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Press Release

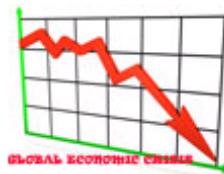
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UN regional high-level workshop to study Asia and the Pacific economic policy responses to financial crisis

Different approaches needed to confront varying circumstances



Bangkok (UN/ESCAP Information Services) – Senior finance and central bank officials from 17 Asian-Pacific countries are scheduled to meet from 27 to 30 July 2009 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, to look at various economic policies used by governments in the region to deal with the global financial crisis.

The regional high-level workshop on “Strengthening the response of the global financial crisis in Asia-Pacific: the role of monetary, fiscal and external debt policies,” is organized by the Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division ([MPDD](#)) of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ([ESCAP](#)), the regional arm of the United Nations headquartered in Bangkok, and hosted by the Bangladesh Bank.

Participants are expected to share how conditions in their countries, and their ability to respond, determined the different economic approaches governments ultimately used. Sharing of best practices in implementing effective macro-economic policies and identifying key areas for regional cooperation and coordination will also be a common thread for discussion throughout the meeting.

The Honourable Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Minister of Finance of Bangladesh, is slated to inaugurate the workshop, followed by an opening message from Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP. The Governor of the Bangladesh Bank, Dr. Atiur Rahman, will present the keynote address.

High-level officials are expected from the Ministries of Finance and central banks of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Experts from international organizations including the Asian Development Bank ([ADB](#)), the International Monetary Fund ([IMF](#)), the UN Development Programme ([UNDP](#)), World Bank and civil society organizations are also expected to attend.

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Headquartered in Bangkok, United Nations ESCAP is the largest of the UN's five Regional Commissions in terms of its membership, population served and area covered. The only inter-governmental forum covering the entire Asia-Pacific region, ESCAP works to promote sustainable and inclusive economic and social progress. More information on ESCAP is available at www.unescap.org

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