Copenhagen Side Event of UN Regional Commissions

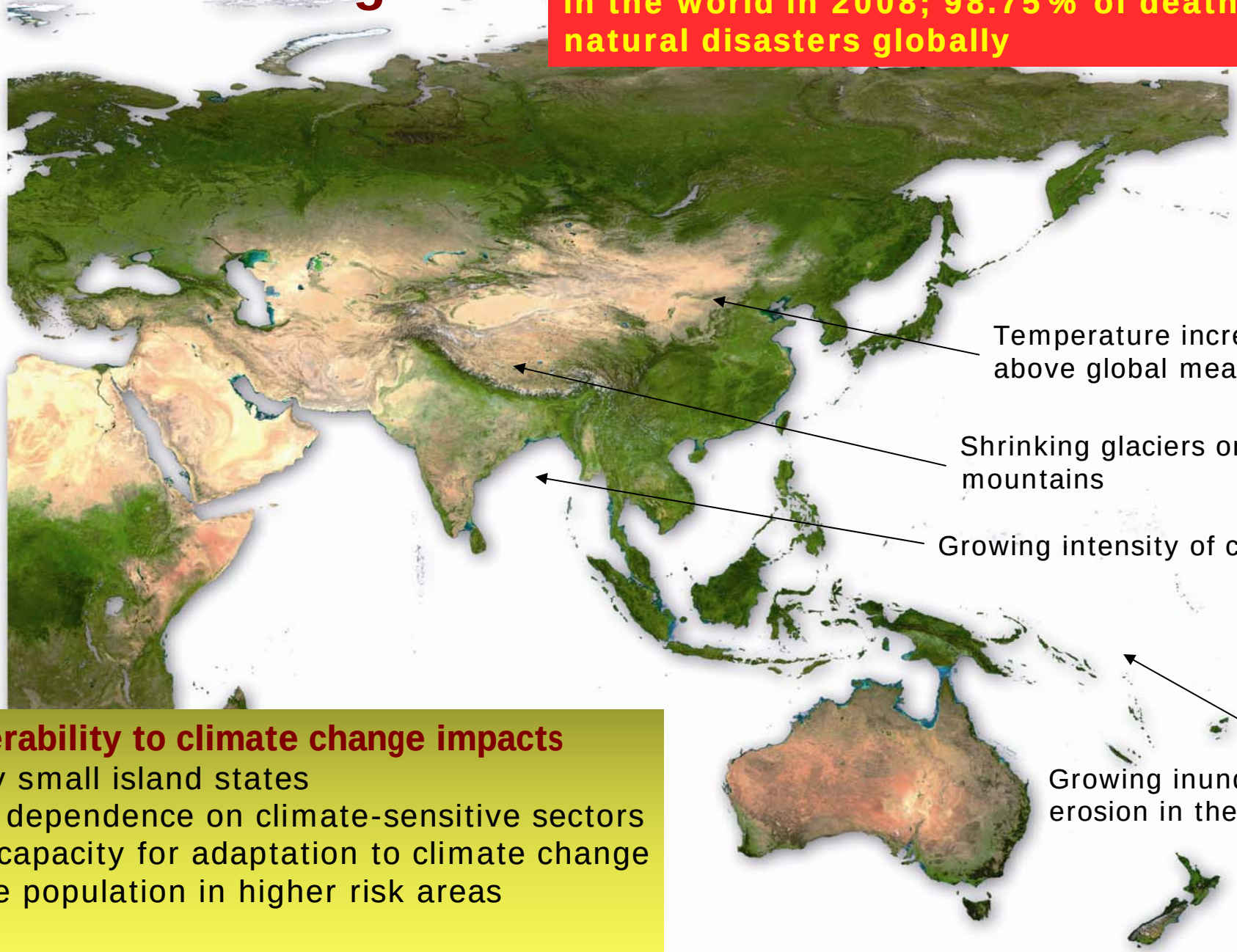
16 December 2009

Moving towards low-carbon development pathways in the Asia-Pacific region

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Climate challenges

Asia-Pacific: Nine of 10 worst natural disasters in the world in 2008; 98.75% of deaths from natural disasters globally

