



**East and North-East Asia Policy Dialogue (Online)
Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021**

Towards post-COVID-19 resilient economies

19 April 2021 (Monday, 3:30-5:30pm, ROK time)

The COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly cast a long shadow globally with unprecedented socioeconomic disruptions most acutely felt by vulnerable sectors across societies. In the Asia-Pacific region, the *2021 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (Survey 2021)* indicated that slow regional progress in implementing the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has exacerbated the vulnerability to shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic. While governments have developed a broad range of policy responses, there are opportunities to use these policies to not only mitigate immediate adverse impacts from the pandemic but also to strengthen pandemic preparedness and resilience in the future.

To this end, the *Survey 2021* emphasized that, in going forward, countries should prioritize a better alignment of the COVID-19 recovery packages with the 2030 Agenda. The proposed “building forward better” policy package has several dimensions, covering social services, digital access, and green development. The *Survey 2021* also reinforced a key message that while available policy options are vast and diverse, countries in the Asia-Pacific need to focus on the options that leverage their strengths and are implementable given their institutional capacity.

It is in this context that the *East and North-East Asia Policy Dialogue* is being held. Countries in the subregion have taken steps to build more resilient and sustainable economies going into the post-pandemic recovery phase, with differentiated strategies in line with their national priorities. There is also strong commitment to pursue multilateral cooperation recognizing that transboundary issues remain.

The policy dialogue aims to inform stakeholders on the policy packages of North-East Asian economies to build more resilient and sustainable economies. In particular, acknowledging the differentiated strategies across countries, country experiences will highlight the different dimensions of the “building forward better” package. Potentials for regional cooperation and collaboration will be given focus.

The “building forward better” package aligns well with ESCAP’s programme in the North-East Asia subregion to promote cooperation among member States and partners on sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability, and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies.

PROGRAMME

3:30- 3:35	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ganbold Baasanjav (<i>Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office</i>)
3:35–4:00	<p>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021: Highlights for East and North-East Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vatcharin Sirimaneetham (<i>Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, ESCAP</i>)
4:00-5:00	<p>“Building forward better” Policy Package: Country Perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China’s Zero-Carbon Goal (<i>Hu Min, Executive Director, innovative Green Development Program</i>) • Social Protection and Healthcare in Japan (<i>Reiko Hayashi, Deputy Director-General, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Japan</i>) • Mongolia’s Digital Transformation (<i>Badamsuren Byambaakhuu, Deputy Director, Department for Digital Development, Communications and Information Technology Authority, Mongolia</i>) • The Korean New Deal (<i>Jang Min Chu, Chief Research Fellow, Korean Peninsula Environmental Information Center, Korea Environment Institute</i>)
5:00-5:30	<p>Q&A</p> <p>Wrap-Up</p>

Moderator: ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office