



International Comparison Program
for Asia and the Pacific 2021

Asia and the Pacific Regional Updates

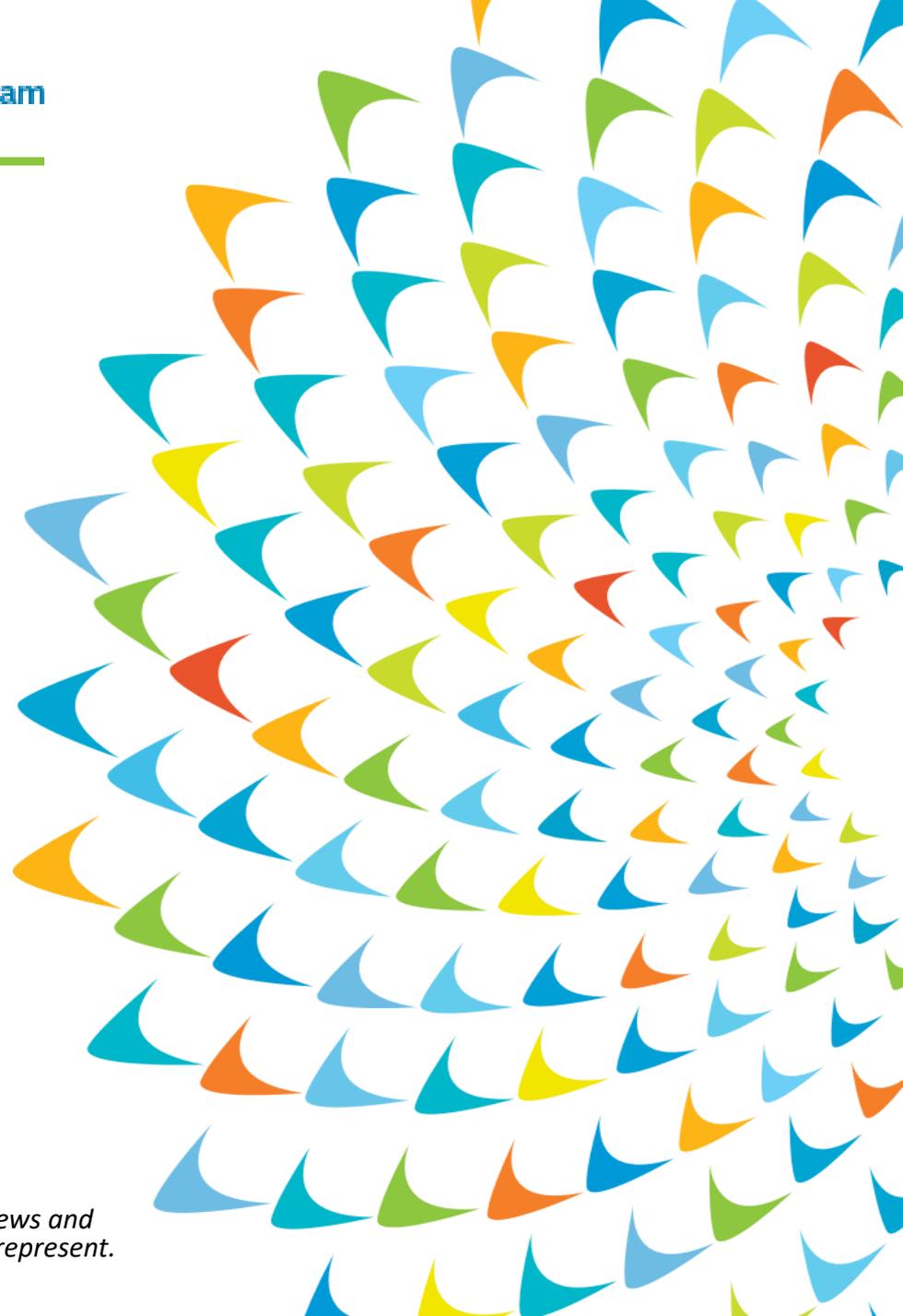
Meeting of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group

Virtual

12 – 14 October 2021

Asian Development Bank

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Economy Participation in the 2021 ICP

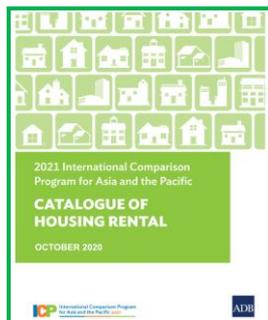
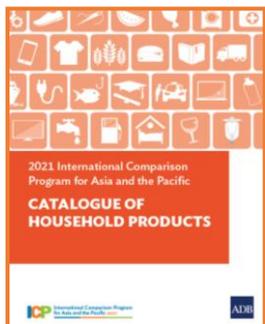
- **Twenty-two economies** confirmed participation by signing a letter of no objection (same as 2017 ICP).
- Price targeted for reference year 2020 (moved to reference 2021 after postponement due to Covid-19).
- **Year-round** nationally representative **household** surveys in rural and urban areas planned as in earlier ICP cycles.
- **One time** price collection for specialized surveys of **MEQ and CNS**.
- ADB provides limited **seed funds** to select National Implementing Agencies to implement ICP.



ICP 2021 Cycle Implementation Status [1]

Activities conducted since April 2021:

- Updated **Operational Materials**
 - Product lists
 - Operational Guidelines





ICP 2021 Cycle Implementation Status [2]

- **Activities conducted since April 2021 (contd.):**
 - Enhanced the **ICP Asia Pacific Software Suite** - An integrated application for data management of all ICP surveys by the National Implementing Agencies
 - **Unit Price Converter Tool** – Excel based tool to aid conversion of units and prices for use in construction surveys
 - **CAPI tool for ICP** price collection is under development (CSPro Android platform) – Viet Nam is be the pilot country
 - Developed an excel-based tool for **template for price extrapolation**



ICP 2021 Cycle Implementation Status [3]

Activities conducted since April 2021 *(cont'd)*

- **3 Country specific workshops** with FBOs, Fiji (2 workshops) and NSB, Bhutan (1 workshop).
- **One small group meeting** with BRU, FIJ, MAL covered HH intra-economy validation and housing rental operational guidelines.
- **Five regional workshops** covering topics under HHD, CNS, MEQ, and REN.



ICP 2021 Cycle Implementation Status [4]

Activities conducted since April 2021 (*cont'd*)

Regional/Other Workshop	Objective
Second Regional Workshop (virtual) , 7 to 8 April 2021 [# of participants:108]	Product list and operational guidelines of Construction survey
Third Regional Workshop (virtual) , 21 to 22 April 2021 [# of participants:101]	Household Consumption price data validation methods , ICP APSS, and Housing Rental Survey guidelines
Fourth Regional Workshop (virtual) , 22, 23, and 25 June 2021 [# of participants: 110]	Machinery and Equipment Survey product list and operational guidelines



ICP 2021 Cycle Implementation Status [5]

Activities conducted since April 2021 (*cont'd*)

Regional/Other Workshop	Objective
Fifth Regional Workshop (virtual) , 6 to 8 July 2021 [# of participants: 120]	Inter-economy price data validation of Household Consumption collected in Q1 2021
Country workshops with Fiji Bureau of Statistics (virtual) , 12 to 15 April 2021 [# of participants: 16]	2017 ICP results with emphasis on the results for Fiji; ICP concepts , data requirements; ICP Surveys of Household and Construction
Workshop with Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, and Malaysia (virtual) , 4 to 5 May 2021 [# of participants: 33]	Household Consumption price data validation methods and Housing Rental Survey guidelines



ICP 2021 Cycle Implementation Status [6]

Activities conducted since April 2021 (*cont'd*)

Regional/Other Workshop	Objective
<p>Training for the National Statistics Bureau, Bhutan (virtual), 11 May 2021 [# of participants: 15]</p>	<p>Understanding of ICP APSS flow; and ICP APSS issues currently faced by NSB staff</p>
<p>ICP Knowledge Sharing: ADB and UN ECLAC (virtual), 24 September 2021 [# of participants:12]</p>	<p>ADB and UN ECLAC shared experiences on the conduct of construction (CNS) price surveys in the respective regions; and discussed the Unit Price Converter Tool (UPCT) for CNS surveys developed by ADB.</p>



Activities in the Pipeline

- **Updated Housing Volume Operational Guidelines** in October 2021
- **Four regional Workshops** in Q4 2021

Title of Workshop	Date	Topic
Sixth Regional Workshop	25-26 & 28 October	Inter-economy validation of Q1-Q2 2021 household consumption prices
Seventh Regional Workshop	16-17 November	Inter-economy validation of housing rental and housing volume
Eighth Regional Workshop	24-25 November	Inter-economy validation of construction price data
Ninth Regional Workshop	13-15 December	Inter-economy validation of machinery and equipment price data



Survey Schedule Planned

Survey/Activities	2021				2022				2023			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Household Consumption ¹												
Machinery and Equipment ²												
Construction ²												
Government Compensation ³												
Housing Rental ⁴												
Housing Volume												
GDP Expenditures and Deflator Compilation												
Other Data Submissions ⁵												
Publication of results ⁶												

GDP = Gross Domestic Product.

1 Price collection will be extended until June 2022 to cover a 12-month cycle. Survey of Fast Evolving Items to be implemented within 2021.

2 One-time price collection - preferably in June-July 2021 for Construction (CNS) and Q3 2021 for Machinery and Equipment (MEQ). Actual price collection may go beyond Q3 2021 for few economies.

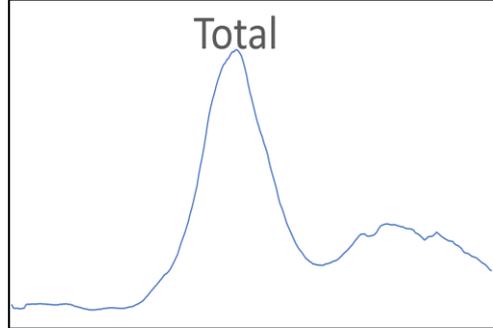
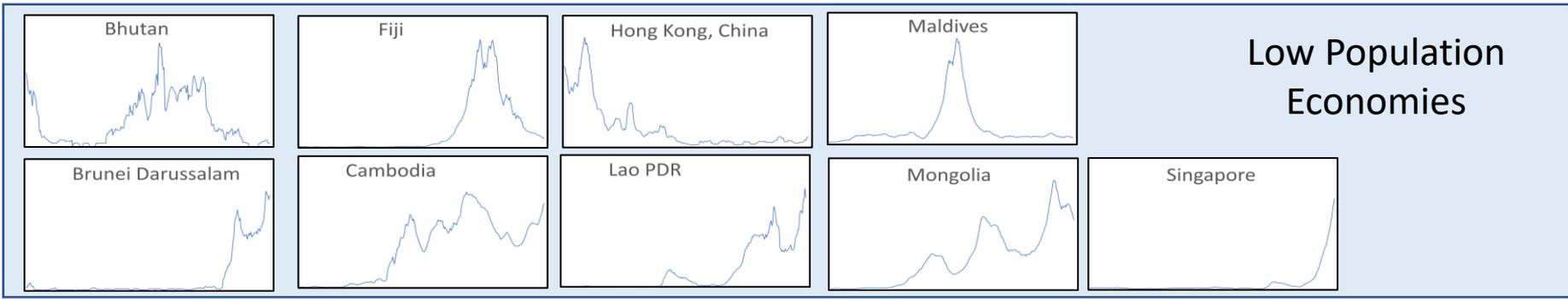
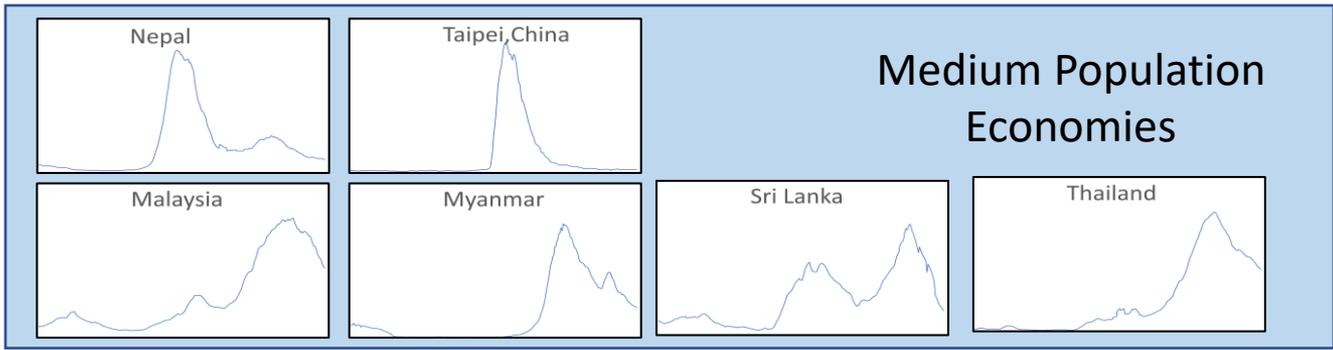
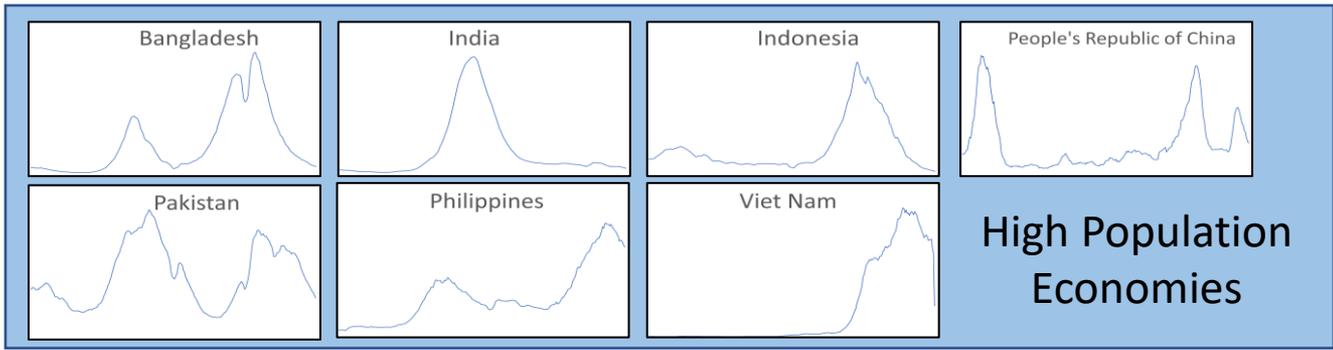
3 Government Compensation - Based on administrative data with 2021 as reference year.

4 Preferably two-time price collection in June and December 2021 for annual rent collection.

5 Refers to Consumer Price Indices, Population, and Exchange Rates.

6 Publication of 2021 ICP Results in Q4 2023.

7-Day Moving Average of new Covid-19 cases (January –September 2021)



Source: ADB COVID19 Policy Database, <https://covid19policy.adb.org/cases>



Status of ICP Survey Activities

- 2021 ICP activities were impacted by Covid-19 differently in different economies.
- 2021 ICP price surveys for **household** started in the **first quarter of 2021** in more than half of the participating economies.
- Three (3) economies (IND, LAO, and PAK) are yet to start as of October 2021.
- **Surveys for machinery and equipment and construction** are on-going in most of the participating economies.
- **Surveys for housing rental** started in less than half of the economies in Q2 and will continue until Q4 2021.
- NIAs given the **flexibility in survey scheduling** due to Covid 19 constraints extending until 2022 to cover a 12-month cycle.



HHC Price Collection Schedule in Economies

Has been impacted by Covid-19 — cross differently in different economies

Price Collection Schedule	2020 (Q1)	2021	2022
		BAN, MAL, VIE	BAN, MAL, VIE (Q2-Q4) BRU, HKG, INO, MLD, MON, NEP, SIN, TAP BHU, CAM, FIJ, IND*, LAO*, PAK*, PHI, PRC, SRI, THA
Remarks	2020 ----> Extrapolation	2021	<---- 2022 Backcasting

- BAN, MAL and VIE collected prices in Q1 2020 and decided to extrapolate these prices to Q1 2021
- BHU, CAM, FIJ, PHI, PRC, SRI started after Q1 2021 will collect prices in 2022 to complete 12 month. These prices will be backcasted to Annual 2021.
- IND*, LAO*, and PAK* have not yet started price collection and are likely to begin late 2021 or from 2022.



Risk Assessment for the Region [1]

Conduct of price surveys

- **Delayed commencement** of surveys due to the pandemic
- **Data collection** could not be completed in 2021 requiring survey extension until mid-2022
- Need of **reliable information** for extrapolating/backcasting prices



Risk Assessment for the Region [2]

Conduct of price surveys

- Resource cuts leading to reduced geographical coverage
- Fewer quotations than targeted due to closures/lockdowns
- No prices for affected BHs – like accommodation services, package holidays, air transport and import suspensions
- Challenges to inter-economy data validation



Risk Assessment for the Region [2]

Concerns in the implementing agencies

- **Conduct of census of population** (e.g, Nepal and Malaysia); post enumeration of 2021 Census (Hong Kong, China, etc.,) or other major surveys planned for 2021 and 2022
- **Lockdowns and mobility restrictions** resulting in markets/outlets shutdown), placed staff on WFH arrangements, unable to conduct field training, increase samples, and process prices collected
- **Conduct of virtual training of ICP price collectors** may not be as effective as actual field training.



Risk Assessment for the Region [3]

Concerns in the implementing agencies (*cont'd*)

- **Financial resource constraints** –
 - Resources/budget cuts reported
 - Few NIAs used their allocations for surveys in 2020 and may need additional funding for full implementation of 2021 surveys

- **Human resource constraints** – turnover of trained ICP staff assigned to new posts/jobs



Addressing Risks in Asia and the Pacific [1]

- **Flexibility** in survey scheduling (How much??)
- Emphasizing **rigorous data validation** at the country-level (within country data validation workshops)
- Conduct of **demand-driven bilateral technical meetings** with national implementing agencies
- Conduct of **knowledge-sharing** with other regional implementing agencies
- Assessments of CPI series and mapping of ICP items with lowest level indexes from CPI - **excel-based templates for extrapolation.**



Addressing Risks in Asia and the Pacific [2]

Issue to be considered by IACG

- **Assessing the impact of Covid-19 on survey schedule**
- **Extension of survey schedule for full participation of economies and having meaningful comparisons**



Thank You!

<https://icp.adb.org>

<https://www.adb.org/what-we-do/data/economic-data/icp>

The International Comparison Program (ICP)

The ICP is the world's largest global statistical initiative for estimating purchasing power parities (PPPs) to compare economic outputs, standards of living, and relative price levels across economies.

