Revenue Statistics in Asia and the Pacific 2024

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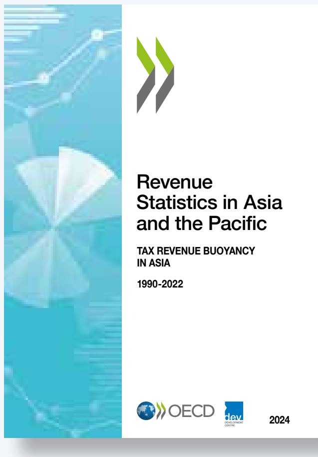
Revenue Statistics in Asia and the Pacific 2024

Revenue Statistics in Asia and the Pacific presents key indicators to track progress on domestic resource mobilisation in the region and to inform tax policy reforms that could help close the financing gap to fund the Sustainable Development Goals. This eleventh edition of the report provides comprehensive data on public revenues in the Asia-Pacific region up to 2022.



Revenue Statistics in Asia and the Pacific 2024 presents detailed, internationally comparable data on tax revenue for 36 economies: **Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Georgia, Hong Kong (China)*, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan*, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Malaysia, the Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nauru, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the Solomon Islands, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Vanuatu and Viet Nam**.

* Note by the ADB: The ADB recognises "Hong Kong (China)" as "Hong Kong, China" and "Kyrgyzstan" as the "Kyrgyz Republic".

Definitions and classifications

Revenue Statistics in Asia and the Pacific 2024 follows the OECD tax classification whereby taxes are defined as compulsory, unrequited payments to general government. Taxes are unrequited in the sense that benefits provided by government are not normally in proportion to their payments. Compulsory social security contributions paid to general government are classified as taxes.

Taxes are classified according to their base. The six main categories are: taxes on income and profits; social security contributions; payroll and workforce taxes; property taxes; taxes on goods and services; and other taxes.

Non-tax revenues are all other revenues received by general government, not classified as taxes. They include: grants (foreign aid); property income (rents and royalties, interest and dividends and other property income); sales of goods and services (including administrative fees); fines, penalties and forfeits; and miscellaneous and unidentified revenue.

Further information on definitions and classifications is available in the Interpretative Guide:
http://www.oecd.org/tax/tax-policy/oecd-classification-taxes-interpretative-guide.pdf

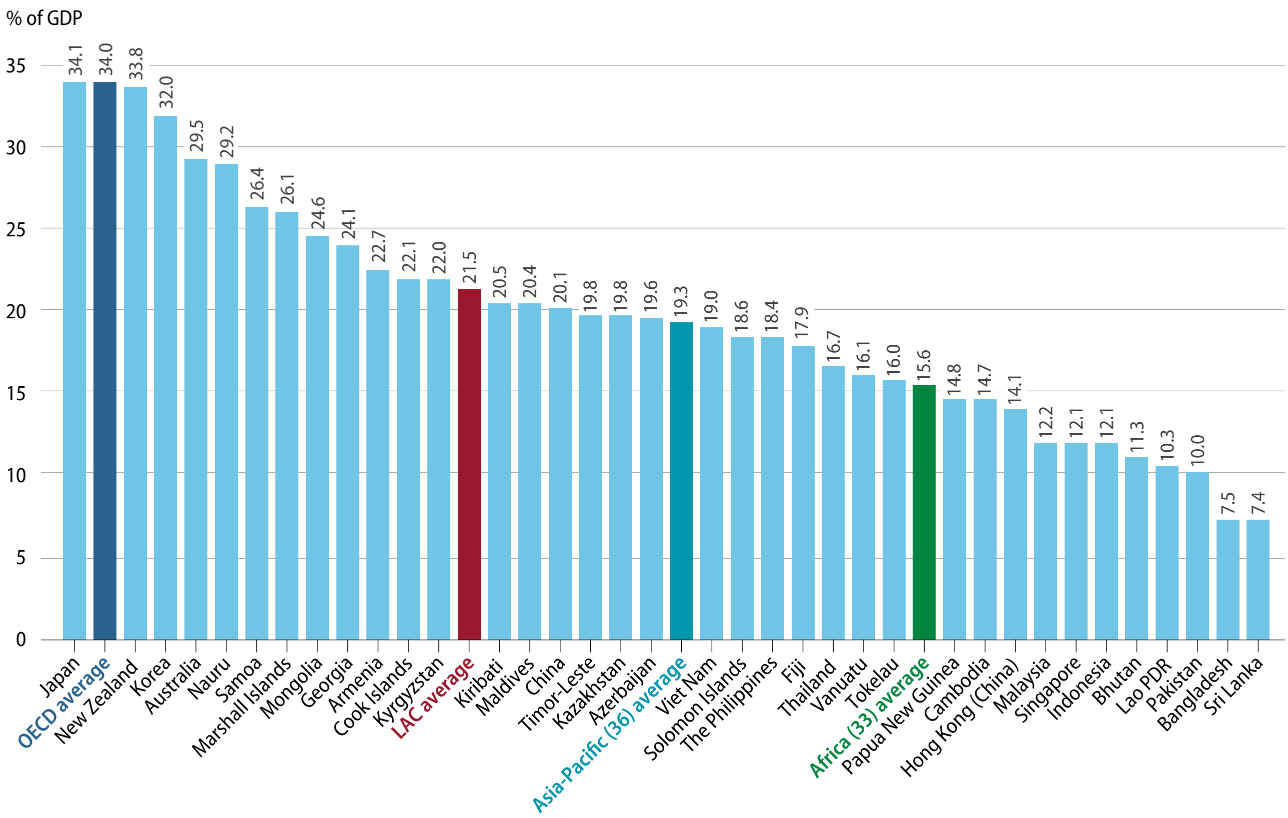
The publication is available at **https://oe.cd/revstatsap**

Key results

TAX-TO-GDP RATIOS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In 2022, the average tax-to-GDP ratio in the 36 Asian and Pacific economies covered in this report was 19.3%, below the averages for the OECD and for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), of 34.0% and 21.5%, respectively. Tax-to-GDP ratios in the region ranged from 7.4% in Sri Lanka to 34.1% in Japan (2021 figure). Ten of the 23 Asian economies covered in this report had a tax-to-GDP ratio above the regional average: Japan (34.1%, 2021 figure), Korea (32.0%), Mongolia (24.6%), Georgia (24.1%), Armenia (22.7%), Kyrgyzstan (22.0%), the Maldives (20.4%), China (20.1%), Kazakhstan (19.8%) and Azerbaijan (19.6%). Meanwhile, six of the eleven economies among the Pacific Islands included in this report (the Cook Islands, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa and Timor-Leste) recorded tax-to-GDP ratios above the regional average and five were below (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau and Vanuatu).

Figure 1. **Tax-to-GDP ratios in Asian and Pacific economies (total tax revenue as % of GDP), 2022**



Note: Data for 2021 is shown for the Africa (33) average, Australia and Japan, as data for 2022 is not available.

Source: OECD (2024), *Revenue Statistics in Asia and the Pacific 2024*.

CHANGES IN TAX-TO-GDP RATIOS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The average tax-to-GDP ratio in the Asia-Pacific region increased by 0.6 percentage points (p.p.) between 2021 and 2022 to reach the same level as in 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The average tax-to-GDP ratio in the LAC region increased by 0.3 p.p. in 2022 while the average tax-to-GDP ratio among OECD countries declined by 0.1 p.p. The tax-to-GDP ratio increased in just under two-thirds (21) of the 34 economies in the Asia-Pacific region for which data for 2022 is available.

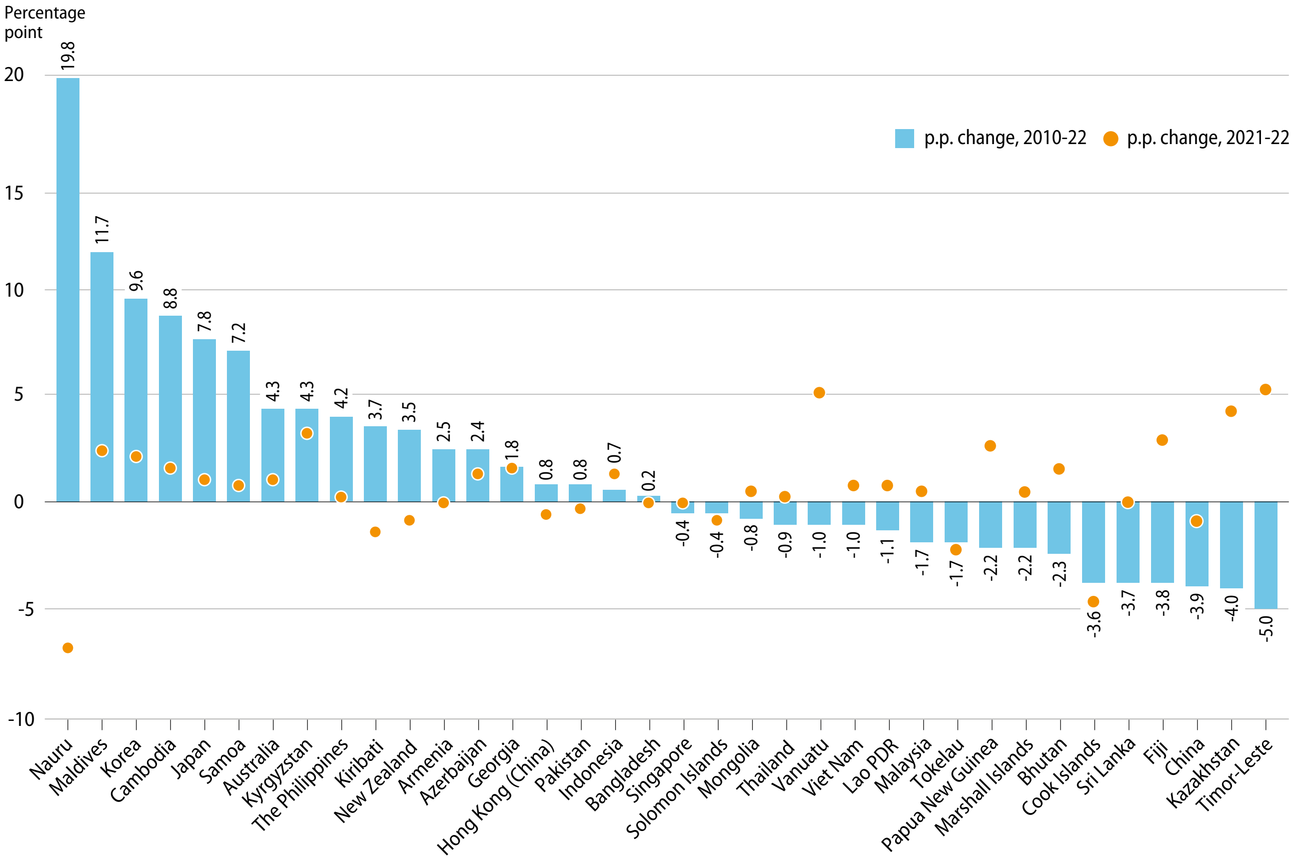
The tax-to-GDP ratio increased by 2.0 p.p. or more in eight economies in 2022: Korea (2.2 p.p.), the Maldives (2.4 p.p.), Papua New Guinea (2.6 p.p.), Fiji (2.8 p.p.), Kyrgyzstan (3.1 p.p.), Kazakhstan (4.2 p.p.), Vanuatu (5.0 p.p.) and Timor-Leste (5.3 p.p.). Increases were driven by a range of factors, including the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, a rebound in tourism and higher commodity prices.

The tax-to-GDP ratio fell in eleven economies in 2022, with four economies reporting a decline larger than 1 p.p.: Kiribati (1.3 p.p.), Tokelau (2.4 p.p.), the Cook Islands (4.7 p.p.) and Nauru (6.7 p.p.). In most economies, lower revenue from taxes on goods and services was the most common driver of the decline.

Over a longer timeframe, tax-to-GDP ratios increased in half of the 36 Asian and Pacific economies between 2010 and 2022 and declined in the other half. The largest increases were observed in Cambodia (8.8 p.p.), Korea (9.6 p.p.), the Maldives (11.7 p.p.) and Nauru (19.8 p.p., since 2014). In Nauru, Cambodia and the Maldives, the increases were the result of tax policy reforms while in Korea the tax-to-GDP ratio increased from a particularly low level in 2010 attributable to the Global Financial Crisis.

The largest decreases between 2010 and 2022 were observed in Papua New Guinea and the Marshall Islands (of 2.2 p.p. in both cases), Bhutan (2.3 p.p.), the Cook Islands (3.6 p.p.), Sri Lanka (3.7 p.p.), Fiji (3.8 p.p.), China (3.9 p.p.,excluding social security contributions), Kazakhstan (4.0 p.p.) and Timor-Leste (5.0 p.p.). While the tax-to-GDP ratios of Kazakhstan, Papua New Guinea and Bhutan were affected by falls in commodity prices (and lower production in the case of Timor-Leste), the decrease in Fiji was due to the COVID-19 pandemic: between 2010 and 2019, Fiji's tax-to-GDP ratio increased by 0.8 p.p. The decrease in Sri Lanka's tax-to-GDP ratio was a consequence of tax policy reforms and the economic impact of COVID-19.

Figure 2. **Changes in tax-to-GDP ratios (2010-22 and 2021-22)**



Notes: Data for the change between 2020 and 2021 are used for Australia and Japan. Data for Azerbaijan and Nauru are only available from 2014 onwards, for Pakistan from 2011 and for Timor-Leste from 2012 onwards. The tax-to-GDP ratios for China are shown exclusive of SSCs.

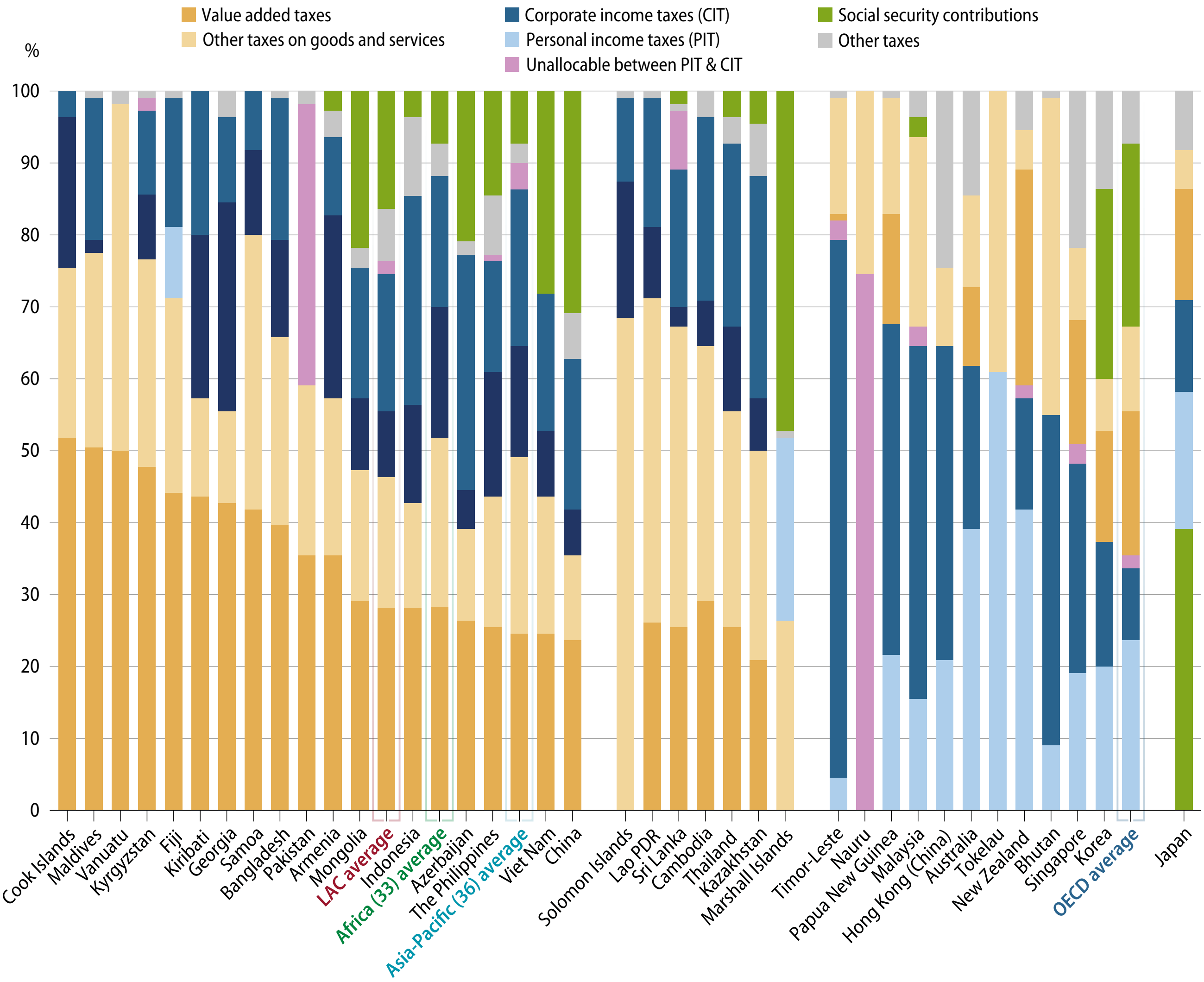
Source: OECD (2024), *Revenue Statistics in Asia and the Pacific 2024.*

TAX STRUCTURES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Taxes on goods and services remained the principal source of taxation in the Asia-Pacific region in 2022, accounting for 48.8% of total tax revenue, similar to the average level in Africa (33 countries) and the LAC region (51.9%, 2021 figure, and 46.5%, respectively) and higher than the average among OECD countries (31.9%, 2021 figure). Taxes on other goods and services generated a similar share of total tax revenue (23.8%) in the Asia-Pacific region and in Africa (24.1%, 2021 figure), which were both higher than the average for the LAC region (18.2%) and more than twice the OECD average (11.2%, 2021 figure).

Revenue from personal income taxes (PIT) accounted for 15.9% of total tax revenue on average in Asia-Pacific in 2022, comparable to the Africa (33) average of 17.4% (2021 figure), above the LAC average (9.2%) and below the OECD average (23.7%, 2021 figure). Corporate income taxes (CIT) accounted for a larger share of tax revenue than PIT in the Asia-Pacific region, at 21.3%, which was the highest among the regional averages: on average, CIT accounted for 18.7% of total taxation in Africa (2021 figure), 18.8% in the LAC region and 10.2% in OECD (2021 figure). Social security contributions accounted for a relatively small proportion of total tax revenue in Asia and the Pacific, at 7.6%.

Figure 3. **Tax structures as a percentage of total taxation (2022)**



Notes: The averages for Africa (33 countries), for Asia-Pacific (36 economies), for LAC (26 Latin American and Caribbean countries), and the OECD (38 countries) are unweighted. Australia, Japan, Korea and New Zealand also included in the OECD group. Data for Australia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and the OECD average are taken from *Revenue Statistics 2023* (OECD, 2023). Data for 2021 is shown for the Africa (33) average, Australia, Japan and the OECD average.

Source: OECD (2024), *Revenue Statistics in Asia and the Pacific 2024*.

NON-TAX REVENUE IN SELECTED ECONOMIES

This publication includes data on non-tax revenue for twenty-two economies: Bhutan, Cambodia, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Hong Kong (China), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, the Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nauru, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tokelau, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. Between 2021 and 2022, non-tax revenue declined as a percentage of GDP in sixteen economies while they increased in six.

In 2022, non-tax revenue exceeded 10% of GDP in Bhutan (13.8%), the Cook Islands (17.6%), the Marshall Islands (52.6%), Nauru (58.4%) and Tokelau (141.1%). Grants exceeded 30% of total non-tax revenue in seven economies in 2022 while property-related income accounted for the largest share of non-tax revenue in ten economies.

Table 1. **Non-tax revenue as a percentage of GDP and non-tax revenue of main headings as percentage of total non-tax revenue in selected economies, 2022**

	Non-tax revenue/ GDP	Grants/ Total non-tax	Property income/ Total non-tax	Sales of goods and services/ Total non-tax	Fines, penalties and forfeits/ Total non-tax	Miscellaneous and unidentified revenue/ Total non-tax
Bhutan	13.8	44.1	37.2	18.5	0.2	0.0
Cambodia	2.8	41.8	13.8	37.7	6.6	0.1
Cook Islands	17.6	52.4	14.8	6.8	0.1	25.9
Fiji	3.7	11.6	41.3	45.0	0.8	1.3
Hong Kong (China)	7.6	0.0	54.9	37.1	1.1	6.8
Kazakhstan	2.3	0.0	85.0	6.2	5.3	3.5
Kyrgyzstan	7.4	25.8	28.2	29.3	3.4	13.4
Lao PDR	4.3	20.3	48.8	27.6	0.5	2.7
Maldives	9.0	0.0	39.5	55.0	3.0	2.5
Marshall Islands	52.6	66.6	27.0	2.2	0.0	4.2
Mongolia	6.5	8.5	69.3	0.6	7.3	14.4
Nauru	58.4	27.1	53.8	8.9	0.1	10.1
Pakistan	1.5	3.9	66.7	4.4	0.0	24.9
Papua New Guinea	1.9	70.6	24.7	0.4	0.0	4.3
Samoa	7.8	58.4	8.0	33.4	0.3	0.0
Singapore	3.8	0.0	73.4	22.9	1.4	2.3
Sri Lanka	0.9	14.9	29.2	42.8	0.0	13.1
Thailand	3.4	0.4	50.2	34.7	1.5	13.3
The Philippines	1.8	0.3	45.9	25.5	0.0	28.3
Tokelau	141.1	43.0	52.5	4.5	0.0	0.0
Vanuatu	9.0	9.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	90.8
Viet Nam	5.5	1.6	8.3	63.5	0.0	26.6

Note: Tokelau receives significant revenues from foreign vessels for access to Tokelau fishing waters. In the 2008 SNA, these revenues are recorded as part of GNI, but they do not add to GDP.

Source: OECD (2024), *Revenue Statistics in Asia and the Pacific 2024*.

Special feature: Tax revenue buoyancy in Asia

The report includes a special feature analysing tax revenue buoyancy in Asia for the period from 1998 to 2020. This chapter assesses how tax revenue varied with changes in nominal GDP and focuses on tax buoyancy in the short and long run across 24 developing Asian countries. The results show a tax buoyancy close to one in both the short and long run, implying that tax revenue moved at a similar pace to GDP.

Towards harmonised regional statistics

- ***Revenue Statistics in Asia and the Pacific*** provides tools that have been developed in collaboration with tax policy makers and adapted for tax policy analysis, such as:

  – an annual publication, available in hard copy and online, that allows for cross-country comparison;

  – a highly-detailed dataset freely accessible online;

  – ***Compare your country***, a free online interactive tool, and other tools for data presentation and analysis.

- **Participation is free of charge:** there is no payment required, and participation requires approximately 1-2 weeks of work a year for national officials. Most data compilation tasks are carried out by the OECD.
- **Comparability and trustworthiness:** a common method for collecting, analysing, aggregating and presenting data across over 130 economies around the world, with data validated by national authorities. These data are accessible through the *Global Revenue Statistics Database*.
- **Continuous dialogue:** bilateral exchanges and seminars on tax policy with experts in Asian and Pacific economies to share experiences and best practices.

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The OECD is an intergovernmental organisation that has helped develop global standards, international conventions, agreements and recommendations since 1961 to promote better policies in areas such as governance and the fight against bribery and corruption and to support corporate responsibility, development assistance, global investment and international taxation.

In collaboration with:

ADB ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a financial institution that is Asian in character and fosters economic growth and cooperation in one of the poorest regions in the world. ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development. The ADB is composed of 68 members, 49 of which are from the Asia and Pacific region.

Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

The Pacific Community is the principal scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific region, which focuses on major cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, disaster risk management, food security, gender equality, human rights, non-communicable diseases and youth employment.

PITAA
Pacific Islands Tax Administrators Association

The Pacific Islands Tax Administrators Association (PITAA) provides a forum for Pacific Island countries to discuss and share experiences on tax administration and policy issues. PITAA was established in 2004 with a membership of 16 countries, which aims to promote international best practices on tax administration standards in the Pacific.

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A global project

***Revenue Statistics in Asia and the Pacific* is part of a global series that includes four annual publications for different regions and the *Global Revenue Statistics Database*.** Launched in 2018, the *Global Revenue Statistics Database* draws on the publications to provide detailed, comparable tax revenue data for over 130 economies from all regions of the world.

https://oe.cd/globalrevstats