

East and Southeast Asian countries' development profile

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The purpose of this paper is to give an overview of the economic and social development in Southeast countries. Considering migration, human trafficking and peace negotiation and reconciliation as major challenges to the development of the region, these subjects will be the core of this document. It also recognises HIV and Aids as a major concern for the forum. The paper sets out some important information that could help the Anglican Alliance forum meeting in Kuala Lumpur to identify the principle challenges in the region.

Introduction

Over the past few years, the East and Southeast Asian countries have experienced one of the highest levels of economic growth. If on one hand, the good economic performance in many of those countries has contributed to reducing social problems such as extreme poverty and to achieving the targets set in the Millennium Development Goals, on the other hand, the different levels of economic development have created a new social dynamic within the region.

As consequence of the regional inequalities we observe the arising of a dynamic migration in which people leave their countries, crossing borders, looking for better work opportunities. However the conditions faced by those immigrants generally is not easy. There are many cases in which individuals finds themselves exposed to degrading working conditions, as well as cases of forced migration, characterising human trafficking specially of women and children. The migration can be also associated with countries' local conflicts, which brings us to another fundamental question to understand the local reality: peace negotiation and reconciliation especially in Burma, Korea and Sri Lanka.

Considering those central subjects, this paper aims to provide general information about the reality of this part of the world that may contribute to define a strategy to face the challenges of development in those countries.

Cambodia

Despite the high level of development, it is one of the poorest countries in Asia and long-term economic development remains a daunting challenge, inhibited by endemic corruption, limited educational opportunities, high income inequality, and poor job prospects.

Economic Index:

GDP (ppt)	GDP per capita	GDP growth rate
\$36.64 billion	\$2,400	6.6%

Ranking in the world:	108	186	33
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- Population below poverty line: 20%

Social Index:

	Life expectancy at birth	Infant Mortality rate
	63.04 years	52.07 deaths/1,000 live births

Ranking in the world:	178	37
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- Children under the age of 5 years underweight: 29% (2011 est)

Ranking in the world: 19

Major infectious disease:

Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal

Diarrhoea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever.

Vector borne diseases: dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis, and malaria

Forum Focus Areas :

HIV/AIDS: The prevalence of **HIV/AIDS in Cambodia** is among the highest in Asia. Prevention and control efforts exerted by the Government and its partners have helped to reduce the spread of HIV. Between 2003 and 2005, the estimated HIV prevalence among Cambodian adults aged 15 to 49 declined from 2.0 percent to 1.6 percent.

Cambodia's HIV/AIDS epidemic is spread primarily through heterosexual transmission and revolves largely around the sex trade and migrant labour. HIV transmission occurs mainly in sexual partnerships where one partner has engaged in high-risk behaviours. Women constitute a growing share of people living with HIV/AIDS, comprising an estimated 47 percent of people living with HIV/AIDS in 2003, compared with 37 percent in 1998

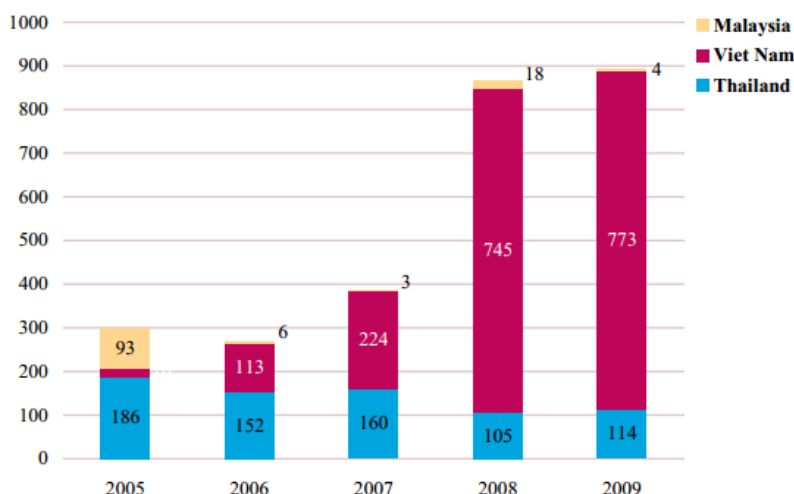
	Peoples living with	Deaths
HIV/AIDS	63,000	3100
Ranking in the world	52	45

Migration: An increasing number of Cambodians are migrating from rural to urban areas or from Cambodia to its surrounding countries, in search of employment opportunities, due to labour surpluses in Cambodia, influence from their families, lack of opportunities, loss of land, and natural disasters. Many are lured or deceived by brokers into situations of exploitation, or obtain information from recruitment agency representatives who visit their villages.

Human Trafficking: According to the national authorities, between 2006 and 2007 about 107 persons were prosecuted for trafficking in persons and related offences. The majority of them were suspected of trafficking for sexual exploitation and 12 for forced labour. However, forced labour was increasingly recorded. Among the persons prosecuted, 58 were suspected of domestic trafficking, while 49 were suspected of cross-border trafficking.

Victims

Number of repatriated victims of trafficking in persons, by countries of return, 2005-2009



Source: SIREN Human Trafficking Data Sheet.

Peace and Reconciliation: After years of Civil war, the accumulated history of oppression, repression and ongoing trauma has had a profound, continuing effect. In responding to these, a range of very different organizations have been working on a variety of strategies that are an important part of Cambodian life. One of the central issues in the process of reconciliation is the reconstruction of links for persecuted groups and the reintegration of refugees to their families. Thus, the work of the Church can be quite important in this process, especially if we consider freedom of religion one of the central questions in this process of reconciliation.

Several challenges are presented to our Communion in this country. Considering the information presented above, it is possible to observe that women are still the main victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and, as a result, they are more exposed to the risk of sexually transmitted contamination. Besides, as a consequence of poverty, Cambodia still has high levels of infant mortality.

China

Measured on a purchasing power parity (PPP) basis that adjusts for price differences, China in 2012 stood as the second-largest economy in the world after the US, having surpassed Japan in 2001. The Chinese government faces numerous economic challenges, including: (a) reducing its high domestic savings rate and correspondingly low domestic demand; (b) sustaining adequate job growth for tens of millions of migrants and new entrants to the work force; (c) improving governance; and (d) containing environmental damage and social strife related to the economy's rapid transformation.

Economic Index:

	GDP (ppt)	GDP per capita	GDP growth rate
	\$12.38 trillion	\$9,100	7.8%
Ranking in the world:	2	122	18

Population below poverty line: 13.4%

- the population below the poverty line in rural areas numbered 98.99 million at the end of 2012 or 7.3% of the rural population (2011)

Social Index:

	Life expectancy at birth	Infant Mortality rate
	74.99 years	15.62 deaths/1,000 live births
Ranking in the world:	100	110

Children under the age of 5 years underweight: 3.4% (2010)

- Ranking in the world: 107

Major infectious diseases

Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhoea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever.

Vector borne diseases: Japanese encephalitis and dengue fever.

