

## Invitation

At the UN Summit held on September 25, 2015, 193 countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which commit all countries to implement 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. This was a historic decision on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centered set of universal and transformative Goals and targets. But it is an Agenda of unprecedented scope which is fraught with challenges for implementation. To name just a few, it consists of universal goals and targets involving the entire world, developed and developing countries alike. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of development. Countries should endeavor to 'leave no one behind'. Its implementation requires not just the government but all segments of population in each country to work in partnership, as well as all levels of the government. It requires a huge data to inform the implementation.

Constituting the most dynamic and forward-looking sub-region of the world, countries and economies in Northeast Asia have a special stake in their leadership role for the implementation of the SDGs. Already with only 12 years left to achieve the SDGs, and just 1 year ahead of the first UN High-level Political Forum to review the global progress on SDGs at the level of Heads of Government, the knowledge institutions in Northeast Asia participating in the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) convene a special Forum with support from the UNESCAP in order to assess how well their respective countries and economies are progressing on the SDGs, what are major challenges and difficulties they are facing, and what are priority tasks for governments and the research communities in the sub-region in facilitating the progress. The "SDG Index and Dashboards 2018" report jointly produced by the SDSN and the Bertelsmann Stiftung will serve as the platform for the discussion at the Forum.

On behalf of those knowledge institutions, we are pleased and honored to extend our invitation to interested members of the respective national or local SDSNs, universities and institutes, the civil societies and international organizations (IOs), not to mention, government officials, to this Forum.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Forum on September 7.

*Sincerely,*

**Lan Xue**, Co-chair, SDSN Leadership Council & Director, Tsinghua University Institute of SDGs (TUSDG)

**Soogil Young**, Emeritus Member, SDSN Leadership Council & Chairman, SDSN Korea

**Chuluun Togtokh**, Director, Sustainable Development Institute, National University of Mongolia and Chair, Future Earth Mongolia Committee

**RSVP**

By September 4, 2018

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## Program<sup>1</sup>

**09:00-09:15 Opening Remarks**, by Prof. Lan Xue, Co-chair, UN SDSN Leadership Council & Dr. Soogil Young, Emeritus Member, UN SDSN Leadership Council

### **09:10-09:30 Welcoming Remarks**

- Ya. Tumurbaatar, President of the National University of Mongolia and D. Regdel, President of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences
- Dr. Sangmin Nam, Acting Director, UNESCAP-East and Northeast Asia

### **09:30-11:20 Panel Presentations** (20 minutes each)

1. How is the state of implementation of the SDGs in the responsive countries, do trends indicate difficulties in achieving some Goals by 2030, and what are priority problems, tasks, and recommended solutions?
  2. To what extent have the respective governments institutionalized the SDGs implementation mechanism in terms of dedicated coordination unit, strategies and action plans, and accountability systems?
  3. Is there room for fruitful international cooperation between countries in the sub-region on some Goals in terms of policy actions and joint research?
- Prof. Xue Lan, Director, Tsinghua University Institute for SDGs (TUSDG); Dean, School of Public Policy and Management & Director of TUSDG, Tsinghua University, China
  - Prof. Kazuhiko Takemoto, Secretary-General, SDSN Japan; Director, United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability; President, Overseas Environmental (OECC), Japan
  - Dr. Soogil Young, Chairman, SDSN Korea & Director, Institute of Sustainable Development, State University of New York (SUNY) Korea & Prof. Sung-jin Kang, Steering Committee, SDSN Korea & Director of Institute on Sustainable Development, Korea University, South Korea
  - Prof. Chuluun Togtokh, Director of the Institute of Sustainable Development, National University of Mongolia
  - An Academic from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (*tbd*)

**11:20-12:20 Discussion**, co-chaired by Professors Lan Xue and Soogil Young

**12:20-12:30 Wrap-up**, by Co-chairs

**12:30-13:30 Lunch**. At Library of National University of Mongolia

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<sup>1</sup> Simultaneous translation service between English and Mongol will be provided when necessary.

## Background

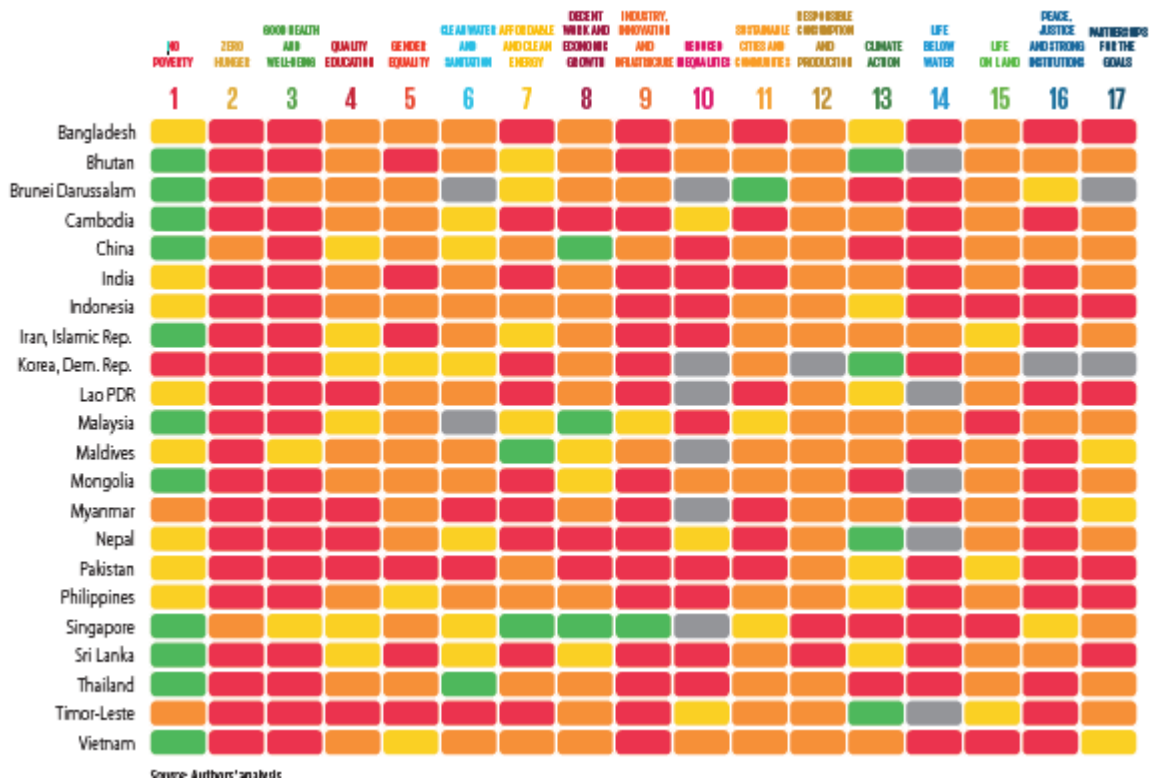
### UN SDSN and “The SDG Index and Dashboards 2018”

The UN SDSN ([www.unsdsn.org](http://www.unsdsn.org)) has been operating since 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General and the leadership of its Director, Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on MDGs/SDGs, to mobilize scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement. The SDSN comprises national or regional networks which more or less envelope the globe by now.

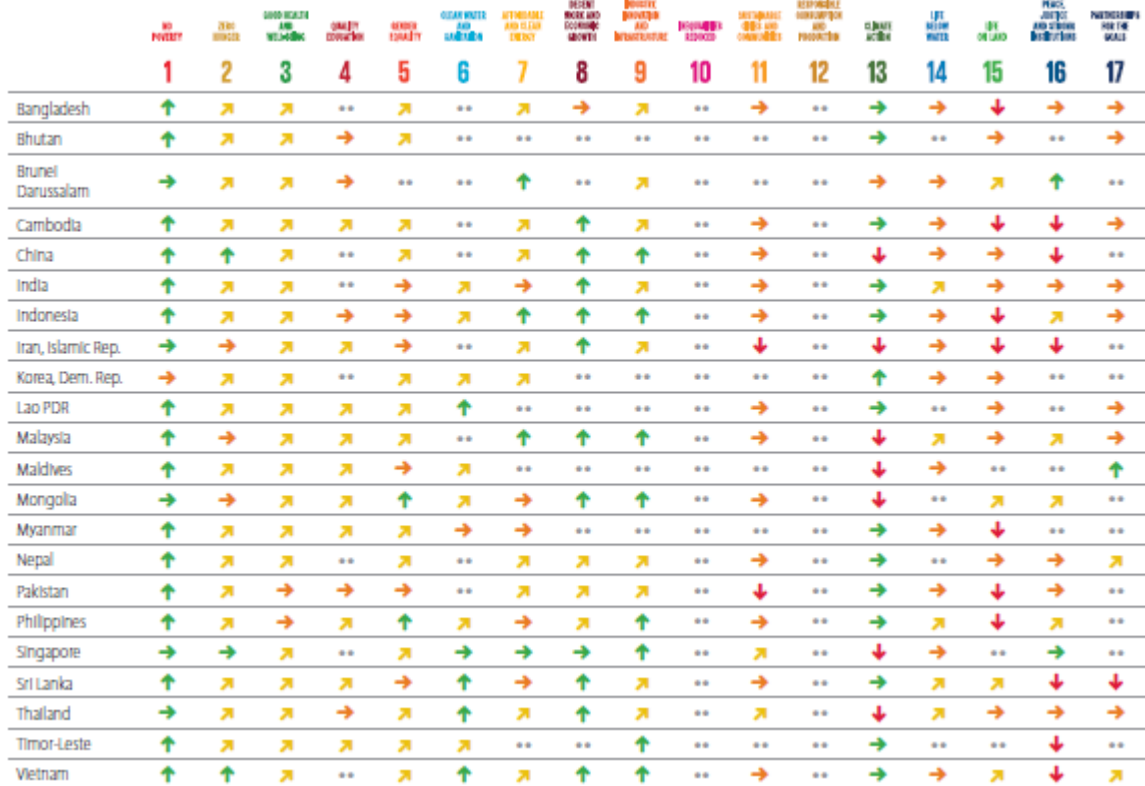
Since 2016, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung have jointly released the annual report, “SDG Index and Dashboards” ([www.sdgindex.org](http://www.sdgindex.org)), to assess the state of implementation of the SDGs by country. “SDG Index and Dashboards 2018”, its 3<sup>rd</sup> edition released in July this year, assesses each country’s performance on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for all 193 UN member states for the first time and presents data on change over time in indicators and the SDG Indexes in order to assess the adequacy of national policies for implementation of the SDGs.

The analysis in this report shows that countries in North-East Asia invariably face persistent challenges over many SDGs, with long distances left to overcome by 2030 toward the achievement of a number of the Goals each. And the analysis of countries’ trends by the Goal shows that, on some Goals, some countries are showing no progress at all toward Goals or even regressing away. The report also surveys the state of national implementation mechanisms for the SDGs in G20 countries and reports a large variation among them regarding how the SDGs are embraced by the political leadership and translated into institutional mechanisms, pointing to the need for further work to ensure effective institutionalization of the SDGs in countries to accelerate progress. Countries face serious implementation challenges.





### SDG Dashboard for East and South Asia



### SDG Trend Dashboard for East and South Asia