Implications for Asia from the Global Financial Crisis and Policy Perspectives

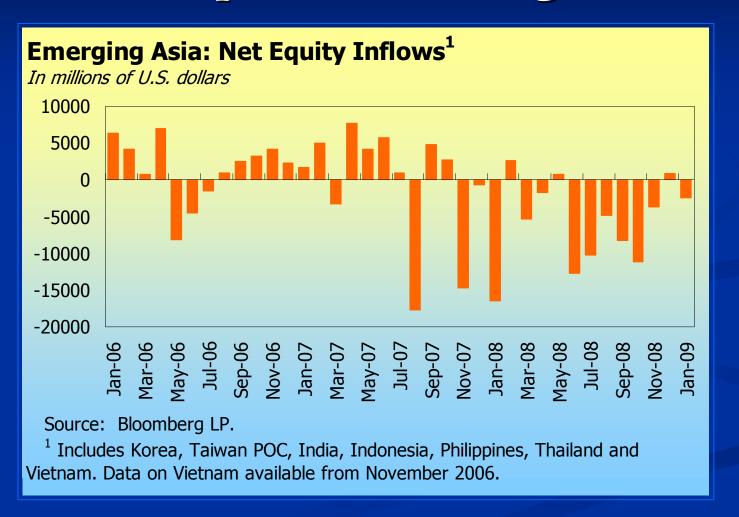
Remarks by
Takatoshi Kato
Deputy Managing Director
International Monetary Fund



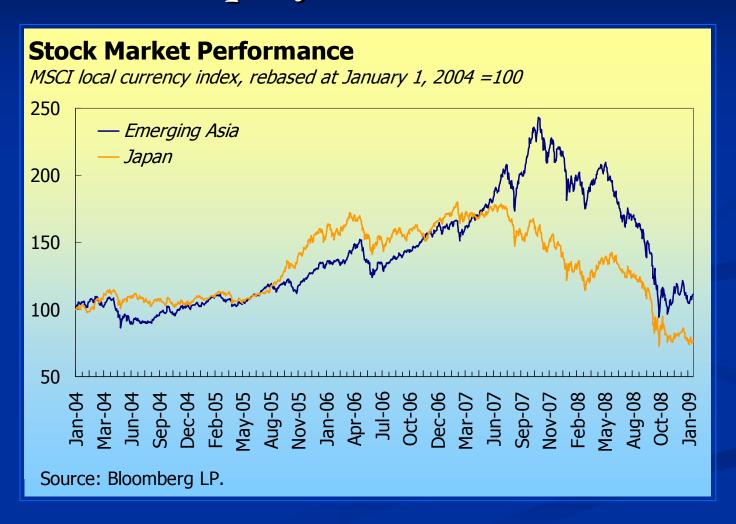
Harvard Asia Business Conference February 14-15, 2009

Although not at its epicenter, Asia has been hit hard by the global financial crisis

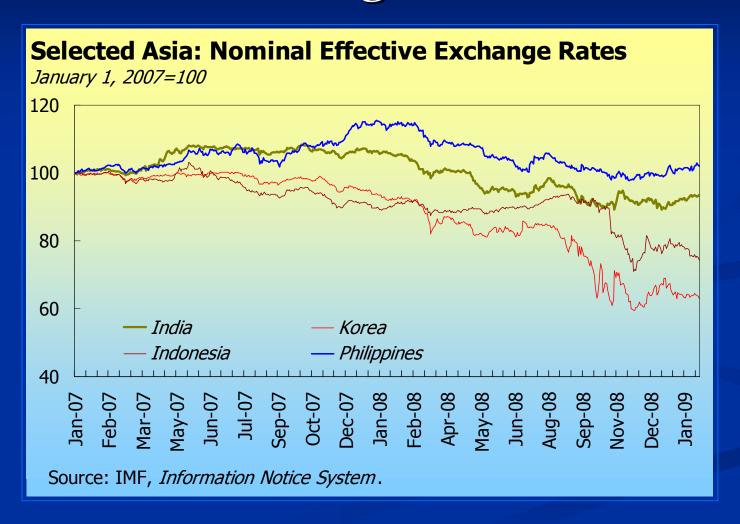
Global investors dramatically reduced their exposure to the region...