Forum Focus Areas

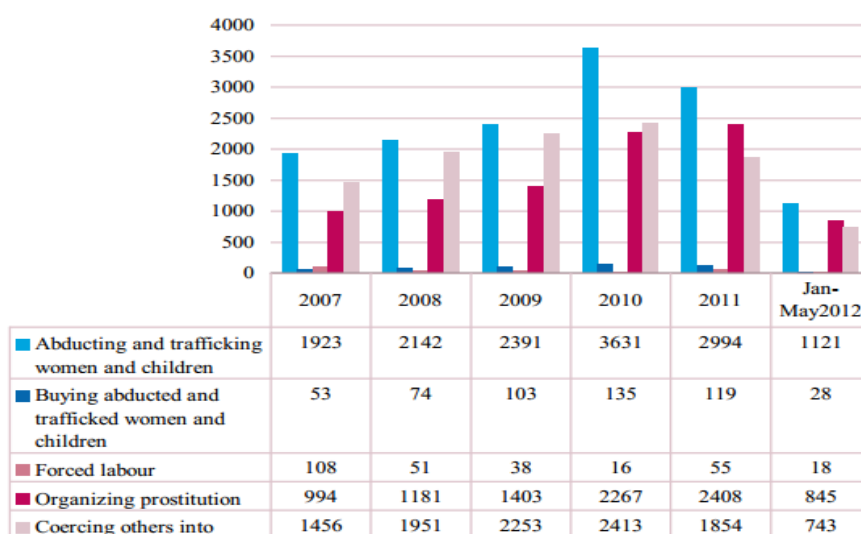
HIV/AIDS: China is not yet near what many would consider a widespread AIDS epidemic, but the infection rate (incidence) has been rising sharply, especially in particular regions. Much of the current spread of HIV in China has been through intravenous drug use and prostitution. Men account for 75% of the people living with HIV. In many rural areas of China during the 1990s, particularly in the province of Henan, hundreds of thousands up to millions of farmers and peasants were infected with HIV through participation in state-run blood collection programs in which contaminated equipment was reused.

	Peoples living with	Deaths
HIV/AIDS	740,000	26,000
Ranking in the world	13	14

Migration: Economic disparity between geographical regions in China, and between China and the other countries in the region is one of the reasons to national and international migration in this country. As a consequence of poverty, underdeveloped social welfare systems, gender imbalance, and especially because of internal conflicts, many people from Myanmar, Korea, Russia, Vietnam and other countries come to China. On the other hand, many Chinese leave their country to work abroad, especially in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Human Trafficking: An unpublished study of media reports on human trafficking led by the International Labour Organization found that forced prostitution, the entertainment industry, hairdressing, massage parlours, brick kilns, manufacturing and forced begging were the key sectors of employment for trafficking victims. Women and children may also be victims of forced marriages or illegal adoption. Economic disparity between geographical regions in China, poverty, underdeveloped social welfare systems, gender imbalance, local culture and traditions are some of the trafficking risk factors in China

Number of criminal penalties imposed for offences related to trafficking in persons, by offence, 2007 - May 2012



Source: Government of the People's Republic of China.

Analyzing the data above, we observe that China is a huge economy, but it is also a country which faces strong inequalities and poverty. That is the reason why our work is important to promote economic empowerment, justice for women and children, and other issues to face the challenges of migration, human trafficking and HIV/AIDS.

Indonesia

Indonesia, a vast polyglot nation, grew an estimated 6.2% and 6.5% in 2010 and 2011, respectively. However Indonesia still struggles with poverty and unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, corruption and unequal resource distribution among regions.

Economic Index:

	GDP (ppt)	GDP per capita	GDP growth rate
	\$1,212 trillion	\$5,000	6%
Ranking in the world:	16	157	46

- Population below poverty line: 11,7% (2012 est.)

Social Index:

	Life expectancy at birth	Infant Mortality rate
	71.62 years	27 deaths/1,000 live births
Ranking in the world:	136	72

Children under the age of 5 years underweight: 19.6 (2007)

- Ranking in the world: 36

Major infectious diseases:

Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal, diarrhoea, hepatitis A and E, and typhoid fever.

Vector borne diseases: chikungunya, dengue fever, and malaria

Forum Focus Areas:

HIV/AIDS: UNAIDS has said that HIV/AIDS in Indonesia is one of Asia's fastest growing epidemics. Of the 11,856 cases reported in 2008, 6,962 of them were people under 30 years of age, including 55 infants under 1 year old. There are a high number of concentrated cases among Indonesia's most at risk including injection drug users (IDUs), sex workers their partners and clients, homosexual men and infants who contract the disease from mother to child transmission, including from being breast fed. As a consequence of low awareness of the symptoms of the disease and the high social stigma attached to it, only 5-10% of HIV/AIDS sufferers actually get diagnosed and treated.

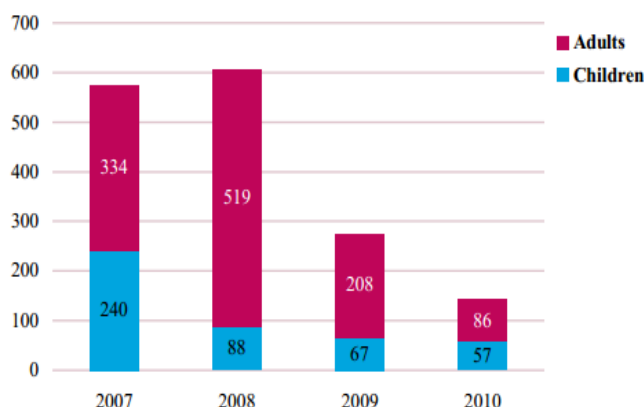
	Peoples living with	Deaths
HIV/AIDS	740,000	26,000
Ranking in the world	13	14

Migration: Indonesia is a prime source, destination, and transit country for migrants. Internally, complex migration patterns are influenced by natural disasters, demands for labour in what is a rapidly developing country, and economically driven migrations related to climate change and environmental degradation. In addition, hundreds of thousands of others leave Indonesia each year to work abroad; 80 per cent are women who migrate to work in the domestic and caregiver sectors. Irregular migration through the country's porous borders with Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Malaysia and Singapore is also increasing, making migrants more vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, harassment and marginalization from health and social services.

Human Trafficking: Indonesia is a major source country, and to a much lesser extent a destination country for women, children and men who are subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour. The majority of Indonesian migrant workers face conditions of forced labour and debt bondage in more developed Asian countries and the Middle East – particularly Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Syria and Iraq.

Indonesia women are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation. The number of Indonesian women who reported being subjected to rape while working as domestic workers appears to be on the rise. Based on a 2010 survey, a respect Indonesian NGO noted that during the year 471 Indonesia migrants returned from the Middle East pregnant as the result of rape, and an additional 161 returned with children who had been born in the Middle East. Children are also vulnerable, 60% of children under 5 years old do not have official birth certificates, putting them in risk of trafficking.

Number of victims detected by criminal justice system, by age, 2007-2010



Source: Indonesia National Police and Attorney General Office, Ministry of Welfare.

Peace and reconciliation: Over the years, Indonesia and East Timor were in a terrible war. After the referendum for Independence in 1999, an important process of reconciliation has been implemented between those countries. However relations between them are still delicate, but the problems are more pronounced in East Timor where refugees from Indonesia face difficulties reintegrating into their community.

In Indonesia the AIDS epidemic and the causes and consequences of migration and human trafficking present major challenges. Awareness of the risks and symptoms of disease, as well as the support especially for women and child victims of human trafficking are important issues that could be debated in the Forum.

