



**HIA 2008**   
Asia and Pacific Regional  
Health Impact Assessment Conference

**EMPOWERING PEOPLE  
ENSURING HEALTH**

**8-10 DECEMBER 2008**  
EMPRESS CONVENTION CENTER  
CHIANG MAI, THAILAND  
[www.hia2008chiangmai.com](http://www.hia2008chiangmai.com)

# Future directions of HIA in the Asia Pacific Region

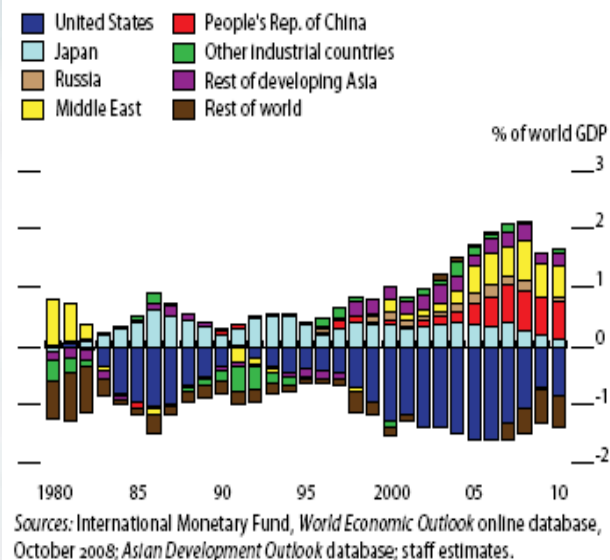
- The development outlook
- The health outlook
- The MDGs
- Climate Change
- The outlook for HIA

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## The development outlook

### 2.1.1 World current account balance



The global current account balance shows the massive current account deficits of the USA vs the substantial current account surplus in China and the rest of developing Asia.

Capital has been flowing « uphill » from regions with high marginal returns to regions with low marginal returns, where it has been Used for consumption rather than investment

ADB (2009): a need to re-balance growth

[www.adb.org/Documents/Books/ADO/2009/default.asp](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/ADO/2009/default.asp)

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## The development outlook



### Re-setting the global imbalance:

- Accept the limits to export driven growth
- Reconsider the costs of high savings and underinvestment
- Reconsider the costs of excessive foreign exchange reserves
- Assess the costs of the global financial crisis for developing Asia

What does this mean for development in the Asia Pacific region?

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## The development outlook

Possible consequences of re-setting the global imbalance:

- Less investment in export-oriented industries
- More investment in local infrastructure and services
- More investment in regional and national food security
- Reduced resources for poverty alleviation

The Asia Pacific impact assessment community has to anticipate the implications of these consequences



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## The health outlook

### The financial crisis and global health

Report of a high-level consultation  
Geneva, Switzerland – 19 January 2009

WHO Consultation:

### Protect health spending

- evidence based arguments to ministries of finance that better health translates into economic benefits
- create a policy basis for the earmarking of a percentage of public budgets for health

### Saving lives and protecting incomes

- employment creation through schemes that themselves have health benefits (ie construction of schools and clinics)
- policy coordination in support of a social protection

[www.who.int/topics/financial\\_crisis\\_report\\_200902.pdf](http://www.who.int/topics/financial_crisis_report_200902.pdf)

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## The health outlook

### The financial crisis and global health

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### Increasing health sector efficiency

- the financial crisis is an opportunity to reform
- sustaining support for prevention
- the health response to the crisis has to be intersectoral

### Collaboration in and between countries

- governments need to recognize the important role of civil society at times of crisis
- need for improved communications on assessments of the crisis and on success or failure of mitigating approaches

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## The health outlook

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## Informing policy through better monitoring, analysis, research

- analysis should be the basis for contingency planning
- monitoring early warning signs should be facilitated by international financial institutions

## Aid for health

- greater predictability and longer-term commitment for external financing will facilitate better planning and use
- fragmentation needs to be overcome

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## The MDGs



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## MDG 7

by 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation

### **Access to safe drinking-water**

In 2008 gains were reported for all regions except for Oceania which slipped back. Eastern Asia stands out for increasing its drinking water coverage by 20 percentage points

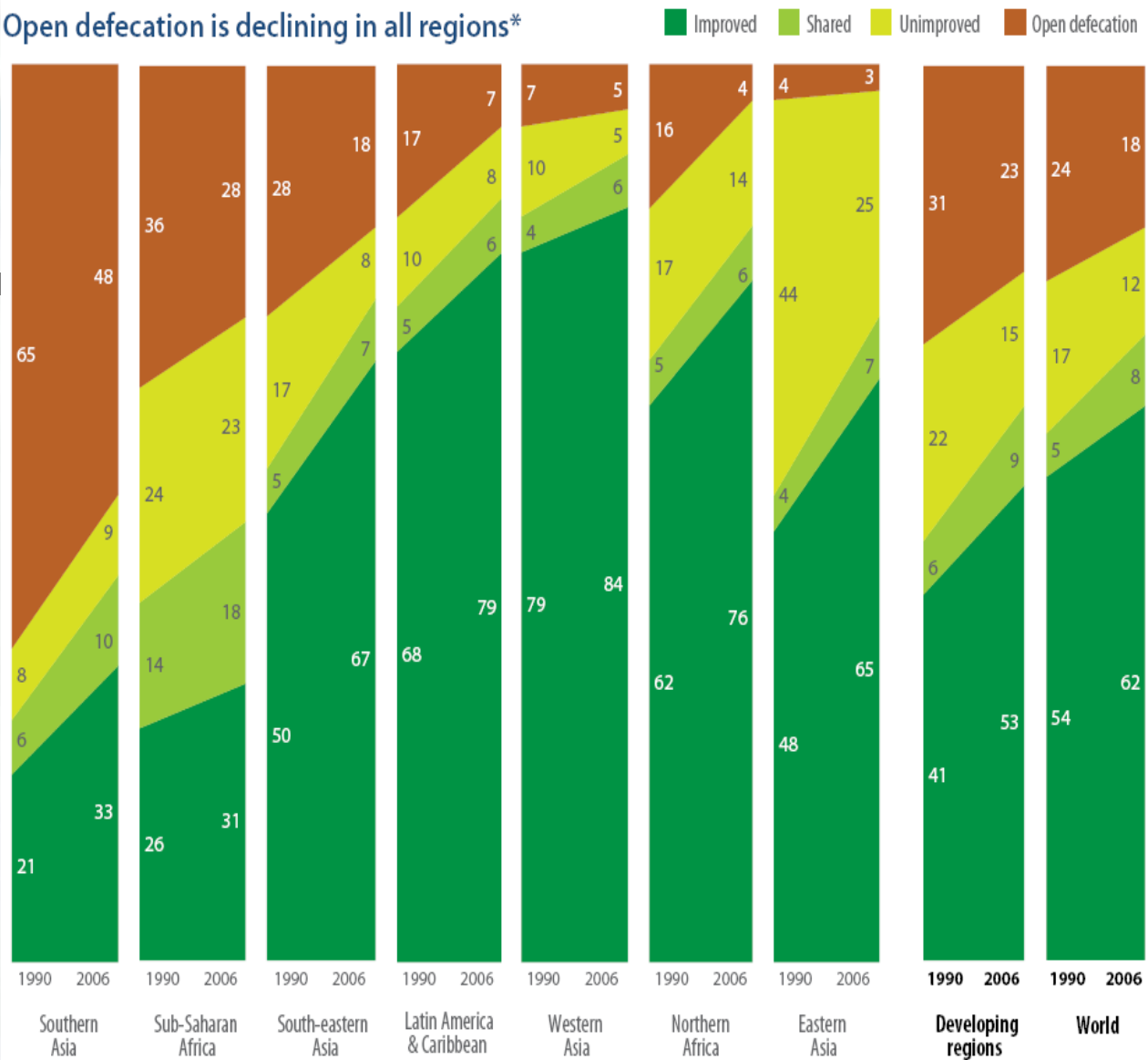
### **Sanitation**

Open defecation is still widely practiced in Southern Asia and Africa South of the Sahara (48% and 28% of the population)



## SANITATION COVERAGE

Open defecation is declining in all regions\*



**Figure 2** Trends in the proportion of the population using an improved, shared or unimproved sanitation facility or practising open defecation, by MDG regions in 1990 and 2006

\*Oceania and the Commonwealth of Independent States are not included due to lack of complete data.

## Climate change and health

The Sixty-first World Health Assembly,  
Having considered the report on climate change and health;

... requests the Director-General.....

.... to continue close cooperation with Member States and appropriate United Nations organizations, other agencies and funding bodies in order to develop capacity to assess the risks from climate change for human health and to implement effective response measures, by promoting further research and pilot projects in this area, including work on:

(a) health vulnerability to climate change and the scale and nature thereof;

(b) health protection strategies and measures relating to climate change and their effectiveness, including cost-effectiveness;

(c) the health impacts of potential adaptation and mitigation measures in other sectors such as marine life, water resources, land use, and transport, in particular where these could have positive benefits for health protection;

(d) decision-support and other tools, such as surveillance and monitoring, for assessing vulnerability and health impacts and targeting measures appropriately;

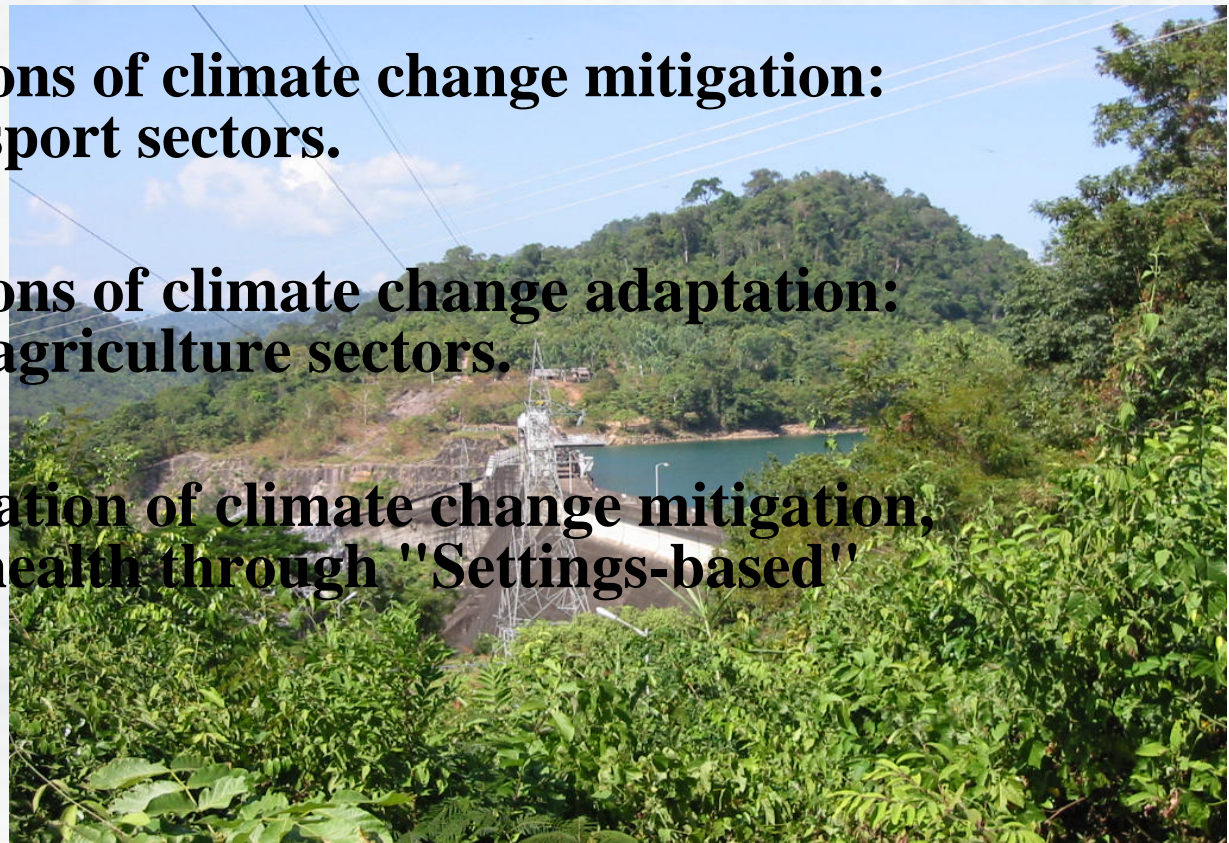
(e) assessment of the likely financial costs and other resources necessary for health protection from climate change;

## The Request from 193 National Governments

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## HIA in climate change and health

- **Improved methods for assessment of health implications of decisions in other sectors.**
- **Health implications of climate change mitigation: energy and transport sectors.**
- **Health implications of climate change adaptation: water, food and agriculture sectors.**
- **Improved integration of climate change mitigation, adaptation and health through "Settings-based" research.**



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## Conclusions

**Government responses in the A&P region to the financial crisis will create new opportunities for HIA, particularly as investment patterns shift**



**The health sector response to the financial crisis requires inputs from the HIA community, as a result of which the profile of HIA in the health sector may rise**

**The HIA community should increase its efforts to support the pursuit of MDG targets over the last 15 years until 2015**

**Focus of HIA in climate change should be on assessing the health impacts of coping and mitigating measures by other sectors**

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*THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION*