labour force participation rate of ASEM Countries (% , 2012)



Source: "Labour force participation rate (ILO estimates; by sex and age group)", on the ILO website, [http://www.ilo.org/empelm/what/WCMS\\_114240/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/empelm/what/WCMS_114240/lang--en/index.htm)

Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

Labour force participation rate is the proportion of the population ages 15 and older that is economically active: all people who supply labour for the production of goods and services during a specified period. The gender gap in the labour force participation rate decreased globally in the 1990s from 27.9 to 26.1 percentage points.

In South Asia, the gender gap in participation increased by 2 percentage points due to a decline in women’s participation by 4 percentage points in the last decade. In East Asia and Central and Eastern Europe, the participation gap increased by 0.6 and 1.6 percentage points respectively, based on declines in women’s participation of 2.6 percentage points (East Asia) and based on a larger increase in male participation rates (2.7 percentage points) compared to the female rate (1.1 percentage points).<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Same source as graph.

3.6 Women in ASEM Countries' national parliaments (as of August 2014)

		Lower or single House			Upper House or Senate		
		Seats*	Women	% W	Seats *	Women	% W
<b>Australia</b>	September 2013	150	39	26.0%	76	29	38.2%
<b>Austria</b>	September 2013	183	59	32.2%	62	18	29.0%
<b>Bangladesh</b>	January 2014	348	69	19.8%			
<b>Belgium</b>	May 2014	150	59	39.3%	60	30	50.0%
<b>Bulgaria</b>	May 2013	240	59	24.6%			
<b>Cambodia</b>	July 2013	123	25	20.3%	61	9	14.8%
<b>China</b>	March 2013	2,987	699	23.4%			
<b>Croatia</b>	December 2011	151	36	23.8%			
<b>Cyprus</b>	May 2011	56	7	12.5%			
<b>Czech Rep.</b>	October 2013	200	39	19.5%	81	14	17.3%
<b>Denmark</b>	September 2011	179	70	39.1%			
<b>Estonia</b>	March 2011	100	19	19.0%			
<b>Finland</b>	April 2011	200	85	42.5%			
<b>France</b>	June 2012	577	151	26.2%	347	78	22.5%
<b>Germany</b>	September 2013	631	230	36.5%	69	19	27.5%
<b>Greece</b>	June 2012	300	63	21.0%			
<b>Hungary</b>	April 2014	199	20	10.1%			
<b>India</b>	April 2014	543	62	11.4%	243	29	11.9%
<b>Indonesia</b>	April 2014	560	94	16.8%			
<b>Ireland</b>	February 2011	166	26	15.7%	60	19	31.7%
<b>Italy</b>	February 2013	630	198	31.4%	317	92	29.0%
<b>Japan</b>	December 2012	480	39	8.1%	242	39	16.1%
<b>Korea</b>	April 2012	300	47	15.7%			
<b>Lao PDR</b>	April 2011	132	33	25.0%			
<b>Latvia</b>	September 2011	100	25	25.0%			
<b>Lithuania</b>	October 2012	141	34	24.1%			
<b>Luxembourg</b>	October 2013	60	17	28.3%			
<b>Malaysia</b>	May 2013	222	23	10.4%	59	17	28.8%
<b>Malta</b>	March 2013	70	10	14.3%			
<b>Mongolia</b>	June 2012	74	11	14.9%			
<b>Myanmar</b>	November 2010	429	24	5.6%	224	4	1.8%
<b>Netherlands</b>	September 2012	150	58	38.7%	75	27	36.0%
<b>New Zealand</b>	November 2011	121	41	33.9%			
<b>Norway</b>	September 2013	169	67	39.6%			
<b>Pakistan</b>	May 2013	323	67	20.7%	104	17	16.3%
<b>Philippines</b>	May 2013	289	79	27.3%	24	6	25.0%
<b>Poland</b>	October 2011	460	112	24.3%	100	13	13.0%
<b>Portugal</b>	June 2011	230	72	31.3%			
<b>Romania</b>	December 2012	407	55	13.5%	176	13	7.4%
<b>Russian Fed.</b>	December 2011	450	61	13.6%	163	13	8.0%
<b>Singapore</b>	May 2011	99	25	25.3%			
<b>Slovakia</b>	March 2012	150	28	18.7%			
<b>Slovenia</b>	July 2014	90	32	35.6%	40	3	7.5%
<b>Spain</b>	November 2011	350	139	39.7%	266	89	33.5%
<b>Sweden</b>	September 2010	349	157	45.0%			
<b>Switzerland</b>	October 2011	200	62	31.0%	46	9	19.6%
<b>UK</b>	May 2010	650	147	22.6%	779	182	23.4%
<b>Viet Nam</b>	May 2011	498	121	24.3%			

\* Figures correspond to the number of seats currently filled in Parliament

Source: "Woman in National Parliaments, Situation as of 1st August 2014", on the Inter-Parliamentary Union website, <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

**Group**

■ Asian ASEM countries<sup>6</sup>

■ European ASEM countries

Women in government in the modern era are under-represented in most countries worldwide. However, women are increasingly being politically elected to be Heads of State and Government. The global participation rate of women in national-level parliaments is more than 22% for Single House or Lower House and nearly 20% for Upper House or Senate.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Data for Brunei Darussalam not provided.

<sup>7</sup> Same source as graph.

#### 3.7 Press Freedom Index, Reporters Without Borders, in ASEM Countries (2002-2014)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2012	2013	2014
Australia	9.5	6.5	9.0	8.8	6.3	3.1	5.4	4.0	15.2	16.9
Austria	3.3	2.5	4.5	4.3	3.5	3.0	0.5	-8.0	9.4	10.0
Bangladesh	62.5	61.3	48.0	53.2	42.7	37.3	42.5	57.0	42.0	42.6
Belgium	4.0	4.0	4.0	1.5	3.0	2.5	4.0	-2.0	12.9	12.8
Brunei Darussalam						63.5	51.0	56.2	35.5	35.5
Bulgaria	8.0	10.3	9.0	16.3	12.5	15.6	19.0	29.0	28.6	31.4
Cambodia	36.5	23.0	27.3	25.3	35.5	35.2	43.8	55.0	41.8	41.0
China	92.3	83.0	94.0	89.0	85.5	84.5	84.7	136.0	73.1	72.9
Croatia	11.8	12.8	13.0	12.5	8.5	17.2	17.5	23.3	26.6	26.8
Cyprus		5.5	7.5	14.0	7.5	5.5	13.4	-3.0	13.8	14.5
Czech Republic	3.5	1.0	0.8	4.0	4.0	5.0	7.5	-5.0	10.2	10.1
Denmark	0.5	0.5	5.0	2.0	3.5	0.0	2.5	-5.7	7.1	7.4
Estonia	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.0	2.0	0.5	2.0	-9.0	9.3	9.6
Finland	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	2.0	0.0	0.0	-10.0	6.4	6.4
France	3.5	6.3	9.0	9.8	7.7	10.7	13.4	9.5	21.6	21.9
Germany	2.0	4.0	5.5	5.8	4.5	3.5	4.3	-3.0	10.2	10.2
Greece	7.0	4.0	8.0	9.3	7.5	9.0	19.0	24.0	28.5	31.3
Hungary	6.0	2.0	3.0	4.5	5.5	5.5	7.5	10.0	26.1	26.7
India	38.5	27.0	26.5	39.3	30.0	29.3	38.8	58.0	41.2	40.3
Indonesia	37.8	26.0	26.0	30.5	27.0	28.5	35.8	68.0	41.1	38.2
Ireland	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	-4.0	10.1	10.9
Italy	9.0	8.7	9.9	11.3	8.4	12.1	15.0	19.7	26.1	23.8
Japan	10.0	8.0	12.5	11.8	6.5	3.3	2.5	-1.0	25.2	26.0
Korea	11.1	7.5	7.8	12.1	9.0	15.7	13.3	12.7	24.5	25.7
Lao PDR	64.3	66.5	67.5	75.0	70.0	92.0	80.5	89.0	68.0	71.2
Latvia	1.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	3.0	3.0	8.5	15.0	22.9	21.1
Lithuania	3.0	4.5	6.5	7.0	4.0	2.3	2.5	4.0	18.2	19.2
Luxembourg					1.5	4.0	4.0	-7.0	6.7	6.7
Malaysia	39.8	33.0	22.3	41.0	39.5	44.3	50.8	56.0	42.7	42.7
Malta						2.5	4.0	19.5	23.3	23.8
Mongolia	19.0	12.5	19.3	23.4	20.8	23.3	19.4	35.8	29.9	30.3
Myanmar	103.6	88.8	94.8	93.8	94.4	102.7	94.5	100.0	44.7	41.4
Netherlands	0.5	0.5	0.5	3.5	4.0	1.0	0.0	-9.0	6.5	6.5
New Zealand	0.7	2.0		4.2	3.0	3.0	1.5	-5.3	8.4	8.6
Norway	0.5	0.5	2.0	0.8	1.5	0.0	0.0	-10.0	6.5	6.5
Pakistan	61.8	60.8	70.3	64.8	54.9	65.7	56.2	75.0	51.3	51.5
Philippines	36.6	50.0	51.0	44.8	45.0	38.3	60.0	64.5	43.1	43.7
Poland	6.8	12.5	14.0	18.5	9.0	9.5	8.9	-0.7	13.1	11.0
Portugal	4.5	4.8	3.0	2.0	4.0	8.0	12.4	5.3	16.8	17.7
Romania	17.8	16.2	14.0	12.8	9.0	12.5	16.0	14.0	23.1	23.5
Russian Federation	51.4	48.7	52.5	56.9	47.5	60.9	49.9	66.0	43.4	42.8
Singapore	57.0	50.7	51.5	56.0	49.0	45.0	47.5	61.0	43.4	44.3
Slovakia	0.5	0.8	2.5	1.0	3.0	11.0	11.5	0.0	13.3	11.4
Slovenia	2.3	1.0	3.0	6.5	7.3	9.5	13.4	9.1	20.5	20.4
Spain	9.0	8.3	10.0	10.3	8.0	11.0	12.3	9.8	20.5	20.6
Sweden	2.0	2.0	4.0	1.5	3.0	0.0	0.0	-5.5	9.2	9.0
Switzerland	0.5	0.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	1.0	0.0	-6.2	9.9	10.5
Thailand	14.0	28.0	33.5	53.5	34.5	44.0	56.8	61.5	38.6	37.9
United Kingdom	6.0	5.2	6.5	8.3	5.5	4.0	6.0	2.0	16.9	19.9
Viet Nam	86.9	73.3	67.3	79.3	86.2	81.7	75.8	114.0	71.8	72.4

Source: "Press Freedom Index", on the Reporters Without Borders website, <http://en.rsf.org/>

#### Group

■ Asian ASEM countries

■ European ASEM countries

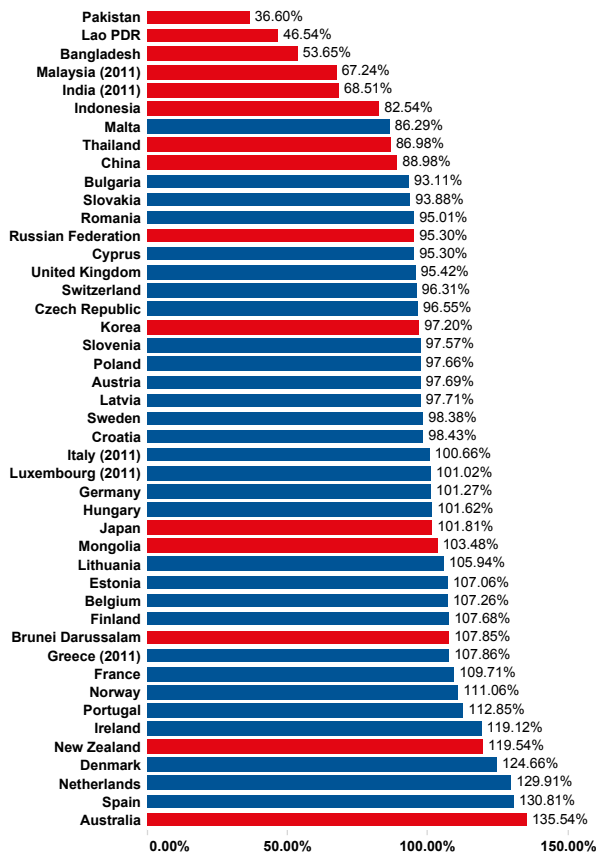
The World Press Freedom Index is an annual ranking of countries compiled and published by Reporters Without Borders based upon the organization's assessment of the countries' press freedom records in the previous year. It reflects the degree of freedom that journalists and news organizations enjoy in each country, and the efforts made by the authorities to respect and ensure respect for this freedom. Reporters Without Borders is careful to note that the index only deals with press freedom and does not measure the quality of journalism nor does it look at human rights violations in general.

