

Low Carbon Green Growth Roadmap for Asia and the Pacific

#### **Sustainability Trends: Keys for Green Business in AEC**



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# Regional integration: Risks

Increasing free flow of goods, services, labor etc
→accelerated price competition
→race to the lowest short-term market price
→tendency to ignore environmental and social costs of production to lower price

Race to the minimum lowest price  $\rightarrow$ exploitation of human and natural capital Regional integration: opportunities

The region could behave in group and gain stronger bargaining power for export price

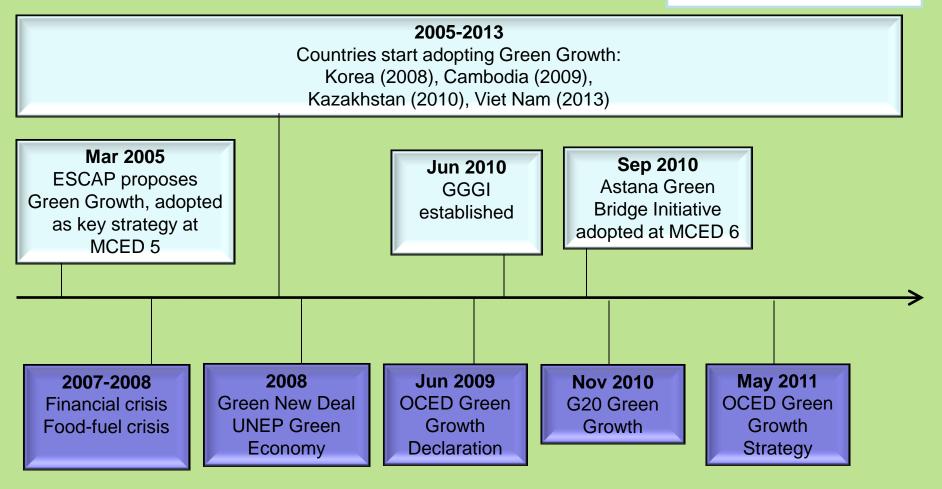
Price setter instead of Price taker! & Invest in Human & Natural Capital

## Asia-Pacific: Pioneer of GG/GE

- ESCAP first proposed the concept of Green Growth and brought it to the attention of countries in Asia and the Pacific in March 2005
- Green growth was adopted as key strategy for countries in the region by the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED-5) in 2005
- Since then many countries have adopted bold policies and initiatives to promote green growth, notably the Republic of Korea, China, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Viet Nam, Mongolia
- The financial crisis of 2008 has provided both challenges and opportunities for the promotion of green growth
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED-6), convened by ESCAP in Kazakhstan in 2010, adopted the "Astana Green Bridge Initiative", recognized by the Rio+20 outcome document

