

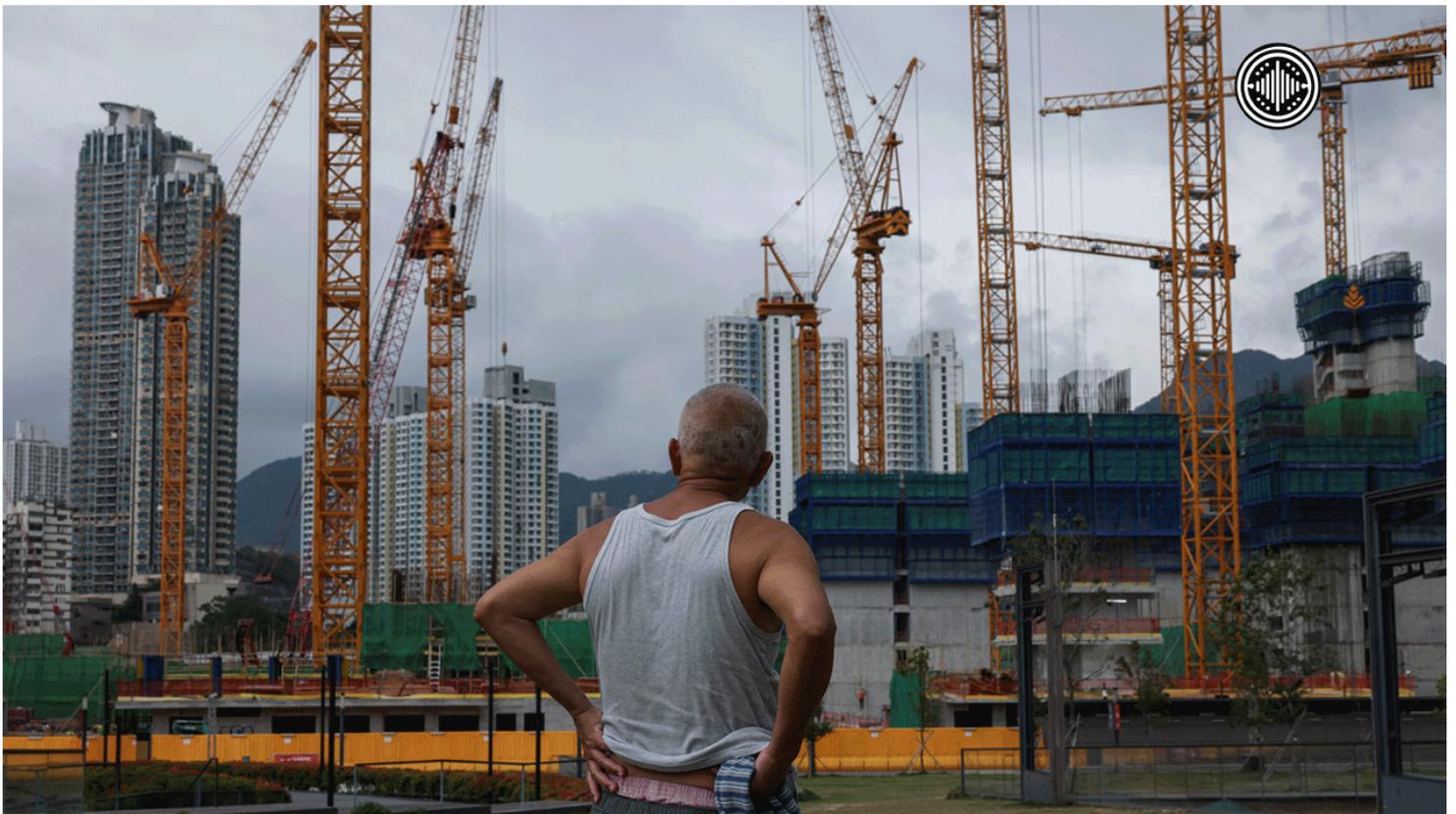
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## ADB Revises Developing Asia and Pacific Growth Forecast Down to 4.7 Percent Amid Trade Uncertainty

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The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has revised its 2025 growth projection for developing Asia and the Pacific, lowering the outlook to 4.7 percent. This decision comes amid rising concerns over global trade instability, particularly due to increasing United States tariffs and a retreat from open trade policies across major economies. The update highlights

the mounting challenges faced by the region's emerging markets as protectionist pressures rise and external demand weakens.

According to the ADB, developing Asia, which includes 46 economies in the Asia Pacific region excluding Japan, Australia, and New Zealand, is being squeezed by ongoing geopolitical tensions, coupled with a cooling global economy. The new forecast, down from an earlier estimate of 4.9 percent, signals caution as external shocks such as US tariff hikes on imports from key trading partners create ripple effects across the supply chains. This protectionist environment is making it harder for export-dependent countries in the region to maintain momentum, stalling private sector confidence and reducing foreign investment inflows. 

The ADB report encourages regional governments to focus on strengthening economic fundamentals. This includes pursuing fiscal and monetary discipline, enhancing productivity through structural reforms, and maintaining a stable investment climate. More importantly, the Bank called for a renewed commitment to open trade, warning that barriers and tariffs only deter job creation and long-term economic resilience. "While global headwinds are beyond any single country's control, policy makers must work to keep their economies open and competitive," the ADB said in its latest development outlook.

The warning could not come at a more critical time. With inflation pressures still present and investment growth slowing, governments in the region must avoid knee-jerk reactions and protectionist temptations. Instead, they should focus on building trust with global investors and ensuring transparent economic governance. The ADB's outlook serves as a timely reminder that sustainable growth cannot be engineered through isolation. If countries in Asia and the Pacific can recommit to free market

principles and prudent reform, they may yet transform this period of uncertainty into a foundation for stronger, more resilient economies in the future.

