Asia's Potential Growth

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ASIAN DEVELOPMENT OUTLOOK 2016 ASIA'S POTENTIAL GROWTH

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Growth momentum has flagged in developing Asia since the GFC



- Causes of slowing growth?
- Is Asia entering a 'New Normal'...
- ...or is this temporary?
- What has been the effect of the GFC?
- Policies to stimulate growth

We answer these questions by looking at the supply side of the economy through the concept of *potential output growth*

- Maximum growth rate associated with the full employment of productive resources – consistent with stable inflation and full employment
 - Countries do not hit their potential until growth starts creating inflationary pressures
 - Not immutable, i.e., amenable to policy

Why does this study matter?Implications for poverty reduction



We answer these questions by looking at the supply side of the economy through the concept of *potential output growth*

- Potential output growth is the maximum growth rate consistent with stable inflation (actual inflation rate is equal to the expected inflation rate), i.e., without generating inflationary/deflationary pressures
- It indicates that countries do not hit their potential until growth starts creating inflationary pressures
- Method: Multivariate Filter (Aggregate Supply) consistent with:
 - Harrod: $\hat{g}_t^N = \hat{y}_t^N + \hat{n}_t^N$
 - Okun: $U_t = U_t^N \beta_t (\hat{g}_t \hat{g}_t^N)$
 - Phillips: $\pi_t = \pi_t^e \gamma_t (U_t U_t^N)$
- AS Model: $\pi_t = \pi_t^e + \phi_t (\widehat{g}_t \widehat{g}_t^N)$
- Two specifications of π_t^e :

(i) time-varying function of π_t : $\pi_t^e = \alpha_t \pi_t + \epsilon_t$: $\hat{g}_t = \hat{g}_t^N + \frac{(1-\alpha_t)}{\phi_t} \pi_t + \varepsilon_t$;

(ii) adaptive expectations: $\pi_t^e = \pi_{t-1} + \epsilon_t$: $\hat{g}_t = \hat{g}_t^N + \frac{1}{\phi_t} \Delta \pi_t + \varepsilon_t$

- Open-economy versions; time-varying parameters –Kalman Filter
- 23 Asian economies 71 economies in total

ESTIMATING POTENTIAL OUTPUT GROWTH USING FINANCE-NEUTRAL POTENTIAL OUTPUT AND OUTPUT GAP MODELS

- Developed by Borio, Disyatat and Juselius (2013)
- Multivariate filter approach to the estimation of potential output
- Assumes that the cyclical component of output (i.e., the output gap) is influenced by the financial cycle.
- The underlying state space model is defined by:

 $\begin{aligned} state \ equation &: \ \Delta y_t^* = \Delta y_{t-1}^* + \varepsilon_{0,t} \\ measurement \ equation &: \ y_t - y_t^* = \beta \cdot (y_{t-1} - y_{t-1}^*) + \gamma^T \cdot X_t + \varepsilon_{1,t} \\ where & \\ y_t^* \ \text{is potential output at time t} \\ y_t \ \text{is actual output at time t} \\ X_t \ \text{is a vector of financial factors (e.g., credit, property prices)} \\ \varepsilon_{0,t} \sim iid(0, \sigma_{0,t}^2), \varepsilon_{1,t} \sim iid(0, \sigma_{2,t}^2) \end{aligned}$

• The model yields estimates of potential output and output gap that have been adjusted for the effects of financial factors

Average potential growth in developing Asia has fallen by about 2 p.p. from its 2007 peak



The decline in potential growth accounts for about 40% of the decline in actual growth

Percentage point change in actual and potential output growth Avg. (2008-2014) – Avg. (2000-2007)



Even without the PRC, potential has declined; Significant decline in Asian-4 Changes pre-post crisis are explained mostly by PRC, Korea and India

Contribution to change in potential output growth



Developing Asia's average potential output growth rate



Demographics important in Malaysia, Pakistan & Singapore

Estimates of Thailand's potential growth rate



Determinants of Potential Output Growth: The Bayesian Model Averaging (BMA) Approach

- BMA resolves uncertainty in the choice of explanatory variables in regressions
- Given a linear model defined by

$$g = \alpha_0 + \sum_{i=1}^M \alpha_i f_i + \sum_{j=1}^N \beta_j x_j + \epsilon$$

where

 f_i 's are fixed or focus regressors (appears in all regressions)

 x_j 's are auxiliary regressors

ε~i.i.d.(0,σ²)

- There are 2^N possible combinations of auxiliary variables, equal to the number of regressions, such that 2³⁵ = 34.4 Bn
- BMA produces an estimate of β_i which is a weighted average of all estimates of β_i in models where x_i is included as a regressor
- We use panel data BMA to identify robust determinants of potential output growth
 - > 77 countries (Asia -12; OECD-31; Latin America-12; Africa-6; Middle East-7)
 - Annual data : 1960-2014
 - 36 potential determinants (fixed regressors-1; auxiliary regressors-35)
- We essentially employ BMA on dynamic panel data regressions to identify "robust" determinants of potential output (i.e., with posterior inclusion probabilities greater than or equal to 0.50)

What determines Potential Growth?

Labor productivity	Tertiary enrollment ratio	Good Institutions	Frontier Po factor alloc	<i>tential Growth</i> : Efficien ation of capital and lab	
growth	Trade ratio Financial capita integration		Firm-level factor misallocation and institutional obstacles		
	Additional variables: (i) Initial income per capita:	Macroeconomic stability	Electricity	Bangladesh, Myanmar, Indonesi Pakistan, Nepal, India, Philippine Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka	
	(ii) Technological gap with the US		Corruption Access to finance	India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Philip Viet Nam, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Mongolia	
╋			Education	Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Lao PDR Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Mo	
Labor force growth	Working-age population (ages 15-64) growth		stability Tax rates Access to land	India, Pakistan, Philippines, Kaza Sri Lanka, Lao PDR, Mongolia Lao PDR, Viet Nam	

ntial Growth: Efficient tion of capital and labor at

institutional obstacles						
Electricity	Bangladesh, Myanmar, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nepal, India, Philippines, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka					
Corruption	India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Philippines					
Access to finance	Viet Nam, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Mongolia					
Education	Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Lao PDR					
Political stability	Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Mongolia					
Tax rates	India, Pakistan, Philippines, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Lao PDR, Mongolia					
Access to land	Lao PDR, Viet Nam					
Informal sector	Indonesia, Viet Nam					

Then..... can we speak of a "New Normal" of lower growth? Is it here to stay? Probably...but important caveat

End of the demographic dividend in some countries

Developing Asia's past success has narrowed the gap with the advanced economies

GFC structural shift in Asia's potential growth Caveat: The GFC may have been a big business cycle – temporary effect

Moderating growth in the PRC spills over to other economies

A one percentage point decline in the PRC's **actual** growth leads to decline in **potential** growth in other countries by:



If GFC turns out to be just a big cyclical downturn, then potential growth is <u>not immutable</u>. Policies to invigorate it

- If the GFC was just a big cyclical downturn, then it is possible that a large enough cyclical upturn can offset the decline due to the GFC
- To offset the impact of <u>demographics</u>
- 1. Supply-side policies:
 - Capital investment (infrastructure)
 - <u>Reforms</u> to boost labor productivity growth
 - Reforms to reduce factor misallocation
- 2. Sound macroeconomic management

Demographics in Asia

Potential growth rate over 2015-2020 taking into account working-age population projections (%)

Working-age population growth rates (%)



	Forecast based on 2008-14 average	Forecast base 2014 estim	ed on ate
Azerbaijan	3.25	1.02	
Bangladesh	5.96	6.11	
Cambodia	6.81	6.48	
PRC	8.11	7.23	
Fiji	1.25	3.27	
Hong Kong, China	1.84	1.08	
India	6.72	6.04	
Indonesia	5.59	4.79	
Japan	0.36	0.27	
Kazakhstan	5.56	3.80	
Rep. of Korea	2.68	2.52	
Malaysia	4.27	5.06	
Pakistan	4.53	5.00	
Papua New Guinea	7.14	5.74	Exclusively due to
Philippines	6.55	7.39	demographics: small
Singapore	3.25	2.24	notential growth with
Sri Lanka	5.96	7.22	respect to:
Taipei,China	2.04	1.76	• 2008-14 average
Tajikistan	6.06	5,88	(7.07%)
Thailand	2.62	2.25	• 2014 (6.68%)
Turkmenistan	10.40	9.65	
Uzbekistan	6.60	6.40	
Viet Nam	4 81	4.86	
Ave. (excl. Japan)	6.40	6.01	

Distance to the frontier: Determinants of Potential Growth



Government effectiveness





Distance to the frontier: Determinants of Potential Growth (Total per Economy)



Annual average percent change in potential growth over a 10-year period for assumed supply-side reforms, policies to boost working-age population growth, and macro-management stability

Economy	Demo- graphics	Tertiary enrollment	Labor market rigidity	Institutional quality	Trade	Financial capital integration	Reforms	Reforms & Demographics	Stable macro- economy	OVERALL TOTAL
Azerbaijan	-1.01	0.26	0.30	0.52	0.16	0.01	1.25	0.24	0.06	0.31
Bangladesh	-0.01	0.30	0.23	0.47	0.16	0.02	1.17	1.16	0.00	1.16
Cambodia	-0.31	0.31	0.23	0.52	0.16	0.01	1.23	0.92	0.10	1.03
PRC	-0.34	0.21	0.20	0.51	0.16	0.01	1.08	0.74	0.07	0.82
Hong Kong	-0.59	N.A.	N.A.	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.20	-0.38	0.13	-0.25
India	-0.13	0.27	0.27	0.36	0.16	0.01	1.07	0.94	0.12	1.06
Indonesia	-0.11	0.23	0.23	0.39	0.16	0.01	1.01	0.90	0.07	0.97
Japan	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.18	0.16	0.00	0.40	0.40	0.07	0.47
Kazakhstan	-0.63	0.03	0.32	0.51	0.16	0.01	1.04	0.41	0.11	0.52
Rep. of Korea	-0.41	0.00	0.15	0.24	0.16	0.00	0.55	0.14	0.10	0.25
Malaysia	-0.38	0.12	0.14	0.33	0.16	0.01	0.75	0.38	0.09	0.47
Pakistan	-0.20	0.32	0.13	0.50	0.16	0.02	1.12	0.92	0.07	0.99
Philippines	-0.26	0.15	0.22	0.37	0.16	0.01	0.91	0.65	0.06	0.71
Singapore	-0.93	0.01	0.13	0.23	0.16	0.00	0.52	-0.41	0.16	-0.25
Sri Lanka	0.19	0.13	0.21	0.44	0.16	0.01	0.95	1.14	0.06	1.20
Taipei,China	-0.65	N.A.	0.31	0.22	N.A.	0.00	0.54	-0.11	0.12	0.01
Tajikistan	-0.43	0.23	0.20	0.57	0.16	0.02	1.17	0.74	0.05	0.79
Thailand	-0.33	0.06	0.21	0.40	0.16	0.01	0.84	0.51	0.17	0.68
Turkmenistan	-0.32	N.A.	0.13	0.65	0.16	0.03	0.96	0.64	0.05	0.69
Uzbekistan	-0.87	0.28	0.21	0.60	0.16	0.02	1.26	0.40	0.02	0.41
Viet Nam	-0.60	0.21	0.29	0.51	0.16	0.01	1.18	0.58	0.01	0.59
Weighted average	-0.33						0.98	0.65	0.09	0.73

Demographics:

reduce the negative impact of a lower working-age population growth rate by 50%

Reforms:

close 50% of the distance with the frontier in each determinant through reforms over a 10year period

Reduced volatility of actual-potential growth by 25%

Annual average percent change in potential growth over a 10-year period for assumed supply-side reforms, policies to boost working-age population growth, and macro-management stability

Impact on Potential Output Growth

(percentage points per annum)



Policies to counteract the negative effect of the decline in working-age population growth:
more flexible immigration policies to attract skilled labor - incentives to increase fertility rate - increase female participation rates - postpone retirement age

Lift Frontier Potential Growth:

(i) Relax institutional obstacles that prevent the efficient allocation of labor and capital to their best use (Electricity - Labor laws - Courts - Corruption - Access to finance – Tax system)

(ii) Address government and market failures that impede faster reallocation of employment. Key in countries with high employment shares in agriculture

 Implement policies and reforms in areas discussed, e.g., supply education more efficiently; foster financial capital integration, more flexible labor markets, etc.

Macro-management policies

Devise policies aimed at stabilizing actual growth in the proximity of potential growth –to avoid volatility, unemployment or inflationary pressures

Take away: The region's productive capacity has slowed down

- Main factors driving down potential growth: (i) demographics; (ii) variables that facilitated catch-up in the past, and that affect potential labor productivity -running out of steam; (iii) Moderating growth in the PRC; (iv) GFC
- Unless a 'positive shock' lifts it, the days of very high growth may be over (country exceptions)
- Supply-side policies important to counteract the decline in potential
- The increasing importance of macro-management to avoid volatility, unemployment and inflation

THANK YOU

The model works: inflation increases as the growth gap widens

• Estimate $\Delta \pi_{it} = \vartheta_i + \omega (\hat{g}_{it} - \hat{g}_{it}^N) + \varepsilon_{it}$ via fixed effects

- Larger sample with 71 countries: Results confirm that for inflation rates below 25%, for each percentage point of actual growth in excess of the natural growth rate the inflation rate increases by about $\omega = 0.12$ percentage points. When inflation is above 25%, the relationship breaks down
- Smaller sample of 23 Asian countries: Results also show that for inflation rates below 45%, for each percentage point of actual growth in excess of the natural growth rate the inflation rate increases by about $\omega = 0.20$ percentage points

Asia's potential growth rate declined (during 2008-2014 with respect to the average of 2000-2007) in 16 out of the 23 Asian economies studied (Actual/Potential), inc. Japan

	Azerbaijan	Bangladesh	Cambodia	Fiji]	Hong Kong,	Π	India		Indonesia	Japan
						China					
2014	2.8/3.03	6.1/6.12	7/7.08	3.80/3.73		2.3/2.25	Π	7.2/6.29		5.0/5.01	0/0.15
Avg. 2000-07	17.36/17.90	5.86/5.84	9.58/9.26	1.44/1.74		5.34/4.83		7.18/7.03		5.04/4.95	1.54/1.63
Avg. 2008-14	5.14/5.26	5.96/5.97	5.94/7.42	2.06/1.71		2.59/3.01		6.79/6.97		5.76/5.81	0.14/0.24
Difference (2008-14) – (2000-07)											
Actual	-12.22	0.09	-3.63	0.62		2.75		-0.39		0.72	-1.39
Potential	-12.64	0.13	-1.85	-0.03		-1.83		-0.06	l	0.86	-1.38
	Kazakhstan	Malaysia	Pakistan	PNG	T	PRC		Philippines		Rep. of	Singapore
		,								Korea	
2014	4.3/5.05	6/5.81	5.40/5.40	5.54/5.91		7.4/7.91		6.1/7.90		3.3/3.33	2.9/4.10
Avg. 2000-07	10.16/8.77	5.58/5.27	5.05/4.04	2.24/2.26		10.51/9.90		4.90/6.58		5.40/5.58	6.44/5.57
Avg. 2008-14	4.94/6.81	4.60/5.02	3.16/4.93	7.45/7.31		8.76/8.80		5.23/7.06		3.19/3.49	4.54/5.11
Difference (2008-14) – (2000-07)											
Actual	-5.22	-0.98	-1.89	5.21		-1.76		0.33		-2.21	-1.89
Potential	-1.96	-0.26	0.89	5.05		-1.11		0.48		-2.09	-0.46
	Sri Lanka	Taipei.China	Tajikistan	Thailand	Τ	lurkmenistan		Uzbekistan		Viet Nam	
2014	7.4/6.84	3.7/3.06	6.7/6.74	0.7/2.90		10.3/10.28		8.1/8.13		6/6.06	
Avg. 2000-07	5.06/6.67	4.85/4.70	8.80/8.46	5.06/4.20		15.21/15.48		5.91/6.12		7.19/7.38	
Avg. 2008-14	6.67/5.58	3.07/3.34	6.76/6.93	2.60/3.27		10.90/11.03		8.31/8.34		5.76/6.01	
Difference (2008-14) – (2000-07)											
Actual	1.61	-1.78	-2.04	-2.46		-4.31		2.36		-1.43	
Potential	-1.09	-1.37	-1.54	-0.93		-4.45		2.22		-1.37	

A hypothetical reallocation of employment to match the structure of the typical middle-income economy yields significant labor productivity growth, exclusively the result of changes in the employment structure and not of productivity growth within sectors



Changes in the determinants of Potential Growth in Recent Years

	Institutional Quality					
Asian economies	Labor market rigidity	Government effectiveness	Voice and accountability	Trade	Financial integration	Education (tertiary)
Azerbaijan	increasing rigidity until 2008, declining after		declining			
Bangladesh	declining rigidity			increasing	increasing until 1994, declining after	
Cambodia				increasing	increasing	
PRC	declining rigidity				increasing	increasing
Hong Kong, China					increasing	
India	increasing rigidity	declining		increasing	increasing	
Indonesia		increasing	increasing		increasing until 1998, declining after	
Japan					increasing	increasing
Kazakhstan		increasing	declining	declining	increasing	increasing
Rep. of Korea					increasing	increasing
Malaysia				increasing until 2000, declining after	increasing	
Pakistan		declining	increasing		increasing until 2002, declining after	

	Ir	Institutional Quality				
Asian economies	Labor market rigidity	Government effectiveness	Voice and accountability	Trade	Financial integration	Education (tertiary)
Philippines		increasing	declining	increasing until 1997, declining after	increasing until 2001, declining after	
Singapore		increasing until 2008, declining after			increasing until 2007, declining after	
Sri Lanka			declining	increasing until 2000, declining after	increasing until 1993, declining after	increasing
Taipei,China					increasing	
Tajikistan	decreasing rigidity		declining	increasing until 2000, declining after	increasing until 2000, declining after	
Thailand		declining	declining until 2006, increasing after	increasing	increasing	increasing
Turkmenistan			declining	declining	increasing	
Uzbekistan		increasing	declining		increasing	declining
Viet Nam				increasing	increasing	increasing

Determinants of Potential Growth	Potential Output Growth		ll countries Asian countries		tries
Potential growth decreases as initial		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
income increases	Initial GDP per capita	00004	.000039	00011*	00033**
	Working-age pop .growth	1.02960**	.94840^	.87025**	1.15725**
Working-age population growth:	Gap with the US	.067824*	.09642^	.03865*	.07306*
one-to-one relationship	Gap US x Pol.stability	-	-	-	00613*
	Tertiary enrollment ratio	049638	15805	$.15810^{**}$.16284**
Tertiary enrollment ratio and Trade ratio	Tertiary enrolment squared	-	-	00146**	00160**
have inverted U-shape effects	Labor market rigidity	-1.63685**	-8.74926**	-1.97340**	-2.92375**
	Freedom and political accountability	1.46852**	-1.07999**	.75121*	1.65097^
Negative effect of more rigid labor markets	Government Effectiveness	1.17995*	2.78906^{*}	1.03906^{*}	1.36106**
	Trade ratio	.053891**	.063626**	.08266**	.06488**
Positive effect of citizens' participation and	Trade ratio squared	-	-	00008**	00007**
government effectiveness	Financial capital integration	003078**	00083	00197**	.00452*
	Financial capital x Regulatory quality	-	-	-	00313**
The effect of the Gap with the US varies	Break in 2008-14	-	-	-2.49142**	-2.72717**
with Political stability: larger effect for	Constant	452107	7.05794	-3.55837*	-
countries with lower political stability					
values.	F-statistic for	0.006	0.012	0.372	0.511
The effect of Financial capital integration	# of countries	61	18	61	61
varies with Regulatory quality: significant	# of observations	655	188	655	425
only for small values of regulatory quality	Source: Authors' estimates				

Structural break after the GFC

Notes: **, * and ^ indicate, respectively, significant at the 1%, 5% and 10% level. Variables instrumented with first lag. Driscoll and Kraay (1998) standard errors.

Some evidence that the GFC has had a significant effect on potential output growth...but caution

Structural break during 2008-14 (GFC). "New Normal"

But deviations of actual from potential growth (5 years) are insignificant

- GFC may be just a big downturn with only a temporary effect on actual growth

- Actual growth may return to potential
- Policies that raise actual growth above potential have only a temporary effect

The standard deviation of actual from potential growth (5 years) is significant –Volatility matters; Permanent effect on actual growth. Role for stabilization policies

	Business Cy	cles and	Spillovers from the						
	Potential G	frowth	PRC and the US						
	All countries		All cou	ntries	Asian				
			7111 000	countries					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)				
Initial GDP per capita	00011**	00033**	.00002	00034	.00032				
Working-age population growth	.66407**	1.22262**	.47607*	1.0228**	1.3831^				
Gap with the US	.04372**	.07345*	.05578**	.081924^	.11239^				
Gap US x Pol. Stability	-	00759*	-	00395	-				
Tertiary enrollment ratio	00842	.122695**	026358	.08522	16867**				
Tertiary enrollment squared	-	00140**	-	00109^	-				
Labor market rigidity	-2.57858**	-2.76644**	-2.068521*	-3.0915**	-10.05854**				
Freedom and political accountability	.93560**	2.0438^{*}	1.30475^{*}	1.6002	43673				
Government effectiveness	$.68828^{\circ}$	1.15356**	.964237*	1.55105**	1.3442				
Trade ratio	.06635**	$.08178^{**}$.06189**	$.057578^{**}$.06091**				
Trade ratio squared	-	000097**	-	00005*	-				
Financial capital integration	00202**	$.00415^{*}$	00355**	.00099	00139				
Financial capital <u>x</u> Regulatory quality	-	00289**	-	00206^	-				
Break in 2008-14	-2.48124**	-2.82251**	-2.43485**	-1.93914**	-2.26529**				
gdev5	200279	.05946	-	-	-				
gdev5sd	19378**	19208**	-	-	-				
PRC growth	-	-	.34761**	.20185**	$.57000^{**}$				
US growth	-	-	$.191782^{*}$	$.39016^{*}$	15472				
Constant	2.3533*	-	-4.36771	-	1.03687				
F-statistic for	8.462**	0.398	10.683**	0.014	0.304				
# of countries	61	61	59	59	17				
# of observations	616	421	633	411	177				
Source: Authors' estimates	Source: Authors' estimates								
Notes: **, * and 1 indicate, respectively, significant at the 1%, 5% and 10% level. Variables $_{27}$									

instrumented with first lag. Driscoll and Kraay (1998) standard errors.

Estimates of spillovers from the PRC and the US on potential growth rate

- Significant impact of PRC's actual growth on the region's potential growth
- Insignificant impact of the US's actual growth on the region's potential

But different impact

A one percentage point decline in the PRC's **actual** growth leads to decline in **potential** growth in other countries by:



	Business Cy	cles and	Spillovers from the					
	Potential	Growth	PRC and the US					
	All countries		All cou	intries	Asian			
-		11105	7111 COU		countries			
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# of observations	616	421	633	411	177			
Source: Authors' estimates								

Notes: **, * and ^ indicate, respectively, significant at the 1%, 5% and 10% level. Variables instrumented with first lag. Driscoll and Kraay (1998) standard errors.