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**A PIONEERING REGIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT ON  
PROMOTING ICT FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA 2004: REALISING THE MILLENNIUM  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**Human Development in Asia**

There has been an overall progress in Asia over the past two decades on human development. The nine Asian countries -- China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam -- covered by the research towards a Regional Human Development Report on *Promoting ICT for Human Development 2004: Realising the Millennium Development Goals* have posted steady progress since 1975 in terms of their Human Development Index (HDI). The HDI covers life expectancy, education and GDP per capita. Many sections of their population, however, continue to face significant challenges of human development, including persistence of income poverty, hunger, low levels of adult literacy, and poor healthcare, as well as significant gender inequalities:

**Levels of Human Development in Nine Asian Countries**

Levels of Achievement	Life Expectancy	Education	GDP
High*	Malaysia Sri Lanka China Thailand Vietnam	Thailand Mongolia Malaysia Vietnam Sri Lanka Indonesia China	Malaysia
Medium**	Indonesia	None	Thailand China
Low***	India Mongolia Pakistan	India Pakistan	Sri Lanka India Indonesia Vietnam Pakistan Mongolia

\*High refers to values lying above the World values

\*\*Medium refers to values lying between the Developing Countries and the World values

\*\*\* Low refers to values lying below Developing Countries values.

Source: *Global HDR 2003*

## Asia's March Towards the Millennium Development Goals

The Global HDR 2002 categorises progress of countries towards MDG indicators as 'achieved', 'on track', 'lagging', 'far behind' and 'slipping back'. The nine countries are at different stages of progress towards the MDGs. The following table shows the progress report of the nine countries on 7 MDG indicators.

**Status on Seven MDG Indicators for Nine Asian Countries**

Countries	Achieved	On Track	Lagging	Far Behind	Slipping Back
China	2/7	3/7	0	2/7	0
India (NA-2)	0	2/5	1/5	2/5	0
Indonesia	0	7/7	0	0	0
Malaysia (NA-3)	3/4	1/4	0	0	0
Mongolia (NA-2)	3/5	1/5	0	0	1/5
Pakistan (NA-4)	0	2/3	0	1/3	0
Sri Lanka (NA-2)	2/5	3/5	0	0	0
Thailand (NA-4)	0	3/3	0	0	0
Viet Nam (NA-2)	0	3/5	2/5	0	0

NA: Data not available

\*List of the seven MDG indicators:

Indicator: Undernourished people (as % of total population)

Indicator: Net primary enrolment ratio (%)

Indicator: Children reaching grade 5 (%)

Indicator: Female gross primary enrolment ratio as % of male ratio

Indicator: Female gross secondary enrolment ratio as % of male ratio

Indicator: Under five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)

Indicator: Population using improved water sources (%)

- Vietnam *lagging* on Indicator: Under five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) and Indicator: Population using improved water sources (%).
- India *lagging* on Indicator: Under five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births).
- China *far behind* on Indicator: Under five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) and Indicator: Population using improved water sources (%).
- India *far behind* on Indicator: Undernourished people (as % of total population) and Indicator: Female gross secondary enrolment ratio as % of male ratio.
- Pakistan *far behind* on Indicator: Under five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births).
- Mongolia *slipping back* on Indicator: Undernourished people (as % of total population).

Source: Global HDR, 2002