

Disability at a Glance 2015

STRENGTHENING EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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For further information on this publication, please contact:

Social Development Division
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Building
Rajadamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Tel: (66 2) 288-1513
Fax: (66 2) 288-1030
Email: escap-sdd@un.org
Website: www.unescap.org

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There are 650 million persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. Policymakers have a responsibility to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy all human rights and freedoms on an equal basis with others. With 160 ratifications since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006, the CRPD is the most rapidly approved United Nations human rights convention in history—a feat that demonstrates the global commitment to disability. In Asia and the Pacific, efforts to implement the rights of persons with disabilities have been strengthened by the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific—the world’s first set of regionally agreed disability-inclusive development goals.

Disability at a Glance 2015 focuses on barriers to the employment of persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region, and offers solutions to strengthen their employment prospects. Employment is not only the primary means of livelihood generation; it also provides individuals with the purpose and meaning of playing a productive role in society. Equal access to employment is therefore vital, and barriers to work faced by persons with disabilities must be removed.

This fifth edition in the *Disability at a Glance* series offers a regional overview of disability legislation, policies and practices, as well as relevant country-specific information. The information draws on both a targeted disability survey carried out by the ESCAP secretariat, and research undertaken by other organizations and scholars.

Disability at a Glance 2015 is particularly timely, arriving as it does shortly after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015. This groundbreaking agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that guide governments towards its implementation, are crafted to be universal, people-centered and inclusive, and takes a holistic, rigorous and integrated approach to global development over the next 15 years. As such, the SDGs call directly on the international community to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all persons, including those with disabilities. It also clearly states that it will “endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.”

It is hoped that this publication will be useful to policymakers, researchers, civil society and persons with disabilities as they work to ensure that the Asia and Pacific region is at the forefront of this historic movement to transform our world.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADD	Action on Disability and Development
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act (Australia)
DPI	Disabled Peoples' International
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EU	European Union
FW	Fair Work Act (Australia)
FWO	Fair Work Ombudsman (Australia)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
HDI	Human Development Index
ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
ILO	International Labour Organization
IRC	Industrial Resource Center (Thailand)
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
SDGS	Sustainable Development Goals
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHO	World Health Organization

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