#### Green growth chronology

**In Asia-Pacific** 

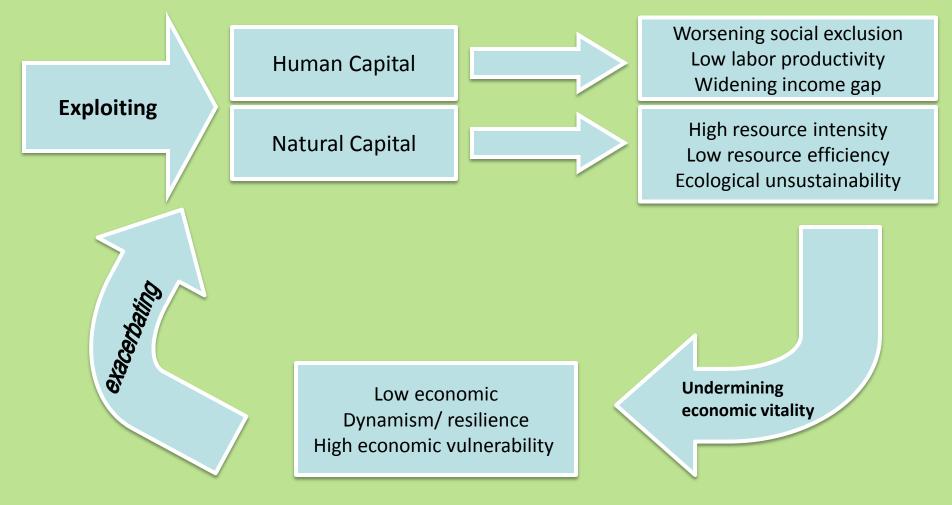


Globally

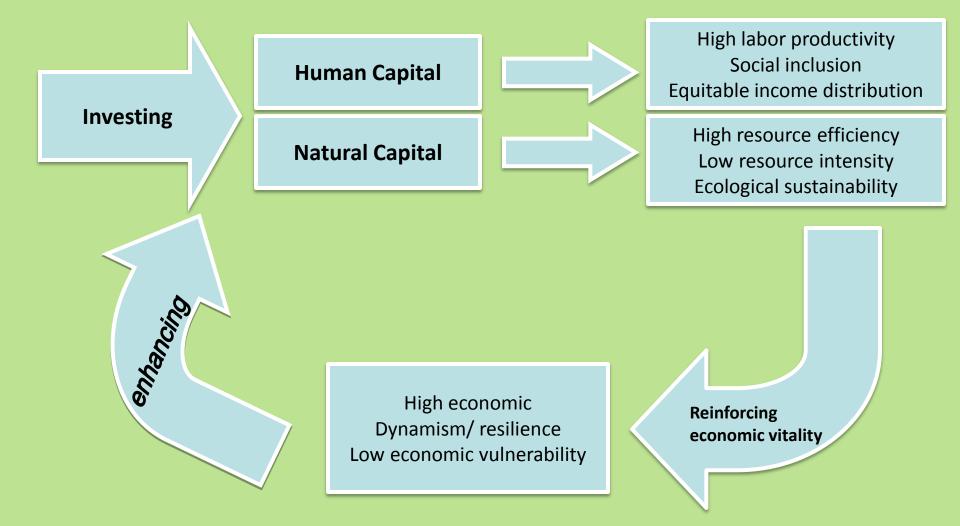
# Green Economy here to stay but requires fundamental system change

- Green growth is taking root in Asia-Pacific and will remain as one of socio-economic development policies in the decades to come
- Demand for energy, materials and other resources will continue to grow, as countries in the region seek to fuel economic growth and maintain high growth rates
- So will grow the urgency of pursuing Green Economy
- Green Job, Trade and investment opportunities exist
- But opportunities will depend policy choices for economic system change

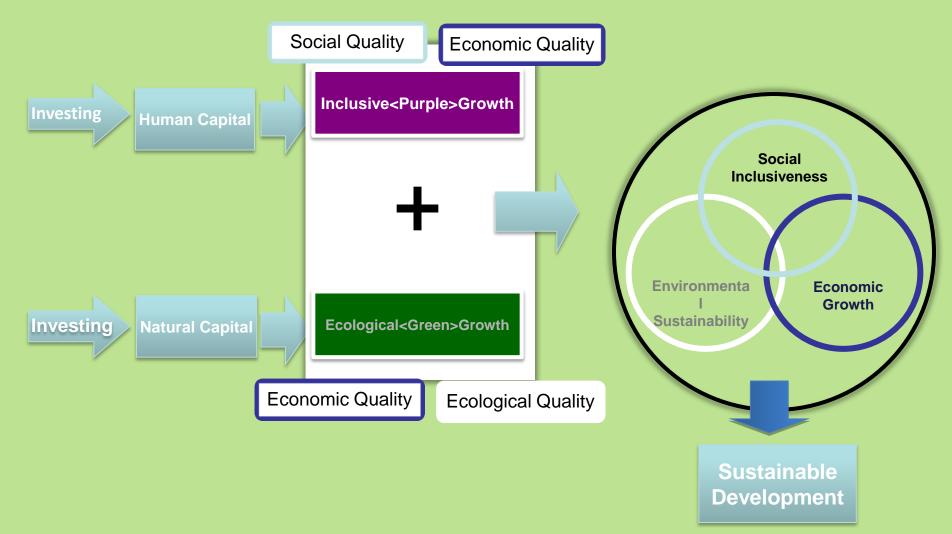
# Vicious cycle/Quantity of Growth (GDP)



