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Post MDG 2015: The Agenda for Asia and Africa – Are the problems and solutions new?

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Abstract

The turn of the 21st Century saw the eight international development goals pertaining to human development, environment sustainability and development of global partnerships being established. This was an outcome of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations with all 189 member States of the UN and 23 international organizations agreeing to achieve these goals by 2015. The present paper is an attempt to bring to light, as an outcome of review of related literature, some of the emerging issues that touch upon the continent of Asia and Africa. The paper focuses on the study of ten of the most populated nations in the region – which presently represents more than 50 % of the total population (53%) and has just little over 12% of the world's land area, accounting for nearly 25.8% of nominal GDP and 29.3% of GDP (PPP). The focus of the study is to highlight the current top five issues in each nation and frame a future agenda based on such an analysis. The paper will therefore propose a common pool of emerging and proposed goals to address the most populated regions of the world.

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1. Introduction

Ever since the turn of the 19th century to the present day, the world has been witnessing a continuous rise in

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population growth. It is estimated that the world population reached one billion for the first time in 1804 and it took 123 years before it reached two billion in 1927, while it nearly 86 years to add another 5 billion. Presently the global population has touched the 7 billion mark and is poised to reach eight billion by 2030 and nine billion by 2050 (Table 1).

Table 1: Trends in Global Population Growth

Year	Population (Billion)
1804	1
1927	2
1960	3
1974	4
1987	5
1999	6
2012	7
2027	8
2046	9

Source: US Census Bureau – World POPCLOCK Projections

BOX 1: Quick Glance – Millennium Development Goals Report 2013

- The proportion of people living in extreme poverty has been halved at global level, with people whose income is less \$1 by 700 million
- Billion people still live under conditions of poverty (17% of the global population)
- Poverty in South Asia fell from 51% in 1990 to 30% by 2010, while in sub-Saharan Africa it fell only by 8%
- By 2015, about 970 million people will still be living on less than \$1.25 a day
- Slowing global economic growth will result in continued job losses, leaving a 67 million job gap
- South and East Asia, have witnessed drops in the employment to population ratio of 2.1% and 1.5% respectively
- Although working poverty has declined, over 60% of workers in the developing world still live on less than \$4 a day
- The vast majority of chronically under nourished (852 million) reside in developing nations
- The pace of change in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia appears to be too slow to meet the MDG target
- The world will not meet the goal of universal primary education
- While the literacy rates among adults and youth are on the rise and gender gaps are narrowing
- Global emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂) have increased by more than 46% since 1990
- The rise in emissions has been spurred largely by fast-paced growth in developing regions
- More than 2.1 billion people or 89% of the global population have access to improved drinking water sources
- Between 1990 to 2011, 1.9 billion people gained access to a latrine, flush toilet or other improved sanitation facility
- An estimated 863 million people reside in slums in the developing world
- Urbanisation continues to outpace improvement in slum conditions
- China, India and Indoneasia are continuing to make progress in reducing the proportion of slum dwellers in their cities
- The global financial crises and the euro zone turmoil have taken a toll on official development assistance
- In 2012, net aid disbursed disbursements from developed to developing countries totalled \$126 billion which has been continually declining since 2010

The world in its present state has never been more concerned about people with the population soaring, and this concern can be traced to 2000, when 189 member states of the United Nations (UN) established The Eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be achieved by 2015. These goals includes measures to be undertaken to address issues concerning i) poverty ii) education iii) gender equality and women empowerment iv) child mortality v) maternal health vi) HIV/Aids, Malaria and other Diseases vii) sustainable environment and viii) forming global partnerships for development. While achievements of these goals is an ongoing process – some success has been achieved with three important targets on poverty, slums and water three years ahead of 2015 according to the UNDP Report (2 July, 2012). The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon states in the report that, the results have brought about a tremendous reduction in human suffering and further projects that in 2015 more than

600 million people worldwide would still lack access to safe drinking water and almost one billion would be living on an income of less than \$1.25 per day. Hunger would remain a global challenge, and greenhouse gas emissions would continue to pose a major threat to people and ecosystems (Refer to Box 1: Quick Glance on the MDGs Report 2013).

