



# **Asia Pacific Weekly Price Monitor**

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

**22 November 2012**



## Policy

### Regional

Under the framework of the 4th ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Meeting ASEAN leaders noted the progress made in the [Maximizing Agricultural Revenue through Knowledge, Enterprise Development and Trade \(MARKET\)](#), emphasizing the enhanced trade facilitation and the improved information access by farmers and policy makers. This project was launched in March 2012, aims to improve food security for ASEAN Member States and contribute to ASEAN regional integration by facilitating free movement of food, building public/private partnerships and stimulating agriculture policy dialogue in the region (ASEAN, 20 November 2012).

### National

In [India](#), throughout the marketing year (MY) 2012-13, the area sown for Rabi (winter) crops totals 19.6 million hectares, compared to 22.3 million hectares sown during the same period for the MY 2011-12. As of 16 November, the total area sown for wheat and rice crops reached 4.9 and 0.5 million hectares, respectively (Press Information Bureau, 16 November 2012).

## Prices

Over the past week, staple food commodity prices remained relatively stable in all reporting countries.

### Weather conditions

During September, the Irrawaddy Delta in [Myanmar](#) was hit by floods affecting 85,000 people. The rice harvest in 2013 is expected to be significantly affected as the rains have inundated around 250,000 hectares of crops (Global Overview Update, 19 November 2012).

Heavy rains in [Pakistan](#) affected 474,000 hectares of crops and 12,000 heads of cattle. In response, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) provided food assistance (37 kg ration packages) to over 230,000 households in the three most affected provinces: Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan (Government of Pakistan, 20 November 2012).

Technical note: Price changes are calculated from  $W_x$ , where  $W$ =week and  $x$  indicates the most recent week. The [one week](#) change is calculated as  $[(W_x/W_{x-1})-1]$ ; the [one month](#) change is calculated as  $[(W_x/\text{average}(W_{x-1}, W_{x-2}, W_{x-3}, W_{x-4}))-1]$ ; the [three months](#) change is calculated as  $[(W_x/\text{average}(W_{x-9}, W_{x-10}, W_{x-11}, W_{x-12}))-1]$ ; and the [one year](#) change is calculated as  $[(W_x/\text{average}(W_{x-49}, W_{x-50}, W_{x-51}, W_{x-52}))-1]$ . The criteria to flag unusual price movements is the following: [on a weekly basis](#), nominal price variations below plus or minus 5 percent are considered "stable." [On a monthly basis](#), nominal price variations below plus or minus 10 percent are considered "stable." [On an annual basis](#), nominal price variations below plus or minus 25 percent are considered "stable."



## Price and policy information at country level

22 November 2012





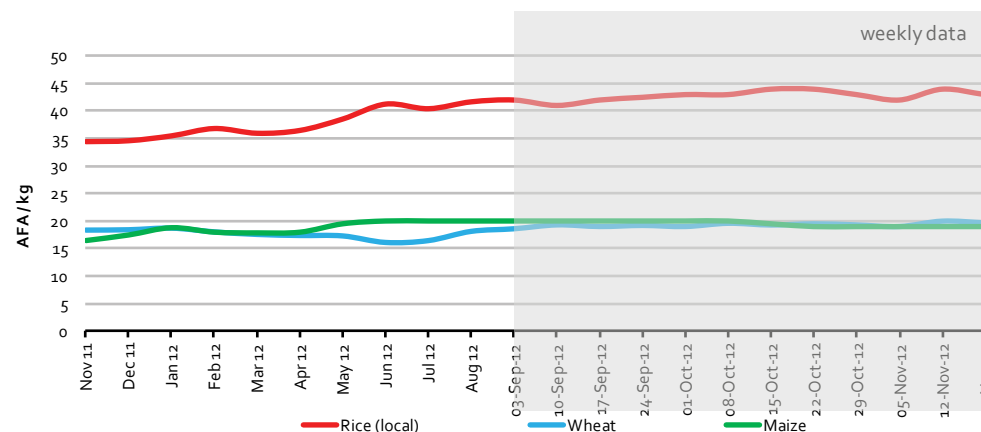
## AFGHANISTAN, Kabul (19 November 2012)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Kabul market have been relatively stable over the past week and in comparison to those prices observed a year ago.

- Maize prices were 5 percent below those observed in the period from June to early October.



Week of 19-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (AFA/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice local	Kabul	43.0	-2.3%	-0.3%	3.6%	26.5%
Wheat	Kabul	19.7	-1.5%	2.2%	5.5%	8.7%
Maize	Kabul	19.0	0.0%	-4.4%	-5.0%	11.8%
Chicken	Kabul	120.0	-4.0%	-4.0%	-4.0%	0.0%
Cooking oil (AFA/Lt)	Kabul	88.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	4.5%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5% in a weekly basis), (+/-10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/-25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

NA



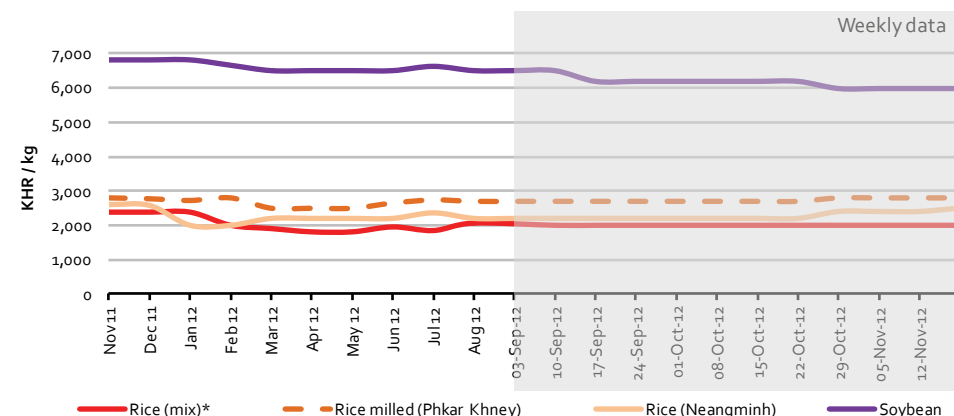
## CAMBODIA, Phnom Penh (19 November 2012)

Wholesale nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Phnom Penh markets were relatively stable over the past week.

- Rice prices (Neangminh) were 14 percent above the prices observed a month earlier.



Week of 19-Nov-12

Food item	Market	Price (KHR/ kg)	% change			
			1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (mix)	Phnom Pehn	2,000	0.0%	0.0%	-3.2%	-16.7%
Rice (Phkar Khney)	Phnom Pehn	2,800	0.0%	3.7%	3.7%	0.0%
Rice (Neangminh)	Phnom Pehn	2,500	4.2%	13.6%	13.6%	-3.8%
Chicken	Phnom Pehn	20,000	0.0%	-3.6%	-2.4%	-9.1%
Soybean oil	Phnom Pehn	6,000	0.0%	-3.2%	-6.6%	-11.8%

↑ increase ↓ decrease → stable (+/-5% in a weekly basis), (+/-10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/-25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

NA

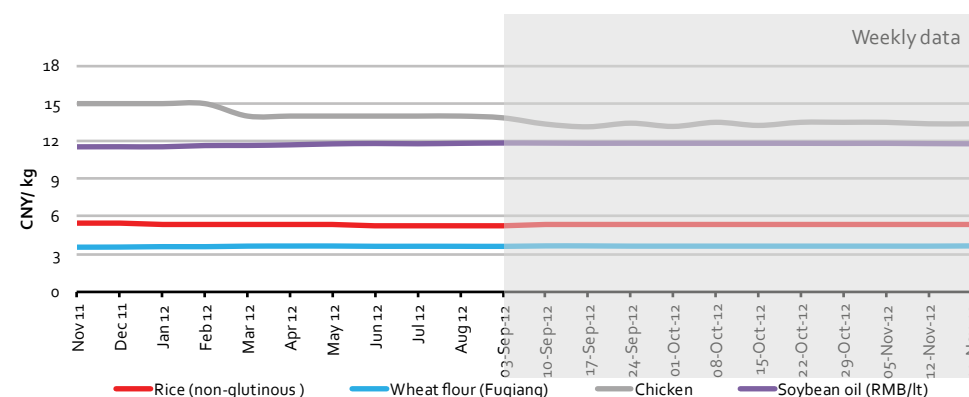


## CHINA, Beijing (19 November 2012)

Retail and wholesale nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Beijing market have remained relatively stable over the past year.



Week of 19-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (RMB/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Non-Glutinous Rice	Beijing	5.4	0.0%	0.4%	2.1%	-1.1%
Fuqiang Wheat Flour	Beijing	3.6	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	3.3%
Chicken (w)	Beijing	13.4	0.0%	0.3%	-1.5%	-10.8%
Soybean oil RMB/lt	Beijing	11.8	-0.1%	-0.3%	-0.3%	1.5%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5% in a weekly basis), (+/-10% in a monthly basis), and (+/-25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

By October 2012, China subsidized 283 million units of home appliances valued at CNY 681.1 billion (USD 108 billion). Since 2007, people living in rural areas are entitled to receive subsidies equal to 13 percent of the price of designated types of home appliances, including refrigerators, televisions, washing machines, computers and air conditioners (Ministry of Agriculture, 19 November 2012).