A smaller score corresponds to greater freedom of the press. Hence, Finland tops the index for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running, closely followed by Netherlands and Norway.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Same source as graph.

# 4 FACTS AND FIGURES: EDUCATION AND CULTURE

## 4.1a Gross Enrolment Ratio in ASEM Countries, secondary education (both sexes, %, 2012)



Source: "Education: Gross enrolment ratio by level of education", on the UNESCO Institute for Statistics website, <http://data.uis.unesco.org/Index.aspx?queryid=120>  
Data for Cambodia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Viet Nam could not be found.

### Group

- Asian ASEM countries
- European ASEM countries

The Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) measures the number of pupils or students enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population at the same level of education. The GER shows the general level of participation in a given level of education. A GER value approaching or exceeding 100% indicates that a country is, in principle, able to accommodate all of its school-age population. When a country's GER exceeds 90% for a particular level of education, it means its aggregate number of places for pupils is approaching the number required for universal access of the official age group. The GER can exceed 100% due to the inclusion of over-aged and under-aged pupils or students because of early or late entrants, and grade repetition.<sup>1</sup>

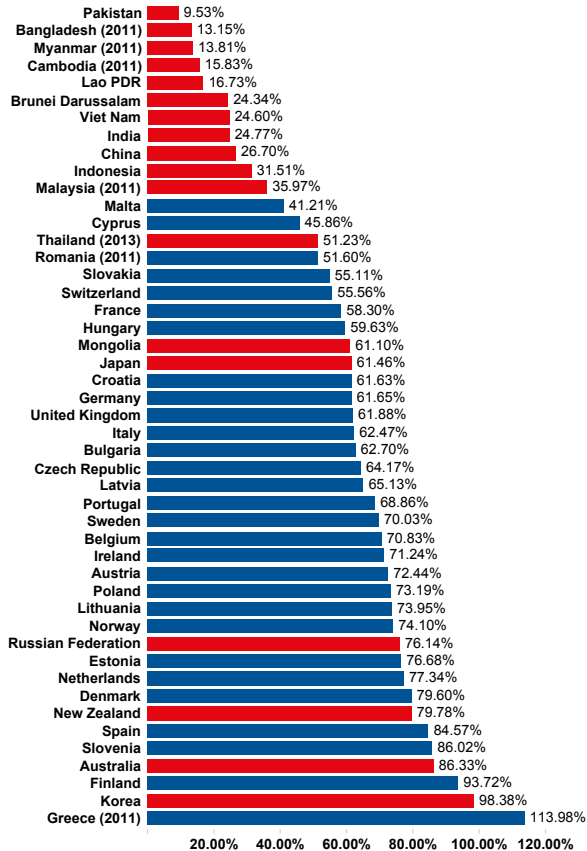
Most ASEM countries in Europe that are in the group of high GDP per capita (PPP) had already universalised secondary education by 2000, and the majority of the rest of European members of ASEM have kept their secondary GER well above 90% throughout 2000-2013. Starting from the lowest secondary GER among all ASEM countries in Europe in 2000, Malta and Romania have raised this ratio to 86.29% and 96.01% respectively in 2012. Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece and Slovakia have also progressed significantly this indicator, with Estonia and Greece having fully universalized their secondary education by 2012.

In 2012, out of the 45 countries with data above, 21 have universalised secondary education, most of which are in Europe, with the rest being Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Brunei Darussalam, and Mongolia; 19 member countries have achieved a secondary GER between 82%-99%. The ASEM countries with the lowest secondary GER are Pakistan (36.6%), Lao PDR (45.5%), Bangladesh (53.7%), Malaysia (67.2%), and India (68.5%).

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1 The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) website: <http://data.uis.unesco.org/Index.aspx?queryid=120>.

## 4.1b Gross Enrolment Ratio in ASEM Countries, tertiary education (both sexes, %, 2012)



Source: "Education: Gross enrolment ratio by level of education", on the UNESCO Institute for Statistics website, <http://data.uis.unesco.org/Index.aspx?queryid=120>  
Data for Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore could not be found.

Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

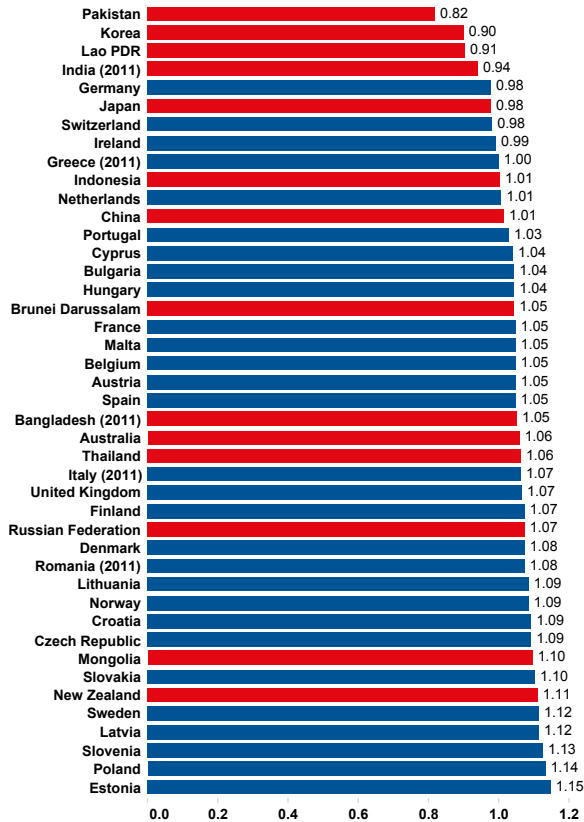
For the GER at the tertiary level, the population used is the 5-year age group starting from the official secondary school graduation age.<sup>2</sup>

Most ASEM Countries in Asia have achieved significant growth in GER in tertiary education. Korea has increased its tertiary GER from 78.83% in 2000 to 98.38% in 2012, thus achieving the highest ratio among the Asian members of ASEM.

<sup>2</sup> UIS website: <http://data.uis.unesco.org/Index.aspx?queryid=120>.

Asian ASEM Countries with lower starting levels of tertiary GER have also made considerable progress. For instance, Indonesia and Mongolia have doubled their tertiary GER in 2000 to reach 31.51% and 61.10% respectively in 2012; China has increased its tertiary GER from 7.76% in 2000 to 26.70% in 2012; India and Viet Nam have raised their tertiary GER by more than 2.5 times to 24.77% and 24.60% respectively in 2012; Cambodia has lifted its tertiary GER from below 2.49% in 2000 to 15.83% in 2011. By 2012, Pakistan remains the Asian ASEM Country with the lowest tertiary GER – 9.53%, despite its growth in this ratio, followed by Bangladesh and Myanmar, whose tertiary GER in 2012 accounted for 13.15% and 13.81% respectively.

## 4.2 Gender Parity Index in ASEM Countries, primary to tertiary education (2012 or latest available year)



Source: "Education: Gross enrolment ratio by level of education", on the UNESCO Institute for Statistics website, <http://data.uis.unesco.org/Index.aspx?queryid=120>  
Data for Cambodia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, and Viet Nam could not be found.

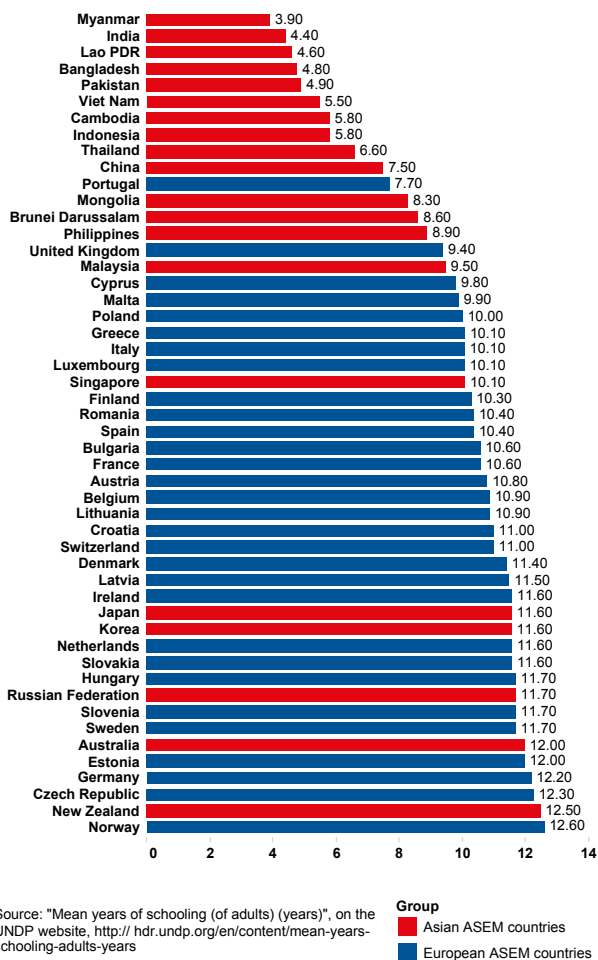
Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) measures progress towards gender parity in education participation and/or learning opportunities available for girls in relation to those available to boys. A GPI equal to 1 indicates parity between females and males. In general, a value less than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of boys and a value greater than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of girls.<sup>3</sup>

The ASEM countries in general are moving towards a more gender-balanced access to all levels of education. However, many countries, especially those in Europe, have showed an overall slight bias towards females in education access.

<sup>3</sup> UIS website: <http://data.uis.unesco.org/Index.aspx?queryid=120>.

### 4.3 Mean Years of Schooling of adults of ASEM Countries (age 25+, 2012)

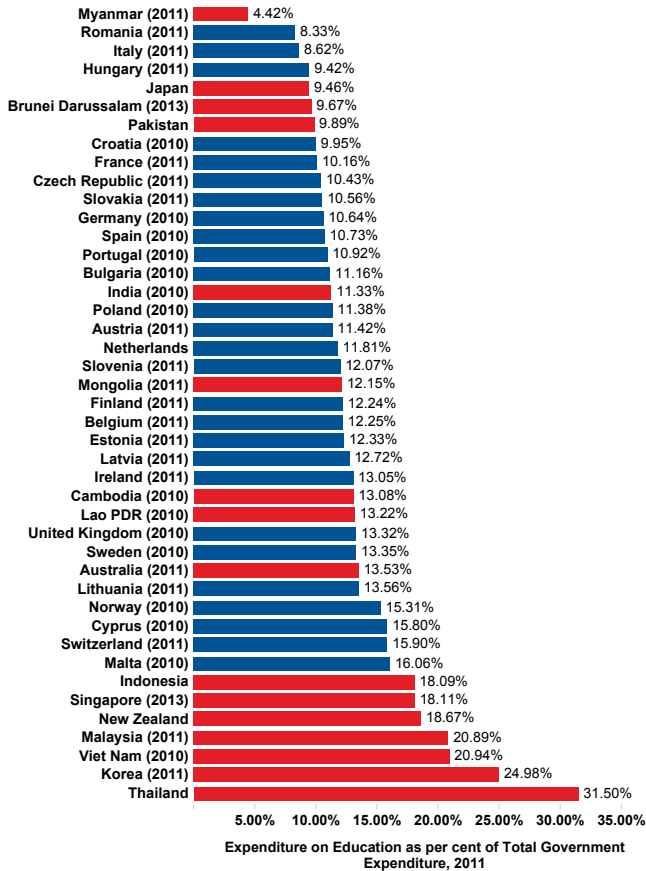


Mean Years of Schooling (MYS) indicates the average number of years of education received by people ages 25 and older, converted from education attainment levels using official durations of each level.<sup>4</sup>

Since 2005, almost all the ASEM Countries have had an insignificant growth in Mean Years of Schooling. By 2012 the majority of ASEM countries have had a population with Mean Years of Schooling between 10-12 years. According to the latest available data, the people in Norway, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, Germany receive the longest education – over 12 years, whereas the population in Myanmar, India, Laos, Bangladesh and Pakistan have the shortest education among all ASEM countries.

<sup>4</sup> UNDP website: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/mean-years-schooling-adults-years>.

4.4 Government expenditure on education of ASEM Countries (% of total government expenditure, 2012 or latest available year)



Source: "Education: Expenditure on education as % of total government expenditure (all sectors)", on the UNESCO Institute for Statistics website, [http:// data.uis.unesco.org/Index.aspx?queryid=120](http://data.uis.unesco.org/Index.aspx?queryid=120)  
 Data for China, Bangladesh, Denmark, Greece, Luxembourg, the Philippines, and the Russian Federation could not be found.