While there is no debate that human suffering needs to be continually reduced, working towards a better quality of life – the time has arrived to review and identify the next range of issues and concerns, to set an agenda for the proposed new goals, which are being debated in various forums and is poised to take the people of the world onto a higher trajectory in the post 2015 framework. The need for international economic cooperation has never been more required as in the present state where nations witness a plethora of problems and issues, which transcend the geographical borders. With uncertainty, volatility, competition and open conflict, being in the nature of natural occurrences and heightened uncertainty emerging as the ‘new normal’ in the economic and political order shaping the world - resulting in a large number of nations getting more insular and inward looking. It is therefore our responsibility as global citizens and academicians to iterate on the post 2015 MDGs. It is against this backdrop that the present paper has been researched. The structure of the paper has been divided into four sections. While Part 1 gives the introduction and the motivation of the study, the second part justifies the selection of the ten most populated nations from Asia and Africa and brings to light their present day economic challenges. While part three attempts to set the agenda for the post 2015 framework and the conclusions are placed in the final section of the paper.

2. Background and the Present-day Challenges of the Select Nations:

Asia and Africa are the world’s largest continents and as per the United Nation’s World Population Prospects the two continents account for 60% and 15.5% of the global population respectively, and together enjoy more than 50% of the land area. The ten nations of Asia and Africa identified for this study are based on their population ranking: China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Japan, Philippines, Ethiopia and Vietnam (Table 2).

Table 2: Ten Most Populated Nations of Asia and Africa (2012)

Sr. No.	Countries	Population	Global Ranking	% of Global Population	Land Area (Km Sq)	Global Ranking	% of global land area
	World	7,095,217,980		100	148940000		100
1	China	1,349,585,838	1	19.02	9,596,961	4	6.44
2	India	1,220,800,359	2	17.21	3,287,263	7	2.21
3	Indonesia	251,160,124	5	3.54	1,904,569	15	1.28
4	Pakistan	193,238,868	7	2.72	796,095	36	0.53
5	Nigeria	174,507,539	8	2.46	923,768	32	0.62
6	Bangladesh	163,654,860	9	2.31	143,998	95	0.10
7	Japan	127,253,075	11	1.79	377,915	62	0.25
8	Philippines	105,720,644	13	1.49	300,000	73	0.20
9	Ethiopia	93,877,025	14	1.3	1,104,300	27	0.74
10	Vietnam	92,477,857	15	1.3	331,210	66	0.22
	Total for the above 10 nations	3,822,298,814		53.04	18049589		12.25

Source: Population: CIA - Retrieved on 6th October 2013 –
(<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2119rank.html>)

It is observed that the nations together account for a 53% of the global population and a little over 12% of the global land area. Further, the study has more of an Asia bias with eight nations and only two are from Africa and the select nations, feature among the top 15 most populated countries in the world in 2012, with Japan, China, India and Indonesia being members of the G 20, the premium forum for international cooperation on important issues of the global economic and financial agenda.

The current section has attempted to put together the present-day challenges faced by the select group of nations which will enable us to make a pitch for these issues in the post 2015 MDG framework. A study of the ten nations of Asia and Africa (Refer Tables in Appendix) highlights the following issues:

- i) The ten nations together accounts for 25.8% of the world's nominal GDP in 2012 and 29.8% of the GDP (PPP) for the year 2012 (Appendix: Table I)
- ii) In terms of GDP per capita only Japan featured among the high income nations with its per capita GDP of \$ 36,900, while China and Indonesia featured among the upper middle income economies with the remaining seven nations featuring in the lower middle income group
- iii) The group of nations accounts for over 870 million persons below the poverty line with the eight Asian nations reporting over 83% of the poor (Appendix: Table II)
- iv) The incidence of unemployment was the highest for Nigeria (23.9%) , followed by Ethiopia at (17%), while the Asian group of populous nations had an unemployment number ranging from 4% in Japan to 8.5% for India(Appendix: Table III)
- v) The group of nations reveals a 1.8 billion large labour force, which has implications for job creation
- vi) With global urbanization crossing the 50% in 2008 - it was observed that Japan, China, Indonesia were moving with the global trends while Ethiopia, Vietnam, Bangladesh and India registered low levels of urbanization
- vii) Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Vietnam witnessed double digit inflation rate for the period 2000 to 2011 with only Japan experiencing a deflationary trend
- viii) Vietnam and Nigeria experienced the highest level of trade openness (Appendix: Table IV).In terms of FDI stock India ranked at number two having a higher FDI stock than Japan and with China having the highest FDI stock of \$ 1334 billion in the region
- ix) The near 200 % of public debt to GDP faced by Japan, posed serious challenges for the country
- x) China, Japan and India together held foreign exchange reserves worth US \$ 5159.80 billion – of which China holds more than two thirds of the reserves
- xi) Other than China, Nigeria and Japan all nations experienced a current account deficit
- xii) With respect to 'The Ease of Doing Index' for 185 countries, Japan scored a favorable global rank of 24, with China (91), Vietnam (99) and Pakistan (107) faring moderately better compared with the rest of the select nations with a score ranging from 127 -138. Philippines (138), India (132) and Nigeria (131) ranked very low on this parameter and this is indicative of the fact that the regulatory environment is not conducive to the starting and operation of a local firm
- xiii) The Failed State Index criteria for 178 countries revealed that Pakistan (13), Nigeria (16), Ethiopia (19) and Bangladesh (29) ranked very high on this parameter and were classified as nations on the ALERT and ran the high risk of collapsing. Only Japan enjoyed the status of STABLE, while the remaining six nations were carrying the WARNING tag (Appendix, Table V)
- xiv) On the Corruption Perception Index for 2012 – other than Japan which had the lowest level of corruption among the select nations, was ranked at 17, while the remaining nine nations were ranked in the range of 80 – 144 in an index testing 179 nations – revealing poor performance in this regard
- xv) The Energy Sustainability Index for the group of nations again revealed that Japan with a rank of 16 was stable in this regard but all other nations were experiencing challenges in this regard, with their ranks ranging from 65 for Philippines to the lowest rank of 123 for Bangladesh.

An analysis of the five important challenges presently facing each of the ten nations has been highlighted in Table 3, below. This is based on analysing various newspaper articles, research papers and issues which found large number of hits online and has been further been supported by study of various reports and collating data from the same. The exercise has been useful in exploring and evaluating the present day challenges of each of the nations and whether these challenges have scope of being addressed in the Post- Millennium Development Goals 2015.

Table 3: Key Challenges on the Select Ten Nations of Asia and Africa

Nation	Challenges
China	Growing appetite for fuel and energy Widespread Pollution High level of corruption Lack of rule of law and poor government regulatory environment Public Unrest
India	Accounts for the largest concentration of poor people in the world coupled with high level of informalisation of employment The twin deficits – Current Account Deficit and Fiscal Deficit Very low ranks with respect to Ease of Doing Business (Rank 132/185 Nations) – resulting in incomplete Infrastructure Projects (Rs 15 lac crres) on account of lack of clearances from Central and State Government Lacking a vibrant manufacturing sector High levels of Corruption and Poor Governance
Indonesia	Population growth and providing basic amenities to the larger numbers Income and Regional Inequalities - with 60% of the money circulating in the capital city of Jakarta Depletion of energy resources – crude oil by 2024 Inadequate Infrastructure Governance deficit and corruption
Pakistan	Internal Security threat – ranks very high on The Failed State Index Governance deficit and Corruption Power crises and outages Subpar growth rate Poverty, unemployment and low levels of urbanization
Nigeria	Ranks poorly on Human Development Index – achievement of MDGs (High levels of Poverty and Unemployment) Poor state of Infrastructure Low levels of investment High level of corruption in Government Poor Governance and high on the Failed State Index List
Bangladesh	Climate Change Large-scale labour migration Poverty and underemployment Infrastructure quality (Rank 131/ 142 Nations) Corruption Perception Index and Failed State Index – on both counts Bangladesh ranks very low at 144 and 29/178 respectively
Japan	Geographical factors as 20% of the world's earthquakes take place in Japan, as it sits on the boundaries of at least three tectonic plates Energy Challenges at present as it generated 30% of its electric power from nuclear energy – Nuclear Emergency declared in 2011 Demographic factors (birth rate – extrapolated to zero – 2017, high life expectancy rate – 84 years and an aging population) Social factors – very low birth rate, 5.8 marriages /1000 people, average age of marriage -31 years and 18% of women between the age of 35-39 have never married Very high Government debt to GDP ratio (200%) and Negative trade balance for the first time since 1980
Philippines	The Newly industrialised economy faces lower level of challenges compared to the remaining economies: Poverty and unemployment Accelerating inclusive growth Skill shortages for formal employment opportunities Hot money flows Corruption Index (105/179) and Failed State Index (60/178)
Ethiopia	Providing jobs for its youth – 50% of population is under 18 years

	Structural imbalance of high dependency on agriculture Unleashing the oil potential into the market Infrastructure deficit – power generation, roads, etc. (Energy Sustainability Index 112/129) Corruption and Governance (Failed State Index 19/178; Corruption Index 133/179; Ease of Doing Business Index 127/185)
Vietnam	Slowing of growth compared to pre- crises period before 2008 Deteriorating Fiscal Situation Slow structural reforms (financial sector reforms – large stock of bad debts) Double digit inflation Improving Business and investment climate – with better governance (Failed State Index 98/178; Corruption Index 123/179; Ease of Doing Business Index 99/185)

3. Recommended Agenda for Post MDG:

The analysis of the present day challenges of the select nations in the preceding section brings us to the turning point to identify the transformative shifts and the emerging new goals and agenda to be addressed. The UN High Level Panel (HLP) Report on the Post- 2015 Development Agenda focuses on a universal agenda which include:

Five Transformative Shifts:

1. ‘Leave no one behind’ – end extreme poverty ‘in all its forms’
2. ‘Put sustainable development at the core’
3. ‘Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth’
4. ‘Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all’
5. ‘Forge a new global partnership’

The HLP has skillfully weaved the argument by explaining the big vision by setting out twelve ‘illustrative’ goals as under:

The twelve goals:

1. End poverty (meaning extreme poverty – below \$1.25 a day)
2. Empower girls and women and achieve gender equality
3. Provide quality education and lifelong learning
4. Ensure healthy lives
5. Ensure food security and good nutrition
6. Achieve universal access to water and sanitation
7. Secure sustainable energy
8. Create jobs, sustainable livelihoods and equitable growth
9. Manage natural resource assets sustainably
10. Ensure good governance and effective institutions
11. Ensure stable and peaceful societies
12. Create a global enabling environment and catalyse long-term finance

4. Analysis of the Recommendations

It is undoubtedly a challenge to get all of the world’s problems on a single page. While the UN (HLP) has put together a larger list than the earlier MDG (2000), it is needless to say that the next two years will be devoted to widely discuss and debate these issues at various forums, which will result in some amount of fine tuning.

A close study of the twelve goals framed by the UN (HLP) in the opinion of the researcher has one significant omission from the earlier MDG – i.e., global partnership for development. In a world which is far more gated and inward looking from the earlier unfettered globalization – the present day need for cooperation and development partnership is even more required than before.

While the researcher is of the view that the goals for reduction of poverty, addressing inequalities, provision of health and education and managing stable and peaceful societies are not questionable and find a wide scale acceptance. However, what is likely to be debated and fine-tuned maybe the redefinition of poverty from \$1.25 a day maybe to \$ 3-5% a day. Further food security and energy security are necessary and top priority goals for the post 2015 agenda.

In this regard, India has recently passed the National Food Security Bill, in September 2013 – wherein, it is

envisaged that the nation will strive towards addressing the needs of nearly two thirds of the 1.2 billion who will be entitled to receive subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System. Further, India and Indonesia have decided to join forces on this front through the G-33ⁱ, and both the nations will attempt to lift the limit on subsidised food stockpiling to support poor farmers (Mehudia, October 2013). This issue will definitely feature in the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference at Bali. Nations have to take a cue from the MDG and create a strong framework for achievement of these goals and target within the country, as well as collaborate on a global platform to ensure successful fulfilment of the same.

While sustainability will be the global guiding principle and the operational standard, of the post 2015 development agenda, securing sustainable energy for all, is an important goal addressing the needs of the select nation which face this major challenge ranking low on the energy sustainability index (Refer Appendix: Table V). It is well believed that energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, increased social equity, and an environment that allows the world to thrive. Besides enhancing efficiency it also helps address the challenge of climate change. In the context of Energy Sustainability Index, the select group of nations ranked poorly (Appendix: Table V) and therefore this initiative will provide millions of people in the select countries an opportunity to gain access to sustainable energy. They can draw upon EU experts to provide world-class Technical Assistance Facility and develop technical expertise—resulting in shared technology and improved learning.

With regard to the goal on sustainable livelihood and job creation, this is considered one of the most powerful strategies to overcome poverty. Providing decent work has to be a central element of development policies if we want to see stable economies. This goal is extremely pertinent to the select group of nations which together account for a large unemployment force of nearly 137 million persons. Further, with the projected increase in the world labour force to be around 37 million per year by 2020, it is estimated that some 470 million new jobs will be required over the period of 2016-2030 (ILO, 2013). Another important dimension of the problem of unemployment is the mismatch of skills that labour force can offer and what employers require. Also jobs can only be created in economies which have an enabling environment for doing business. This issue can only be tackled by nation themselves by setting their industrial, manufacturing and competition policy in order.

Another area – catalysing long-term capital, is where the leading emerging economies (BRICS – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) are collectively putting together a \$ 100 billion towards a Currency Reserve Fund. This is being done with the objective of insulating the emerging economies from global financial vulnerability, in the aftermath of the 2007 financial crises. In fact, prior to 2007, nations witnessed \$11 trillion capital flows which has presently been reduced to a third of the same. With the IMF facing grave limitations to cope with such changes, consequently regions and blocs are coming up with new cooperation models to cope with enhanced financial risk and uncertainty. Taking this to a global scale will help nations overcome financial risk and volatility, which is presently posing a new set of challenges and has found mention in the twelfth goal in the post 2015 MD. This should undoubtedly address the issues of small and developing economies to achieve ‘beta-convergence’ⁱⁱ

Moving to the next issue of global governance – this has been widely discussed specially post 2007. This is compounded with the observations of the present study which identifies lack of governance as a common bane prevalent across the select ten nations. A spate of anti-government protest has been witnessed across Asia and Africa in countries instigated by issues concerning leadership (monarchy), human rights violation, unemployment and corruption in the last few years indicating a complete breakdown in governance. This is even experienced in some of the leading developed countries including the US which experienced a 16 day government shutdown regarding extending federal borrowing (October 2013) or for that matter the closure and protests in Greece (2013) or the London riots (2011).

With respect to the select group of nations - India, Pakistan, Nigeria and other countries have various corruption charges levied against the government and a very visible governance deficit leading to an outcry, where the educated youth take to the streets displaying their rage on issues and looking for quick solutions. This puts pressures on the existing State to find quick fixes as perceived by citizens which may not be the best solution in national interest. This could render the world in a serious mess with failed state tags and could surge into a ripple effect if unaddressed. While the present paper has no solutions to this matter – it is open to public debate to address these issues.

The most challenging aspects therefore in the post 2015 MDG will be to see how some of these select issues plaguing nearly 50% of the world population will be addressed. While we can categorise some of them as uncontestable or unquestionable goals, and others as very achievable ones, but it is the last category of issues which are extremely complicated and problematic i.e. corruption, failed States, ease of doing business – in the sense how

these issues will be addressed and targeted as they require major reforms within the nations. However, positivism is brought out by the very fact that these issues have found a platform and are presently being widely discussed at various global summits and foras.

5. Conclusions

As we are presently poised, the developing and emerging-market countries no longer look at the advanced countries as they once did. If there is a single point of discussion by global leaders at Davos or at any other Summit it is the concern for economic inequality. Stiglitz (Feb, 2013) mentions that the shift in the debate from a year ago seems dramatic as no one even mentions the notion of trickle-down economics anymore, and few are willing to argue that there is a close congruence between social contributions and private rewards. One of the most optimistic note that arises is from the fact that the emerging markets today enjoy the ability to cope with the risk of globalization and are able to sustain growth in the face of failures in the West. In the last 25 years, the world has moved from one that was dominated by two superpowers, to a world dominated by one, and now to a leaderless, multi-polar world. While we may talk about the G-7, or G-8, or G-20, the more apt description is G-0 or a world devoid of leaders in which every nation has an inward agenda and needs to look within and come out with their own development agenda to address the challenges highlighted in Table 3. However what is very comforting is that nations can seek assistance in terms of science, technology and innovations from the developed world and evolve a more collaborative era for improving the lives of seven billion plus.

APPENDIX

Table I

No.	Countries	2.1		2.2		2.3	
		GDP Nominal Mn- USD (2012)	Global Ranking	GDP - PPP- Bn - USD (2012)	Global Ranking	GDP – Per capita (PPP) USD (2012)	Global Ranking
	World	71666350		85538			
1	China	8227103	2	12613	3	6071	124
2	India	1841717	10	4761	4	3,900	168
3	Indonesia	878043	16	1237	16	5,100	158
4	Pakistan	231182	43	523.9	28	2,900	178
5	Nigeria	262606	37	455.5	31	2,800	180
6	Bangladesh	250605	39	311	44	2,100	192
7	Japan	5959718	3	4704	5	36900	38
8	Philippines	250265	39	431.3	32	4,500	165
9	Ethiopia	433000	84	105	73	1,200	211
10	Vietnam	141669	55	325.9	42	3,600	170
	Total	18475908	-	25476.6	-	-	-
	Share of the 10 countries (%)	26.3%	-	29.8%	-	-	-

Source: CIA Fact Book

Table II

		3	3.1	4.1	4.2	4.3	5
	Countries	% of Population below poverty line	Head Count of Persons below poverty line * (Mn)	Unemployment (%)	Labour Force (Mn)	Number of unemployed persons (Mn)	Urbanization (%)
		2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011
1	China	13.4	180.8	6.5	798.5	51.9	50.6
2	India	29.8	363.8	8.5	486.8	41.4	31.3
3	Indonesia	11.7	2.9	6.1	118.1	7.2	50.7
4	Pakistan	22.3	43.1	6.2	59.2	3.7	36.2
5	Nigeria	70.0	122.2	23.9	53.8	12.9	49.6
6	Bangladesh	31.5	51.6	5.0	77.0	3.9	28.4
7	Japan	16.0	20.4	4.0	65.6	2.6	91.3
8	Philippines	26.5	28.1	7.0	40.4	2.8	48.8
9	Ethiopia	23.6	22.2	17	42.1	8.4	17.2
10	Vietnam	11.3	10.5	4.3	49.2	2.1	31.0
	Total	-	845.6	-	1790.7	136.9	-

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2095rank.html>

*Total population multiplied by the percentage of people below poverty line gives head count numbers of persons below poverty line.

TABLE III

	Countries	6	7	8	9.1	9.2	9.3	10.1	10.2
		GDP Growth (%) 2012	Inflation (Average) in % 2000-11	Trade Openness % (2011)	FDI Stock 2011	FDI Ranking	FDI Inflows in Bn \$ (2011)	Public Debt in Bn \$ (2011)	Public Debt/GPD Ratio (%)
1	China	7.8	4.9	58.7	1334	1	170	NA	NA
2	India	6.6	5.9	54.2	229.2	2	17	43	48.5
3	Indonesia	6.2	14.3	51.3	192.9	4	10	19	26.2
4	Pakistan	3.7	13.1	33.4	22.7	9	1	NA	NA
5	Nigeria	6.3	20.3	75.2	84.4	5	8	NA	NA

6	Bangladesh	6.1	4.7	54.5	6.6	7	1	NA	NA
7	Japan	2.0	-1.6	31.2	202.8	3	117	893	189.8
8	Philippines	6.6	4.9	67.0	30.4	8	1	NA	NA
9	Ethiopia	7.0	16.9	12.0	NA	NA	0.626	NA	45.4
10	Vietnam	5.0	12.1	178.1	73.9	6	6.48	NA	NA

Source: World Bank Data; Inflation: <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/>
Trade Openness = Export + Imports/ GDP CIA Fact book - 2013

TABLE IV

	Countries	11	12.1	12.2	13	14
		Interest Rates % (2011)	FOREX (Bn\$(2013))	Global Ranking	Current Account Balance (2012) Bn \$	Ease of Doing Business (Global Rank)
1	China	2.3	3557	1	224.8	91
2	India	8	277	10	-93.4	132
3	Indonesia	6.4	92.6	24	-26.2	128
4	Pakistan	12.0	11.8	66	-2.7	107
5	Nigeria	4.3	47	40	6.2	131
6	Bangladesh	5.0	16.3	60	-941.9Mn	129
7	Japan	0.1	1254	2	51.2	24
8	Philippines	5.3	83.2	26	NA	138
9	Ethiopia	16	NA	NA	-783Mn	127
10	Vietnam	9.0	20.9	54	NA	99
	Total for the ten nations	-	5159.80	-	-	

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2095rank.html>
FOREX Reserves: IMF

Table V

	Countries	15. Failed State Index		16. Energy Sustainability Index (For 129 Countries)	17. Corruption Perceptions Index 2012 (Global Ranking)	
		Ranking of Nations	Status	Rank	Rank	Score
1	China	66	Warning	78	80	39

2	India	79	Warning	115	94	36
3	Indonesia	77	Warning	73	118	32
4	Pakistan	13	Alert	114	139	27
5	Nigeria	16	Alert	84	139	27
6	Bangladesh	29	Alert	123	144	26
7	Japan	156	Stable	16	17	74
8	Philippines	60	Warning	65	105	34
9	Ethiopia	19	Alert	112	113	33
10	Vietnam	98	Warning	101	123	31

Source: 15 - Foreign Policy Fund for Peace; 16 –World Energy Council; 17-<http://cpi.transparency.org/cpi2012/results/>

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