

Managing Business Environment Reform in Asia



United Nations Economic and
Social Commission for Asia and
the Pacific (UN ESCAP)

UN ESCAP

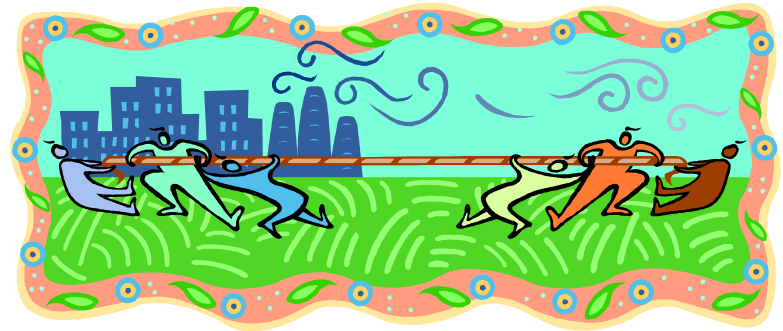
- Regional commission: 53 member and 9 associate member countries
- Focus on issues that are most effectively addressed through regional cooperation:
 - Issues that all or a group of countries in the region face, for which it is necessary to learn from each other;
 - Issues that are trans-boundary in nature, or that would benefit from collaborative inter-country approaches;
 - Issues that are of a sensitive or emerging nature and require further advocacy and negotiation.



Business Climate Reform

Some emerging lessons:

- ❑ Power of new analytical tools and information
- ❑ Empowering supporters of reform
- ❑ Power of pilots/sector reform
- ❑ Bring in private sector experience
- ❑ Build on trade and product market reforms
- ❑ Importance of setting performance targets and monitoring



Current focus

- Integrating SMEs into Global and Regional Value Chains
 - Bottom-up approach to identify needed changes in business environment and trade facilitation relating to selected supply-chains (Greater Mekong Subregion)

- Public-private sector dialogues
 - Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) 2004-2007

- Sub-national innovation systems (SIS)
 - The role of SIS policy for enterprise development

Related ESCAP activities

- Trade policy
- Transport, energy and communications infrastructure cooperation (Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway)
- Trade and transport facilitation

Role of regional cooperation



Reform is national (or sub-national), but...
... business climate problems often similar across a number of countries

- Regional cooperation can support national reform efforts through:
 - ❑ Regional review and analysis on particular topics
 - ❑ Exchanges of experiences (communities of practice)
 - ❑ Monitoring and peer-review

- Drawing on existing tools and methods
 - Benchmarking, quantitative indicators, diagnostic studies, cost-benefit analyses, policy frameworks, regulatory impact assessments, existing toolkits, etc.

