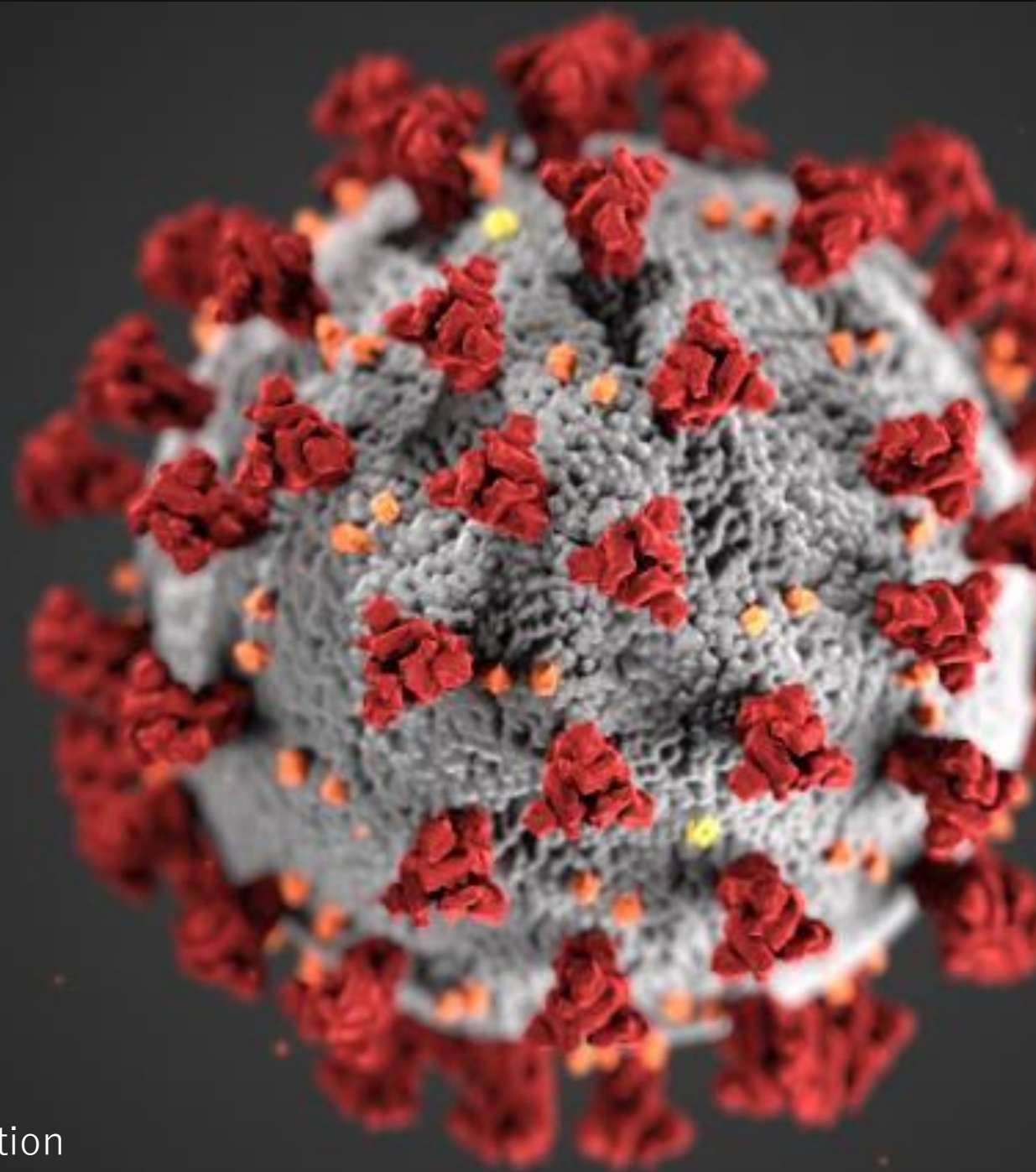


How Can Asia Achieve the SDGs?