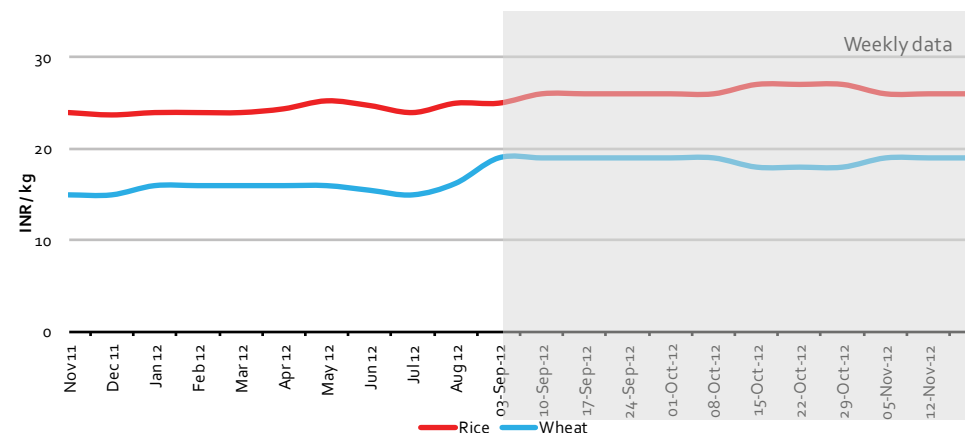


**INDIA, Delhi (19 November 2012)**  
Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Delhi have remained relatively stable over the past week.

-Wheat prices were 27 percent higher than the levels registered a year earlier and 19 percent above the prices observed in January 2012.



Week of 19-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (INR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice	New Delhi	26.0	0.0%	-1.0%	2.0%	8.3%
Wheat	New Delhi	19.0	0.0%	1.3%	2.7%	26.7%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

Throughout the marketing year (MY) 2012-13, the area sown for *Rabi* (winter) crops totals 19.6 million hectares, compared to 22.3 million hectares sown during the same period for the MY 2011-12. As of 16 November, the total area sown for wheat and rice crops reached 4.9 and 0.5 million hectares, respectively (Press Information Bureau, 16 November 2012).

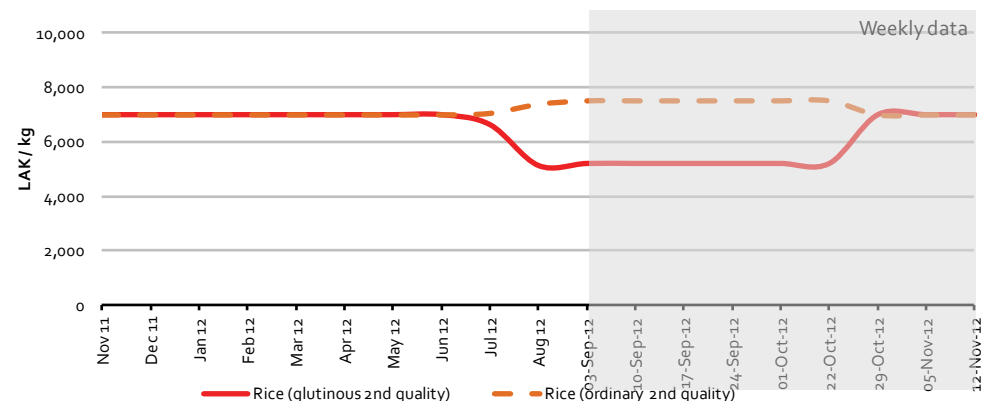


**LAO PDR, Vientiane (12 November 2012)**  
Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Vientiane markets were relatively stable during the second week of November.

- Glutinous rice prices increased by 35 percent during the last week of October going back to Jan-June levels (LAK 7,000).



Week of 12-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (LAK/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice glutinous	Vientiane	7,000	0.0%	34.6%	34.6%	0.0%
Rice ordinary	Vientiane	7,000	0.0%	-6.7%	-6.7%	0.0%
Beef (2nd quality)	Vientiane	52,000	0.0%	13.5%	13.5%	36.8%
Pork (2nd quality)	Vientiane	32,000	0.0%	7.7%	7.7%	-5.9%
Chicken	Vientiane	37,500	0.0%	-9.2%	-9.2%	-11.8%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5%in a weekly basis),(+/-10 %in a monthly basis), and (+/-25%in an annual basis)

### Policy+

NA





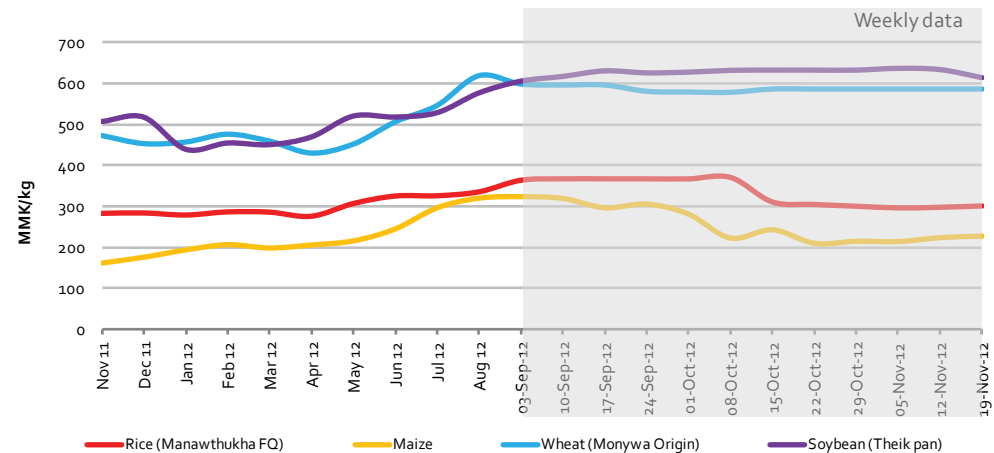
## MYANMAR, Yangon and Mandalay (19 November 2012)

Wholesale nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Myanmar have remained relatively stable over the past week.

- Prices for rice, maize, groundnut oil and palm oil were 16, 29, 15 and 17 percent below those observed three months earlier.



Week of 19-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (MMK/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (Manawthukha FQ)	Yangon	302	1.0%	-14.7%	-16.4%	6.8%
Wheat (Monywa Origin)	Mandalay	587	0.0%	0.9%	-2.0%	24.9%
Maize	Mandalay	227	1.8%	-13.6%	-28.8%	38.8%
Groundnut oil (Special)	Yangon	2,480	4.5%	-9.2%	-14.9%	22.0%
Soybean (Theik pan)	Yangon	614	-3.2%	-2.5%	0.5%	17.7%
Palm oil	Mandalay	865	-0.9%	-6.4%	-17.3%	-14.7%

↑ increase ↓ decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

NA

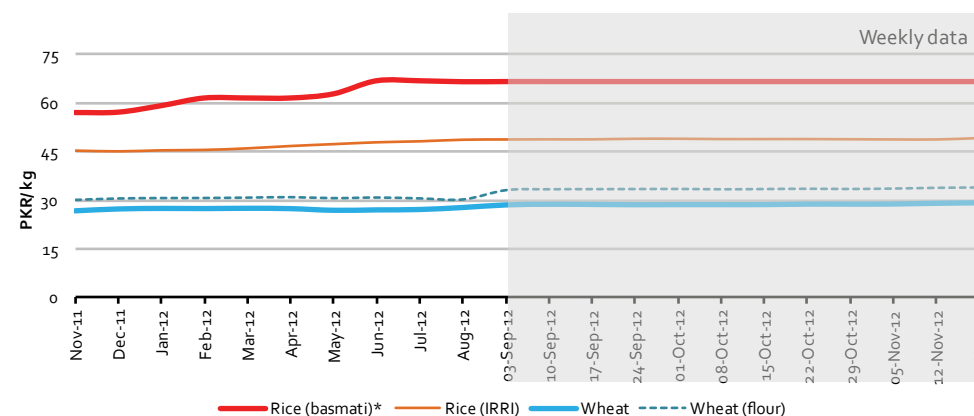


## PAKISTAN, Karachi (19 November 2012)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Karachi market remained stable over the past week.



Week of 19-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (PKR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (basmati)	Karachi	66.5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.3%
Rice (IRRI)	Karachi	49.4	1.0%	0.6%	1.0%	9.7%
Wheat	Karachi	29.4	0.5%	2.1%	2.6%	8.6%
Wheat flour	Karachi	33.9	0.3%	1.5%	3.9%	11.5%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5% in a weekly basis), (+/-10% in a monthly basis), and (+/-25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

NA

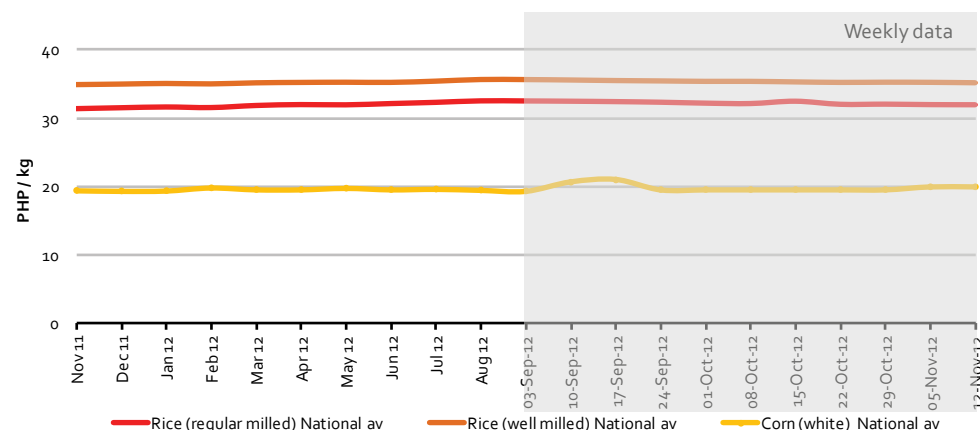


## PHILIPPINES, National average and Metro Manila (19 November 2012)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in the Philippines have remained largely stable since early 2011.



Week of 19-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (PHP/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (regular milled)*	National av	32.0	-0.1%	-1.0%	-1.8%	1.8%
Rice (well milled)*	National av	35.2	-0.2%	-0.8%	-1.4%	0.8%
Corn (white)*	National av	20.0	0.0%	0.3%	1.4%	2.8%
Rice (regular milled)	Metro Manila	30.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Rice (well milled)	Metro Manila	35.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5%in a weekly basis),(+/-10 %in a monthly basis), and (+/-25%in an annual basis)

\*Most recent price data available from 12-Nov-2012

### Policy+

NA

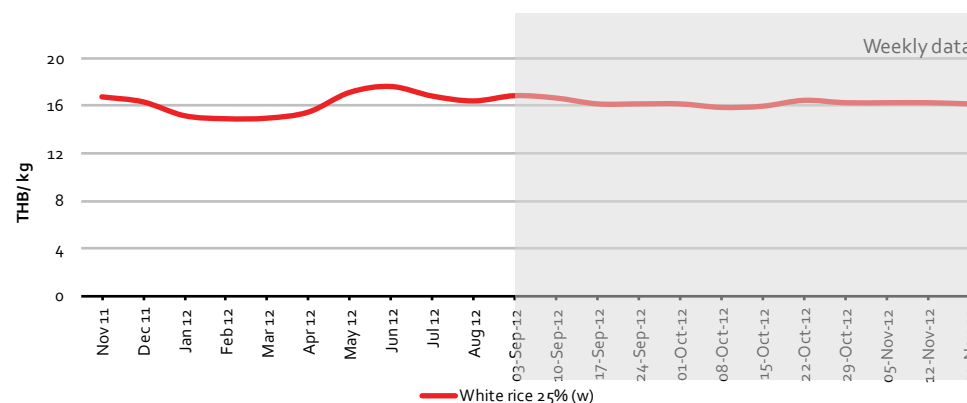


## THAILAND, Bangkok (19 November 2012)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Overall, staple food prices in Bangkok have remained largely stable over the past week.



Week of 19-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (THB/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
White rice 25% (w)	Bangkok	16.2	-0.6%	0.8%	-2.7%	-2.3%
Chicken	Bangkok	63.5	0.0%	7.6%	7.6%	-23.0%
Pork tenderloin	Bangkok	122.5	0.0%	3.2%	-4.9%	-7.1%
Soybean oil (Baht/ltr)	Bangkok	55.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

↑ increase ↓ decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

In the framework of the 7th East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Cambodia during this week, Thailand announced its readiness to serve as an ASEAN regional centre for emergency rice reserves in cases of unexpected events, mainly natural disasters (Government of Thailand, 21 November 2012).

## Disclaimer and Acknowledgements

The Asia Pacific Weekly Price Monitor is prepared with information from official and non-official sources by the Economic, Social and Policy Assistance Group (ESP).

Conditions can change rapidly and information may not always represent the current food price situation as of the present date. As policy information is based on official and non-official sources, not all of them should be taken as official government position. The designations employed and the presentation of material in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The support of FAO Country Offices and FAO's Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis (FAPDA) are gratefully acknowledged for their contributions.

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*I sincerely hope this weekly report is useful and meets your expectations.*

*Yours sincerely,  
Hiroyuki Konuma  
Assistant Director-General and  
Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific*