

Foreword

This book is about sustaining Asia's growth and prosperity in an increasingly uncertain global economy. The goal of attaining sustainable and inclusive growth in the region underpins ADB's vision for Asia's economic development and this book hopefully provides valuable knowledge for the region's current and future policy makers and leaders.

Asia Rising: Growth and Resilience in an Uncertain Global Economy presents a timely, relevant, and in-depth treatise of issues confronting Asia, the challenges Asia has to surpass, and the available policy options, given an environment of depressed aggregate demand from the advanced economies in the West. Confronted with the threat of chronic and persistent weakness in global demand, Asia needs to rethink its economic policies and strategies for sustained economic growth and development.

The book presents a comprehensive discourse on the region's past and prospective economic performance in relation to its growth dynamics, the development of key sectors and institutions, savings and investment behavior, and the aspects of country level idiosyncrasies and regional coordination and integration. It presents thematic cross-cutting analyses and country-level studies that provide the reader an immersive view of current development issues in Asia.

While Asia has enjoyed rapid economic growth since the 1980s and has successfully hurdled the effects of several financial crises, its ability to sustain growth and eradicate poverty necessitates continued productive investment in the region. Ironically, despite the region's vast savings, investment growth in many countries in Asia has been anemic since the end of the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997–98. The various possible reasons for this – inefficient financial intermediation in the region, low productivity, poor governance, and a weak regulatory framework, among others – are discussed in this volume.

The book is a result of close collaboration by a team of economists from the region. This effort provides a broad and collective view of current development issues and policy options for Asia to sustain its high growth trajectory despite a weaker global economy fraught with uncertainty.

Changyong Rhee
Chief Economist, Asian Development Bank