Japan

Japan is one of the biggest economies in the world, but has fallen into recession three times since 2008. Government stimulus spending helped the economy recover in late 2009 and 2010, but the economy contracted again in 2011 as the massive 9.0 magnitude earthquake and the ensuing tsunami in March left a trail of destruction and social/economics problems. The economy has largely recovered in the two years since the disaster, but reconstruction in the Tohoku region has been uneven. The Anglican Church in Japan has been active in its response to the emergency, supporting people affected by the tsunami.

Economic Index:

	GDP (ppt)	GDP per capita	GDP growth rate
	\$4.525 trillion	\$36,200	0.2%
Ranking in the world:	5	38	181

- Population below poverty line: 16% (2010 est.)

Social Index:

	Life expectancy at birth	Infant Mortality rate
	84.19 years	2.17 deaths/1,000 live births
Ranking in the world:	3	223

Forum Focus Area

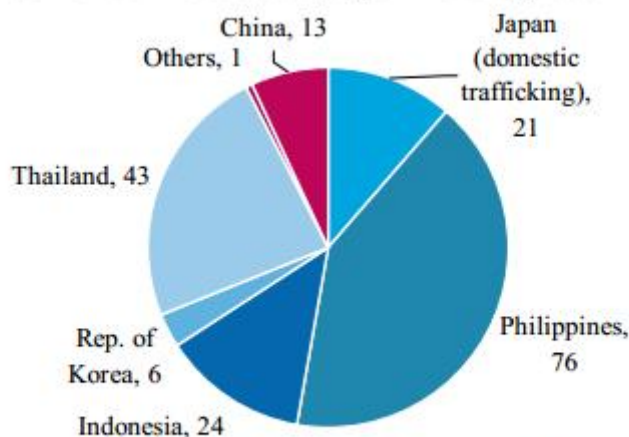
HIV/AIDS: Japan has one of the lowest ratios of reported HIV in the world. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare official figures from 2006 reported that just over half of domestic HIV/AIDS cases were amongst homosexual men, with the remainder transmitted through heterosexual sex, drug abuse, in the womb or via unknown means. Independent research has suggested that actual infection rates may be higher, especially amongst the young.

	Peoples living with	Deaths
HIV/AIDS	8100	fewer than 100
Ranking in the world	108	117

Migration: The number of registered foreign nationals residing in Japan has nearly doubled in the past 20 years, and reached 2.07 million as of end 2011. By country of origin, the largest group came from China, followed by Korea, Brazil, the Philippines, Peru and the United States. About half of the registered foreigners hold permanent resident status, including the so-called “old-comers,” those who came to Japan before World War II.

Human Trafficking: Japan is a destination country of migrants, particularly those from Asia. The Government of Japan is increasingly concerned about people trafficking. In support of the Government’s “Action Plan of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons” adopted in 2004 and revised in 2009, IOM is commissioned to provide return and reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking.

Number of victims detected, by citizenship, 2007-2011



Source: National Police Agency/Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Ministry of Justice/Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Japan is a developed country whose main challenges are associated to the country’s recent natural disasters. Moreover, as a rich country, Japan attracts people from different countries, hence the importance of the dialogue and cooperation in order to tackle problems from migration and human trafficking.

Korea (North)

North Korea, one of the world's most centrally directed and least open countries in the world. Frequent weather-related crop failures have aggravated chronic food shortages caused by on-going systemic problems, including a lack of arable land, collective farming practices, poor soil quality, insufficient fertilization, and persistent shortages of tractors and fuel. Large-scale international food aid deliveries as well as aid from China has allowed the people of North Korea to escape widespread starvation since famine threatened in 1995, but the population continues to suffer from prolonged malnutrition and poor living conditions.

Economic Index:

	GDP (ppt) \$40 billions	GDP per capita \$1,800	GDP growth rate 0.8%
Ranking in the world:	103	197	166

- Population below poverty line: NA %

Social Index:

	Life expectancy at birth 69.51 years	Infant Mortality rate 25.34 deaths/1,000 live births
Ranking in the world:	155	76

Children under the age of 5 years underweight: 20.6% (2004 est.)

- Ranking in the world: 31

Forum Focus Areas

HIV/AIDS: According to a report published for UNDP; it is not known if there has been any incidence of HIV infection in North Korea. Until the early 1990s, there was no report of any people living with HIV/AIDS. Travel was regulated, sex work was outlawed, and bars and brothels were forbidden. However, since the mid-1990s, when the country was forced to open up to the world, the likelihood of North Koreans becoming vulnerable to HIV has been increasing. Mobility of populations has increased dramatically and travel conditions have deteriorated. Most migrants do not live in decent shelters. The state-run medical system has virtually collapsed, and when people fall ill, hospitals are ill-equipped or otherwise unable to provide treatment. Condoms are not easily available: there is a shortage in state-run shops, and the high price of condoms sold in the black market puts them out of the reach of most North Koreans. It is likely that large sections of the population are vulnerable to sexually transmitted infection (STI) owing to unsafe sexual practices.

Migration: The government of North Korea is very strict about the entry or exit of foreigners, as well as that of their citizens. While there are a significant number of refugees from North Korea who moved to other countries including China, Mongolia, and other parts of Southeast Asia, there are also a similarly large number of citizens from these countries immigrating to North Korea. Many of these migrants entered the country for business or for leisure.

Human Trafficking: There is no official information about human trafficking in North Korea, but some articles available on the internet denounce the trafficking of children, men and women especially to China where they are subjected to forced labour and forced prostitution.

As a consequence of the authoritarian political regime and the different problems which are a consequence of the schism in Korea, the field of action in this country is very restricted. However, the Korean Church has worked to help Korean people in need. TOPIK, which realized North Koreans' economic difficulties in 2007, has tried to give them humanitarian aid. Particularly, TOPIK has sent food and coal briquettes to North Korea for women and children. Then, this organisation carries out important work of advocacy for the reconciliation. This subject is further presented below in the South Korea information.

Korea (South)

South Korea over the past four decades has demonstrated incredible growth and global integration to become a high-tech industrialized economy. In the 1960s, GDP per capita was comparable with levels in the poorer countries of Africa and Asia. In 2004, South Korea joined the trillion dollar club of world economies, and is currently the world's 12th largest economy.

Economic Index:

	GDP (ppt)	GDP per capita	GDP growth rate
	\$1.611 trillion	\$32,400	2%
Ranking in the world:	13	43	139
• <u>Population below poverty line:</u>	16.5% (2011 est.)		

Social Index:

	Life expectancy at birth	Infant Mortality rate
	79.55 years	4.01 deaths/1,000 live births
Ranking in the world:	42	200

Forum Focus Area:

HIV/AIDS: South Korea has maintained a low prevalence of HIV/AIDS, about 2 per 10,000 adult persons. Most infections are caused by sexual contact. The ratio of men to women among HIV cases is approximately 10 to 5. Very few cases were found among people younger than 20 years of age. Koreans hold strong stigmatizing attitudes towards HIV/AIDS and people living with HIV/AIDS. The gay community, who comprise a substantial proportion of the HIV/AIDS cases in South Korea, are limited in their ability to advocate for their health and for their civil rights. People living with HIV/AIDS are usually isolated from their jobs, family and friends, and even churches.

	Peoples living with	Deaths
HIV/AIDS	9500	fewer than 500
Ranking in the world	100	90

Migration: Due to the strong industrialization experienced over the last few decades, many immigrants come to work in the country. The first to arrive were Korean Chinese from China,

who shared cultural similarities and spoke the Korean language. Filipinos, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and Nepalese and others followed. There are two distinctive aspects of migrant workers in Korea. One is that there is a larger population of irregular workers, and the other one there are many more men than women.

Human Trafficking: The Republic of Korea (ROK) is a source, transit and destination country for human trafficking of men and women subjected to forced prostitution and forced labour. South Korean women and girls are trafficked for forced prostitution abroad in destinations including the United States, Canada, Japan, and Australia. Some men and women from Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Colombia, Mongolia, China, the Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, North Korea, Vietnam, Japan, and other Southeast Asian countries are recruited for employment or marriage in the ROK, and subsequently subjected to forced prostitution or forced labour. Some victims are recruited by false promises of employment in the entertainment industry and are later coerced in exploitive conditions.

Peace and reconciliation in Korea: Since the signing of the armistice between the two regions of Korea, the relationship between them is complex and unstable. The political divergences between Seoul and Pyongyang hinder the rebuilding of social and economics linkages between them. In this context, the Church of Korea and its partners have worked to reduce the effects of the famine that reaches the country, and at the same time, promote the peaceful reunification.

Settlement of disputes and conflicts requires the creation of a climate that is conducive to peace making between parties through confidence building measures and through de-escalation of military tensions and confrontation. Through the humanitarian plan Towards Peace in Korea (TOPIK), the Church has acted to rebuild the bridges between both Koreas increasing the cultural contacts and promoting reunion of families and exchanges between different sectors of the Korean societies.

The promotion of dialogue in Korea as well as among the countries of the region presents itself as an important tool to tackle the problems created by the dynamics of illegal migration, as well as poverty and instability inherited from the countless wars that ravaged the region in recent decades.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Laos economy is heavily dependent on the export of natural resources. Rice cultivation in lowland areas is still one of the principal economic activities. As a consequence of the good performance of economy, Laos has reduced official poverty rates from 46% in 1992 to 26% in 2010. Recently, the World Bank has declared that Laos' goal of graduating from the UN Development Programme's list of least-developed countries by 2020 is achievable. The good economic performance is also a consequence of the economic relation with China, this country has invested in different sectors of Laos economy, including infrastructure.

Economic Index:

GDP (ppt)	GDP per capita	GDP growth rate
\$19.16 billion	\$3000	8.3%

Ranking in

the world: 133 176 13

- Population below poverty line: 26% (2010 est.)

Social Index:

Life expectancy at birth

63.14 years

Infant Mortality rate

56.13 deaths/1,000 live births

Ranking in

the world: 182 34

Children under the age of 5 years underweight: 31.6% (2006)

- Raking in the world: 13

Major infectious disease

Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal diarrhoea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever.

Vector borne diseases: dengue fever and malaria

Forum Focus Areas

HIV/AIDS: Laos's low HIV prevalence does not necessarily indicate low risk. Moreover, the HIV-prevalence rate is increasing. Because of its geographical location in the heart of the Mekong region, injecting drug use, and unsafe sexual practices, Laos is in danger of an expanded epidemic. Nearly 5 percent of injecting drug users (IDUs) were found to be HIV-positive in 2005. Although only 0 to 1.1 percent of sex workers were HIV-infected in 2000, a 2004 survey of the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among service women found that Chlamydia/gonorrhoea prevalence was 45 percent in the capital Vientiane, 43.6 percent in the border province of Bokeo, and 27.9 percent in the southern province of Champasak, indicating the vulnerability of these women to HIV

	Peoples living with	Deaths
HIV/AIDS	8500	fewer than 200
Ranking in the world	106	111

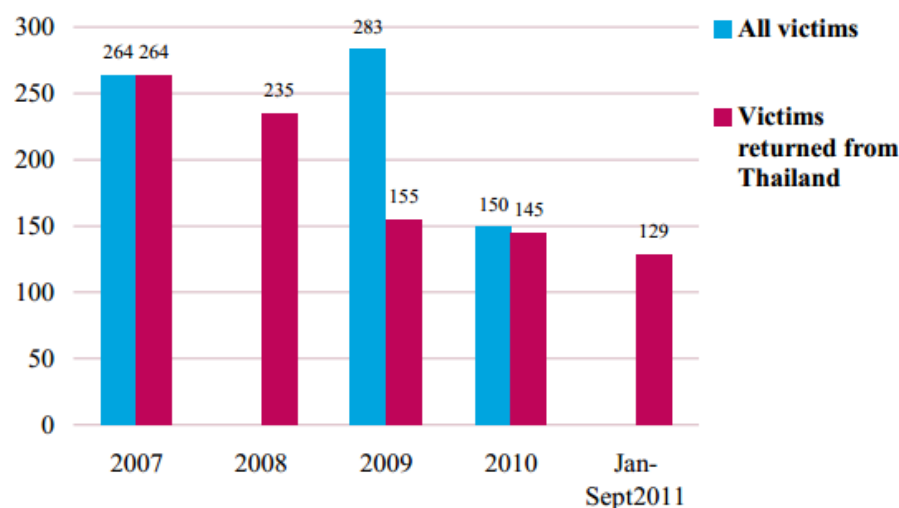
Migration: The developments of the country bring both increased opportunities for growth and increased ease of migration including irregular and unsafe migration, trafficking and movement of disease across borders. Migration from and within Lao PDR has been a regular feature of the country and it is believed that 85 per cent of cross border movements are irregular.

The country has limited job opportunities, particularly in rural areas and it is reported that every year approximately 60,000 individuals at the age of entering the labour market are unsuccessful in finding work at home and as a result are compelled to migrate in search of employment and economic opportunities, mostly in Thailand. Young people are the most vulnerable category of migrants. Their motivation for migrating includes a complex mix of aspirations for modernity, obligation to remit money to parents, which weigh particularly upon young women; under-employment, lack of useful education, uncertainty of income and poverty in their home communities.

Human Trafficking: Lao PDR is a transit and source country for human trafficking. Trafficked persons from China and Vietnam are trafficked through Lao PDR to Thailand. Lao people who are trafficked abroad are mainly from Champasak, Saravan, Savannakhet provinces, and the

capital, Vientiane. Lao PDR is also a destination country for women who are trafficked from Vietnam and the People's Republic of China for the purpose of sexual exploitation

Number of victims of trafficking detected, all victims and those returned from Thailand, 2007-September 2011



Source: UNODC Country Office in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Peace and reconciliation: Laos is involved in all the conflicts in the region since independence. Internally Laos is characterized by its instability and internal conflicts resulting from years of authoritarian administration. Since then, the population of Laos struggles to build its democracy and respect for human rights. Though Laos maintains positive relationships with neighbouring countries, it remains a somewhat insecure country due to intermittent domestic fighting as well as economic underdevelopment and reliance on foreign aid.

Laos is a country in the heart of Mekong, as a consequence of its geographical position; the country is exposed to the problems that affect the whole region, further increasing their vulnerability. Thus, dialogue and cooperation can be an important instrument to address the challenges the country faces.

Malaysia

Malaysia is a middle-income country with a record of strong economic performance and of poverty reduction according to the Asian Development Bank. Notwithstanding this, there are still many social problems affecting the least benefited regions.

Economic Index:

	GDP (ppt)	GDP per capita	GDP growth rate
	\$492.4 billion	\$16,900	4.5%
Ranking in the world:	30	79	72
• <u>Population below poverty line:</u>	3.8% (2009 est.)		

Social Index:

Life expectancy at birth	Infant Mortality rate
74.28 years	14.12 deaths/1,000 live births

Ranking in

the world: 112 118

Children under the age of 5 years underweight: 12.9% (2006)

- country comparison to the world: 58

Major infectious diseases

Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhoea.

Vector borne diseases: dengue fever and malaria

Forum Focus Areas:

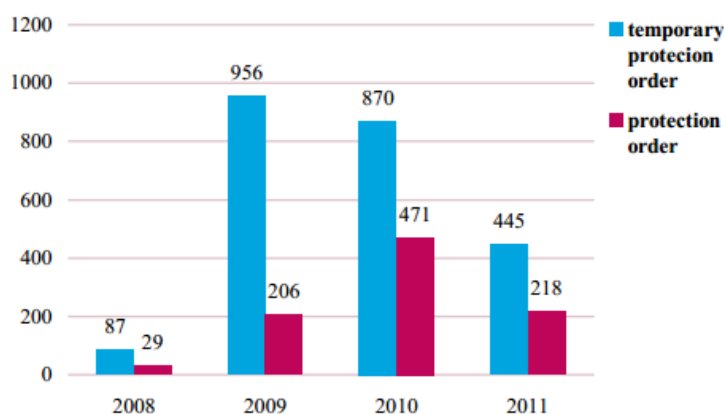
HIV/AIDS: Adults aged between 20 and 39 accounted for more than half of the new HIV infections. Among all the transmission methods of virus, injecting drug use contributes the most, followed by heterosexual and same sex or bisexual relations. Males still make up the majority of new HIV cases, but the number of women who are HIV positive has been increasing. Women represented 9.5% of all new cases in 2000, 10.8% in 2004 and 19.1% in 2008.

	Peoples living with	Deaths
HIV/AIDS	100,000	5,800
Ranking in the world	41	36

Migration: Malaysia attracts immigrants from the region due to its economic performance. As a consequence, a significant number of people are entering the country in search of better job opportunities and living conditions. According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), there are 86,680 refugees in Malaysia. IOM was asked by several of its member states to assist in facilitating the resettlement of refugees from Malaysia, many of whom were from Myanmar. It was also asked to assist stranded migrants and victims of trafficking who wished to return home voluntarily from Malaysia.

Human Trafficking: Due to the rise in labour intensive industries, the country is estimated to have over 3 million migrant workers. Sabah-based NGOs estimate that out of the 3 million that make up the population of Sabah, 2 million are illegal immigrants. The Council for Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-smuggling of Migrants reported the exploitation of victims in forced labour, sexual exploitation and slavery.

Number of detected victims of trafficking in persons, by legal status, 2008-2011



Source: Ministry of Home Affairs

Myanmar (Burma)

Myanmar is a resource-rich country but still suffers from pervasive government controls, inefficient economic policies, corruption, and rural poverty. Burma is the poorest country in Southeast Asia; approximately 32% of the population lives in poverty. Although there have been recent political and economic reforms in this country, significant improvements in governance, the business climate, and the political situation are needed to improve living conditions.

Economic Index:

	GDP (ppt)	GDP per capita	GDP growth rate
	\$89.23 billion	\$1,400	6.3%
Ranking in			
the world:	77	205	39
• <u>Population below poverty line:</u>	32.7% (2010 est.)		

Social Index:

	Life expectancy at birth	Infant Mortality rate
	65.6 years	46.31 deaths/1,000 live births
Ranking in		
the world:	170	46
<u>Children under the age of 5 years underweight:</u>	22.6% (2010)	
• country comparison to the world:	26	

Major infectious disease

Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal diarrhoea, hepatitis A, and typhoid.

Vector borne diseases: dengue fever and malaria

Forum Focus Areas:

HIV/AIDS: is a major social and health issue in the country. Intravenous drug users (IDU) (43%), along with miners (who often become infected through drug use) and sex workers (32%), are among the most likely to be infected with HIV. According to the report named "Preventable Fate", published by Medecins Sans Frontieres, 25,000 Burmese AIDS patients died in 2007, deaths that could largely have been prevented by anti retroviral therapy (ART) drugs and proper treatment. There was simply not enough money coming in from the government or from outside donors, and people are too poor to afford the treatment themselves. MSF had to restrict the number of new cases it could treat in Burma in 2008. Fewer than 20% of HIV/AIDS patients receive the treatment necessary.

	Peoples living with	Deaths
HIV/AIDS	240,000	18,000
Ranking in	24	17
the world		

Migration: In Myanmar, escalating conflict in Kachin State, and inter-communal conflict among residents of Rakhine State in June 2012 resulted in internal displacement as well outflows to other countries. On the other hand, ongoing peace negotiations between the Government and

insurgent groups in south-eastern Myanmar have increased the prospects for the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs), as well as refugees from Myanmar in Thailand.

Human Trafficking: According to Myanmar's Anti-Trafficking Unit, the total number of trafficking cases in 2009 was 155. Of these, 85 cases involved forced marriage, 19 cases involved forced prostitution, 13 cases involved forced labour and eight cases involved child trafficking. Myanmar victims of trafficking typically find themselves working in the sex industry, in labour exploitation such as in factories or working on plantations, fishing boats, or in marriages with Chinese men.

Number of victims and potential victims detected by border liaison offices and anti-trafficking task forces, by gender, 2006-2009



Source: UNIAP, SIREN, Mekong region country datasheets, 2010.

Peace negotiation and reconciliation: In a country such as Myanmar where ethnic communities constitute over 30 per cent of the total population, genuine political reforms cannot be achieved if the grievances of ethnic minorities and their demands for rights are not addressed. For more than half a century, various armed ethnic groups have been fighting against “Burmanization” and the control of a militarized government. In order to reach the goal of sustained peace, ceasefires agreed between the government and armed ethnic groups must include a wide range of stakeholders.

Anglicans in Myanmar, a predominantly Buddhist country, have been accused of being the agents of opposition to the government. The new political climate and prospects for change are now giving opportunities for the meaningful participation of Christians in nation-building as well as peace and reconciliation. It is widely recognized now that Christians in Myanmar can continue to play an active role in peace building, especially in facilitating talks between ethnic minorities and the government in addition to initiating peace building within local communities. The Christian leaders in the country, especially those in the Karen and Kachin states, are hopeful of the renewed attempt at peace talks.

Myanmar may be one of the most complex countries in the region as a consequence of authoritarianism and violence experienced in previous years and poverty plaguing the country. In this context, the Communion can promote reconciliation and create conditions for a better life.

Philippines

Achieving a higher growth path remains a pressing challenge. Economic growth in the Philippines averaged 4.5% a few years ago but poverty worsened during this time. Growth has accelerated in the last year but with limited progress thus far in bringing down unemployment, which hovers around 7%, and improving the quality of jobs. Underemployment is nearly 20% and more than 40% of the employed are estimated to be working in the informal sector. Consequently, many Filipinos leave their country in search of new job opportunities. The present government has been working to boost the budgets for education, health, cash transfers to the poor, and other social spending programs, and is relying on the private sector to help fund major infrastructure projects under its Public-Private Partnership programme.

Economic Index:

	GDP (ppt)	GDP per capita	GDP growth rate
	\$423.7 billion	\$4300	6.6%
Ranking in the world:	32	164	32
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Population below poverty line:</u> 26.5% (2010 est.) 			

Social Index:

	Life expectancy at birth	Infant Mortality rate
	72.21 years	18.19 deaths/1,000 live births
Ranking in the world:	135	99

Children under the age of 5 years underweight: 20,7% (2010)

- country comparison to the world: 30

Major infectious disease

Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhoea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever.

Vector borne diseases: dengue fever, malaria and Japanese encephalitis

Forum Focus Area:

HIV/AIDS: Officially, the Philippines is a low-HIV-prevalence country. Most-at-risk groups include men who have sex with men, injecting drug users (IDUs), and sex workers, because of their infrequent condom use. High rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and other factors, are also considered to be a risk. Several factors put the Philippines in danger of a broader HIV/AIDS epidemic. They include increasing population mobility within and outside of the Philippine islands; a conservative culture, averse to publicly discussing issues of a sexual nature; rising levels of sex work and unsafe sex, and injecting drug use.

There is also high STI prevalence and poor health-seeking behaviours among at-risk groups; gender inequality; weak integration of HIV/AIDS responses in local government activities; and the persistence of stigma and discrimination. Lack of knowledge about HIV among the Filipino population is troubling. Approximately two-thirds of young women lack comprehensive knowledge on HIV transmission, and 90 percent of the population of reproductive age believe you can contract HIV by sharing a meal with someone.

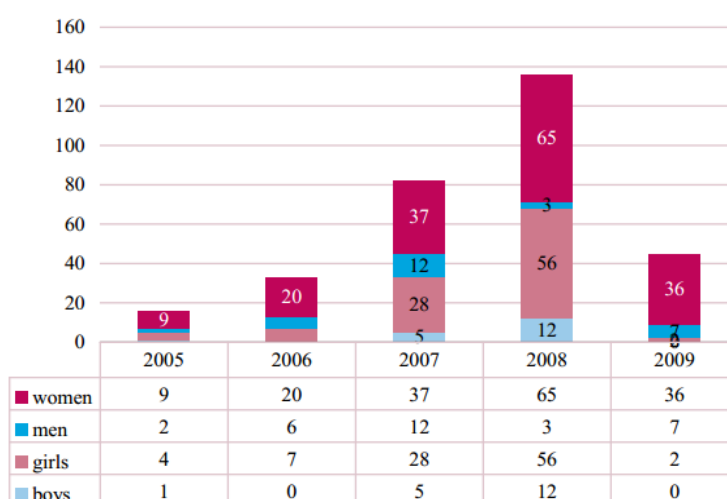
	Peoples living with	Deaths
HIV/AIDS	8700	fewer than 200

Migration: Although the Philippines is largely a country of emigration, it also attracts some foreigners to its shores. Traditionally, the foreign population in the Philippines consists of people of Chinese origin (some 80 percent of overseas Chinese are in Southeast Asia) and some people of Indian origin who came to settle in the country years ago. In the last 30 years, a "culture of migration" has emerged, with millions of Filipinos eager to work abroad, despite the risks and vulnerabilities they are likely to face.

The Philippines' ascent as a major labour exporter in Asia and worldwide is based on various factors. Among others, economic growth could not keep up with population growth. The country was hard pressed to provide jobs and decent wages and had severe balance of payment problems. Filipinos dominate the sea faring industry: 25 percent of the world's seafarers are from the Philippines. Women are very visible in international migration from the Philippines. They not only compose the majority of permanent settlers as part of family migration, but they are as prominent as men in labour migration. The majority of women are in domestic work and entertainment. Among the top 10 destinations of overseas Philippines workers are Hong Kong, Kuwait, Singapore, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Japan, and Taiwan. In Hong Kong more than 90 percent of Philippines migrant workers are women.

Human trafficking: A report published in 2004 by the Vatican stated: "The Philippines has a serious trafficking problem of women and children illegally recruited into the tourist industry for sexual exploitation. Destinations within the country are Metro Manila, Angeles City, Olongapo City, towns in Bulacan, Batangas, Cebu City, Davao and Cagayan de Oro City and other sex tourist resorts such as Puerto Galera, which is notorious, Pagsanjan, Laguna, San Fernando Pampanga, and many beach resorts throughout the country." The promise of recruiters offers women and children attractive jobs in the country or abroad, and instead they are coerced and forced and controlled into the sex industry for tourists. The Philippines has the fourth highest number of prostituted children, and authorities have identified an increase in child molesters travelling to the Philippines.

Identified victims of trafficking in persons, by gender and age, 2005-2009



Peace and reconciliation: Like many of the countries in South East Asia, the Philippines is a diverse nation with a long history of colonization and power struggles. There have been several violets and nonviolent problems between Moros and the Filipino government. Various peace agreements have been reached, including in 1976 and 1996, but none proved

successful. However, talks have continued, and civil society (such as Churches and NGOS) have played an increasing role in the peace processes. Though there are limitations to what civil society groups can do, their impact has been meaningful. Efforts include encouragement of interfaith dialogue, the creation of “space for peace” and directly influencing the formal peace process. Those invested in peace process face the substantial challenge of overcoming broader public perception, based on historical patterns, viewing violence as the only tool to end violence and achieve peace.

One of the biggest challenges to the Philippines is related to migrations problem, therefore an important question to be asked is: Why people are leaving their country in such large numbers?

Singapore

Singapore is the world's fourth leading financial centre, and its port is one of the five busiest ports in the world. The economy depends heavily on exports and refining imported goods, especially in manufacturing, which constituted 26% of Singapore's GDP in 2005. In terms of purchasing power parity, Singapore has the third highest per capita income in the world, but this doesn't mean that it is free of social challenges.

Economic Index:

	GDP (ppt)	GDP per capita	GDP growth rate
	\$325,1 billion	\$60,900	1.3%
Ranking in the world:	41	7	148
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Population below poverty line:</u> NA% 			

Social Index:

	Life expectancy at birth	Infant Mortality rate
	84.7 years	2.59 deaths/1,000 live births
Ranking in the world:	4	221
<u>Children under the age of 5 years underweight:</u> 3.3% (2010)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranking the world: 108 		

Forum Focus Area:

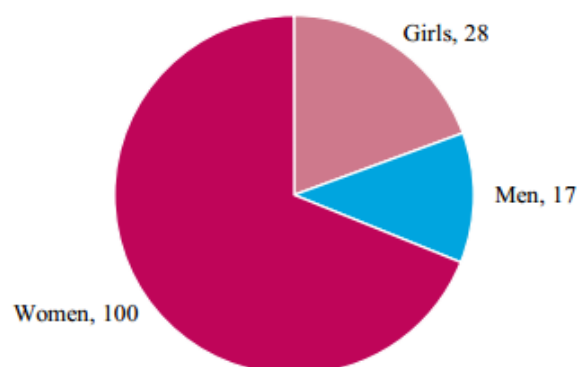
HIV/AIDS: Sexual transmission remains the main mode of HIV transmission among Singapore residents. Of the 461 cases reported in 2011, 449 cases acquired the infection through the sexual route, with heterosexual transmission accounting for 46% of infections, homosexual transmission 42% and bisexual transmission 9%. Intravenous drug use (2 cases) accounted for 0.4% of infections. In line with the Ministry's efforts towards HIV/AIDS prevention, the Health Promotion Board (HPB) conducts a series of awareness and educational outreach programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, its prevention and management. These programmes also help towards reducing the stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV/AIDS, which could lead to late testing and detection of HIV infections. Besides encouraging at-risk individuals to take personal protective measures, and to go for early and regular HIV testing, they are also educated on the health benefits of early detection and treatment for HIV infections, which will significantly delay the onset of AIDS and allow them to continue to lead an active and productive life.

HIV/AIDS	Peoples living with	Deaths
Ranking in the world	3400	fewer than 100
	127	130

Migration: Immigration and immigrant workers in Singapore have been closely associated with the country's economic development. The initial strict controls on immigrant workers after decolonisation were relaxed as demand for labour grew with increased industrialization. The most rapid (absolute) increase in the foreign-born proportion of the labour force occurred in the 2000s when, following decades of healthy growth, Singapore's non-resident workforce increased 76.8 percent from 615,700 in 2000 to nearly 1.09 million in 2010. In the country, there are different categories of immigrants: Low-Skilled Foreign Workers, Highly Skilled Foreign Labour and Foreign Students. Singaporeans are reluctant to take up low-skill jobs that pay low wages, so foreign-born workers often fill these positions. To guard against excessive permanent unskilled immigration, government policy since the 1970s has ensured that unskilled and low-skilled immigrants remain a transient workforce, subject to repatriation during periods of economic downturn.

Human Trafficking: Singapore is a destination country for women and girls who are trafficked from Thailand, the Philippines, the People's Republic of China, and Indonesia for commercial sexual and labour exploitation. Some women voluntarily migrate to Singapore to work as sex workers but are later coerced into sexual servitude. Singapore does not have a law specific to anti-trafficking, however, it has many laws to prosecute perpetrators, protect trafficked people, and prevent human trafficking.

Detected victims of trafficking, by age and gender, 2008-2010



Source: Singapore Police Force, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Manpower.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka continues to experience strong economic growth following the end of the 26-year conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The government has been pursuing large-scale reconstruction and development projects in its efforts to spur growth in war-torn and disadvantaged areas, develop small and medium enterprises and increase agricultural productivity, although there are still difficulties relating to human rights.

Economic Index:

	GDP (ppt)	GDP per capita	GDP growth rate
	\$125.3 billion	\$6,100	6%
Ranking in the world:	67	144	44
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Population below poverty line:</u> 8.9% (2010 est.) 			

Social Index:

	Life expectancy at birth	Infant Mortality rate
	76.15 years	9.24 deaths/1,000 live births
Ranking in the world:	83	147
<u>Children under the age of 5 years underweight:</u> 21.9% (2009)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranking in the world: 27 		

Major infectious diseases

Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhoea, hepatitis A.

Vector borne diseases: dengue fever, chikungunya.

Forum Focus Area

HIV/AIDS: Sri Lanka continues to have very low HIV prevalence. Data on HIV prevalence amongst the most-at-risk populations in Sri Lanka is limited, with the exception of female sex workers. Data collected of October 2006 to March 2007 indicated that men having sex with men populations present high levels of risk behaviour. Data on drug users is limited but large numbers of them are regularly in and out of prison where they are at risk of infection.

	Peoples living with	Deaths
HIV/AIDS	2800	fewer than 200
Ranking in the world	129	104

Migration: Over the years, there has been an increase in the number of migrants leaving Sri Lanka in search of work; in particular, in 1995 the process accelerated dramatically. The increase can be traced to the introduction of a system of compulsory registration of all labour migrants with the Sri Lankan Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE), following an amendment of the relevant law. The pace of labour migration has remained unchanged since then; an estimated total of one million migrants (that is, approximately 1/16th of the total population) are currently working in other countries.

Human Trafficking: Sri Lanka is primarily a source and, to a much lesser extent, a destination for men and women subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced labour and forced prostitution. Between 2008 and June 2010, about 75 cases of people trafficking and related offences were investigated by the Police.

Peace negotiation and reconciliation: For nearly three decades, Sri Lanka was scarred by a bitter civil war driven by ethnic tensions. In May 2009, the Government of Sri Lanka announced a decisive military victory over the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE or Tamil Tigers). The war claimed thousands of deaths and tensions between ethnic groups remain high. If left to

simmer below the surface, these tensions could threaten the fragile peace Sri Lanka is working to build. To rebuild the relation between different ethnics living in the country, different social groups are promoting inter-community activities that bring people together regardless of religion or ethnicity. In this context, the Anglican Community has played an important role in the process of peace and reconciliation.

The recent ending of the Civil War and the persecution of minority groups underlines the importance of working for those who are excluded from society.

Thailand

Thailand's economy has achieved considerable growth in recent years: however some problems like pollution, human trafficking and poverty remain obstacles to the development of the country.

Economic Index:

	GDP (ppt)	GDP per capita	GDP growth rate
	\$645,7 billion	\$10,000	5.5%
Ranking in the world:	25	117	53
• <u>Population below poverty line:</u>	7.8%		

Social Index:

	Life expectancy at birth	Infant Mortality rate
	74.05 years	15.41 deaths/1,000 live births
Ranking in the world:	115	107
<u>Children under the age of 5 years underweight:</u> 7% (2010)		
• Ranking the world:	76	

Major infectious diseases

Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhoea,.

Vector borne diseases: dengue fever, malaria and Japanese encephalitis.

Forum Focus Areas:

HIV/AIDS: Thailand has the highest prevalence of HIV in Southeast Asia. Thailand's early cases of HIV/AIDS occurred primarily among men who have sex with men. The virus then spread rapidly to injecting drug users, followed by sex workers. Between 2003 and 2005, there were increases in HIV prevalence from 17 to 28 percent among men who have sex with men in Bangkok. In addition, prevalence among injecting drug users still ranges from 30 to 50 percent. In 2005, more than 40 percent of new infections were among women, the majority of whom were infected through intercourse with their male partners. Money and a low level of condom use due to women's activity in the illegal sex trade are factors responsible for the spread of HIV among this group. Although the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Thailand has declined, the epidemic has moved to the general population and there is a greater need to match prevention efforts with recent changes in the epidemic.

Several factors put Thailand at risk of a resurgence of HIV/AIDS cases. Awareness of HIV status is low. For example, 80 percent of HIV-positive men who have sex with men had never been tested or thought they were HIV-negative, according to a 2006 study cited by UNAIDS. A large

portion of injecting drug users – 35 percent according to one study – use no sterile injecting equipment. Other research has noted an increased trend of erratic condom use by female sex workers. In some cases, women selling sex reported using a condom in just over one half of commercial sex encounters. Finally, premarital sex, once taboo, is increasingly common among young Thais, only 20 to 30 percent of whom use condoms consistently, according to the United Nations Development Program.

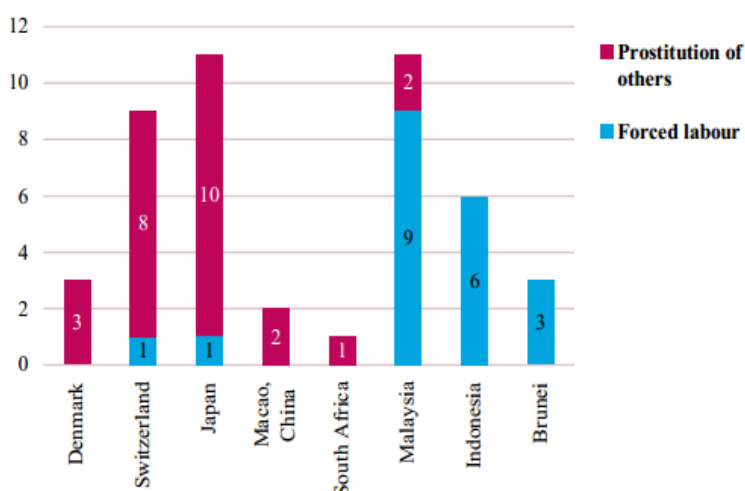
	Peoples living with	Deaths
HIV/AIDS	530,000	28,000
Ranking in the world	15	13

Migration: 435,385 Thais migrated overseas in 2009, 78,717 of whom received official permission from the Ministry of Labour to work abroad. The majority remained in Asia (43,832), with the Middle East also popular (17,697). The duration of stays was generally three months to two years. The Department of Employment in Thailand estimates that in 2009, some 68,432 persons were permitted to work temporarily, and another 69,491 persons applied to do so. These figures are based on the number of work permits issued.

The country also remains a major port of asylum for ethnic minorities from Myanmar, with groups of new arrivals ranging in number from a few hundred to several thousand entering the country temporarily due to tensions in the border area. A gradual increase in the number of asylum-seekers who are not from Myanmar has also been observed.

Human Trafficking: Among victims of human trafficking, women and children are the most vulnerable to exploitation. Most of the trafficking victims identified in Thailand are migrants who have been forced, coerced, or defrauded into forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation. Trafficking victims within Thailand typically work in fishing, seafood processing, low-end garment production, and domestic work.

Thai nationals identified as potential victims returned to Thailand, by country/territory of destination and form of exploitation, 2011



Source: The Department of Social Development and Welfare, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

Thailand plays an important role in the region in receiving refugees from neighbouring countries, especially Myanmar. These refugees' place in society, people trafficking and the spread of HIV/AIDS are central development issues for Thailand.

Vietnam

Vietnam is a densely-populated developing country that has been transitioning from the rigidities of a centrally-planned economy since 1986. In recent years, industry's share of GDP increased from 36% to nearly 41%. Poverty has declined significantly, and Vietnam is working to create jobs to meet the challenge of a labour force that is growing by more than one million people every year.

Economic Index:

	GDP (ppt)	GDP per capita	GDP growth rate
	\$320.1 billion	\$3,500	5%
Ranking in the world:	42	170	62
• <u>Population below poverty line:</u>	11,3%		

Social Index:

	Life expectancy at birth	Infant Mortality rate
	72.65 years	19.61 deaths/1,000 live births
Ranking in the world:	130	95
<u>Children under the age of 5 years underweight:</u> 20.2% (2010)		

Ranking the world: 35

Major infectious diseases

Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhoea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever.

Vector borne diseases: dengue fever, malaria, Japanese encephalitis and plague.

Forum Focus Area:

HIV/AIDS: Even though Vietnam has implemented HIV/AIDS case reporting, the general lack of HIV testing thus far suggests that the actual number of people living with HIV/AIDS is much higher. Social stigma against HIV/AIDS patients presents a major obstacle to contain HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS patients are treated unequally in the hospitals and denied employment. Children with HIV are not welcomed in school. In 2009, parents in Ho Chi Minh City forced officials to expel children with HIV. Discrimination thus discourages people to go for screening or to take medication in fear of revealing their HIV status.

	Peoples living with	Deaths
HIV/AIDS	280,000	14,000
Ranking in the world	21	21

Migration: A new study looking at the migration of Vietnamese nationals shows that Vietnamese migrants are increasingly moving abroad. According to the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, more than 500,000 Vietnamese are currently working in more than 40 countries and territories in occupations ranging from low to highly skilled, with more than 80,000 Vietnamese leaving each year to work abroad.

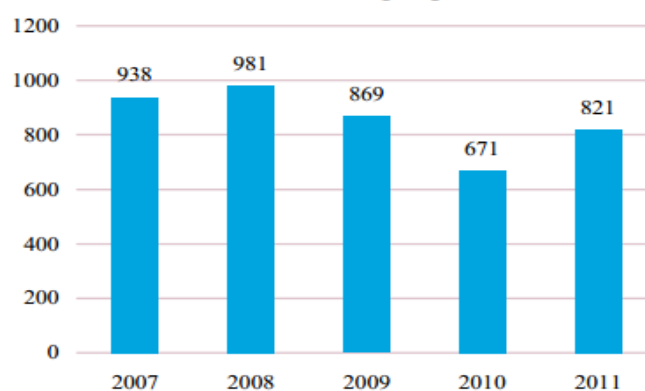
New labour cooperation agreements with several Asian, Middle Eastern and also European countries such as Russia, has meant that the number of destination countries for Vietnamese labour migrants has increased in recent years. In addition to favourite destinations such as South Korea and Japan, Middle Eastern countries have become attractive new markets for Vietnamese migrant workers, in particular the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and, until early 2011, Libya. The study also highlights recent trends in Vietnamese marriage

migration. Trans-national marriage is today no longer a particular phenomenon but a general migration trend affecting Asia as a whole, including Vietnam. These were mostly women who married South Koreans or Taiwanese Chinese.

Human Trafficking: Vietnam is predominantly an origin country for migrants and trafficked persons. The main employment sector of trafficking person is: Sexual exploitation, domestic labour, mining, construction, fishing, forced begging, selling of flowers and lottery tickets, and manufacturing.

A report funded by the European Union looks at the human trafficking of Vietnamese nationals abroad, including women and children being sold to brothels in the region. Several hundreds of women and children on average each year are cited in the study as being trafficked abroad from hotspots in the country such as the Vietnam-China border provinces. As a result, human trafficking and smuggling remain important concerns for the Vietnamese authorities and international partners such as the IOM, with the study stressing the need to further strengthen joint efforts in fighting these irregular and exploitative forms of migration.

Number of victims of trafficking in persons, 2007 – 2011



Source: Ministry of Public Security.

Conclusion

Analysing the above data and taking into account the priority areas identified by our Communion, it becomes evident the importance to working with the community in order to reduce their vulnerability and promote a better life for those populations. Despite the impressive economic growth in the region, many countries register high levels of infant mortality and the population is still exposed to the risk of diseases related to water quality.

Furthermore, the lack of employment opportunities in certain countries has engendered an important migratory wave inside the region. As a consequence, many migrants are exposed to terrible work conditions, and there is increased risk of human trafficking. This criminal activity is one of the principle problems among Asian countries and workers and women are the principle victims. Although the reduced number of people infected by the HIV virus, we can detect HIV/AIDS as risk for the population in different countries. As a consequence of lack of information and prevention policies, the populations are more exposed to contamination, hence the importance of a preventive work with local communities. Finally, we observe that the problems affecting the region have common causes, which requires working together to improve life in Asia. Thus, dialogue and cooperation can be an important instrument to address the challenges those countries faces.