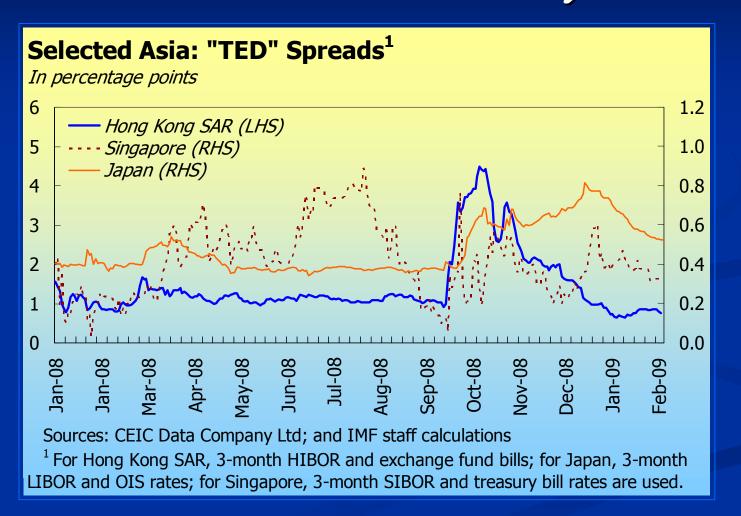
...resulting in sharp declines in the Asian equity markets...



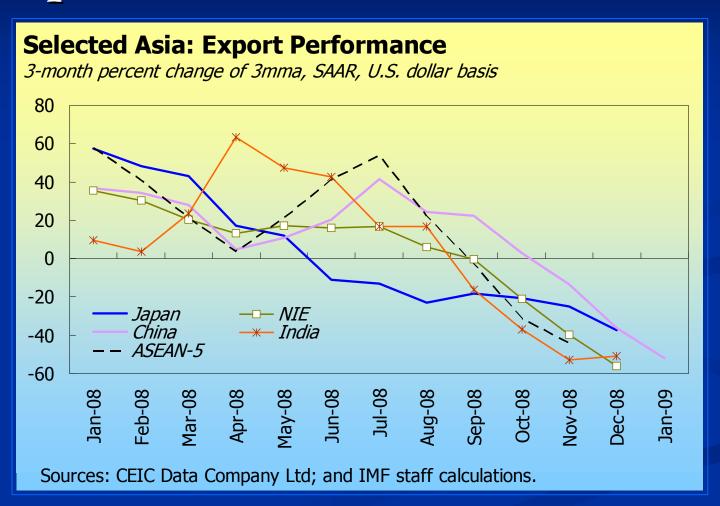
and downward pressure on regional exchange rates



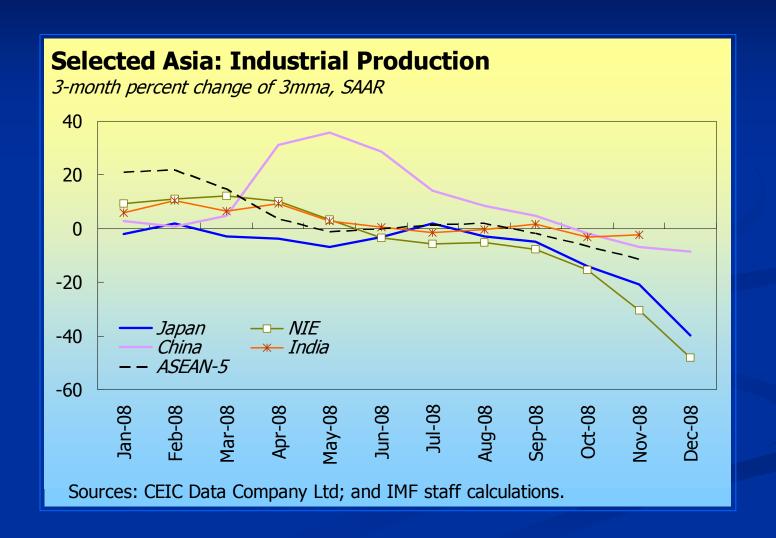
Credit conditions have become tighter and financial markets remain very volatile



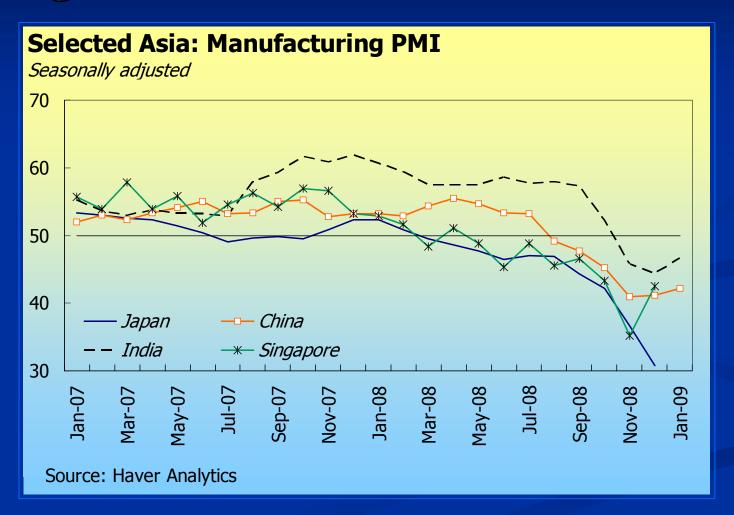
As demand collapsed in the West exports have fallen off the cliff...



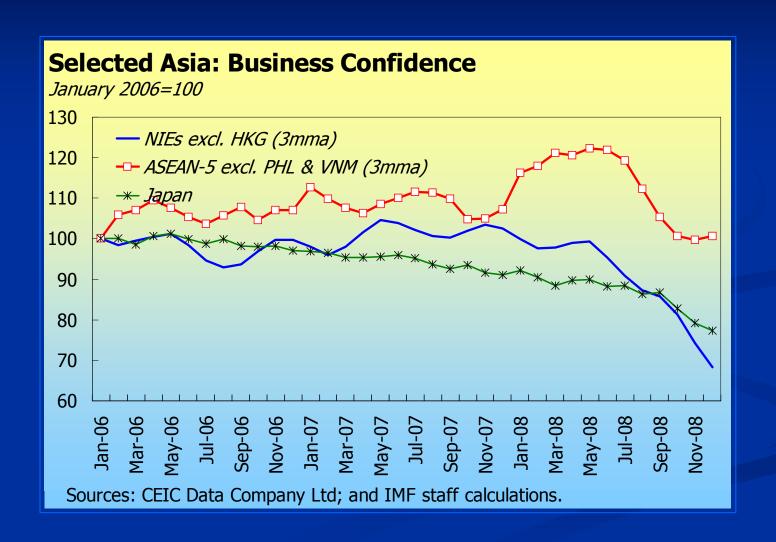
...followed by industrial production



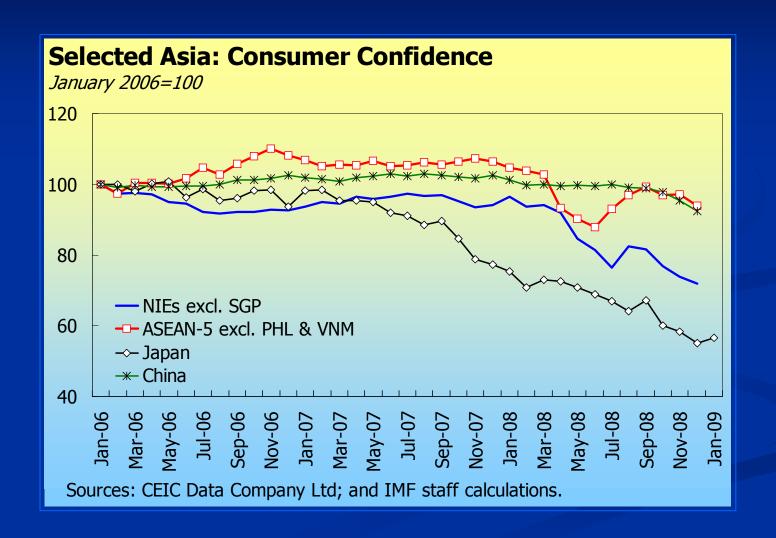
Further gloom lies ahead: the Purchasing Manager Index is in contraction territory...



...business confidence has weakened



...and so has consumer confidence



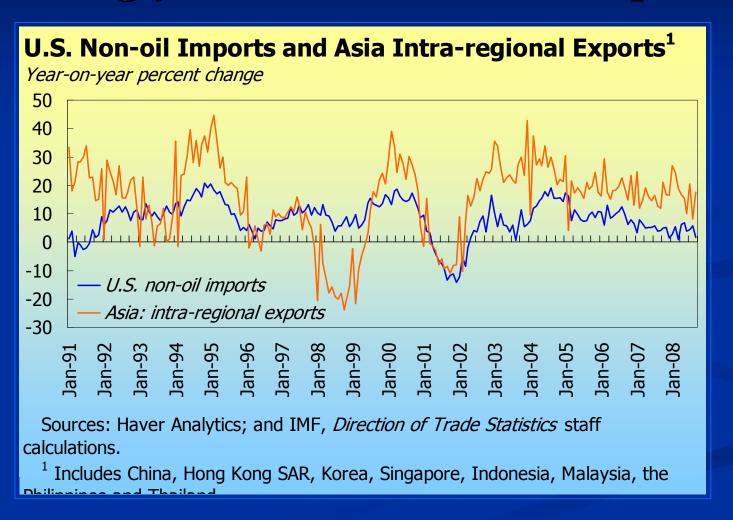
The recent events have dismantled three myths about Asia

- Myth 1: Asia has become decoupled from the business cycle of advanced economies.
- Myth 2: The relatively sound position of its financial institutions means Asia is insulated from the global financial turmoil.
- Myth 3: Large stocks of foreign exchange reserves offer an effective insurance against capital account crisis.

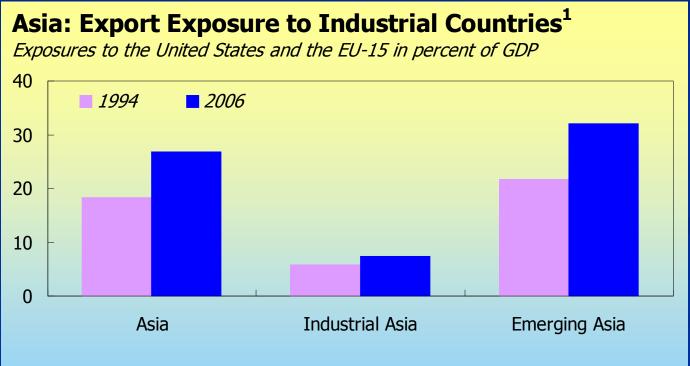
Dismantling Myth 1: It's true that intraregional trade has increased sharply...



...but intra-regional export growth remains strongly correlated with US imports



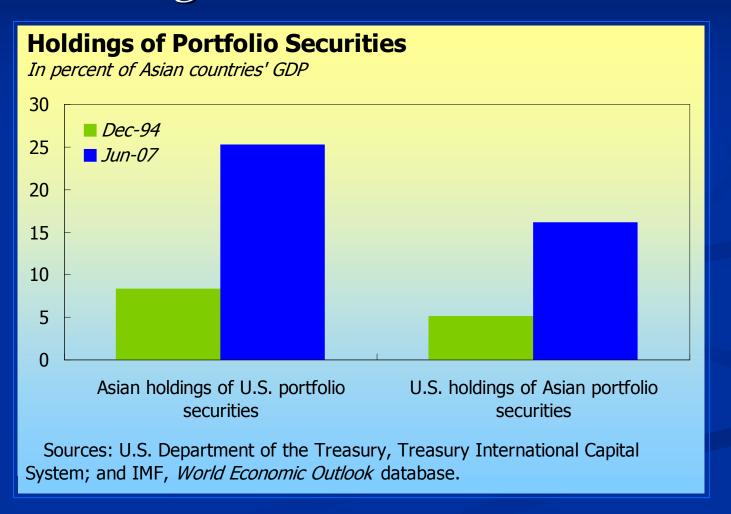
...and controlling for intra industry-trade, Asia's trade exposure to the United States and Europe has increased



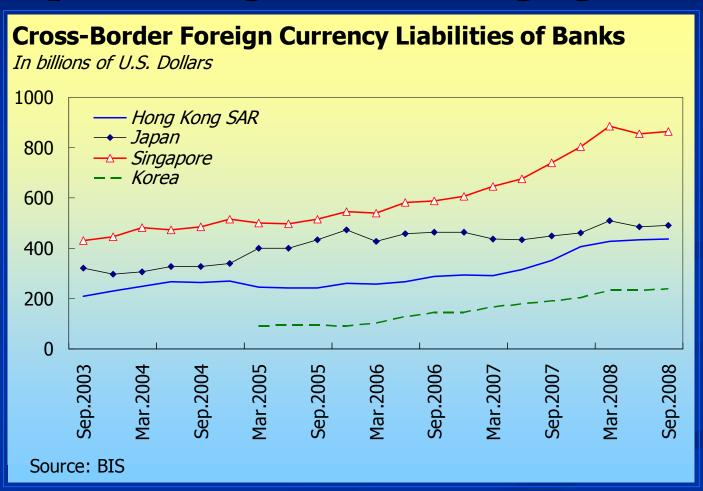
Sources: IMF, *Asia-Pacific Regional Economic Outlook*, Spring 2008 and *World Economic Outlook* database.

¹ Includes indirect exposures through exports of intermediate and capital goods via third countries.

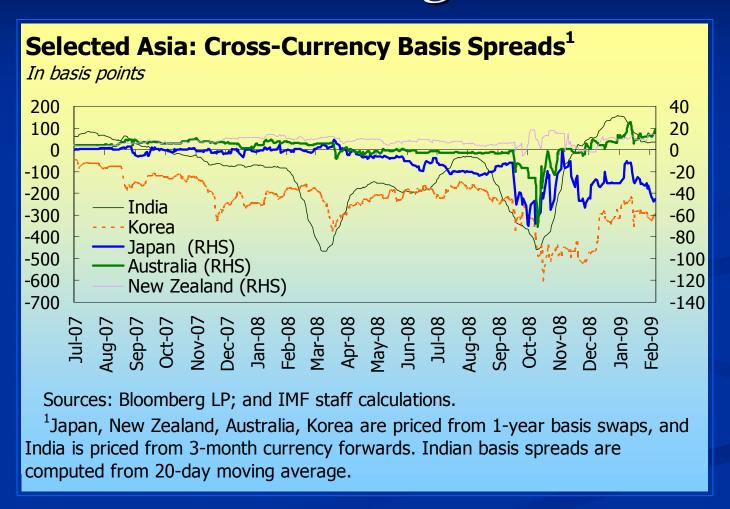
Dismantling Myth 2: as Asia's financial integration has increased dramatically, so has its exposure to a change in investors sentiment



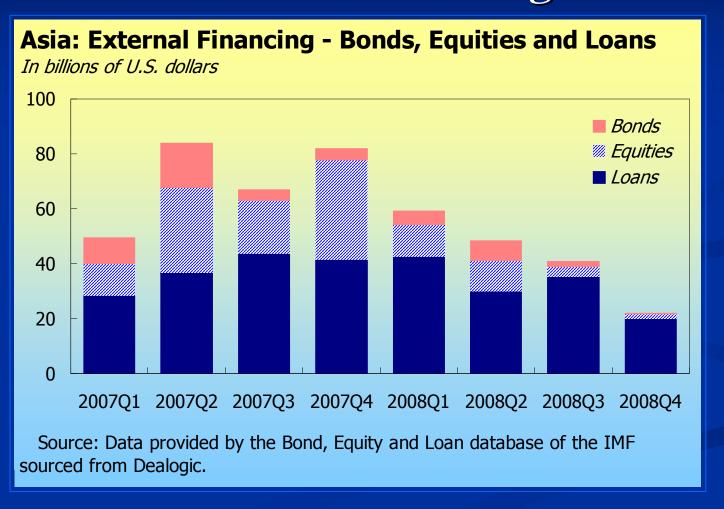
The increased reliance on international wholesale funding made Asian banks more exposed to the process of global deleveraging...



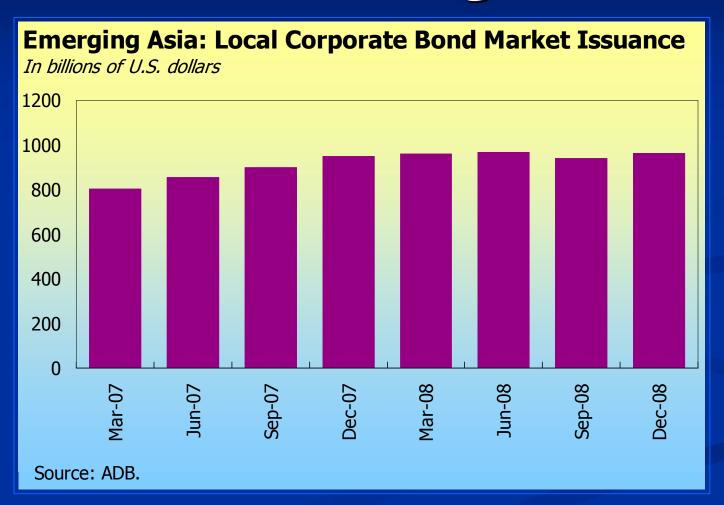
...and the resulting shortage of dollar funding



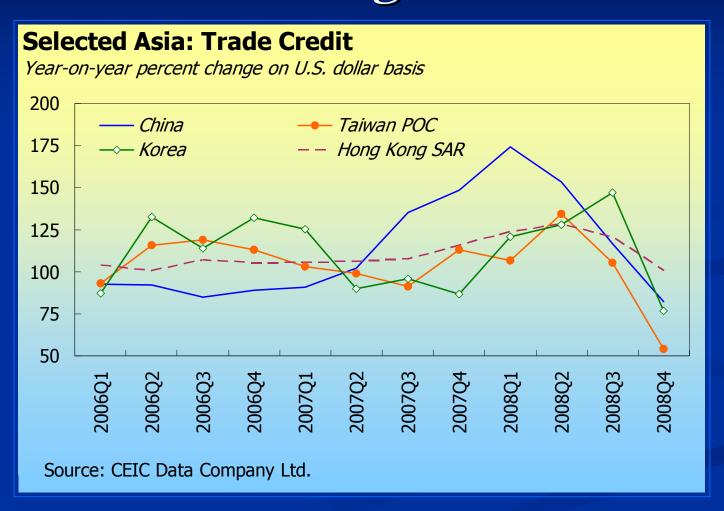
The increased reliance on foreign funding made Asian corporates more exposed to the reduction in external financing



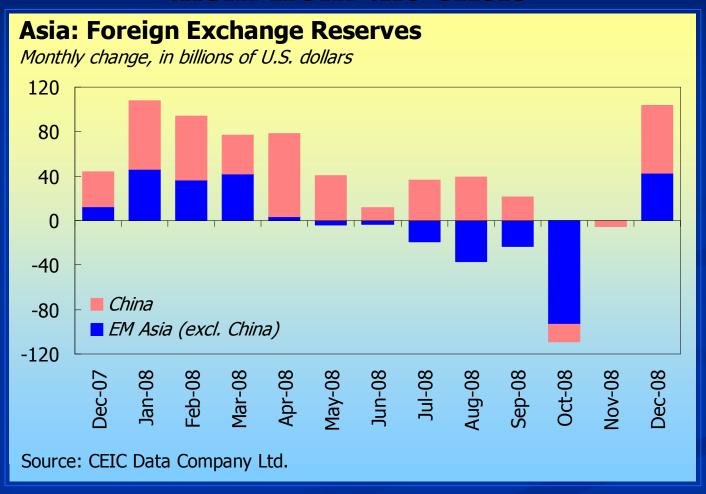
Access to domestic corporate bond markets has also tightened..



...as the availability of trade credit in the region



Dismantling Myth 3: Asian economies have used their foreign reserves, but this has not insulated them from the crisis



Economic Outlook: The View From the Fund

Table 1. World Economic Outlook Projections; GDP growth

(Percent change, unless otherwise noted)

	Year over Year								
						Difference from 2008 WEO Projections			
	2007	2000	Projec						
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2009	2010			
World output ¹	5.2	3.4	0.5	3.0	-1.7	-0.8			
Advanced economies	2.7	1.0	-2.0	1.1	-1.7	-0.5			
United States	2.0	1.1	-1.6	1.6	-0.9	0.1			
Euro area	2.6	1.0	-2.0	0.2	-1.5	-0.7			
Germany	2.5	1.3	-2.5	0.1	-1.7	-0.4			
France	2.2	8.0	-1.9	0.7	-1.4	-0.8			
Italy	1.5	-0.6	-2.1	-0.1	-1.5	-0.1			
Spain	3.7	1.2	-1.7	-0.1	-1.0	-0.9			
Japan	2.4	-0.3	-2.6	0.6	-2.4	-0.5			
United Kingdom	3.0	0.7	-2.8	0.2	-1.5	-0.9			
Canada	2.7	0.6	-1.2	1.6	-1.5	-1.4			
Other advanced economies	4.6	1.9	-2.4	2.2	-3.9	-1.0			
Emerging and developing economies ²	8.3	6.3	3.3	5.0	-1.8	-1.2			
Africa	6.2	5.2	3.4	4.9	-1.4	-0.5			
Central and eastern Europe	5.4	3.2	-0.4	2.5	-2.6	-1.3			
Commonwealth of Independent States	8.6	6.0	-0.4	2.2	-3.6	-2.3			
Developing Asia	10.6	7.8	5.5	6.9	-1.6	-1.1			
Middle East	6.4	6.1	3.9	4.7	-1.5	-0.6			
Western Hemisphere	5.7	4.6	1.1	3.0	-1.4	-1.0			
Memorandum									
European Union	3.1	1.3	-1.8	0.5	-1.6	-0.8			
World growth based on market exchange rates	3.8	2.2	-0.6	2.1	-1.7	-0.7			

Economic Outlook: The View From the Fund (cont'd)

Table 2. Asia: Real GDP Growth (Year-on-year percent change)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	
	_	Latest projection ¹				Difference from November WEO			Latest Consensus ²		
Industrial Asia	2.6	0.1	-2.2	8.0	-0.7	-2.4	-0.6	0.4	-1.3	1.3	
Japan	2.4	-0.3	-2.6	0.6	-0.8	-2.4	-0.5	0.0	-1.7	1.1	
Australia	4.0	2.3	-0.2	1.8	-0.1	-2.0	-1.2	2.3	0.9	2.4	
New Zealand	3.1	0.4	-1.1	1.0	-0.3	-2.5	-1.3	0.4	-0.2	2.4	
Emerging Asia	10.0	7.0	4.2	6.4	-0.7	-2.3	-1.2	7.1	5.2	7.0	
NIEs	5.6	2.1	-3.9	3.1	-1.7	-5.9	-1.2	2.8	-0.4	3.4	
Hong Kong SAR	6.4	2.8	-2.0	2.5	-1.0	-4.0	-0.1	2.8	-1.3	2.7	
Korea	5.0	2.6	-4.0	4.2	-1.5	-6.0	-0.5	3.7	0.6	3.7	
Singapore	7.7	1.0	-4.9	1.9	-1.7	-6.9	-3.3	1.5	-2.4	3.5	
Taiwan POC	5.7	1.5	-4.0	1.8	-2.4	-6.3	-2.0	1.6	-1.1	3.1	
China	13.0	9.0	6.7	8.0	-0.7	-1.8	-1.5	9.2	7.4	8.4	
India	9.3	7.3	5.1	6.5	-0.5	-1.2	-0.3	6.7	5.6	7.8	
ASEAN-5	6.3	5.4	2.7	4.1	0.0	-1.6	-1.3	5.2	2.8	4.6	
Indonesia	6.3	6.1	3.5	4.0	0.2	-1.0	-1.7	6.1	4.0	5.0	
Malaysia	6.3	5.7	1.4	3.5	0.0	-2.4	-1.7	5.1	1.4	4.3	
Philippines	7.2	4.6	2.2	4.0	0.3	-1.3	-0.5	4.2	2.4	4.2	
Thailand	4.9	4.0	1.5	4.0	-0.5	-2.5	-1.2	4.1	1.1	3.7	
Vietnam	8.5	6.2	4.8	5.8	-0.1	-0.7	-0.4	6.2	5.1	6.2	
Emerging Asia excl. China	7.3	5.2	1.7	4.8	-0.7	-2.7	-0.8	5.1	3.0	5.6	
Emerging Asia excl. China and India	6.0	3.7	-0.7	3.6	-0.9	-3.8	-1.2	4.0	1.2	4.0	
Asia	8.1	5.3	2.7	5.2	-0.7	-2.3	-1.0	5.4	3.6	5.7	



Thank you.