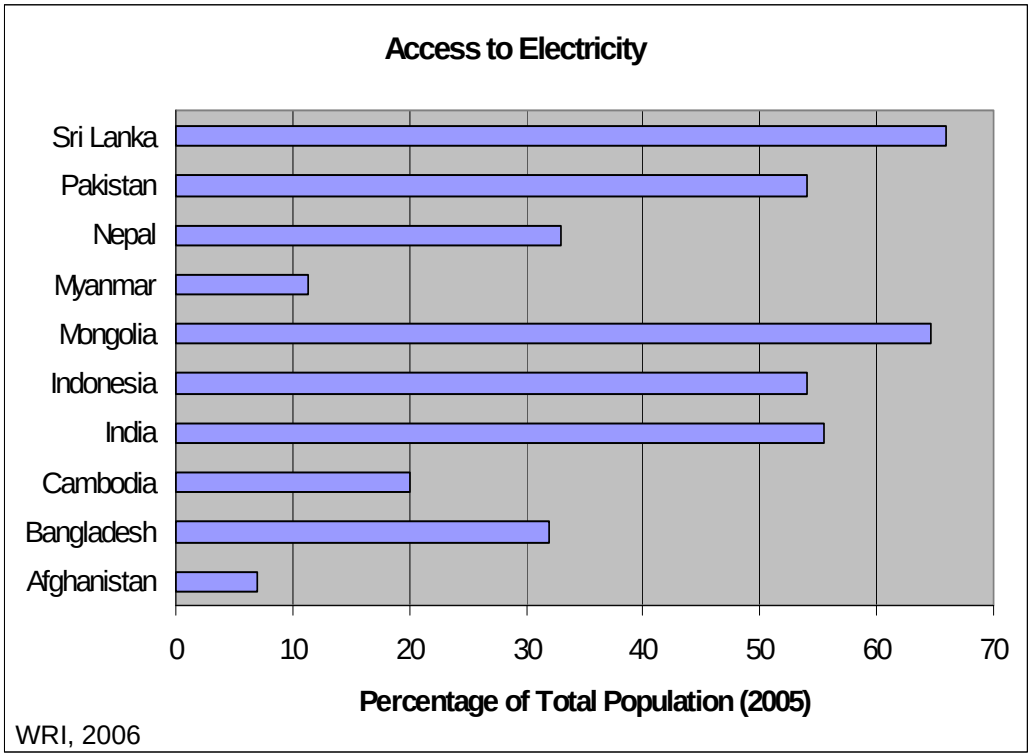


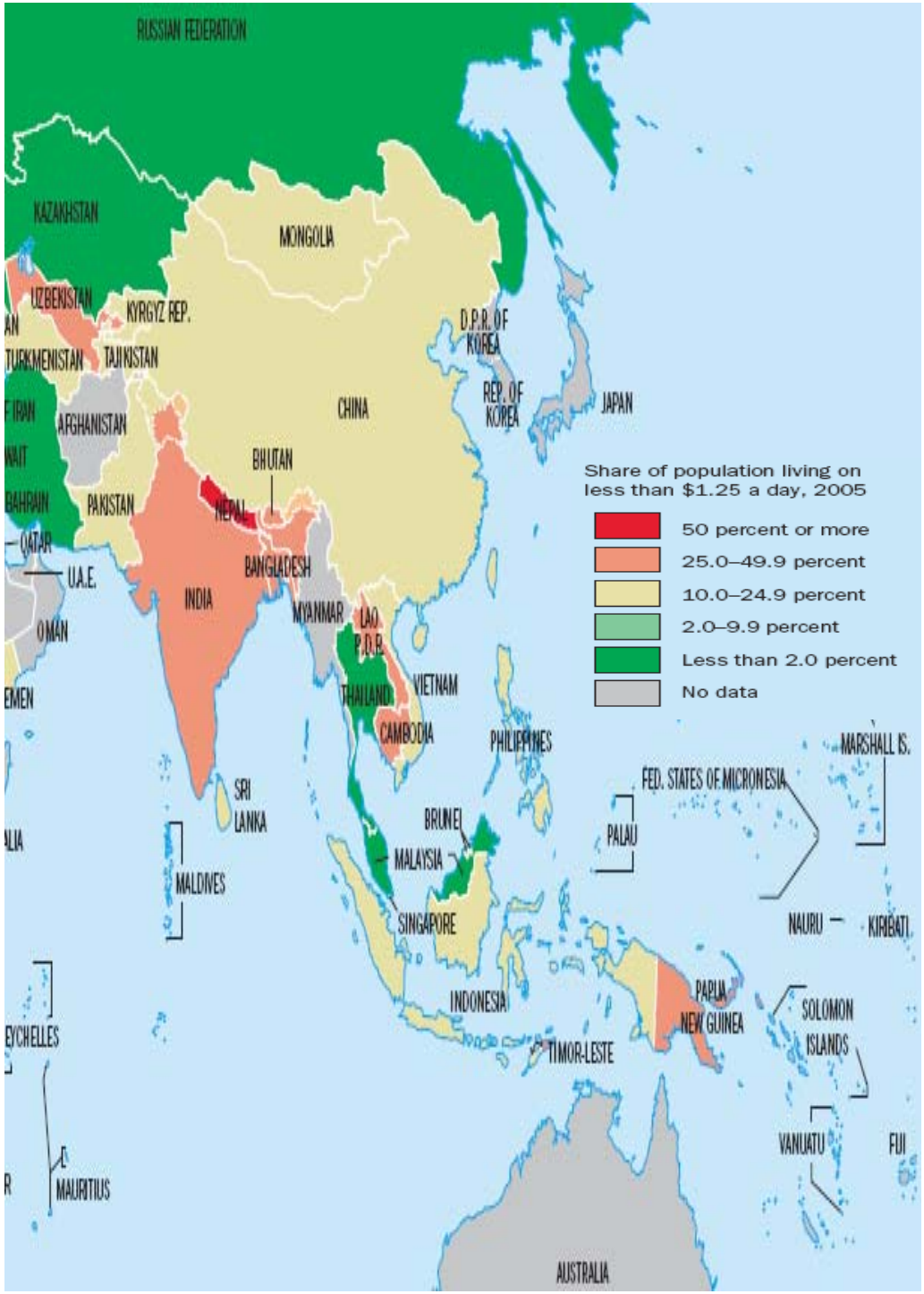
Vulnerability to climate change impacts

- Many small island states
- High dependence on climate-sensitive sectors
- Low capacity for adaptation to climate change
- Large population in higher risk areas

Development challenges

- ❖Home to 4.2 billion people
- ❖980 million people live in extreme poverty (below $1.25 in 2006)
- ❖Over 40% still without electricity
- ❖Due to global financial crisis, 22 million new poor in 2009 and 30 million in 2010
- ❖Most MDGS will not be met by most countries, including MDG 1 by some countries

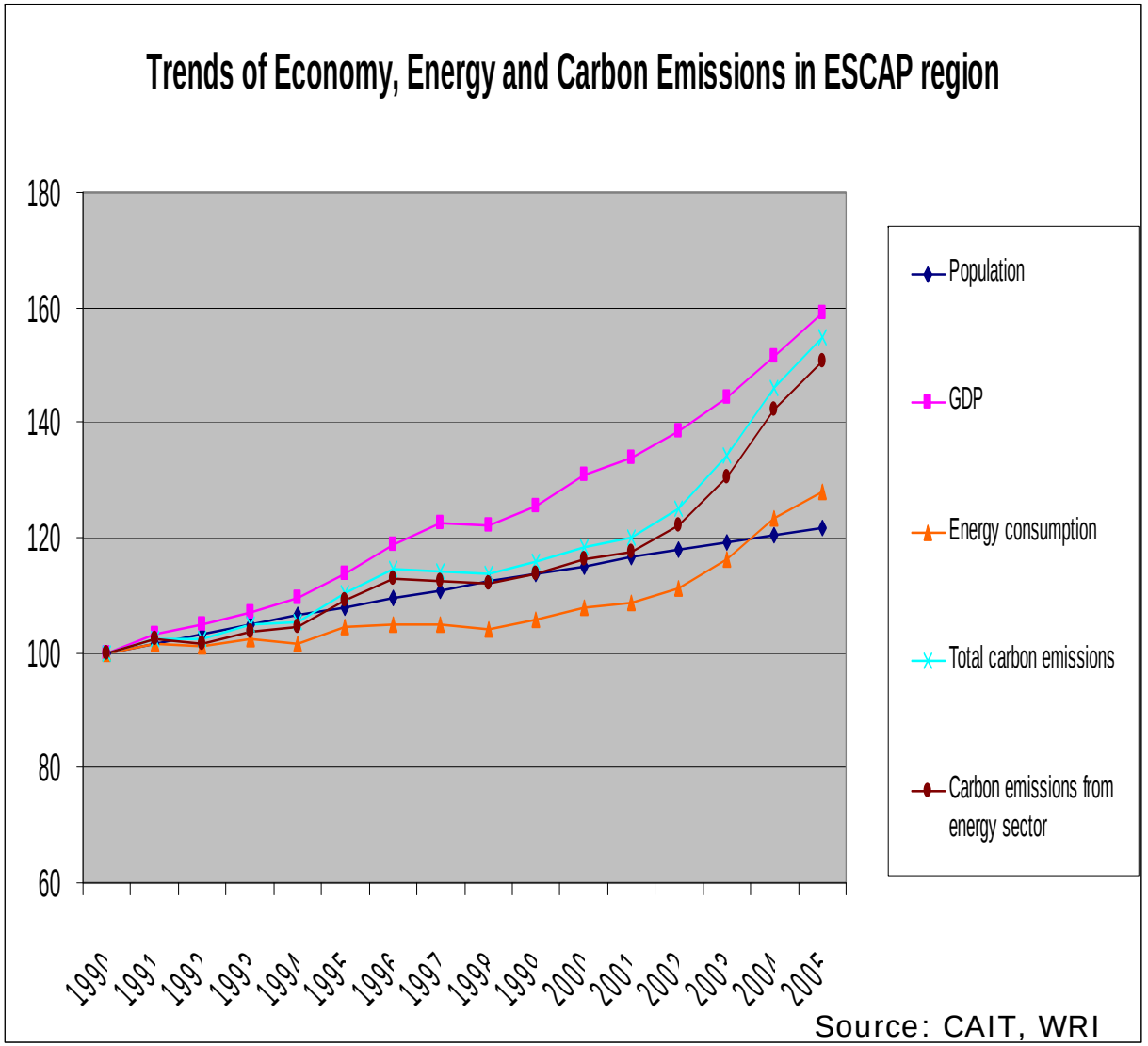




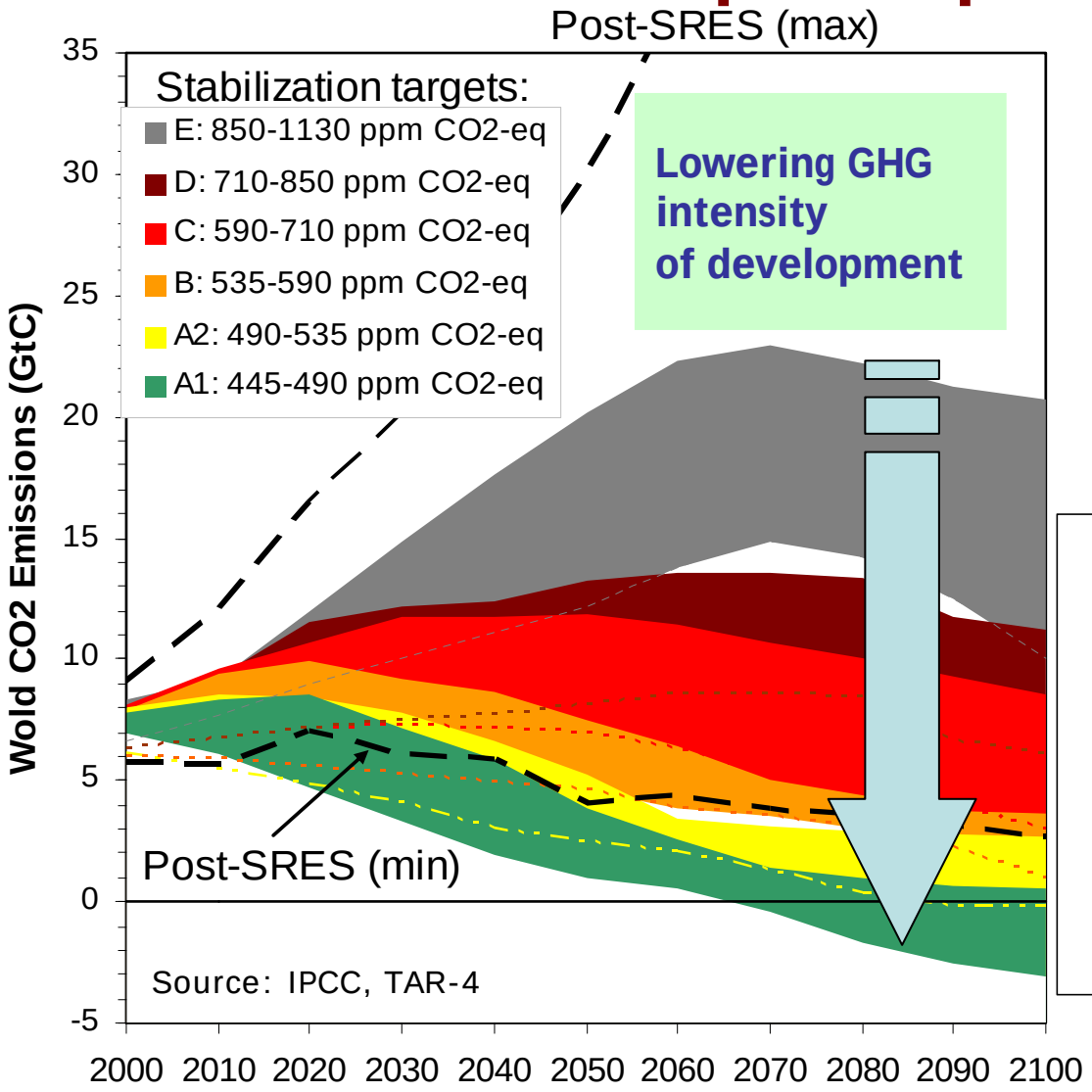
Historical development trends and GHG emissions

Emerging trends

- **Asia-Pacific economy as a global center of production**
- **Inward looking growth strategies as response to financial crisis**
- **Anticipated rise in domestic consumption**