## Virtuous cycle/Quality of Growth (GDP)



### Sustainable Development Model: Purple & Green Growth have to go hand in hand (integration of 3 pillars)

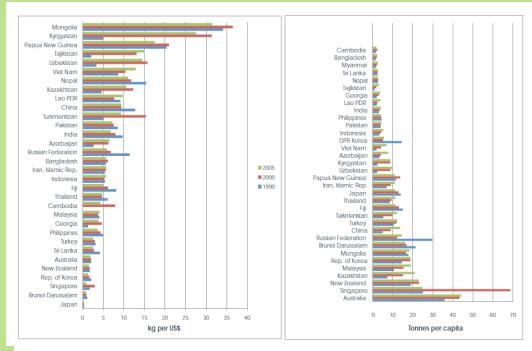


## Trends and Opportunities of Green Business

- Green Business is expected to grow by 4 percent annually
- The market involves 1.4 million companies and employs 28 million people
- Low carbon sectors have been growing through the economic crisis and consumers are increasingly interested in purchasing green products
- Clean energy projects surged to a record 41.8 billion dollars in 2011
- Sales of organic foods and drinks reached 60 billion in 2010
- Sales of sustainable forest projects quadrupled between 2005 and 2007

#### Economic Growth and Worsening Resource Constraints

#### Domestic material consumption per unit of GDP and per capita, Asian and Pacific countries



	Average annual growth rate of material consumption (% per year)			
	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2005
Asia and the Pacific	3.2	3.2	2.3	6.0
Rest of the world	1.9	0.5	1.3	0.8
World	2.5	1.8	1.8	3.7

Source: CSIRO and UNEP Asia-Pacific Material Flow Database. Available from www.csiro.au/AsiaPacificMaterialFlows (accessed on 11 July 2010).

Asia-Pacific uses > 3 x resources to produce \$1 of GDP, compared to the rest of the world

- Developing countries in the Asia Pacific region have experienced rapid economic growth in recent years, taking advantage of the opportunities brought about by globalization and the export-led growth model.
- The resource-intensive growth pattern of the region cannot be sustained.

## Benefits: Early mover advantage



- Most opportunities are untapped
- $\circ$   $\,$  Companies acting now can profit from the 'early mover advantage'  $\,$
- The 'green ocean' is an innovative, uncontested marketplace ripe for growth
- A growing number of consumers will demand green products
- o Government responses are also increasing
- Environmental performance has become a factor in competitiveness and access to markets

#### More with Less: Eco-Efficiency



- Ecological Efficiency
- Economic Efficiency
- Green Growth = Strategy to close the gap between ecological and economic efficiency

## Green growth - strategy to cope with resource and climate crisis and to sustain growth necessary to reduce poverty

- Conventional growth paradigm based on cheap labor and resources
- Focuses on quantity of growth, not quality
- Low productivity of labor & very resource and pollution intensive
- Leads to social exclusion and environmental unsustainability

Green Growth (invest) Virtuous cycle/ Quality of Growth

- Investment in human (labor) and natural (resources) capital
- Improvement of labor productivity and resource efficiency
- Improves quality of growth: higher productivity and resource efficiency

**Productive** 

Labor

Force

Vicious cycle/ Quantity of Growth

Brown Growth (exploit)

Cheap

Labor

## Low Carbon Green Growth requires a fundamental system change

- Restructuring both the:
  - Visible structure (physical infrastructure, (urban design/land use planning/buildings/ transport/energy/water infra/waste system)
  - Invisible structure (market prices, fiscal policies, institutions, governance and lifestyles)
- Only Governments can jump start System Change
  - → Market cannot deliver system change
  - $\rightarrow$  Political leadership & commitment critical.
  - → Low Carbon Growth Dialogue can mobilize political leadership of the Region

# Time Gap: Short vs Long term Price Gap: Market vs Real Price

- GG/GE/GB: long term Gain
- Market price: short term Burden
- Need to close Time/Price Gap through Government Fiscal/regulatory Policies
- Green Business: bridging long term and short term time gap

#### ESCAP's Low Carbon Green Growth Roadmap for Asia and the Pacific

- Published in May 2012, ahead of the Rio+20 Conference, the Roadmap provides a comprehensive blueprint for policymakers in the region to pursue a green growth development path
- The Roadmap consists of:
  - Main report
  - 63 fact sheets
  - 51 case studies
  - 8 policy papers

