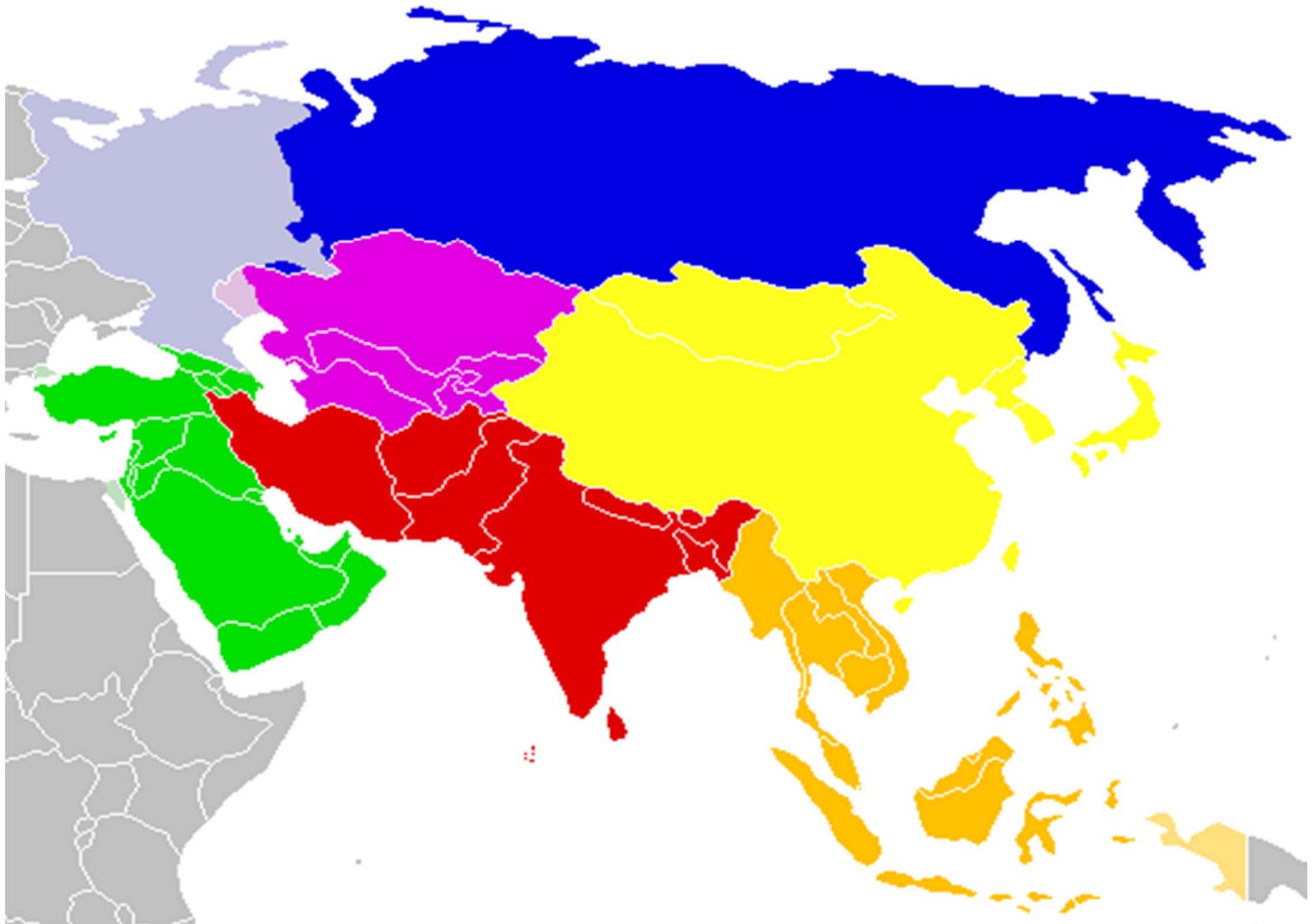


Regional economic and environmental cooperation in Southeast and Northeast Asia

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East Asia Southeast Asia North Asia Central Asia Western Asia South Asia

Southeast Asia

- Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam
- 600 million inhabitants and a nominal GDP of \$2.31 trillion in 2015
- expected to become the fourth-largest market after the EU, U.S. and China by 2030

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- 5 founding countries in 1967 –Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand
- 5 additional countries gradually joined - Brunei, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam
- Since 2003 ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community and ASEAN Economic Community
- AEC aimed to foster single market and production base with a free flow of goods, services, labour, investments and capital through reduction of tariffs, customs modernisation, treatment of foreign investors and services sector liberalisation

ASEAN regional partnerships

- **ASEAN+3** cooperation with People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Japan on mutual issues of interest related to energy, transport, and information & communications technology
- **ASEAN+1** cooperation with People's Republic – also touched upon EIA and SEA matters

ASEAN work programme on environment – examples

- Managing and preventing transboundary environmental pollution (transboundary haze pollution and transboundary movement of hazardous wastes)
- Harmonizing environmental policies and databases
- Promoting the sustainable use of coastal and marine environment
- Promoting sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity
- Promoting the sustainability of freshwater resources.

Regional cooperation initiatives in Mekong river basin



Mekong River Commission

- 1995 agreement on Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin by Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam
- MRC is engaged in fisheries sustainability, freedom of navigation, sustainable hydropower, flood management, preservation and conservation of important ecosystems
- Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement
- Work programme on TbEIA since 2003
- SEA for hydropower development

Greater Mekong Subregion

- supported by ADB since 1992
- includes not only MRC member states but also PRC China (specifically Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region) and Myanmar
- Core Environment Program (CEP) on multi-country and multi-sector engagement on key environmental issues.
- six SEAs for energy, tourism, and provincial level land-use planning

Regional and Environmental Cooperation in Northeast Asia



North-East Asia

The fastest growing regional economy in the world

- Top ranking foreign exchange reserves in the world;
- Geographical proximity which facilitates transport and trade;
- Intra-regional trade and investment growing rapidly into interdependency;
- Highly diversified economies and increasing reforms in transition economies in the region.

Limited regional integration

- despite the evidence of beneficial mutual economic dependency between especially Japan, South Korea and China, this economic area remains the only major region in the world which not has yet embarked on regional economic integration project.
- the only major intergovernmental cooperation mechanism is **Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI)** faces challenges of limited resources for projects and limited substantial support from major regional financing institutions

Regional environmental problems

- Fine dust and transboundary air pollution
- Degradation of marine environment - algal blooms resulting from eutrophication; maritime environmental accidents such as oil spills
- Increasing threats to biodiversity – especially on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.
- Several multilateral environmental cooperation initiatives established – some successes in launching joint monitoring projects and sharing data collection
- Overall efficiency so far constrained by differing priorities of the participating countries and a lack of binding environmental regimes.

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Thank you for your attention!