- **Expansion of urban and energy infrastructure**
- **Continuing high dependence on fossil fuels**

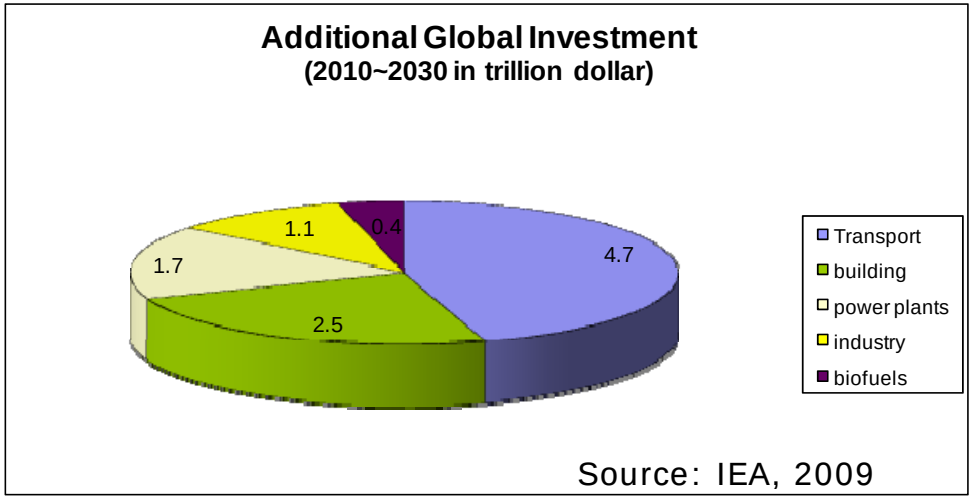


Low-carbon development pathways



A1 Scenario means

- Global mean temperature increase: 2.0~2.4 (ºC)
- Year of global CO_2 peak: 2015
- Reduction in 2050 global CO_2 emissions compared to 2000: -85 to -50



UNITED NATIONS ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

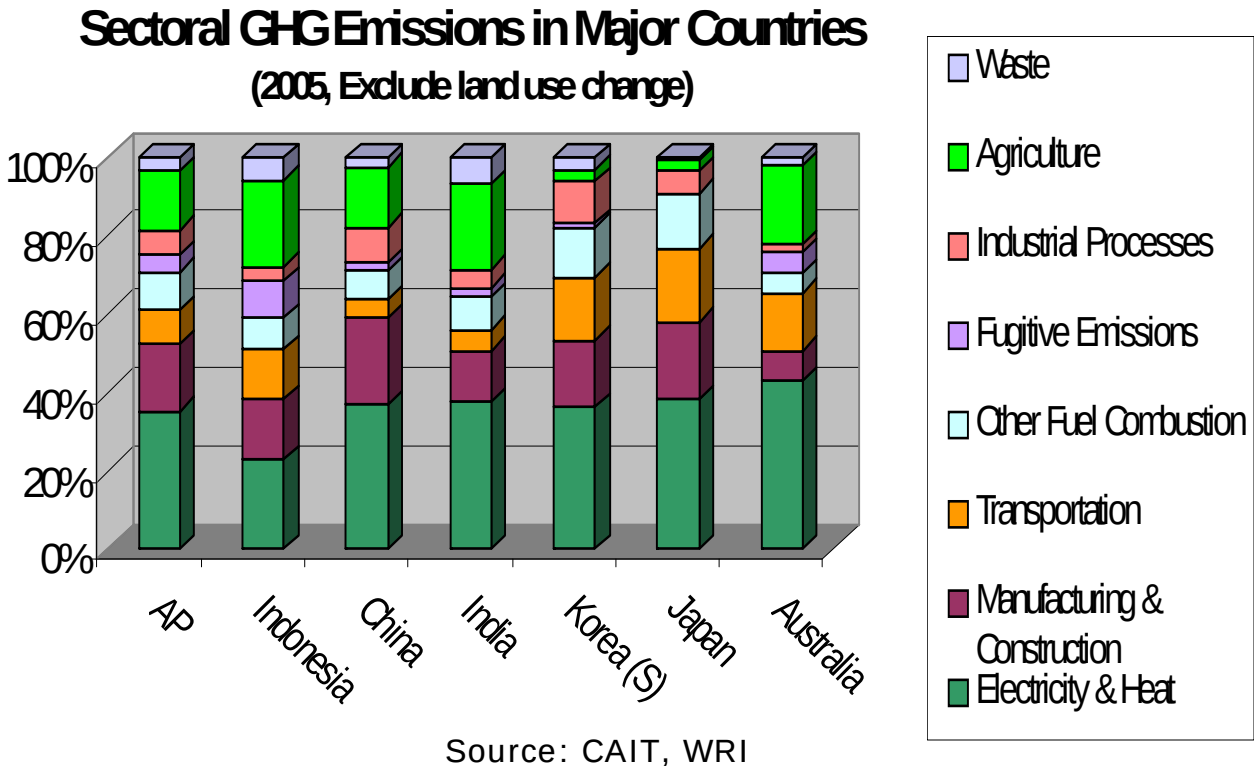
Areas of low-carbon action in Asia Pacific

Sectors:

- Electricity & heat
- Manufacturing
- Transport
- Agriculture

Major Actions

- Improving energy efficiency in all sectors
- Lowering carbon intensity of primary energy and electricity
- Greening urban infrastructure and transport systems
- Enhancing the assimilative capacity of natural sinks
- Greening consumption patterns



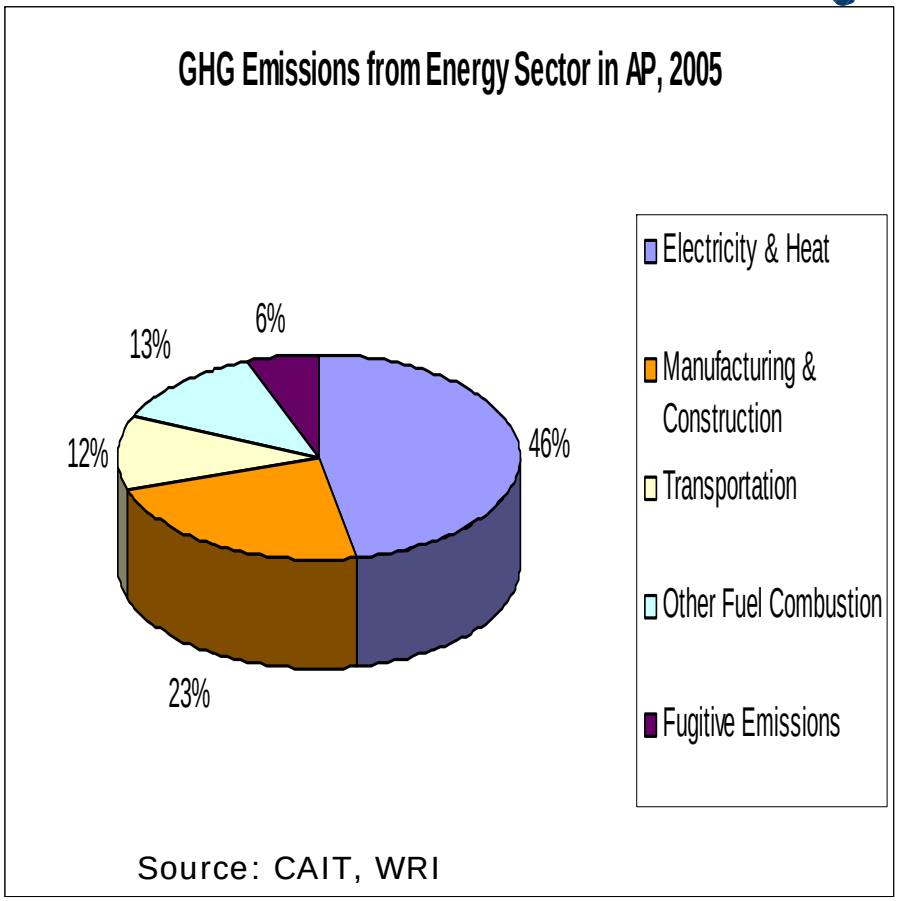
Source: CAIT, WRI

UNITED NATIONS ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Low carbon development and energy

Major Options for LCD in Energy Sector

- Improving energy efficiency (global CO_2 saving potential in electricity: 40%)
- Scaling up renewables for affordable mainstream supply
- Expanding use of off-grid renewables to meet demands of remote areas
- Improving efficiency of use of cooking and heating fuels
- Public/non-motorized transport with emphasis on mobility for all
- Greening industries and markets



UNITED NATIONS ESCAP

Recent initiatives of ESCAP Member States

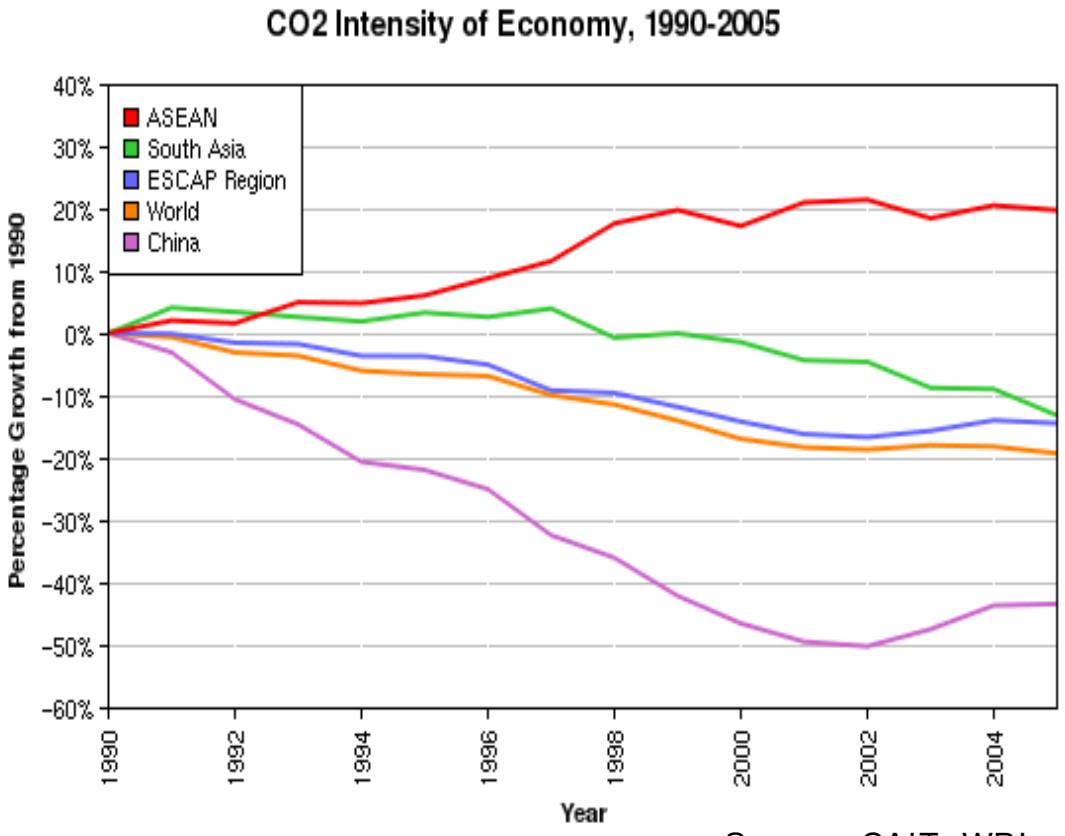
Quantified voluntary targets to reduce carbon intensity of GDP

China: 40 to 45 % by 2020 from 2005 level

India: 20~25% by 2020

Indonesia: 26% from BAU by 2020

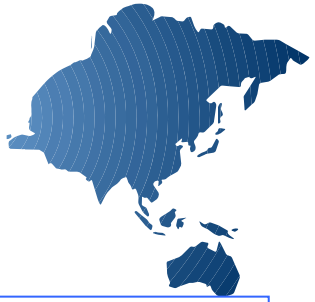
Republic of Korea: 30% from a BAU scenario by 2020 (- 4% below 2005 levels)



Source: CAIT, WRI

UNITED NATIONS ESCAP

ESCAP's Green Growth Initiative



Regional Challenges

- **Need for climate action**
- **Need for inclusive economic growth**
- **Limited financial, human, technological capacity**

Powering low carbon, green growth

Making climate actions compatible with sustained economic growth

Support member countries as a regional forum for development policy and cooperation

Green Growth since MCED+5 in 2005

Major tracks: green tax and budget reform, sustainable infrastructure, greening business, sustainable consumption and production, investment in natural capital

UNITED NATIONS ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP's Energy Security Initiative

Challenges

Accomplishing both on a low carbon footprint

Achieving universal energy access

Sustaining high growth rates to reduce poverty

Threats

- Resumption of real energy demand growth
- Supply constraints, prospect of 'peak oil'
- Revival of commodities speculation
- Fate of US dollar

Opportunities

- Emerging consensus on greening development
- Convergence of environmental and energy security goals
- Anticipated scale-up of resources to make the transition

Asia-Pacific Energy Security Cooperation Framework

- Renewable energy & efficient energy technology cost reduction programme
- Special programme for Small Island Developing States
- Trans-Asian energy system for investment & trade facilitation
- Energy security indicators to monitor fossil fuel intensity, carbon footprint & energy access targets
- Regional trade agreements on renewable energy & efficient energy technologies
- Universal energy access norms & regional energy access facility

UNITED NATIONS ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Thank you for your attention

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific