

ADB

**Asia Regional
Integration Center**

Tracking Asian Integration



www.aric.adb.org

The Asia Regional Integration Center (ARIC) is an initiative of the Asian Development Bank's Office of Regional Economic Integration (OREI) that facilitates and coordinates its regional cooperation and integration activities.

ARIC helps promote a regionally integrated and globally connected Asia and the Pacific

Coverage

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- ◆ Tajikistan
- ◆ Thailand
- ◆ Timor-Leste
- ◆ Tonga
- ◆ Turkmenistan
- ◆ Tuvalu
- ◆ Uzbekistan
- ◆ Vanuatu
- ◆ Viet Nam

12 Things to Know

about Regional Cooperation and Integration in Asia

1. Over the last 2 decades, ADB in partnership with developing member countries has mobilized around \$35 billion to promote connectivity and integration in Asia.
2. From 2001 to 2011, the Central Asia Regional Cooperation (CAREC) has implemented 121 priority projects worth over \$17.7 billion.
3. As of December 2011, 56 priority projects of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) worth around \$15 billion have either been completed or are being implemented.
4. During the first half of the 20th century, Asia had an intraregional trade ratio of over 50%.



5. Increased intraregional trade has been one of the driving forces behind the relative strength of the Asian economy.
6. In 2010, Asia invested \$899 billion (16.6% of total assets) in the region, up from \$154 billion in 2001 (9% of total assets).
7. Labor mobility in Asia is growing. As a result, remittance inflows to Asia rose fivefold in the last decade.
8. The Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM) Agreement was set up as an effective financial safety net for the region. The CMIM fund was doubled to \$240 billion in 2012.
9. Countries in Asia are taking the lead in implementing green growth by pursuing and investing in green strategies and policy reform.

10. ADB has invested about \$10 billion in climate change intervention over the last 3 years, spanning more than 110 projects in over 40 countries in the region.
11. Income disparities among Asian economies have fallen substantially in the last 2 decades, outpacing the decline in the world as a whole.
12. While closer regional economic linkages may have helped reduce income disparities across countries, there are concerns about widening inequality and rising polarization within countries. Over the past 30 years, 11 countries representing 82% of Asia's developing population experienced rising inequality.



Knowledge products

- ARIC website (www.aric.adb.org)
- Seminars and workshops
- Working papers and studies
- Economic reports
- Integration and Free Trade Agreement database
- Data and events calendar



Publications

- Asia Economic Integration Monitor
- Asia Economic Monitor
- ADB Working Paper Series on Regional Economic Integration
- Policy Brief

Areas of Regional Cooperation

Infrastructure and Software

Physical connectivity through a combination of regional roads, bridges, energy markets, and related software

Trade and Investment

More integrated national economies through the elimination of trade and investment barriers

Money and Finance

Better integration of financial markets via cross-border trading in financial assets

Regional Public Goods

Provision of regional public goods to maximize the benefits and minimize the negative externalities resulting from economic integration

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