

## Thematic issue on the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference

The present issue of the Asia-Pacific Population Journal contains three conference room papers. These papers were prepared to inform delegates and participants of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, which was organized by ESCAP, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in Bangkok from 16 to 20 September 2013.

Ministers and senior officials from 47 countries were among the almost 500 country delegates and civil society representatives attending the Conference. They reviewed progress and gaps in implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and identified priority actions in addressing a broad set of population-related challenges, with a view to advancing people's rights and well-being through inclusive and equitable development.

The papers published in this issue of the Asia-Pacific Population Journal deal with the "unfinished agenda" of ICPD, namely (a) sexual and reproductive health; (b) population dynamics and sustainable development; and (c) population and social integration policies in Asia and the Pacific. This issue also contains joint statements made by civil society and youth representatives at the Conference.

The outcome document of the Conference, the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, was being edited at the time of publication of this journal.

The Asian and Pacific Population Conferences, convened decennially by ESCAP for the past five decades, have played a critical role in setting the regional agenda for population and development policies in Asia and the Pacific. In addition, they have provided a vital forum for forging and strengthening partnerships across the region in the field of population and development.

The Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference attained heightened importance as the Asian and Pacific Population Conference process has been integrated with the review of the progress made on implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action leading up to the special session of the General Assembly on ICPD beyond 2014. Thus, the deliberations of the sixth Asian and Pacific Conference also stand to be an important input into global processes on the future of ICPD.