



## PUBLISHER

Ann Quon

## EDITORIAL AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Carolyn Dedolph Cabrera

## MANAGING EDITOR

Eric Healy

## SENIOR EDITOR

Floyd Whaley

## EDITORIAL ADVISOR

Katsuj Matsunami

## ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Maria Liza Solano

## COPY EDITORS

Ma. Priscila del Rosario

Caroline Ahmad

## ART DIRECTOR

Andy Martin

*Development Asia* features development issues important to Asia and the Pacific. It is published four times a year by the Asian Development Bank and Haymarket Media Ltd. The views expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and do not reflect the views and policies of the Asian Development Bank and Haymarket Media Ltd. Use of the term "country" does not imply any judgment by the authors or the Asian Development Bank and Haymarket Media Ltd. as to the legal or other status of any territorial entity.

Advertising of any specific commercial product, process, service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, in this publication does not constitute or imply ADB's endorsement, recommendation, or favoring of any of the product or the entity thereof.

## COMMENTS

Send your feedback to the editor at [editor@development.asia](mailto:editor@development.asia)

## ADVERTISING

To advertise in *Development Asia*, contact Matthew Adams at [matthew.adams@haymarketasia.com](mailto:matthew.adams@haymarketasia.com)

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Contact [Isolano@development.asia](mailto:Isolano@development.asia)



## Mixed Sources

Product group from well-managed forests and other controlled sources  
[www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org) Cert no. SGS-COC-004808  
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

## REPRINTS

Material published in *Development Asia* and on [www.development.asia](http://www.development.asia), including articles, photos, graphics, and other content, is copyrighted. Material may not be reproduced, republished, or redistributed without written permission of *Development Asia*. For reprint permission, please contact [editor@development.asia](mailto:editor@development.asia). Photographs not owned by ADB require permission from the copyright holder for reprinting.

Development Asia  
Department of External Relations  
Asian Development Bank  
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City  
1550 Metro Manila, Philippines  
[editor@development.asia](mailto:editor@development.asia)  
[www.adb.org](http://www.adb.org)

Cover photo: AFP

Note: In this publication, "\$" refers to US dollars



A publication of the Asian Development Bank, designed and distributed by Haymarket Media Limited

# Bringing Food Security to the Table

Perhaps no issue casts a harsher light on social inequities than the growing number of people who go hungry everyday.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), more people go hungry in the world today than at any time since 1970. An estimated 1.02 billion people were undernourished worldwide in 2009, 642 million of whom lived in Asia and the Pacific, the FAO reports.

Access to food—or food security—has become an issue that no one can ignore; the lives of millions and the stability of governments depend on shrewd management of food supplies. As the riots and hoarding during the food crisis in 2008 have shown, the mere mention of a shortage is enough to destabilize markets and even governments.

As usual, the poorest have been hit the hardest: they have faced rising food prices while the global economic crisis has battered their incomes. Declining crop yields, land degradation, urbanization, and the effects of climate change are putting additional pressure on efforts to produce more food. Market speculation makes the situation even more precarious.

This edition of *Development Asia* tackles this critical issue from varied perspectives—from the points of view of science, civil society, and business. As our cover story, *A Growing Hunger*, puts it, there is no quick, one-size-fits-all solution, especially for a region as geographically diverse as Asia and the Pacific. Building consensus is a huge, ongoing challenge for leaders, decision makers, and stakeholders in the region as they wrestle with conflicting priorities.

In *The Hunger Monger*, renowned financier Jim Rogers, an outspoken advocate of agricultural investments, acknowledges that food security is a highly emotional and political issue. He gives a candid interview on the perceived tension between business interests and social needs, and domestic and international concerns.

In other stories, we write about how some development professionals risk life and limb to deliver assistance in conflict zones while others commit abuses in the name of aid. We talk about the need for a new debt arbitration system and the rationale behind unconditional dole-outs.

This edition of *Development Asia* features an updated design with a more diverse selection of articles and features, all geared toward making the magazine more reader-friendly and the issues more understandable. As always, we encourage your feedback. ■

Ann Quon  
Publisher