**Group**  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

This indicator measures current and capital expenditure on education by local, regional and national governments, including municipalities but excluding household contributions, expressed as a percentage of total government expenditure on all sectors, including health, education, social services, etc.. It assesses a government's policy emphasis on education relative to the perceived value of other public investments. It also reflects the commitment of a government to invest in human capital development.<sup>5</sup>

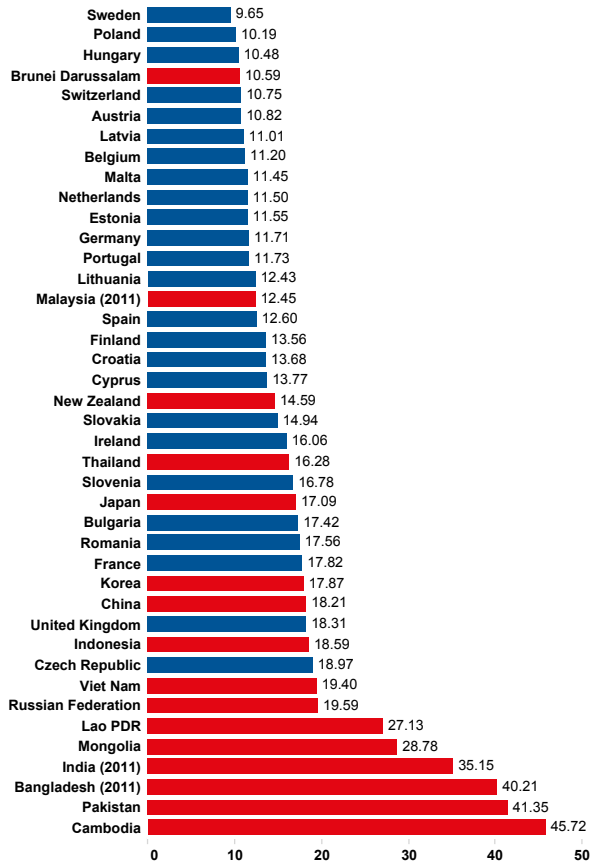
ASEM Countries in Asia differ significantly in their spending on education. In Thailand, 31.5 % of the total government expenditure in 2012 was spent on education, whereas in Myanmar, this percentage was only 4.4%. After Thailand, the Asian countries that spend more than 20% of their government expenditures on education include Korea (24.98% in 2011), Singapore (21.02% in 2012), Viet Nam (20.94% in 2010) and Malaysia (20.89% in 2011). Apart from Myanmar, the Asian countries where the share for education in the total government spending is less than 10% are: Japan (9.46% in 2012) Brunei Darussalam (9.67% in 2013), and Pakistan (9.89% in 2012).

Most ASEM Countries in Europe have kept the share of government expenditures for education between 10% and 16%. The European countries spending no less than 15% of their government expenditures on education include: Malta (16.06% 2010), Switzerland (15.90% in 2011), Cyprus (15.80% in 2010), Norway (15.31% in 2010), and Denmark (15.07% in 2009) spending the highest percentage.

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<sup>5</sup> UIS website: [http:// data.uis.unesco.org/Index.aspx?queryid=120](http://data.uis.unesco.org/Index.aspx?queryid=120).

4.5a Pupil-Teacher Ratio in ASEM Countries, primary education (2012 or latest available year)



Source: "Pupil-Teacher Ratio by level of education (headcount basis)" on the UNESCO Institute for Statistics website, <http://data.uis.unesco.org/Index.aspx?queryid=120>  
 Data for Australia, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Myanmar, Norway, the Philippines, and Singapore could not be found.

Group  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

The progress in the net enrolment rate for primary education (93% in South Asia, 96% in Southeast Asia, 98% in East Asia, 90% on average for developing countries worldwide and 97% for developed countries<sup>5</sup>) lead many countries to focus more on quality of which the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) is one the main dimensions.

The PTR measures the average number of pupils per teacher at a given level of education, based on headcounts of both pupils and teachers. It shows the level of human resources input in terms of the number of teachers in relation to the size of the pupil population. The higher the PTR, the lower is the relative access of pupils to teachers. It is generally assumed that a low pupil-teacher ratio signifies smaller classes, which enables the teacher to pay more attention to individual students, which may in the long run result in a better performance of the pupils. It is worth noting that PTR does not take into account factors which could affect the quality of teaching/learning, such as differences in teachers' qualifications, pedagogical training, experience, teaching methods, teaching materials and variations in classroom conditions.<sup>6</sup>

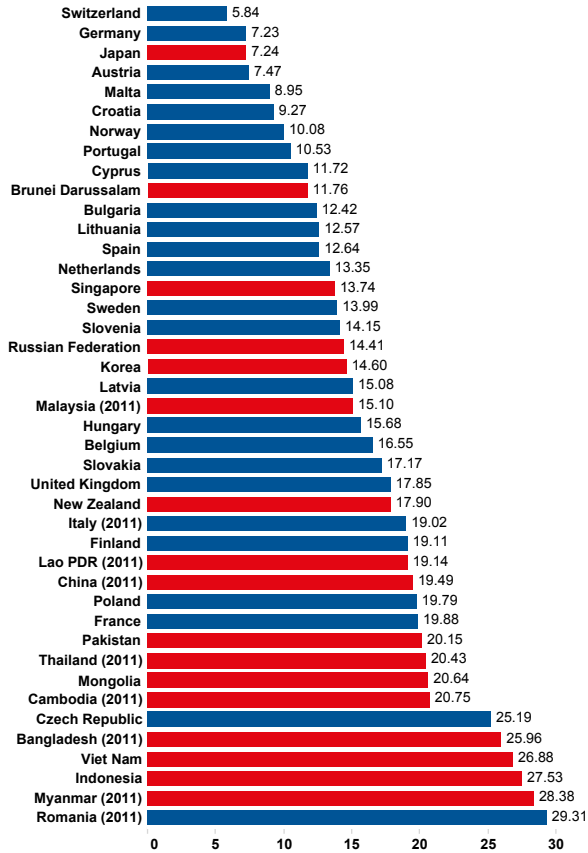
In most of the current ASEM Countries plus Croatia, around 10–20 pupils in primary schools share one teacher. However, the majority of these countries are European, with the lowest Pupil-Teacher Ratio in Sweden (9.65). Among the countries with available data, those in which more than 35 primary school pupils share only one teacher are all in Asia, namely: Cambodia (45.72), Pakistan (41.35), Bangladesh (40.21) and India (35.15).

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<sup>5</sup> UN Millennium Development Goals Report (2013).

<sup>6</sup> UIS website: <http://data.uis.unesco.org/Index.aspx?queryid=120>.

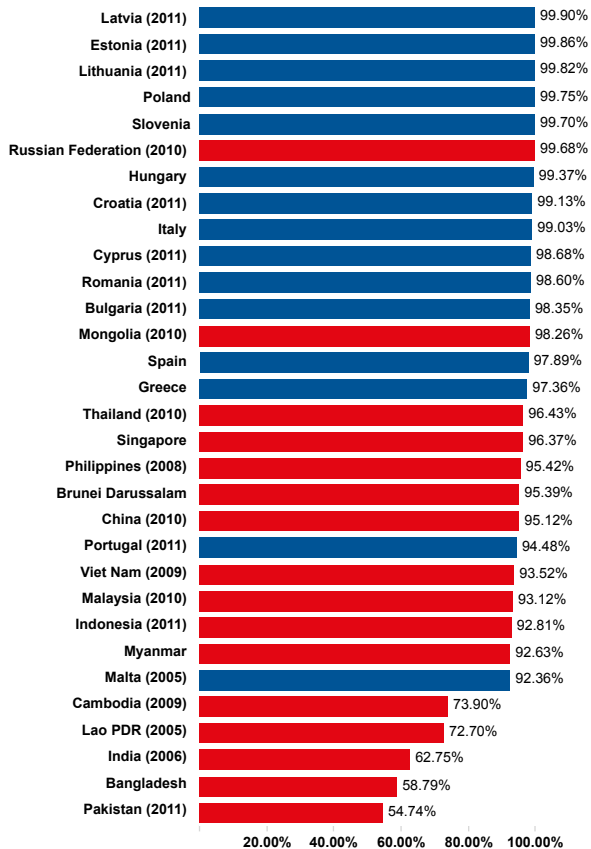
## 4.5b Pupil-Teacher Ratio in ASEM Countries, tertiary education (2012 or latest available year)



Source: "Pupil-teacher ratio by level of education (headcount basis)" on the UNESCO Institute for Statistics website, <http://data.us.unesco.org/Index.aspx?queryid=120>  
 Data for Australia, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, India, Ireland, Luxembourg, and the Philippines could not be found.

In over half of the ASEM countries 10-20 students in higher education institutions are supplied with 1 teacher. Switzerland has the lowest PTR in tertiary education (5.84) among all ASEM countries with data, followed by Germany (7.23), Japan (7.24), Austria (7.47), Malta (8.95), and Croatia (9.27). The highest PTR in higher education (29.31) among ASEM countries is observed in Romania, followed by Myanmar (28.38), Indonesia (27.53), Viet Nam (26.88), Bangladesh (25.96), and the Czech Republic (25.19).

4.6 Adult literacy rate in ASEM Countries (population 15+ years, both sexes, %, 2012 or latest available year)

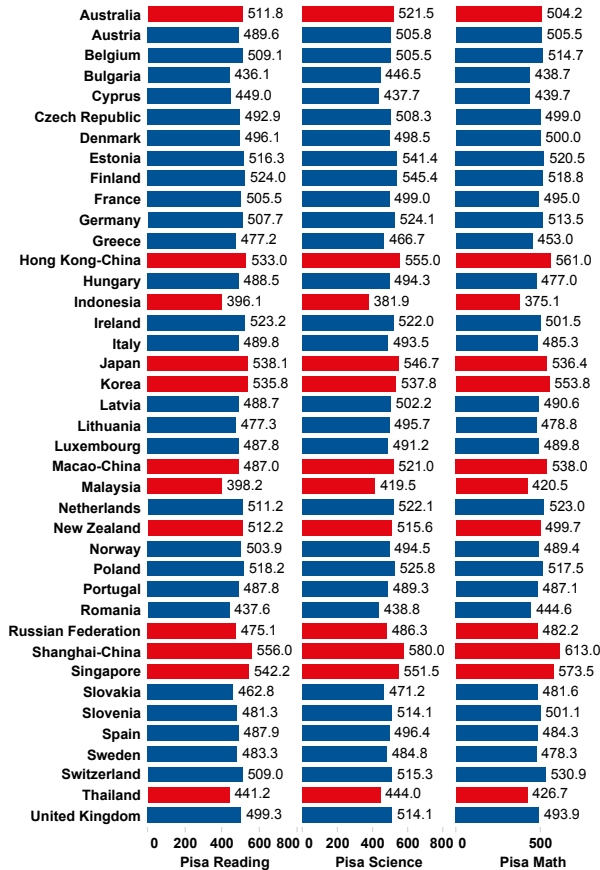


Source: "Education: Literacy rate", on the UNESCO Institute for Statistics website, <http://data.uis.unesco.org/Index.aspx?queryid=120>  
 Data for Australia, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom could not be found.

**Group**  
■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

By 2012, most of the ASEM Countries plus Croatia had achieved 99-100% literacy rate. The lowest literacy rates are seen in the Asian countries with lower GDP per capita such as Pakistan (54.74%), Bangladesh (58.79%), India (62.75%), Lao PDR (72.70%) and Cambodia (73.90%).

4.7 PISA results of ASEM Countries (2012)<sup>7</sup>



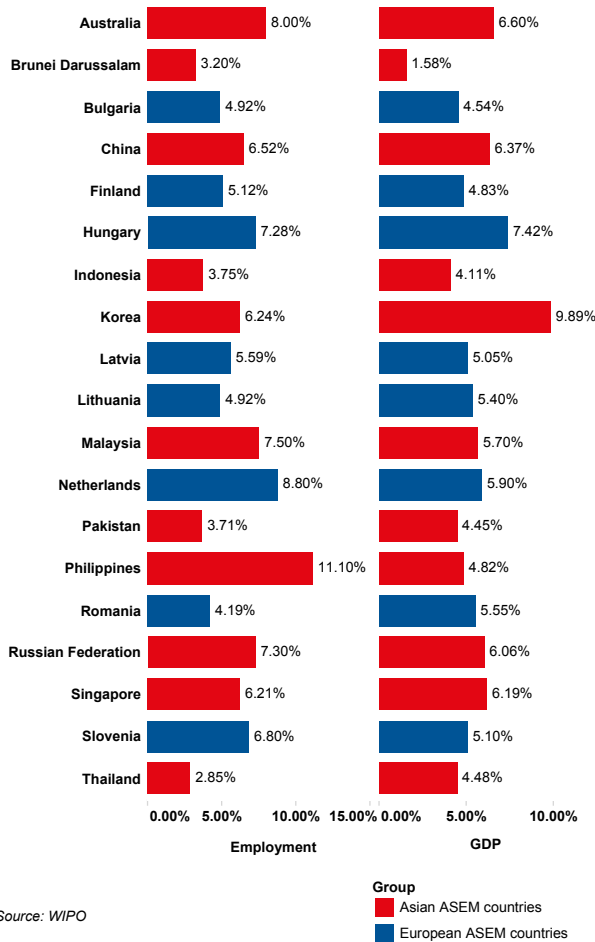
Source: PISA 2012 Results, Compiled by the Author, on the OECD website, <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/home/>  
 In 2012, 39 ASEM Countries participated in PISA on reading, maths and science. The ASEM Countries which have never participated in these three subjects of PISA are Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, India, the Lao PDR, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a triennial international survey which aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students. To date, students representing more than 70 economies have participated in the assessment. The most recently published PISA results are from the year 2012.<sup>8</sup>

The results show that Asian countries clearly outperform the rest of the world, with China (Shanghai, Hong Kong, Macau), Korea, Singapore, and Japan amongst the top performing countries. Students in Shanghai performed so well in maths that the OECD report compares their scoring to the equivalent of nearly 3 years of schooling above most OECD countries.

<sup>7</sup> Data available only for 38 ASEM countries.  
<sup>8</sup> OECD website: <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/aboutpisa/>.

4.8 Creative industries' contribution to ASEM Countries' economies (% of employment and % of GDP)<sup>9</sup>



The creative industries are now widely acknowledged as dynamic sectors of the world economy offering high growth opportunities. On the basis of the increasing economic contribution of the creative industries, policymakers across Asia and Europe, in consultation with the arts sector and international organisations, are developing bespoke national and local policies. The debates around the development dimension of the creative industries have gathered momentum as well.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has developed its own methodology for analysing the economic contribution of the creative industries based on copyright content. For research and analysis of the economic contribution of the creative/copyright industries, macroeconomic indicators namely, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and share of national employment are being employed as well.

<sup>9</sup> Data available only for 19 ASEM countries.

The above chart includes data from 11 Asian and 8 European national studies which are available online.<sup>10</sup> The overall performance of the copyright industries in the countries surveyed indicates the existence of a sizeable sector, which in most countries was found to be beyond the level of expectations.

**Employment Contribution:** Over 2/3 of the countries fall in the range between 3% and 7% contribution to national employment. The Philippines reflects the highest share of the labour force in Asia at 11.10% and in Europe it is the Netherlands which is at 8.80%.

**GDP Contribution:** The contribution of the copyright industries to GDP varies significantly across the countries from both regions from over 10% at one end to under 2%. In Asia, it is Korea with the highest contribution to GDP at 9.89% while in Europe it is Hungary coming in at 7.42%.

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<sup>10</sup> [www.wipo.int/copyright/en/performance/country\\_studies.html](http://www.wipo.int/copyright/en/performance/country_studies.html).

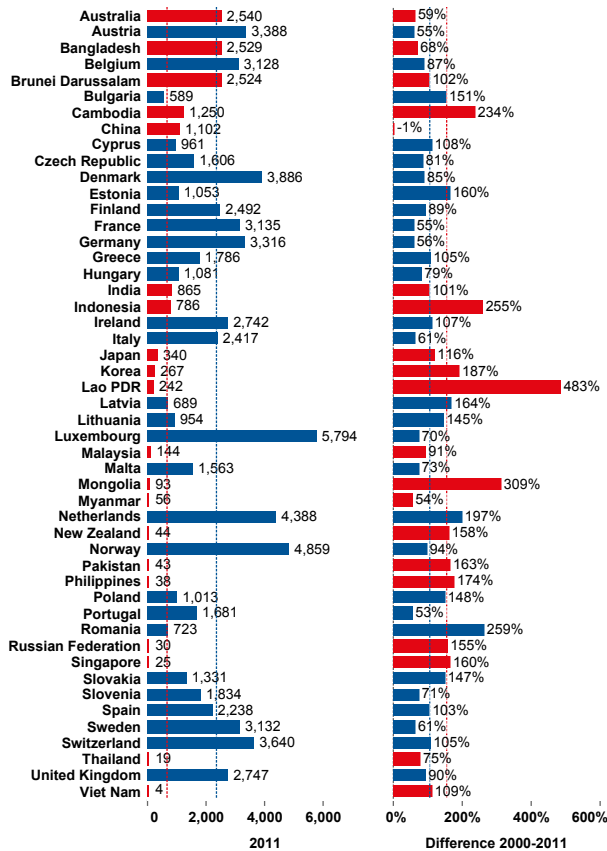
# 5. FACTS AND FIGURES: PUBLIC HEALTH

Three of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) specifically focus on health-related issues, including reducing child mortality (MDG 4), improving maternal health (MDG 5), and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (MDG 6).

Although significant progress has been made in achieving health-related targets, some targets require continued provision of funds and actions based on a global consensus among international and regional organisations, states and civil society organisations. In addition, the United Nations System Task Team states that the multi-dimensional nature of health-related problems – including their connections with equity, environmental degradation, lifestyles and social protection – have not been captured by the MDGs. Therefore, while it is necessary to sustain the resources and commitments to achieve the missed targets under the MDGs after 2015, the post-2015 UN development agenda should recognise health as a cross-cutting theme that ultimately forms the basis of good quality of life thus becomes a necessary condition to achieve the rest of development goals.

This section provides the public health status of ASEM Countries with statistics and analyses in several dimensions: health expenditure (both government and total expenditures, health-related infrastructure (sanitation facilities and access to drinking water), communicable diseases and treatments (prevalence of HIV and tuberculosis, and access to treatment for HIV/AIDS), prevention (immunisation of measles and diphtheria, tetanus toxoid and pertussis, and maternal and child health (maternal mortality and under-5 mortality rate).

5.1 Government expenditure on health per capita in ASEM Countries (PPP, international USD, 2011 and difference 2001-2011)



Source: "Health financing: Health expenditure per capita data by country", on the WHO website, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.78?lang=en>

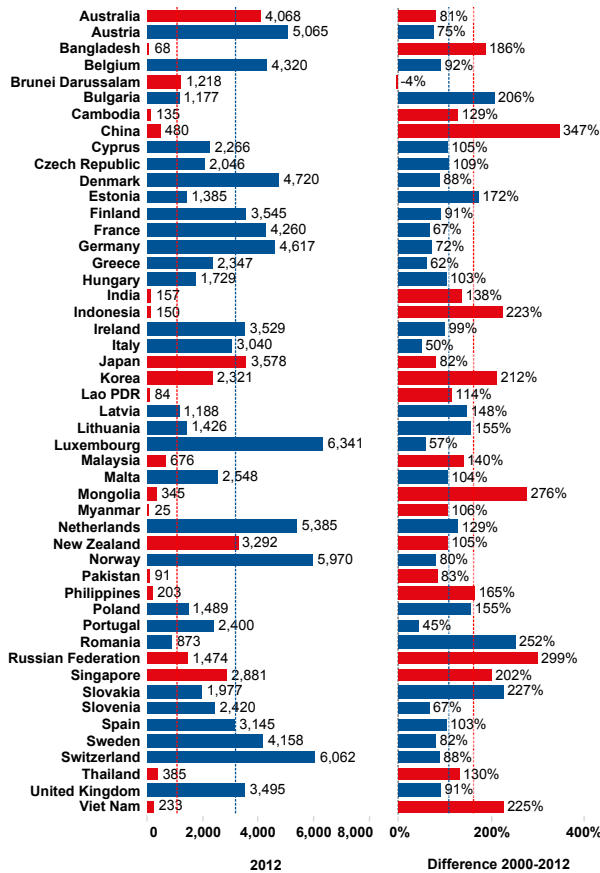
Asian ASEM countries  
European ASEM countries

Asian ASEM Countries have increased their per capita government spending by some USD 220 from USD 628 to about USD 850 in PPP terms, between the year 2000 and 2011.

Most notably Lao PDR, Mongolia, Indonesia and Cambodia have been able to increase their capita spending between 230% and 480%.

Even though European ASEM Countries started from a much higher level of average per capita spending in 2000 (USD 1,420), they have managed to increase their expenditure by close to 80% over the 2000 to 2011 period, to USD 2,540, an increase largely caused by the catch-up led by the new Eastern European Union member states.

5.2 Total expenditure on health per capita in ASEM Countries (PPP, international USD, 2012 and difference 2000-2012)



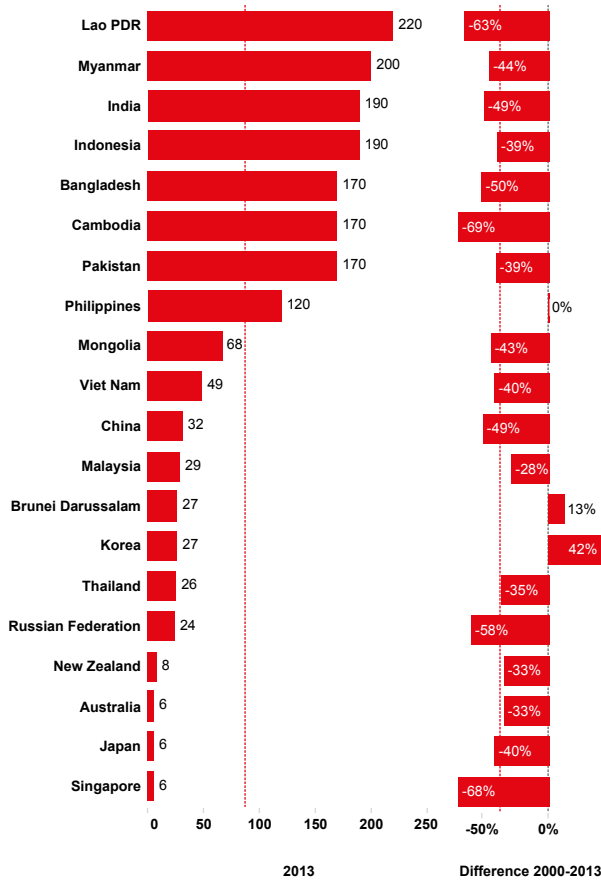
Source: "Health financing: Health expenditure per capita data by country", on the WHO website, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.78?lang=en>

■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

Total expenditure on health is measured as the sum of spending of all financing agents managing funds to purchase health goods and services. The sources of data constitute the bulk of the government/private expenditure on health. Data also include expenditure for local government, corporations, non-governmental organisations or insurance.

As would be expected, the total per capita expenditure on health indicates that those ASEM Countries without comprehensive government health coverage compensate for the lack of the latter through other means, like private insurance or out-of-pocket expenditures. Hence, whereas European ASEM Countries reveal a close to two-fold average gap in spending between government and total per capita health expenditure, the average gap for Asian ASEM Countries is nearly three-fold.

**5.3a Maternal mortality ratio in Asian ASEM Countries (per 100,000 live births, 2013 estimate and difference 2000-2013)**

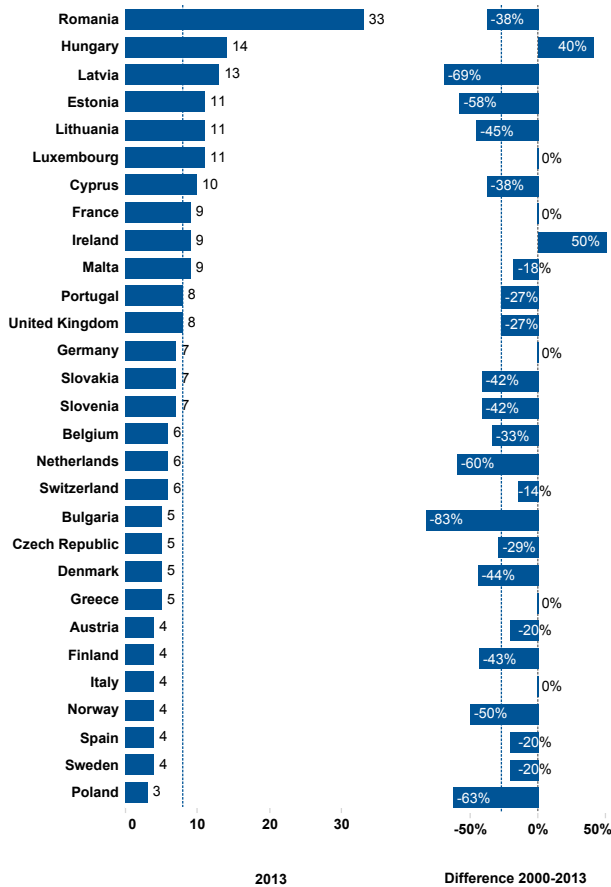


Source: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, The World Bank and the United Nations Population Division estimates: <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/monitoring/maternal-mortality-2013/en/>

Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Target 5 calls for the reduction of the maternal mortality ratio by 3/4 between 1990 and 2015. According to the data collected by several UN agencies and the World Bank for the years 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2013, the top 5 Asian ASEM countries with the highest maternal mortality ratio have made significant progress with an average rate of reduction of 56% between 2000 and 2013. However, comparing the average maternal mortality ratio between Asia and Europe in 2013, Asia's maternal deaths per 100,000 live births (109) still overwhelms Europe's (7).

While all the ASEM countries in Asia have achieved improvement in reducing the maternal mortality over past decade, it is noteworthy that Korea's maternal mortality ratio has increased from 19 to 27 between 2000 and 2013.

5.3b Maternal mortality ratio in European ASEM Countries (per 100,000 live births, 2013 estimate and difference 2000-2013)



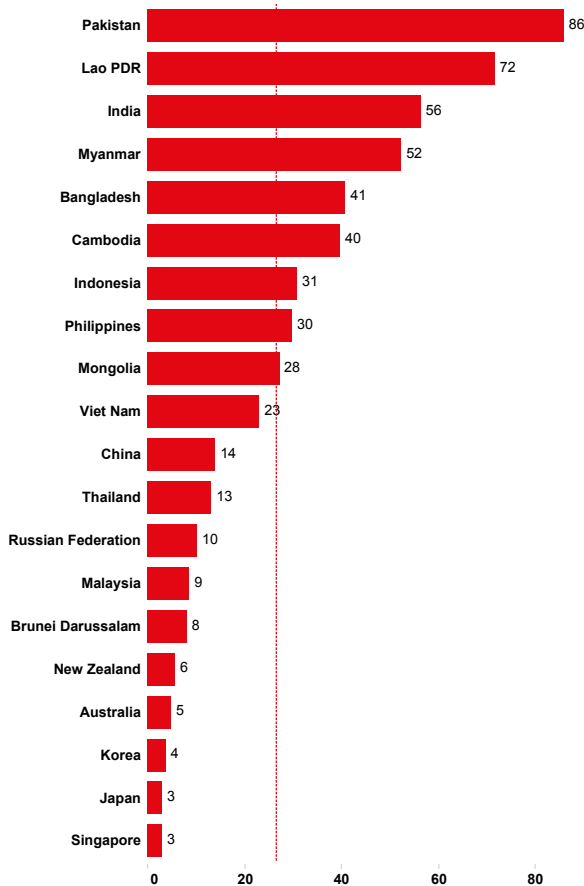
Source: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank and the United Nations Population Division estimates: <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/monitoring/maternal-mortality-2013/en/>

ASEM Countries in Europe demonstrate various aspects of progress in reducing maternal mortality. Compared to the year 2000, Bulgaria exhibited the most dramatic improvement by 83% in 2013, surpassing Cambodia’s achievement of 69% during the same period. Latvia (69%) and Poland (63%) follow Bulgaria in terms of progress.

Hungary and Ireland, on the other hand, show increases in their maternal mortality ratio between 2000 and 2013: Hungary from 10 to 14 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, and Ireland from 6 to 9.

Luxembourg, France, Germany, Greece and Italy maintained the same ratio on average of 7 deaths per 100,000 live births between 2000 and 2013.

## 5.4a Under-5 mortality rate in Asian ASEM Countries (per 1,000 live births, 2012)



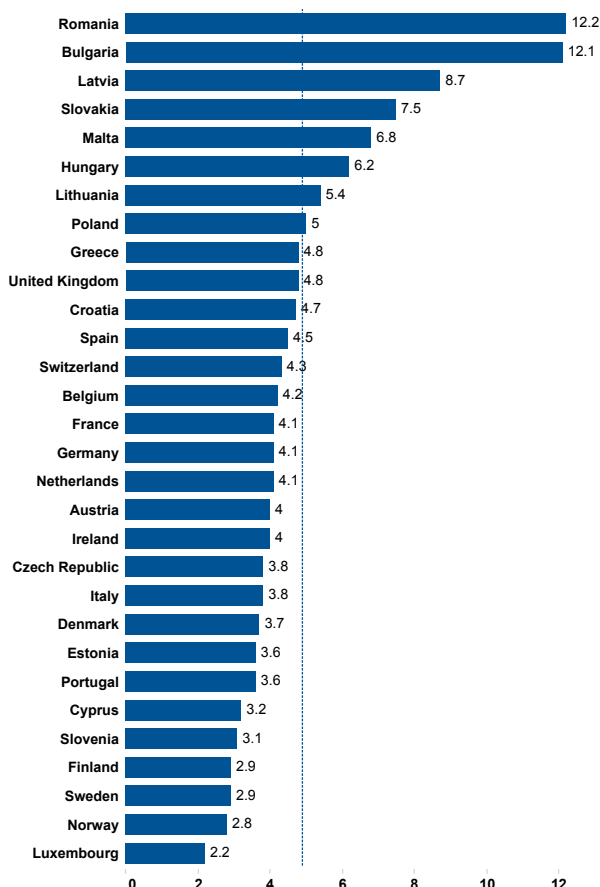
Source: "Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)", on the World Bank website, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.DYN.MORT>

The under-5 mortality rate – the probability per 1,000 live births that a newborn baby will die before reaching the age of 5 – in the top 5 Asian countries has been steadily reduced by 37.6% on average between 2000 and 2012. However, among the countries ranked within the middle range, Cambodia and China significantly reduced child mortality by 63% and 62% respectively.

The global efforts to reduce the number of deaths in children under 5 have resulted in about 17,000 fewer children dying each day in 2012 compared to 1990. However, improvements in child mortality are dependent on multiple aspects of public health practices like the prevention of diseases (vaccination), education (for mothers in particular) and living standards (poverty).<sup>1</sup> A number of ASEM Countries in Asia with wide disparity in socio-economic development still face significant challenges in this regard.

<sup>1</sup> UN Department of Public Information (September 2013). We Can End Poverty, Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2014, Fact Sheet. [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal\\_4\\_fs.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal_4_fs.pdf).

5.4b Under-5 mortality rate in European ASEM Countries (per 1,000 live births, 2012)



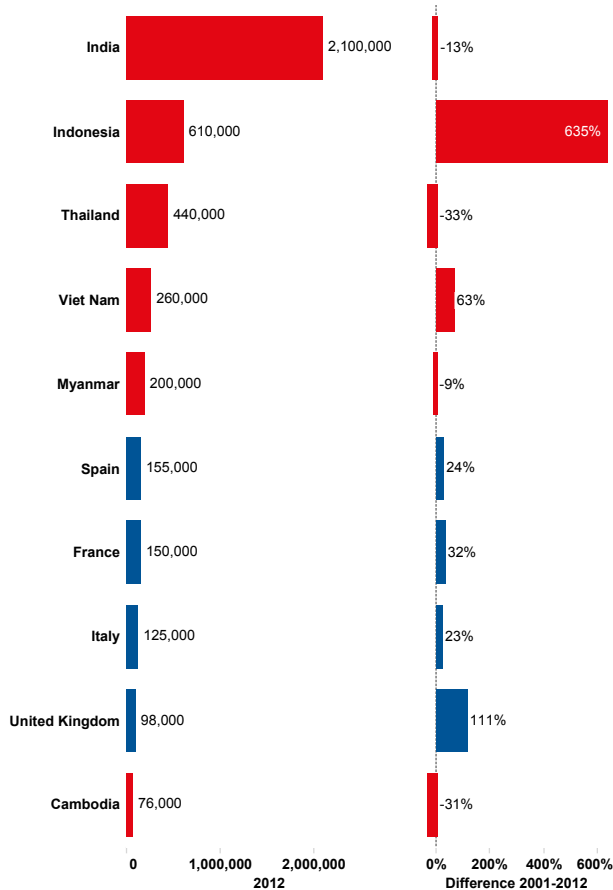
Source: "Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)"; on the world bank website, <http://data.world-bank.org/indicator/SHDYMORT>

Among the European ASEM Countries, Romania and Bulgaria display the highest mortality rate in children under 5 despite the improvements made between 2000 and 2012 by 54% and 43% respectively. Estonia (3.6 deaths per 1,000), which has a lower under-5 mortality rate per 1,000 live births in 2012 than the United Kingdom (4.8) and Switzerland (4.3), made the most considerable progress (by 67%) between 2000 to 2012.

Child health experts in the United Kingdom share the view that risky behaviours during pregnancy, for example smoking and drinking alcohol, account for such comparatively high child mortality rates in the country, compared to other Western European countries.<sup>2</sup>

2 "Under-fives death rate 'high in UK', major study shows" <http://www.bbc.com/news/health-27251908>.

**5.5 Number of people living with HIV among the highest prevalence ASEM Countries (all ages, 2012 and difference 2001-2012)**



Source: "Data on the size of the HIV/AIDS epidemic: Number of people (all ages) living with HIV Data by country", on the WHO website, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.620>

■ Asian ASEM countries  
 ■ European ASEM countries

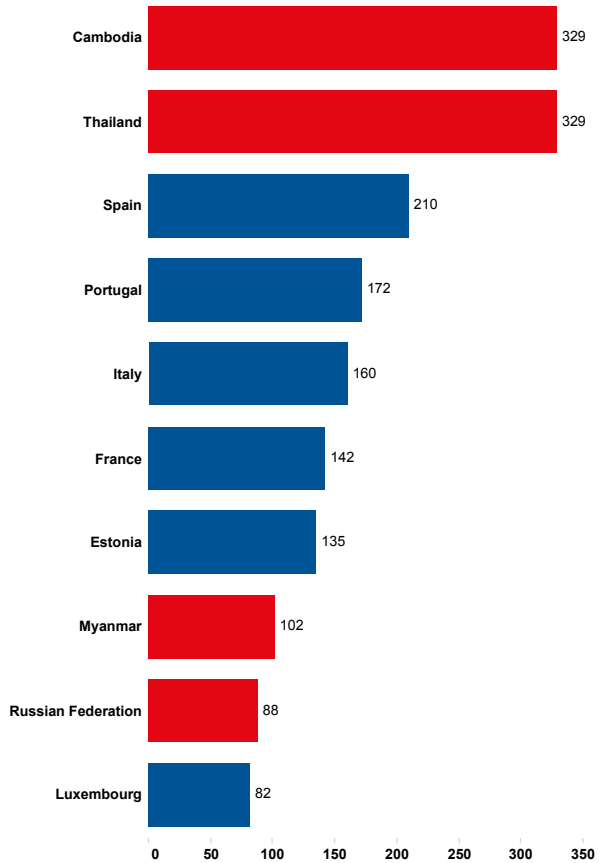
According to The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013, worldwide, the number of people newly infected with HIV dropped 33% from 2001 to 2012. Still, 2.3 million people are newly infected by HIV each year.<sup>3</sup> In addition to this continued large number of new infections, due to fewer AIDS-related deaths, more people than ever are living with HIV.

<sup>3</sup> UN Department of Public Information (September 2013). We Can End Poverty, Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2014, Fact Sheet. [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal\\_6\\_fs.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal_6_fs.pdf).

While data for Brunei Darussalam, China, Cyprus and the Russian Federation are not available from the original source by the World Health Organization, most of ASEM Countries saw an increase in the number of people of all ages living with HIV in between 2001 and 2012. Indonesia exhibits the most dramatic increase of 635% from 2001 (83,000 people) to 2012 (610,000 people). In Europe, Austria (not among the highest prevalence countries shown here) experienced the highest increase of 251% from 5,400 to 19,000 people over the past decade.

Across Asia and Europe, only 4 countries in Asia (India, Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia) have less people living with HIV in 2012 than in 2001 with a decrease of around 22% on average.

### 5.6 Reported number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy, top 10 ASEM Countries (per 100,000 population, 2012)



Source: "Data on the HIV/AIDS response: Antiretroviral therapy coverage Data by country", on the WHO website, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.626>

■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

MDG 6 Target 6.b was set to achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it. While the target was missed, 9.7 million people living with HIV were accessing treatment in 2012 compared to 8.1 million in 2011.

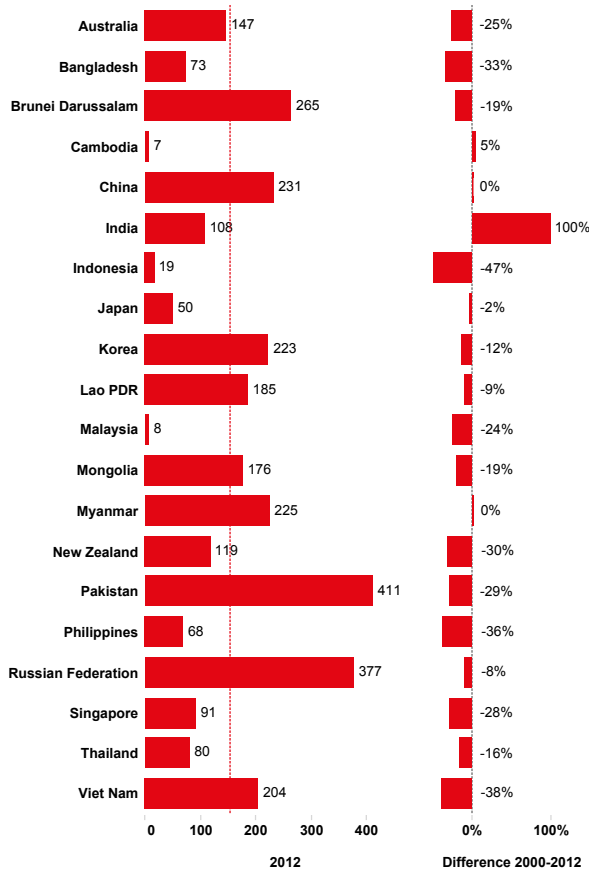
The reported number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy in ASEM countries is based on the World Health Organization's data. Individual countries reported in different months and years ranging from December 2005 to December 2012. The above graph indicates the estimated number of people receiving antiretroviral (ARV) therapy among the top 10 ASEM countries.

In terms of antiretroviral therapy coverage among ASEM Countries, Cambodia and Romania are countries with low income and concentrated epidemics. These countries had already achieved universal access to antiretroviral therapy at the end of 2012, commonly understood as providing antiretroviral therapy to at least 80% of the people who need it.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). Antiretroviral therapy (ART) coverage among all age groups. [http://www.who.int/gho/hiv/epidemic\\_response/ART\\_text/en/](http://www.who.int/gho/hiv/epidemic_response/ART_text/en/).

### 5.7a Incidence of tuberculosis in Asian ASEM Countries (per 100,000 population per year, 2012 and difference 2000-2012)



Source: "Cases: Incidence Data by country (2007 - present)", on the WHO website, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.1320?lang=en>

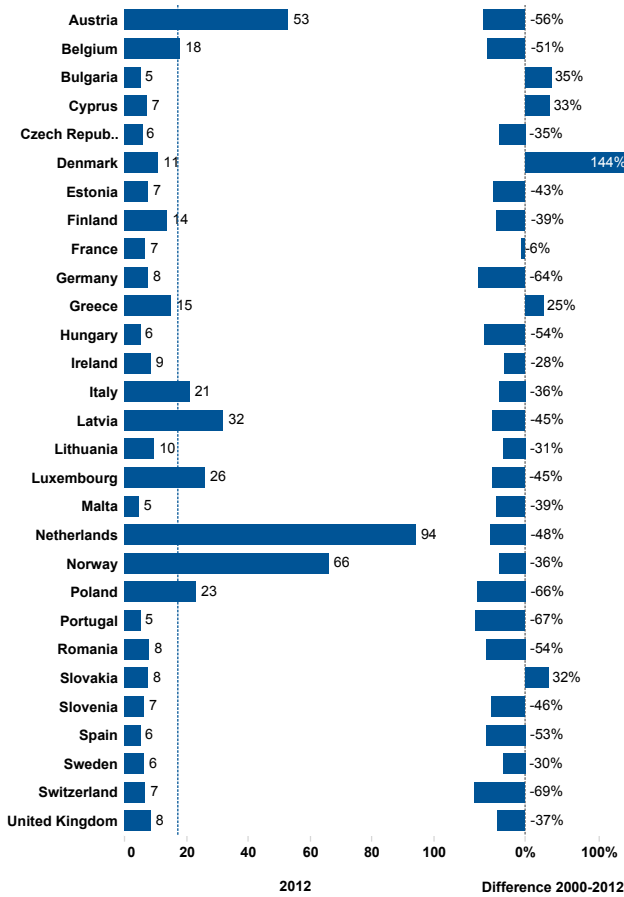
Target 6.c of the Millennium Development Goals is to “have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases”. The graph presents the estimated number of new and relapse tuberculosis (TB) cases in 2007 and 2012, expressed as the rate per 100,000 population. All forms of TB (new pulmonary, smear-positive, and extra-pulmonary TB cases) are included.

Compared to the results published in the *ASEM Outlook Report 2012, Volume 1: Asia-Europe Relations at a Glance*,<sup>5</sup> the 10 ASEM Countries with the highest incidence of TB per 100,000 people in 2010 and 2012 nearly remain identical (except for Bangladesh<sup>6</sup> and Lao PDR which did not appear in the previous edition of the report).

5 Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). *ASEM Outlook Report 2012, Volume 1: Asia-Europe Relations at a Glance*. Available at: <http://asef.org/pubs/asef-publications/2821-ASEMOutlookVol1>.

6 At the time of preparation of the report in 2012, Bangladesh was not yet an official ASEM member. Bangladesh's full membership entered into effect at the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR (5-6 November 2012).

5.7b Incidence of tuberculosis in European ASEM Countries (per 100,000 population per year, 2012 and difference 2000-2012)

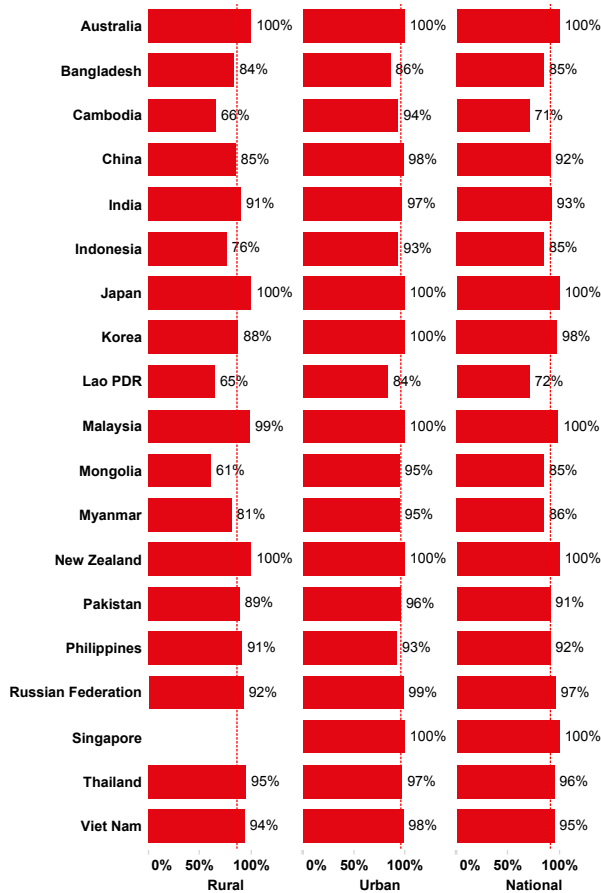


Source: "Cases: Incidence Data by country (2007 - present)", on the WHO website, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.1320?lang=en>

Most ASEM Countries have made significant progress in reducing the incidence of tuberculosis. In Asia, however, Korea is the only country where the number of tuberculosis cases per 100,000 population per year has actually doubled, from 54 to 108 people between 2007 and 2012. Pulmonologists suggest that Korea's poor record in controlling tuberculosis is caused by a weak immune system in the population, particularly those in their 20s and 30s, whose lifestyles are often under conditions of stress from overwork and irregular and unhealthy eating habits.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Healthday News. "우리나라 결핵환자 OECD국가 평균 8배로 1위... 30%가 20~30대". <http://www.healthdaynews.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=3100>.

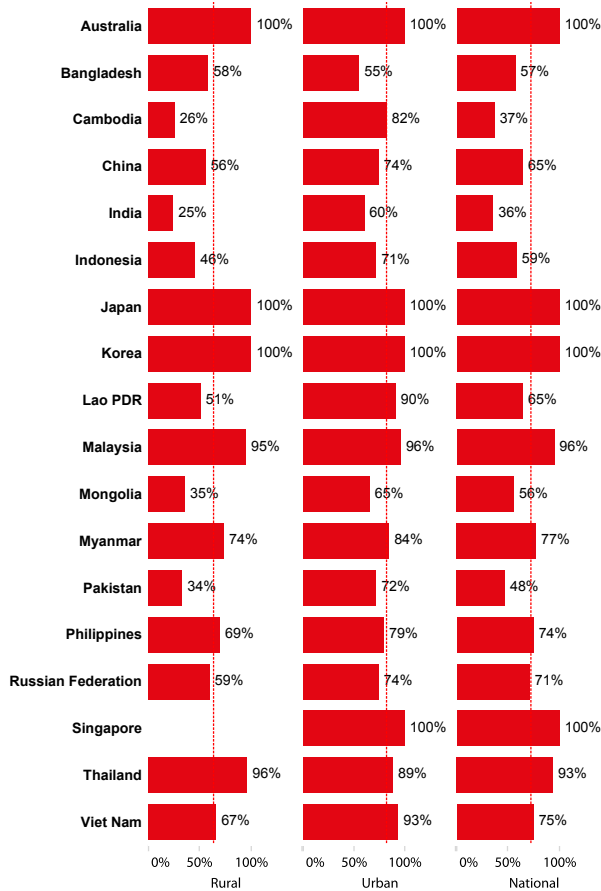
5.8 Access to drinking water in Asian ASEM Countries (% of urban, rural, national population, 2012)



Source: "WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation", on the JMP website, [http:// www.wssinfo.org/data-estimates/tables/](http://www.wssinfo.org/data-estimates/tables/)  
 Data for Brunei Darussalam could not be found.

Most populations in ASEM Countries enjoy 100% access to drinking water at the urban, rural and national levels. This Graph indicates drinking water access for Asian ASEM Countries where national rates vary between 100% in Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Singapore, to 71.3% in Cambodia. Among urban areas, Lao PDR has the least access to drinking water (83.7%) whereas the rural population in Mongolia has the least access to drinking water access (61.2%) across ASEM Countries.

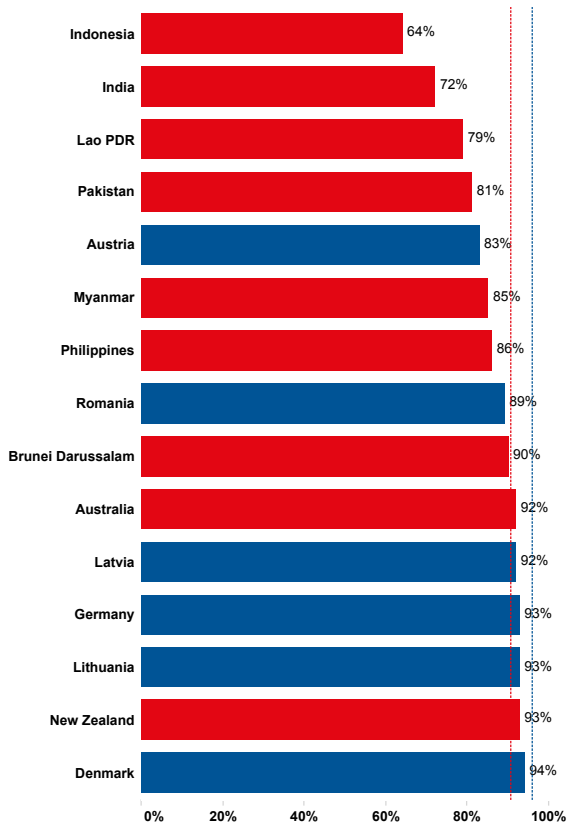
5.9 Access to sanitation facilities in Asian ASEM Countries (% of urban, rural, national population, 2012)



Source: "WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation", on the JMP website, <http://www.wssinfo.org/data-estimates/tables/>  
 Data for Brunei Darussalam and New Zealand could not be found.

Sanitation facilities include ventilated improved pits, pit latrines with slab, flush to sewer, septic tanks, etc. Asian ASEM Countries with low level of access to such facilities also demonstrate wide disparities between urban and rural areas. Whereas around 82% of the urban population in Cambodia has access to sanitation facilities, only 26% of their rural population has proper access. In Thailand, its rural population has a little better access to sanitation (95.9%) than the urban population (88.7%).

### 5.10 Diphtheria, tetanus toxoid and pertussis immunisation coverage among 1-year-olds, 15 lowest rates across ASEM Countries (% , 2012)



Source : "Immunization: Diphtheria tetanus toxoid and pertussis (DTP3) Data by country", on the WHO website, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A827?lang=en>

■ Asian ASEM countries  
■ European ASEM countries

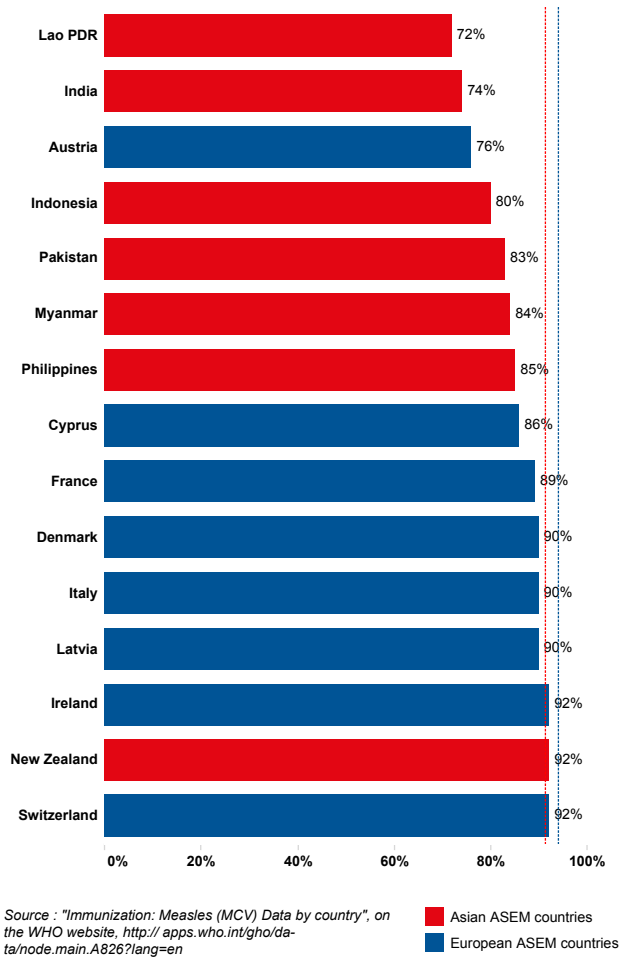
Immunisation is an essential component for reducing under-5 mortality. It is also a good indicator of health system performance.

The above graph shows 15 ASEM Countries with the lowest percentage of 1-year-olds who received three doses of the combined diphtheria, tetanus toxoid and pertussis (DTP) vaccine in 2012.

In comparison with the figures for 10 ASEM Countries with immunisation rates of 90% or lower against DTP of children aged 12-23 months in 2010, as presented in the *ASEM Outlook Report 2012, Volume 1 Asia-Europe Relations at a Glance*, the same countries are still among the top 15 in 2012 with the exception of Malta which is now among the 15 ASEM Countries with 99% of immunisation for 1-year-olds, namely: Belgium, China, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Poland, Slovakia, Thailand.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Denmark, Myanmar, Latvia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Austria, Indonesia, Malta, Lao PDR and India in the order the highest immunisation rate. Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). *ASEM Outlook Report 2012, Volume 1: Asia-Europe Relations at a Glance*. Available at: <http://asef.org/pubs/asef-publications/2821-ASEMOutlookVol1>.

**5.11 Measles immunisation coverage among 1-year-olds, 15 lowest rates across ASEM Countries (% , 2012)**



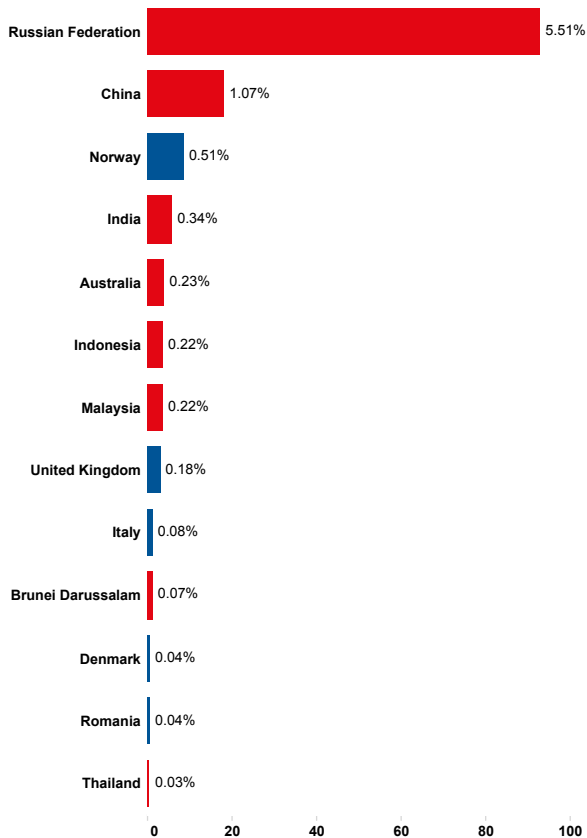
The above graph ranks the 15 ASEM Countries with the lowest percentage of children under 1 year of age who received at least one dose of measles-containing vaccine in 2012.

Across ASEM Countries, the average immunisation rate against measles (92.81%) is slightly lower than that against diphtheria, tetanus toxoid and pertussis (93.87%).

Given that currently there is no standard European policy of administration of the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, 8 out of the 15 Countries with the lowest immunisation rates against measles are among European ASEM Countries.

# 6 FACTS AND FIGURES: ENERGY AND CARBON EMISSIONS

## 6.1 Proven oil reserves in ASEM Countries (billions of barrels, % of world total, 2013)

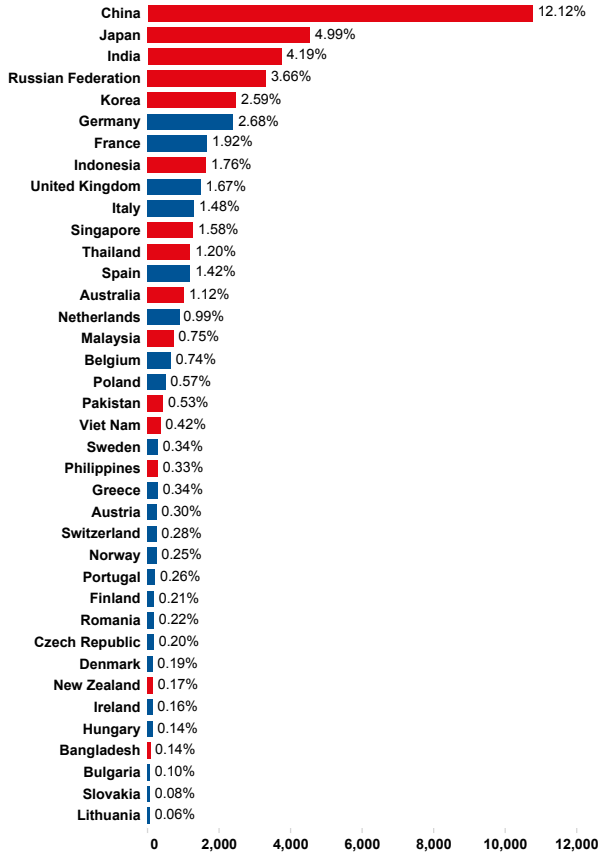


Source: "Statistical Review of World Energy 2014", on the BP website, <http://www.bp.com/en/global/corporate/about-bp/energy-economics/statistical-review-of-world-energy.html>

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ASEM countries currently hold less than 9% of the world's proven oil reserves. According to the Statistical Review of World Energy, the total world's proved oil reserves reached 1687.9 billion barrels at the end of 2013, sufficient oil to meet 53.3 years of global production. Proven oil reserves have never been that high. The largest additions to reserves came from the Russian Federation, adding 900 million barrels.

6.2 Oil consumption in ASEM Countries (thousands of barrels per day, % of world total, 2013)



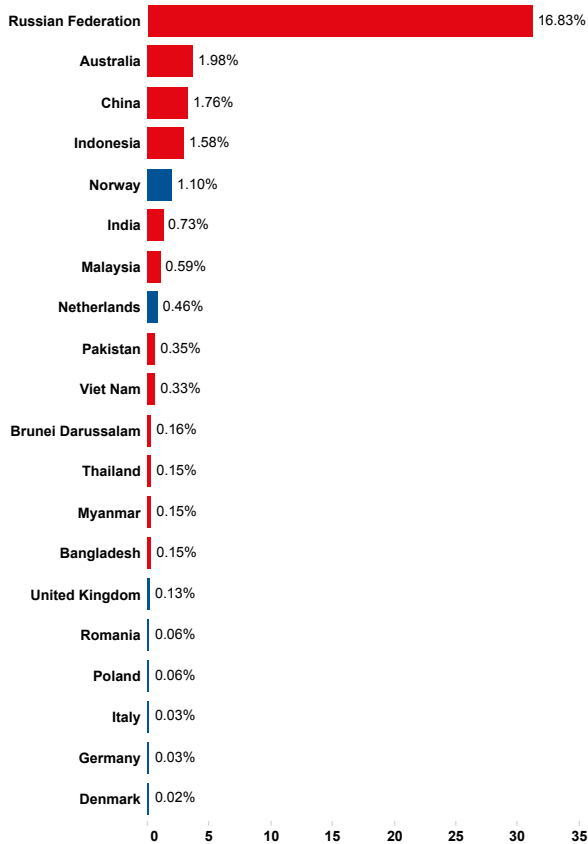
Source: "Statistical Review of World Energy 2014", on the BP website, <http://www.bp.com/en/global/corporate/about-bp/energy-economics/statistical-review-of-world-energy.html>

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ASEM countries consume about 50% of the 90 billion barrels of oil globally consumed on a daily basis. Global oil consumption grew by 1.4 million barrels per day in 2013 or 1.4%. Countries outside the OECD now account for the majority (51%) of global oil consumption. OECD consumption declined by 0.4%, the 7th decrease in the past 8 years.<sup>1</sup>

1 Same source as graph.

## 6.3 Proven gas reserves in ASEM Countries (trillions of cubic metres, % of world total, 2013)

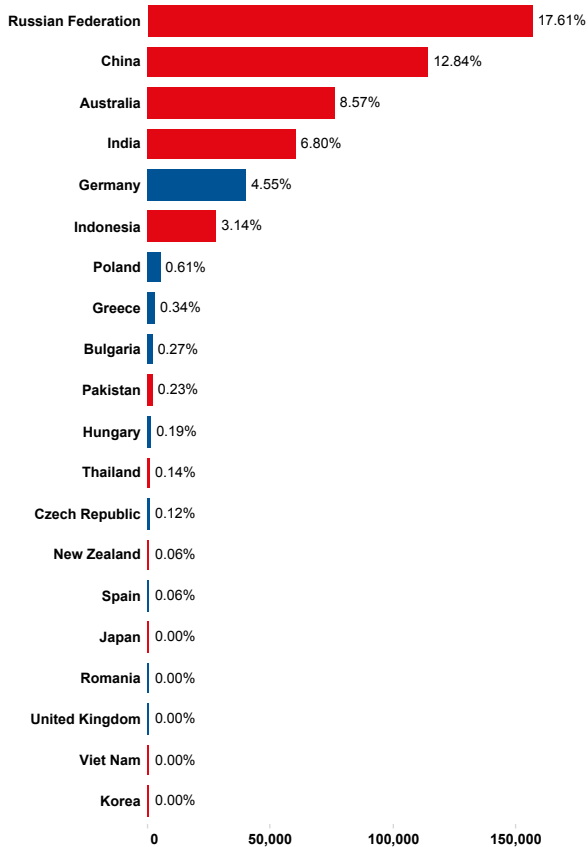


Source: "Statistical Review of World Energy 2014", on the BP website, <http://www.bp.com/en/global/corporate/about-bp/energy-economics/statistical-review-of-world-energy.html>

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Just as with oil, both Europe and Asia are structurally dependent on external supply, with the major exception of the Russian Federation, which holds very large reserves of gas.

6.4 Proven coal reserves in ASEM Countries (millions of tonnes, % of world total, 2013)



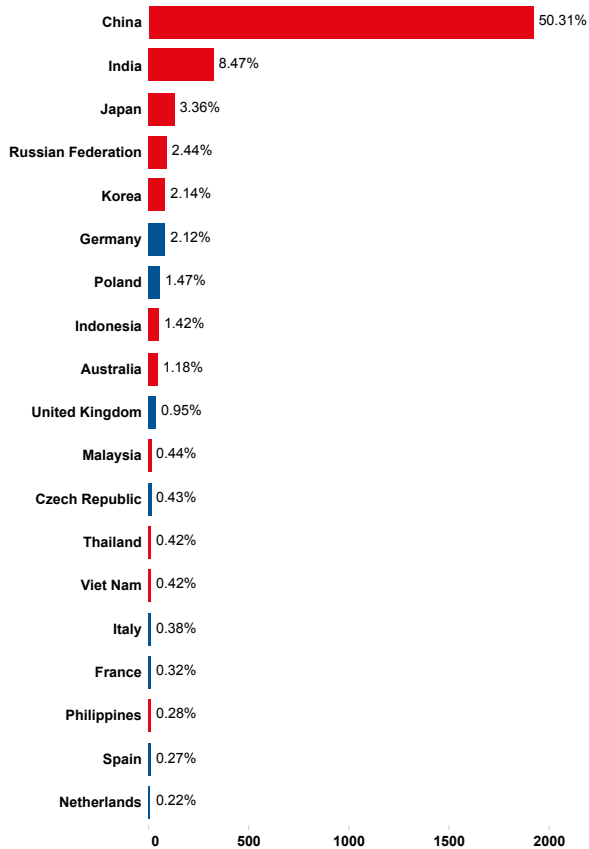
Source: "Statistical Review of World Energy 2014", on the BP website, <http://www.bp.com/en/global/corporate/about-bp/energy-economics/statistical-review-of-world-energy.html>

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The current reserves to production ratio for coal stands at about 150 years, based on proven coal reserves worldwide.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Same source as graph.

### 6.5 Annual consumption of coal in ASEM Countries (millions of tonnes oil equivalent, % of world total, 2013)



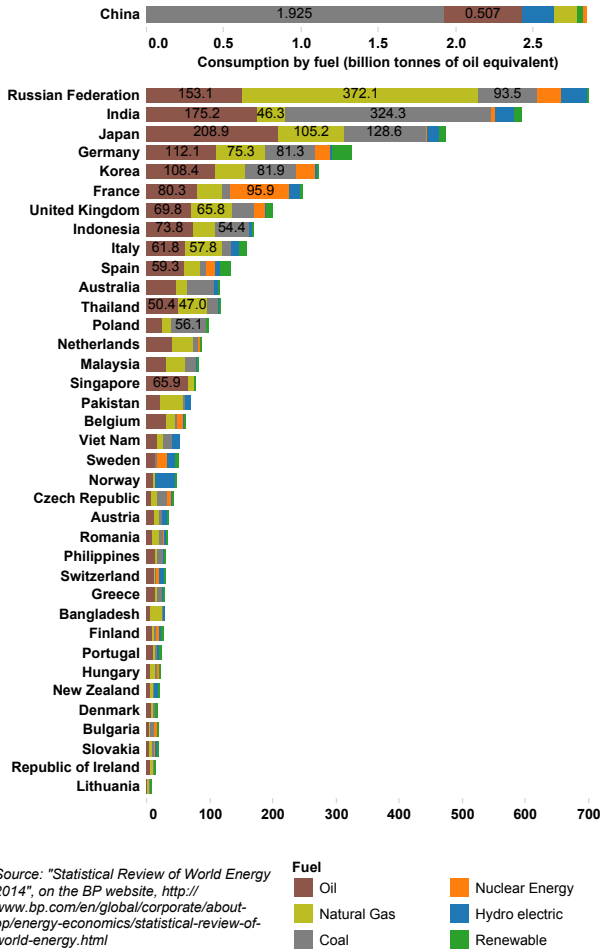
Source: "Statistical Review of World Energy 2014", on the BP website, <http://www.bp.com/en/global/corporate/about-bp/energy-economics/statistical-review-of-world-energy.html>

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Coal consumption grew by 3% in 2013. Coal is the fastest-growing fossil fuel. Coal's share of primary energy consumption reached 30.1%, the highest since 1970. China accounts for 67% of global growth, India for 21%. OECD consumption increased by 1.4% with increases in the US and Japan offsetting declines in the EU.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Same source as graph.

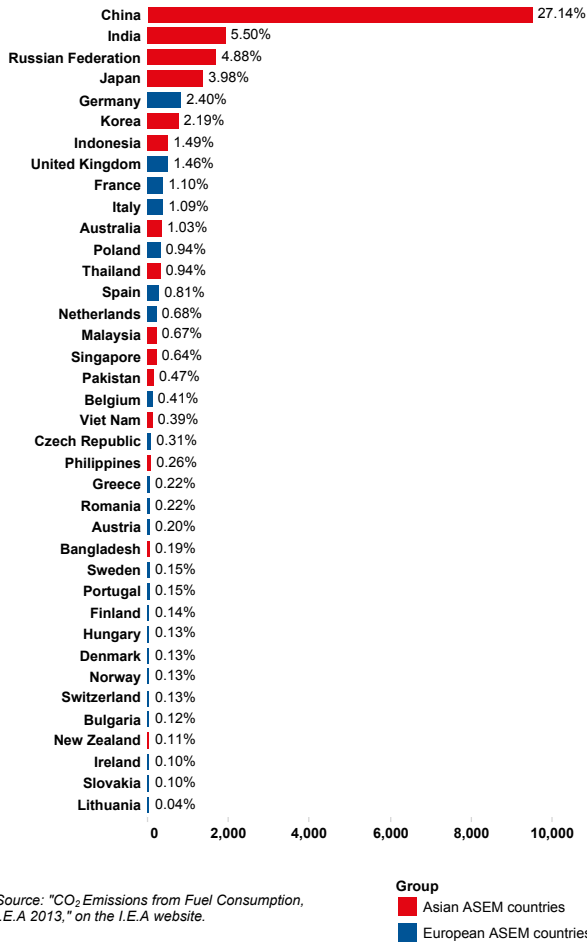
6.6 Primary energy consumption in ASEM Countries by type of fuel (millions of tonnes oil equivalent, % of world total, 2013)<sup>4</sup>



Global primary energy consumption increased by 2.3% in 2013. Growth in 2013 accelerated for oil, coal and nuclear power. Oil remains the world’s leading fuel with 32.9% of global energy consumption.

Renewable energy sources continued to increase in 2013, reaching a record 2.7% of global energy consumption. China recorded the largest incremental growth in renewables.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Data provided for 38 ASEM countries.  
<sup>5</sup> Same source as graph.

6.7 Annual carbon dioxide emissions per ASEM Country (millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, 2011)<sup>6</sup>

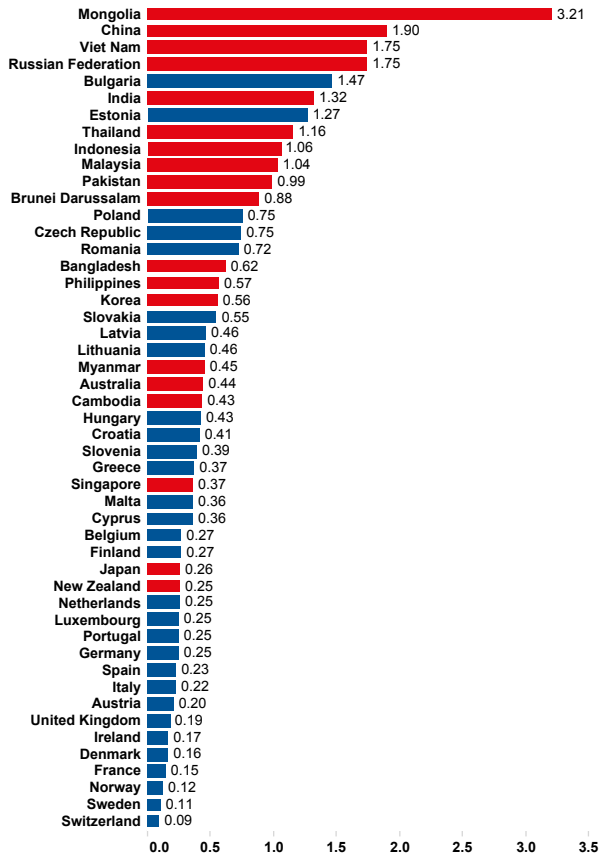
As a result of its high coal consumption, China is also the world's leading energy-related carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitter, releasing 9,524 million metric tons in 2013.

Meanwhile, the increase in global emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil-fuel combustion – the main cause of human-induced global warming – slowed down in 2012, while the global average annual growth rate of 2.4 ppm in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in 2012 was rather high. Actual global emissions increased by 1.4% over 2011, reaching a total of 34.5 billion tonnes in 2012.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Data provided for 38 ASEM countries.

<sup>7</sup> PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency. European Commission. Trends in global CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions, 2013 Report.

6.8 Carbon dioxide emissions from fuel combustion per unit of GDP (in kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per USD at 2005 prices, 2011)



Source: "CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Fuel Combustion, IEA, 2013", on the IEA website, <http://www.iea.org/statistics/topics/CO2emissions/>

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CO<sub>2</sub> emission trends mainly reflect energy-related human activities which, over the past decade, were determined by economic growth, particularly in emerging countries. In 2012, a decoupling of the increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from global economic growth (in GDP) took place, which points to a shift towards less fossil-fuel intensive activities, more use of renewable energy and increased energy saving.

<sup>8</sup> Data for Lao PDR not available.

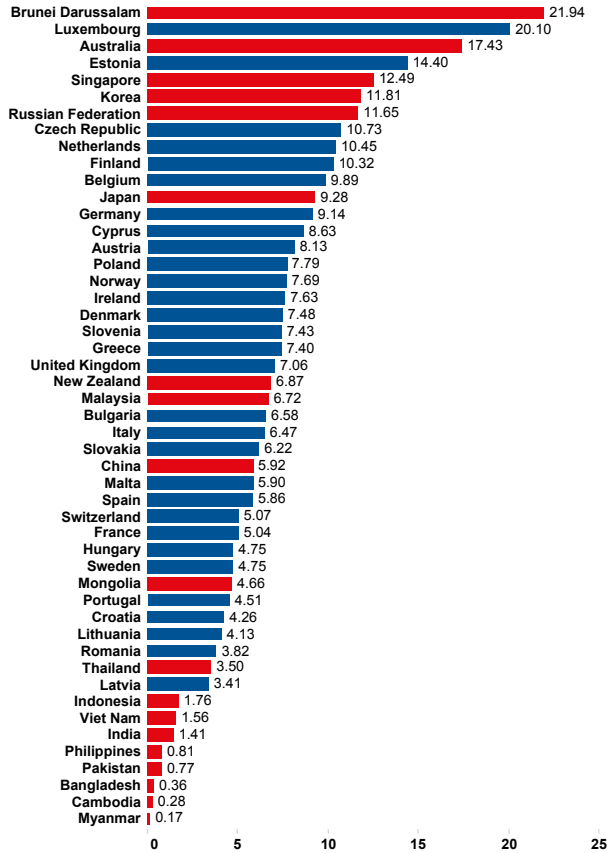
Hence the Chinese government, for instance, plans to reduce carbon intensity (carbon emissions per unit of GDP) by 17% between 2010 and 2015 and energy intensity (energy use per unit of GDP) by 16% during the same period, according to the country's 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan. China also intends to reduce its overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 40% between 2005 and 2020.

China's large economic stimulus package, intended to avoid a decrease in annual economic growth during the recent global recession, has come to an end. With electricity and energy increases at half the pace of GDP growth, the energy intensity per unit of GDP declined in 2012 by 3.6%, which is twice as fast as in 2011. This slower and structurally-changed growth, in combination with a national energy consumption target for 2015, puts the country back on track to meet its 2015 target according to the 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year-Plan, with an almost 17% cumulative reduction in energy intensity per unit of GDP, compared to 2010. China also increased its hydropower capacity and output by 23% in 2012, which had a significant mitigating effect of about 1.5 percentage points on its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2012.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency. European Commission. Trends in global CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions, 2013 Report.

6.9 Carbon dioxide emissions from fuel combustion per capita (tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, 2011)<sup>10</sup>



Source: "CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Fuel Combustion, IEA, 2013", on the IEA website, <http://www.iea.org/statistics/topics/CO2emissions/>

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CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita show a completely different picture. China's emissions on a per capita basis are comparable to those in the E.U. India is one of the lowest emitters on a per capita basis. In Europe, Luxembourg, the worst-performing European country, releases almost 6 times more CO<sub>2</sub> per capita than Latvia, the best-performing European country.

<sup>10</sup> Data not available for Lao PDR.

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Their profiles are available in the section “About the Contributors” in *Volume II*.

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**ASEF  
OUTLOOK REPORT  
2014/2015  
FACTS AND  
PERSPECTIVES**

**VOLUME I:  
FACTS AT A  
GLANCE**



*Volume I, Facts at a Glance*, provides data that will allow the reader to better understand the political and socio-economic conditions in ASEM countries as well as the differences and similarities between them. The themes that are covered in this section include demographics, the economy, social development, education and culture, health, as well as energy and climate change.

*Volume I* aims to serve as a tool for policy makers and civil society organisations to better understand the trends and forces influencing Asia-Europe relations at present. The data offers information that allows policy makers and other stakeholders of the ASEM process to devise more nuanced positions and policies with respect to Asia-Europe policies.

Finally, this volume also provides the quantitative background on which to interpret the analysis of *Volume II: Perspectives on Sustainable Development*.

