Africa is emerging on the world scene as a region with growing capacities and aspirations to shape the global economy as well as its own. Even as it struggles to build strong, responsive governments at the state level, it is leveraging regional alliances to amplify its role in international diplomacy. Its relationship with foreign investors—China, Brazil, India, and even newly emerging economies like Turkey, Malaysia, and its own South Africa—will create patterns of mutual dependence. Perhaps the greatest challenge, however, will be building the bridges between the opportunities afforded by the global economy and the interests of people who, to date, have played only marginal roles in that economy. From families who depend on wild forests for livelihoods to those who have found their way into the informal settlements of Africa’s emerging megacities, Africa faces a distinctive set of critical questions as its people strive to improve their lives:

1. How will Africa navigate the complex relationships with its foreign investors as it builds on these important growth resources?

2. How will Africa find equitable solutions to the problems of land tenure and land security essential to fulfilling its agricultural potential?

3. How will African nations move beyond the politics of patronage to become authentic, successful democracies?

4. How will Africa balance potential wealth from extractive resources with indigenous rights to income from forests and river ecologies?

5. How will African youth remake the future of the economy in the face of jobless growth—perhaps through increased access to vocational training and strengthening small- and medium-sized enterprises?

6. How will African women reinvent their public identities to match their economic contributions?

7. How will Africa’s growing migrant population shape the continent through mobile technologies, such as mobile banking, mobile health, and mobile education?
JOBS
As African youth swell the ranks of the unemployed and jobs fail to keep pace with economic growth, strategies for job creation range from green development to industrial agriculture. The challenge is daunting: South Africa, for example, would have to grow by 5% per year to turn the tide against unemployment.

WOMEN
Women bear the majority of the economic burden in many African households and now account for over half of migrant workers in some countries. But they remain under-represented in politics, and legislated rights for women are often ignored even as maternal death rates and domestic violence are on the rise.

GOVERNANCE
Rich in resources but with scant titled land, Africa is ripe for abuses by predatory officials and even elected governments quickly become dictatorial. As nomadic traditions and recent mass migrations call citizenship and electoral rights into question, new grassroots structures may advance democracy on the continent in ways that secure these rights for everyone.

VIOLENCE
With growing poverty and displacement due to climate change and population growth, violence is growing in Africa in some places. Women, children, and ethnic minorities are targets, enculturating each new generation into violence. At the same time, women are playing a growing role in peacekeeping.
South Asia is, in many ways, the center of gravity of the development paradigm. All the issues that development seeks to address—as well as the solutions it has championed—animate the landscapes of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. There are many success stories, but the advances have also brought new and sometimes even more formidable problems. The sheer scale of development produces outsized challenges that are nowhere more evident than in the megacities of the region. From physical facilities to service infrastructures, South Asia is ripe for both disaster and innovation of a magnitude perhaps never before experienced by humans. Even with prospects of double-digit growth for the coming decade, the region must find answers to profound new development questions:

1. How will South Asia innovate the very concept of infrastructure to meet the needs of vast new urban populations over the next two decades?

2. How will the region avoid enclaves of privilege, such as gated communities, as it seeks solutions to the rapid growth of slums and illegally settled migrants?

3. How will South Asian countries reinvent their health and educational strategies to meet the needs of large migrant populations who are uprooted from place-centered services?

4. How will South Asia leverage its vibrant informal economy to create pro-poor solutions to everything from transportation to water and sanitation?

5. How will the region improve daily nutrition even as food security becomes an increasingly daunting issue in the lives of poor people?

6. How will South Asia make the transition from precarious megacities to sustainable mega-regions in the face of environmental and climate disruptions?

7. How will South Asian countries assure refugee rights for internally as well as externally displaced persons, given the scale of migration in the region?
SLUMS

With a 23% increase in Indian slum populations in the last decade and rural-to-urban migration expected to continue for another two decades, slum rehabilitation will drive a buildout of low-income housing, but success will depend on participatory planning. Meanwhile, water and sanitation problems demand solutions today.

EDUCATION

In rural villages and urban slums alike, access to education is often limited not only by poverty but also by lack of formal standing in the community. From boat schools in Bangladesh to madrasa schools in India, and from e-books to ICT4E infrastructures, education is not just a platform for escaping poverty, but also a platform of innovation.

HEALTH

As migrants crowd the urban slums of South Asia and climate change increases flooding, the potential for epidemics of everything from malaria to polio escalate. With an already inadequate health infrastructure, responses include low- and high-end telemedicine, health insurance smart cards, and even “health cities” designed especially for the poor.

GREEN INNOVATION

While green solutions may not be designed for the poorest citizens, innovations driven by environmental goals may ultimately create jobs and even healthier cities that benefit everyone—even if not equally. So-called “Indovation,” which spawned Tata’s affordable, small-scale water purifier, points to a potential for low-cost solutions to large-scale green challenges.

Urban composting

Waste Concern champions trash-into-cash solutions in Bangladesh

Sulabh sanitation movement

Pay-per-use model supports clean facilities for toilets, bathing, and laundry

Non-formal education

NGOs provide informal education to the majority of the poor in Dhaka

Literacy and migration

Literacy rates fall when people leave tribal villages for cities

Health micro insurance

Naya Jeevan provides alternative health insurance in Pakistan

Boat clinics

C-NES doctors provide care to remote villages along Brahmaputra River

24 green cities

India develops a green corridor between Delhi and Mumbai

Personal transportation pods

Delhi evaluates new high-speed rail to ease traffic emissions
In Southeast Asia, small enterprises dominate the landscape, from rural farmers to the street vendors who crowd the sidewalks of megacities. This culture of small enterprise lays a foundation for social entrepreneurs with a leapfrog mentality. Social startups have captured the imagination of everyone from young college students to disgruntled women factory workers to investors, all of whom are looking for novel solutions to the problems of food, water, small farmers, and, in some cases, an aging population. In urban environments, an increasingly well-educated, tech-savvy, and young middle class has the potential to create positive change, although risks remain that growing consumption will drive unsustainable global supply chains. However, with less extensive urban slums than its neighbors in the developing world, many of Southeast Asia’s most pressing poverty issues are still rural, and balancing rural with urban needs over the next decade is necessary to achieving equity and equality throughout the region. Critical questions arise:

1. How will Southeast Asia tap the enthusiasm for social enterprise to stake out an alternative path to economic development?

2. How will the numerous small, informal enterprises that are the main employers of the poor compete with the growing number of larger businesses in increasingly regionally integrated and regulated economies?

3. How will farmers, large and small, build a platform for food security in Southeast Asia even as they question the principles of industrial agriculture and hybrid crops?

4. How will the region manage the extreme ethnic diversity as diasporas of students, workers, and tourists interact in an environment of heightened ethnic identity?

5. How will the region leverage its water advantage for both local well-being and wealth generation in the global marketplace?

6. How will Southeast Asia negotiate the growing tension between governments and open media as each tries to define what is in the best interests of vulnerable populations?

7. How will the region resolve the issues of human trafficking in women and children (especially in relation to the sex tourism industry), as well as the issues arising from the live organ trade?
**Social Enterprise**

In a landscape crowded by NGOs, social enterprise is a growing strategy for meeting the challenges of poor and vulnerable populations. In Malaysia, 75% of youth surveyed on Facebook claimed to be social entrepreneurs, while a Thai university sponsors an annual competition to develop social enterprise business plans.

**Aging**

Gray collar workers are the fastest growing segment in Thailand and Singapore. Many of these are aging farmers, with little education, who are being displaced from small farms. But there will also be a highly skilled contingent who migrate to other countries in the region, looking for lower cost of living and a less competitive job market.

**Digital Politics**

In a region where cell phone penetration has gone from zero to nearly 100 percent in some countries over the past decade, social media are connecting diasporas and shaping ethnic and political minorities as well as providing a new tool for politicians, governments, citizen watchdogs, and even political hackers. Meanwhile radio still plays a role in rural engagement.

**Mobility**

In a region that has seen centuries of migration, diasporas often define the culture of Southeast Asian communities. While Vietnam plans to export workers to remedy joblessness and the Philippines faces a crisis of health workers as a result of a similar policy, several countries hope to leverage tourism to create sustainable wealth.
Latin America has its best opportunity in history to reduce poverty and provide a better life for all its inhabitants. But in spite of a strong corporate infrastructure, growing GDP, and targeted social policies, inequality and social exclusion continue to perpetuate poverty. Redistributive policies—from conditional cash transfers to limits on foreign ownership of land—are thus perhaps critical but insufficient strategies for building economic and social health. Urbanization, well advanced in the region, has come with soaring crime rates and dense slums. Meanwhile, with some of the greatest wealth of biodiversity on the planet, the region also faces technical and political challenges to transform that wealth into a sustainable advantage in the face of climate change. While there is little movement toward a regional government along the lines of the European Union, regional cooperation is producing initiatives to answer many of the key challenges for next decade, including:

1. How will Latin America sustain its recent economic growth in the face of extreme income inequality and markets based on low-value commodities?

2. How will countries in the region overcome their historical patterns of social exclusion to provide equal opportunities to some of their poorest citizens, especially their indigenous populations?

3. How will the region leverage its growing multilatina corporate infrastructure to scale up corporate social responsibility and social missions?

4. How will countries with diverse capacities for dealing with environmental challenges cooperate to protect the region’s rich biodiversity as an economic advantage for all?

5. How will these countries assure consistency in their institutional and economic reforms across politically diverse administrations to build an ongoing platform for improvement in the lives of the poor?

6. How will Latin America develop regional structures for fighting organized crime across regional borders and overcome the institutionalized corruption that often supports it?

7. How will the region counter trends of decreased pluralism in the media and increased centralization of media control by both private owners and state censorship?
CORPORATIONS

Corporate infrastructure, including state-owned enterprises and unions, could provide a platform for investment in social missions plus the ability to network and scale the efforts of micro-financed enterprises. The big challenge? Creating markets and production structures for high-value goods and services to drive higher wages.

CRIME

Extraordinarily high crime rates plague the cities of Latin America, with soaring murder rates and drug crimes. Organized crime has an established presence across several regions within Latin America, challenging the ability of national jurisdictions to intervene.

INEQUALITY

People with indigenous origins do not get the same returns on education and labor as more privileged populations, leading to continued inequity of wealth and opportunity. While innovations in pensions and cash transfers seek to protect this underclass, structural problems, like the concentration of land ownership, are key targets for action.

BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity is a source of economic advantage, but mining and agriculture pose both opportunities and threats to the region’s natural wealth. Everything from increased taxes on mining to transgenic-free zones will be in the mix of strategies to protect and develop biodiversity at the same time.