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Brief on the Asia-Pacific Human Development Report Series

The launch of this Report marks a turning point for UNDP. From 2006 onward, the Asia-Pacific Human Development Reports are evolving into an annual series that provides continuing analyses of critical development issues relevant at both the regional and country levels.

The Asia-Pacific Human Development Report Series will provide the region with a forum for furthering dialogues and structuring debates to support a pro-poor agenda. Building on the wealth of regional knowledge, it will offer new tools to measure progress and deficits beyond basic needs. At the same time, it will bring together solid analyses targeted on people-centered development.

The concept of the Asia-Pacific Human Development Report Series arose from the insight that in such a diverse region – from Afghanistan to Samoa, Malaysia to Mongolia – improvements in one or a few countries are not sufficient to assure lasting human development and prosperity. Such advances will only be significantly enhanced and rendered sustainable when they are buttressed by, mirrored in and improved within other Asia-Pacific countries. Criteria for choosing the subjects of the Reports are threefold: The topic must be a common issue for many countries – that is, a theme that is important, and of interest, to more than a handful of countries in the region. Secondly, there must be an inherent cross-border nature to themes, meaning that they affect numerous countries and are best addressed at the regional/sub-regional level. And lastly, sensitivity is a critical criterion, since some sensitive themes are often most effectively addressed at the regional rather than the country level.

These Reports, published under the auspices of the UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo, will strengthen policy debate around the human development paradigm across Asia-Pacific and will present a vision of change based on critical choices to be made in the new globalized environment. To help these choices come to life, the Asia-Pacific Human Development Report Series is intended as a source of inspiration.

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build better lives. UNDP works in 37 countries in Asia-Pacific.

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The UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo (RCC) was established in January 2005 to serve countries of Asia-Pacific. It is a regional hub for development knowledge and expertise, providing policy advisory and capacity development services in Poverty Reduction and HIV and Development, with Gender Equality as a crosscutting concern.

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