**Key Extracts of Regional & Country Reports**

**Europe (including UK)**

* **GDP Forecast Growth:** 4%
* **Population:** ~500 million (3rd globally)
* **Development Index (HDI):** Very High
* **Economic Risk:** Low
* **Business Environment Risk:** Low
* **Political Risk:** Low

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| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| Strong industrial base & sector diversification | Aging population |
| Low structural unemployment | Skilled labour shortage |
| Low political risk | Need for greater investment |

**Singapore**

* **GDP Forecast Growth:** 5%
* **Population:** ~6 million (114th globally)
* **Development Index (HDI):** Very High
* **Economic Risk:** Low
* **Business Environment Risk:** Low
* **Political Risk:** Low

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| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| Business-friendly economic policies | High dependence on exports |
| Strong business environment and reputation | Aging population |
| Strategic position at heart of South-East Asia | Land scarcity as population grows |

**Malaysia**

* **GDP Forecast Growth:** 7%
* **Population:** ~32 million (44th globally)
* **Development Index (HDI):** Very High
* **Economic Risk:** Medium
* **Business Environment Risk:** Low
* **Political Risk:** Low

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| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| Generally strong business environment | Vulnerable to external pressures |
| Low inflation and resilient banking sector | High level of private debt |
| Member of ASEAN economic union | High dependence on exports |

**Japan**

* **GDP Forecast Growth:** 3%
* **Population:** ~126 million (11th globally)
* **Development Index (HDI):** Very High
* **Economic Risk:** Low
* **Business Environment Risk:** Low
* **Political Risk:** Low

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| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| Innovative industries & high-quality products | Aging population |
| Strong business environment | High level of public debt |
| Low inflation and supportive fiscal policy | High dependence on energy imports |

**South Korea**

* **GDP Forecast Growth:** 4%
* **Population:** ~50 million (28th globally)
* **Development Index (HDI):** Very High
* **Economic Risk:** Low
* **Business Environment Risk:** Low
* **Political Risk:** Low

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| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| Advanced economy with high av. incomes | Geopolitical risk with North Korea |
| Strong business environment | Aging population |
| Sound financial sector | Vulnerable as dependent on external demand |

**Hong Kong**

* **GDP Forecast Growth:** 5%
* **Population:** ~8 million (102nd globally)
* **Development Index (HDI):** Very High
* **Economic Risk:** Medium
* **Business Environment Risk:** Low
* **Political Risk:** Medium

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| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| Sound business environment | Risks of ongoing political unrest |
| Strong public debt and liquidity position | Highly sensitive to global economic shocks |
| Gateway to Mainland China | Sensitive to politics between US & China |