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Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies



Future Trends Series - GR:REEN Project

Title of the report

Human Development Report 2013 – The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World

Area

Demography

Reporter

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Type of the Reporter

International Organisation

Periodically updated?

Yes

First issued year

1990

Latest update

2013

Official website

www.undp.org

Language available

English

Short summary

The 21st century is witnessing a profound shift in global dynamics, driven by the fast-rising new powers of the developing world. China has overtaken Japan as the world's second biggest economy, lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in the process. India is reshaping its future with new entrepreneurial creativity and social policy innovation. Brazil is raising its living standards by expanding international relationships and antipoverty programmes that are emulated worldwide.

But the "Rise of the South" is a much larger phenomenon. Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey and other developing countries are becoming leading actors on the world stage. The 2013 Human Development Report identifies more than 40 developing countries that have done better than expected in human development in recent decades, with their progress accelerating markedly over the past 10 years.

Each of these countries has its own unique history and has chosen its own distinct development pathway. Yet they share some important characteristics and face many of the same challenges. They are also becoming more interconnected and interdependent. And people throughout the developing world are increasingly demanding to be heard, as they share ideas through new communication channels and seek greater accountability from governments and international institutions.

Key trends

- The striking transformation of a large number of developing countries into dynamic major economies with growing political influence is having and will continue to have a significant impact on human development progress.
- By 2020, the combined economic output of three leading and developing countries alone – Brazil, China and India – will surpass the aggregate production of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States. Much of this expansion will be driven by new trade and technology partnerships within the South itself.

Suggestions

- Four specific areas of focus for sustaining development momentum: enhancing equity, including the gender dimension; enabling greater voice and participation of citizens, including youth; confronting environmental pressures; managing demographic change.
- Economic growth alone does not automatically translate into human development progress. Pro-poor policies and significant investments in people's capabilities – through a focus on education, nutrition and health and employment skills – can expand access to decent work and provide for sustained progress.
- Five ways to ensure that human development proceeds productively and sustainably. Rising economic strength in the South must be matched by a full commitment to human development; less developed countries can learn and benefit from the success of emerging economies in the South; new institutions and new partnerships can facilitate regional integration and South-South relationships; greater representation for the South and civil society can accelerate progress on major global challenges; the rise of the South presents new opportunities for generating a greater supply of public goods.

Methodology

Modelling

Reference to other trends reports? If yes, which reports?

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