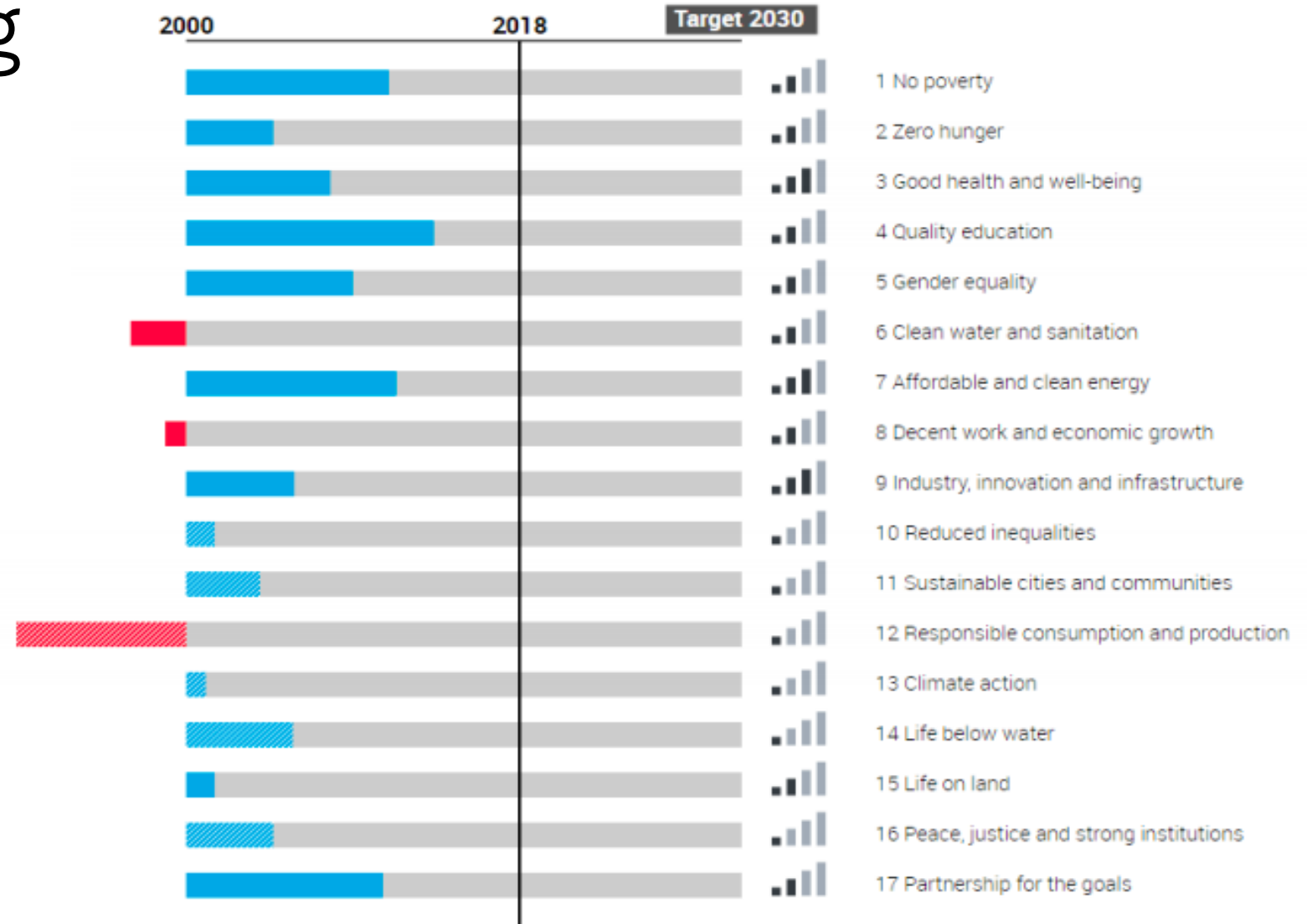
Connecting People and the
Planet in the COVID-19 Era

Eric Zusman, Ph.D.
IGES

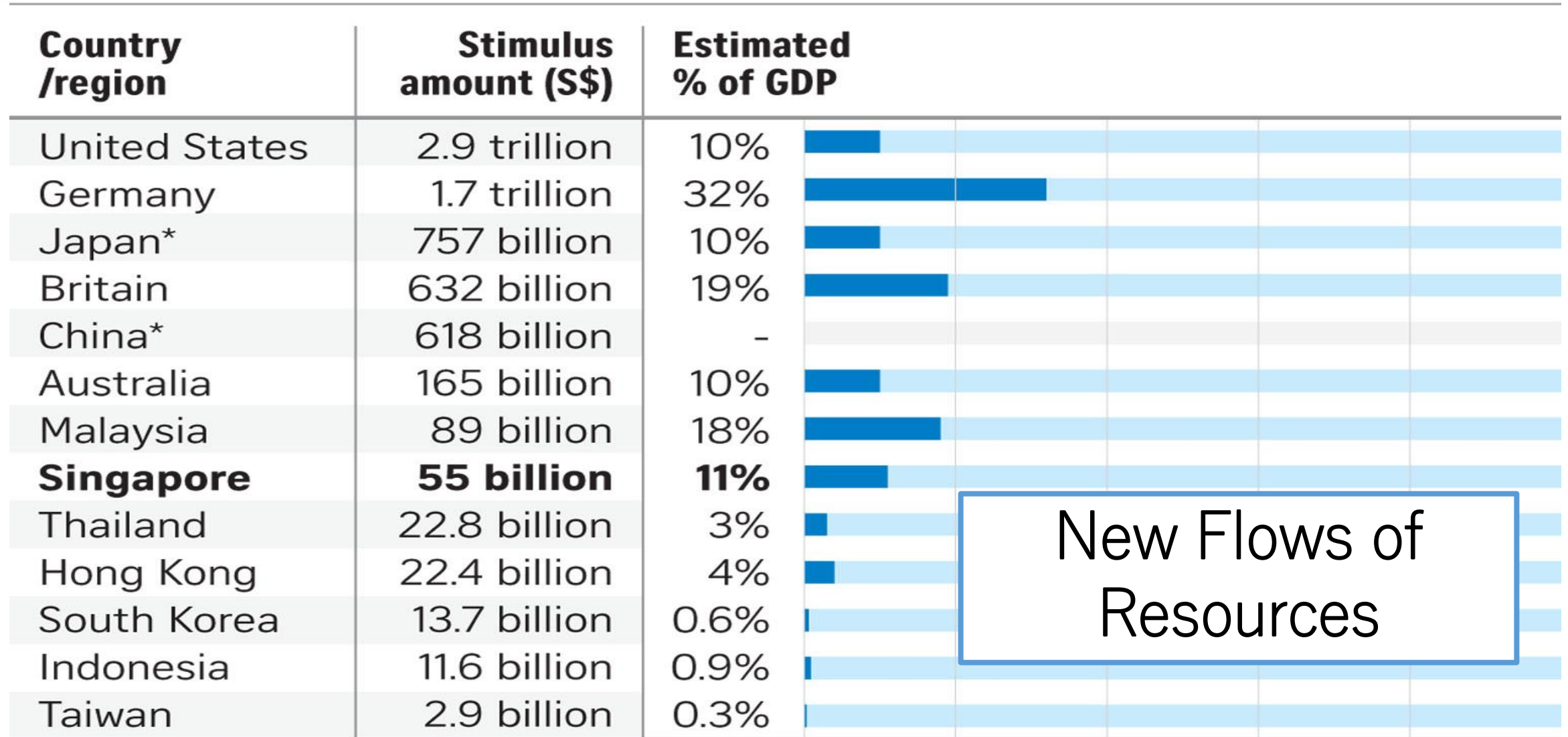
Image Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Is 2020 a turning point for the SDGs?



How can Asia Achieve the SDGs?: Connecting People and the Planet in the COVID-19 Era

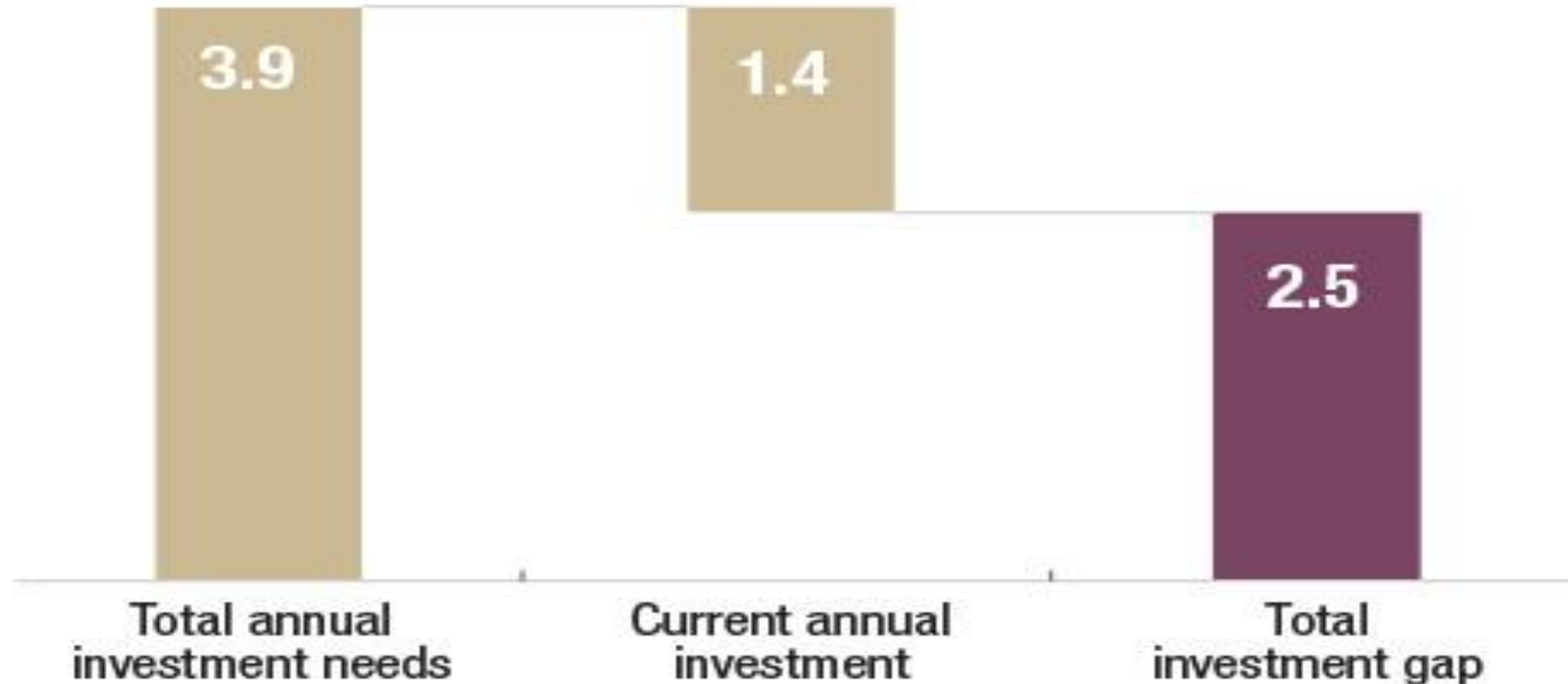


NOTE: • Japan: Of which S\$732 billion aid is under consideration, as reported by Nikkei on March 25 • China: Pledged as of March 26, as reported by Reuters

Sources: AFP, REUTERS, BLOOMBERG, NIKKEI, BBC, THE GUARDIAN STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

Estimated investment gap in key SDG sectors, 2015-30

Trillions of USD, annual average



Many countries have developed Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) that outline how they will implement the SDGs.

Source:
<https://www.mn.undp.org/content/mongolia/en/home/library/mongolia-voluntary-national-review-report-2019.html>



Businesses are taking action on the SDGs and recognize that environmental actions can be better for the bottom line.

Source: <https://www.iges.or.jp/jp/pub/sdgs-and-business-esg-jp/ja>



Some cities are also moving quickly on the SDGs.



Source: <https://www.iges.or.jp/en/pub/shimokawa-method-vlr/en>

Biodiversity needs to be a criterion for land and ocean conservation.

Governments need national inventories for:

- Species under threat
- Species with potential for technological and medical innovation



Image source:
<https://youmatter.world/en/definition/definitions-biodiversity-what-is-it-definition-protection-loss-and-csr-commitments/>

Poor Health



Image Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/australia-s-wildfires-rage-health-concerns-mount-among-experts-victims-n1113221>

Air Pollution



Image Source: <https://www.economist.com/asia/2019/09/21/burning-forests-are-blackening-the-skies-of-south-east-asia>

Climate Change

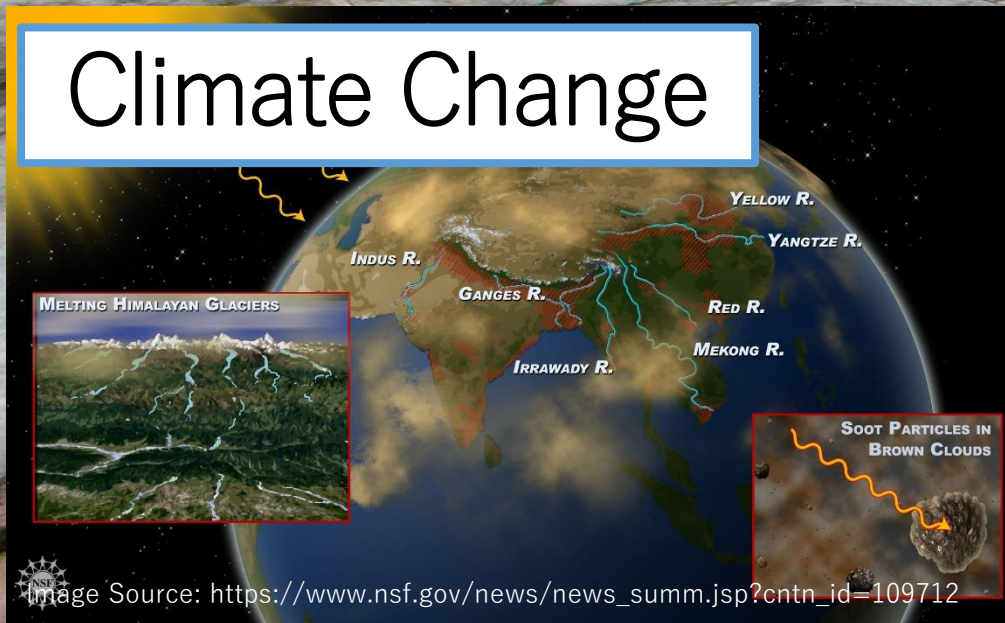


Image Source: https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=109712

Water Insecurity



Image Source: <https://www.climatecentral.org/news/race-to-understand-black-carbons-climate-impact-21458>

Conclusions

- Post-COVID recovery could make 2020 a turning point.
- Voluntary national reviews provide a blueprint for action.
- Action will be needed not only from national governments, but also cities and businesses.
- Action will also need to work across issues and sectors.

Thank you!