

# Poverty, Growth, and Institutions in Developing Asia

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# Poverty, Growth, and Institutions in Developing Asia

Edited by

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and

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# Foreword

In the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) first *Medium Term Strategic Framework* (1992-1995), "reducing poverty" was identified as one of the five strategic development objectives along with promoting economic growth, supporting human development, improving the status of women, and managing natural resources and the environment. In 1999, poverty reduction was accorded even higher prominence and was declared as the overarching goal of the institution.

Since the early 1990s, ADB has actively encouraged and supported research on poverty and related issues. Output of such effort included, among others, several volumes devoted to issues of rural poverty and urban poverty in Asia. Poverty research in ADB contributed to the formulation in late 1999 of the institution's poverty reduction strategy. However, poverty reduction strategy, like development strategy in general, is not static but is a dynamic process that improves with better data and the continuing search for new knowledge.

The present volume contains a set of general issues papers and quantitative country case studies. While confirming that economic growth is key to poverty reduction, the papers attempt to elaborate on the theme that institutions and other factors matter as well, and paying attention to them can contribute to sustaining both growth and poverty reduction in the long run. The book will be of interest to readers both inside and outside ADB.

**Ifzal Ali**  
Chief Economist  
Asian Development Bank

# Preface

This book is an outcome of ADB's regional technical assistance research project, Pro-Poor Economic Growth and Institutional Constraints to Poverty Reduction in Developing Asia. The project focused on seven Asian developing countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam; and, for purposes of further comparison, two relatively developed Asian economies: Republic of Korea (or Korea) and Taipei, China. The project began with an organizational and planning meeting in March 2001. The research undertook extensive reviews of the literature; field interviews with key persons in government, academia, private sector, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs); and selected country case studies.

A mid-term conference to present and discuss preliminary papers was held in October 2001 in Manila. It was the climax of the project and was a high-profile event, with the inaugural address given by Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and the keynote speech by Professor Assar Lindbeck of Stockholm University. Apart from the paper authors and ADB staff, several experts from government, academia, international organizations, and NGOs participated in the conference as designated discussants. These included Werner Konrad Blenk, Ramesh Khadka, Mario B. Lamberte, Suparat Manmin, Peter McCawley, Solita C. Monsod, Tae Kyu Park, Atiur Rahman, and Ching-lung Tsay. Pan-long Tsai and Suk Bum Yoon prepared background papers on Taipei, China and Korea, respectively. From ADB's operational and other departments, session chairs, panelists and discussants included Jose Edgardo L. Campos, Edward M. Haugh, Jr., Frank Harrigan, Gunter Hecker, Anita Kelles-Viitanen, Shoji Nishimoto, Arvind Panagariya, Cedric D. Saldanha, Christine Wallich, Clay Wescott, and G.H.P.B. Van der Linden. M. G. Quibria was also a designated discussant representing the ADB Institute.

The research project was carried out by the Economics and Development Resource Center (EDRC, the precursor of the Economics and Research Department [ERD]) with the collaboration of the operational and other departments represented by an interdepartmental working group (IWG). The IWG included Paul L. Chang, Siew Tuan Chew, Merrel Chin-Yee, Neeraj K. Jain, Sudipto Mundle, Stephen J. Pollard, Adrian H. Ruthenberg, William Staub, Susan D. Tamondong, Caroline Vandenabeelle, and Etienne R. Van de Walle.

Jungsoo Lee, Charles Adams, and Arvind Panagariya, who headed EDRC during different periods, and subsequently Ifzal Ali, ERD, provided general direction and encouragement to the project. Several others deserve special mention for the valuable help and support they extended. Aludia Z. Pardo assisted in the preparation of the research proposal. Pilipinas F. Quising, the principal technical assistant of the project, provided substantial research support, apart from taking charge of administration and coordination matters. She was very ably complemented by Gemma B. Estrada for research assistance, and Ma. Lourdes L. Antonio and Anna Karmina V. Ong for administrative assistance. Emmanuel de Dios served as economics editor, Regina Capuno as copy editor, and Glenn Concepcion as graphic designer. Cherry Lynn T. Zafaralla gave valuable editorial and production advice, and Lynette R. Mallery liaised with the publisher.

**Ernesto M. Pernia, Manila**  
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March 2003



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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>ADAB</b>	Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh
<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>ADC</b>	Asian developing country
<b>ANGOC</b>	Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
<b>APO</b>	Asian Productivity Organization
<b>BARD</b>	Bangladesh Rural Development Academy
<b>BKK</b>	Badan Kredit Kecamatan
<b>BOT</b>	Build-operate-transfer
<b>BRAC</b>	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
<b>BPS</b>	Biro Pusat Statistik (Central Bureau of Statistics)
<b>CARL</b>	Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law
<b>CARP</b>	Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program
<b>CBO</b>	Community-based organization
<b>CD</b>	Cumulative distribution
<b>CDF</b>	Cooperative Development Foundation
<b>CIDA</b>	Canadian International Development Agency
<b>CIDSS</b>	Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services
<b>COTI</b>	Central Officials Training Institute
<b>CPAR</b>	Congress for People's Agrarian Reform
<b>CPI</b>	Consumer price index
<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development
<b>DMC</b>	Developing member country
<b>DPC</b>	District Planning Committee
<b>DRDA</b>	District Rural Development Agency
<b>EPI</b>	Expanded program of immunization
<b>ESCAP</b>	Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign direct investment
<b>FIES</b>	Family Income and Expenditures Survey
<b>FSFE</b>	Fixed-stage fixed-effects
<b>GDP</b>	Gross domestic product

<b>GMO</b>	Genetically modified organisms
<b>GNP</b>	Gross national product
<b>GSK</b>	Gono Shasto Kendro
<b>GSO</b>	General Statistics Office
<b>HCE</b>	Household consumption expenditure
<b>HDI</b>	Human development index
<b>HEPR</b>	Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction
<b>HUDCC</b>	Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
<b>IA</b>	Irrigation Association
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>IG</b>	Irrigation group
<b>IGF</b>	Intergovernmental fiscal
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Office
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IPD</b>	Institute for Popular Democracy
<b>I-PRSP</b>	Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
<b>IRD</b>	Integrated Rural Development Program
<b>IT</b>	Irrigation team
<b>IV</b>	Instrumental variable
<b>JRY</b>	Jawahar Rozgar Yojan
<b>KALAH</b>	Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (Linking Arms Against Poverty)
<b>Lao PDR</b>	Lao People's Democratic Republic
<b>LATI</b>	Local Autonomy Training Institute
<b>LGC</b>	Local Government Code
<b>MKSS</b>	Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan
<b>MMR</b>	Maternal mortality rates
<b>MNDC</b>	Metro Naga Development Council
<b>MOLISA</b>	Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs
<b>Naga SPEED</b>	Naga Socialized Program for Empowerment and Economic Development
<b>NAPC</b>	National Anti-Poverty Commission
<b>NCPC</b>	Naga City People's Council
<b>NEDA</b>	National Economic and Development Authority
<b>NESDB</b>	National Economic and Social Development Board
<b>NGO</b>	Nongovernmental organization
<b>NIA</b>	National income accounts

<b>NILG</b>	National Institute of Local Government
<b>NOVIB</b>	Netherlands Organisation for International Development Co-operation
<b>NRB</b>	National Reconstruction Bureau
<b>NSCB</b>	National Statistical Coordination Board
<b>NSO</b>	National Statistics Office
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>OLS</b>	Ordinary least squares
<b>OPP</b>	Orangi Pilot Project
<b>PARCode</b>	People's Agrarian Reform Code
<b>PATC</b>	Public Administration Training Center
<b>PCE</b>	Personal consumption expenditure
<b>PO</b>	People's organization
<b>PPA</b>	Participatory poverty assessment
<b>PRC</b>	People's Republic of China
<b>PRSP</b>	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
<b>PSR</b>	Public sector reform
<b>RDA</b>	Rural Development Academy
<b>SCOL</b>	Spatial cost-of-living
<b>SES</b>	Socioeconomic survey
<b>SEWA</b>	Self-Employed Women's Association
<b>SMC</b>	School Management Committee
<b>SSA</b>	Social Security Act
<b>SUSENAS</b>	Survei Sosial Ekonomi Nasional
<b>SWS</b>	Social Weather Stations
<b>TDRI</b>	Thailand Development Research Institute
<b>UMP</b>	Urban Management Programme
<b>UNCHS</b>	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UP</b>	Uttar Pradesh
<b>VLSS</b>	Viet Nam Living Standards Survey
<b>WCED</b>	The World Commission on Environment and Development
<b>WDR</b>	World Development Report
<b>WEP</b>	World Employment Program
<b>WTDP</b>	Well-to-Do Program