



MEASURING PROGRESS BEYOND GDP FORUM 2026

Beyond GDP: What else matters?

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Za'ba Memorial Library, Universiti Malaya
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GDP Doesn't Tell Everything!



How GDP failed. Robert Kennedy addresses an election rally in 1968. Photograph: Harry Benson/Getty Images

University of Kansas, March 18, 1968

“Too much and for too long, we seemed to have surrendered personal excellence and community values in the mere accumulation of material things.

The **Gross National Product** does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education, or the joy of their play.

It does not include the beauty of our poetry, or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate, or the integrity of our public officials. ²

Defining progress?

HAPPINESS

WEALTH

HEALTH

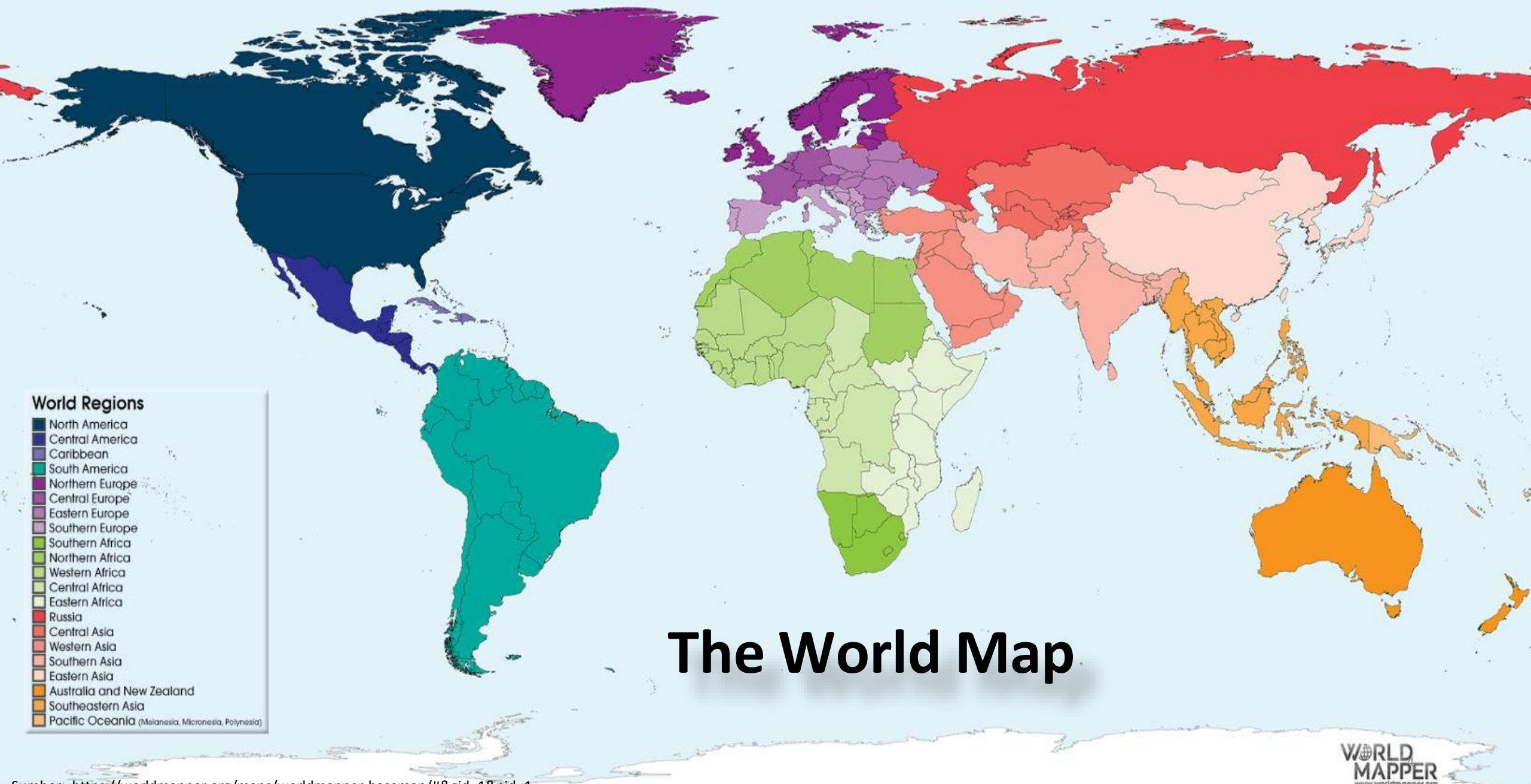
BALANCE

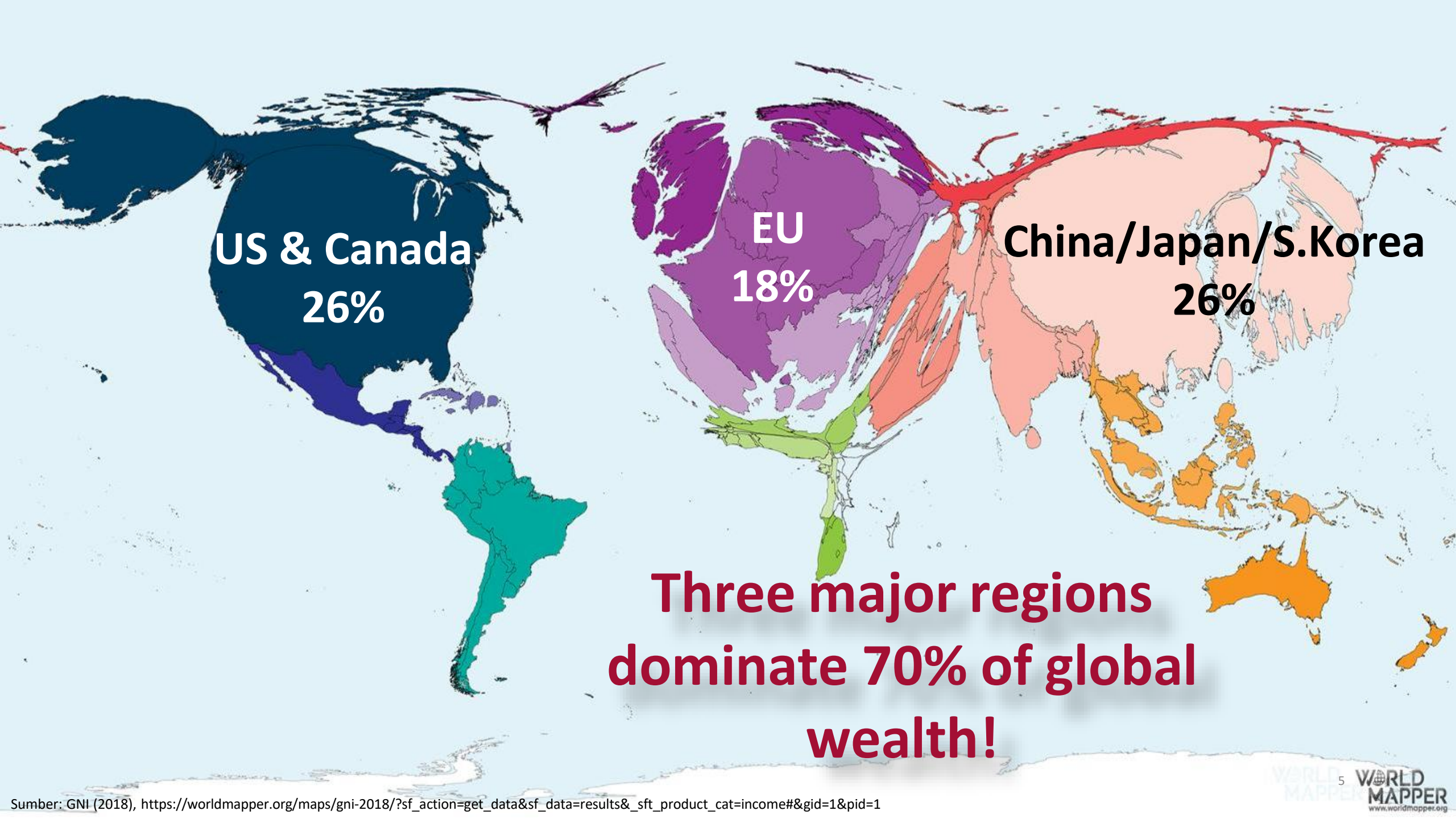
Equitability

Well being

Sustainability

Inclusivity



A world map where regions are color-coded to represent different wealth levels. North America (US & Canada) is dark blue, Europe (EU) is purple, and East Asia (China/Japan/S.Korea) is red. Other regions like South America, Africa, and Australia are in lighter shades of blue, green, and orange respectively. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean.

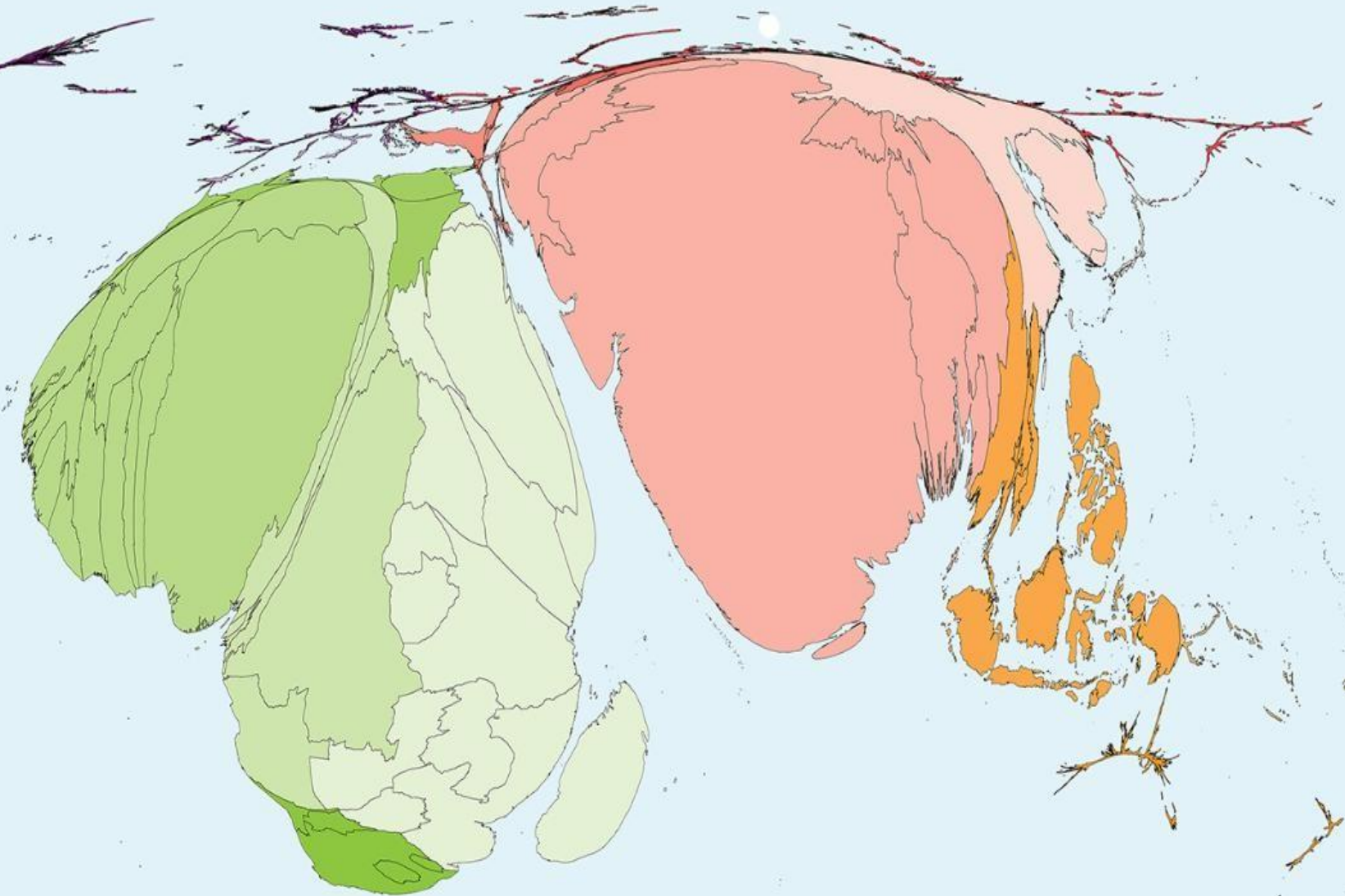
US & Canada
26%

EU
18%

China/Japan/S.Korea
26%

**Three major regions
dominate 70% of global
wealth!**

**Generally,
wealthier
countries have
less poverty**



Being rich doesn't necessarily mean being happy

**Happiest :
Costa Rica**

Happy Planet Index (HPI): Well-being — Life Expectancy — Ecological Footprint



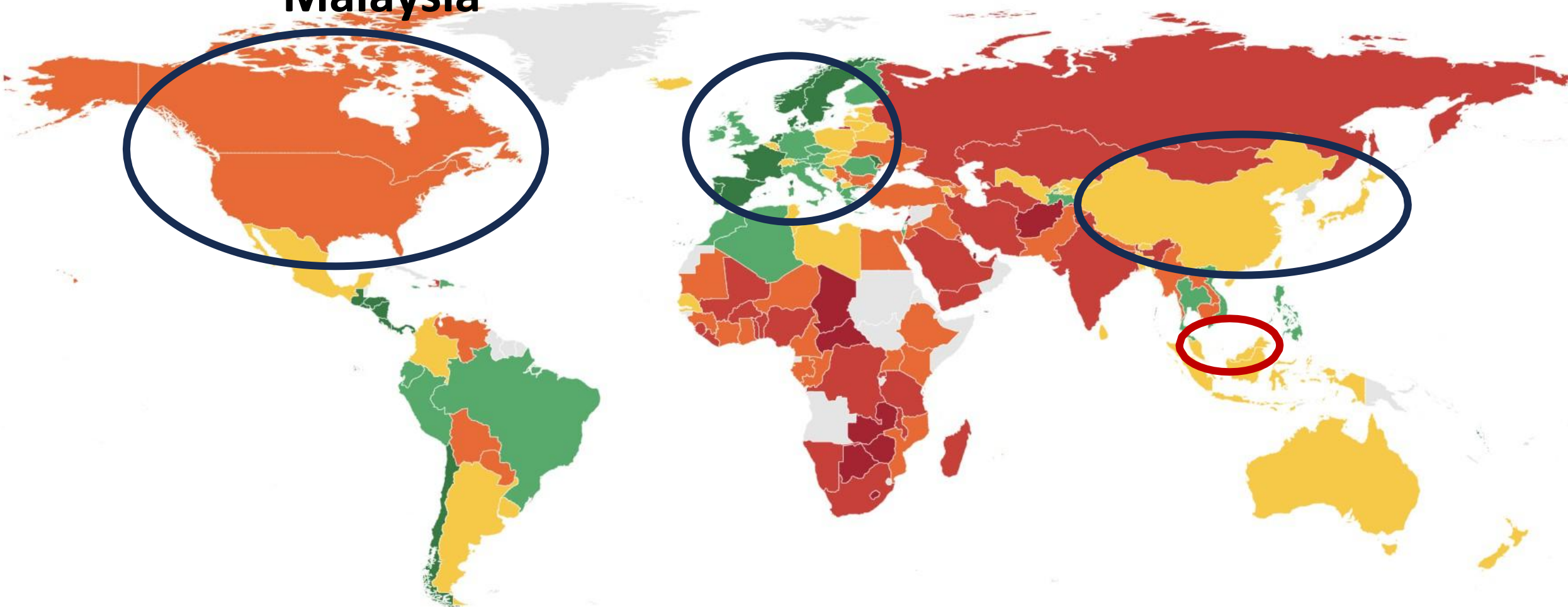
Happy Planet Index Score

Sumber: <https://worldmapper.org/maps/grid-happyplanetindex-2016/#&gid=1&pid=1>. <https://happyplanetindex.org/countries/>

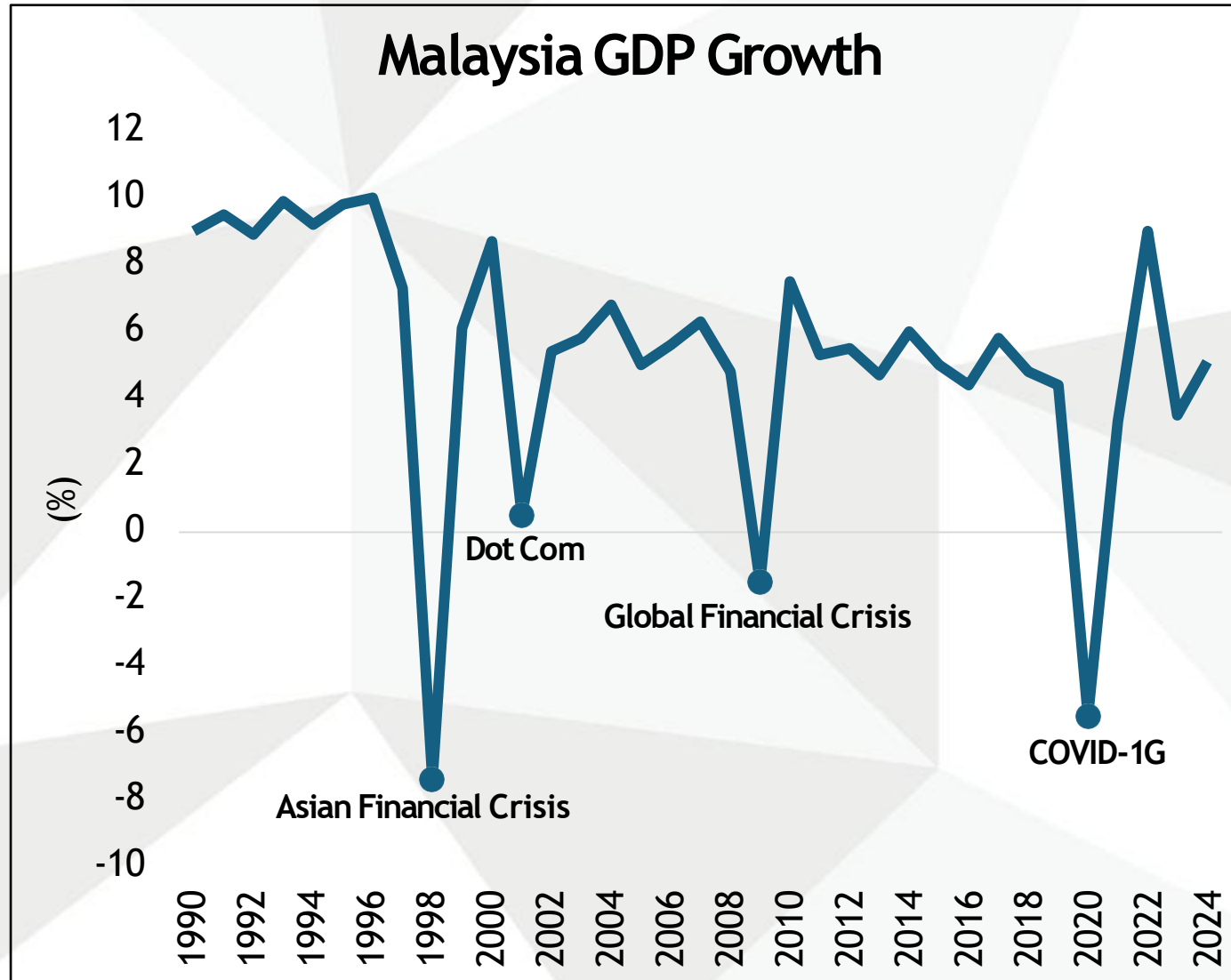
Happy Planet Index 2024



↑
Malaysia

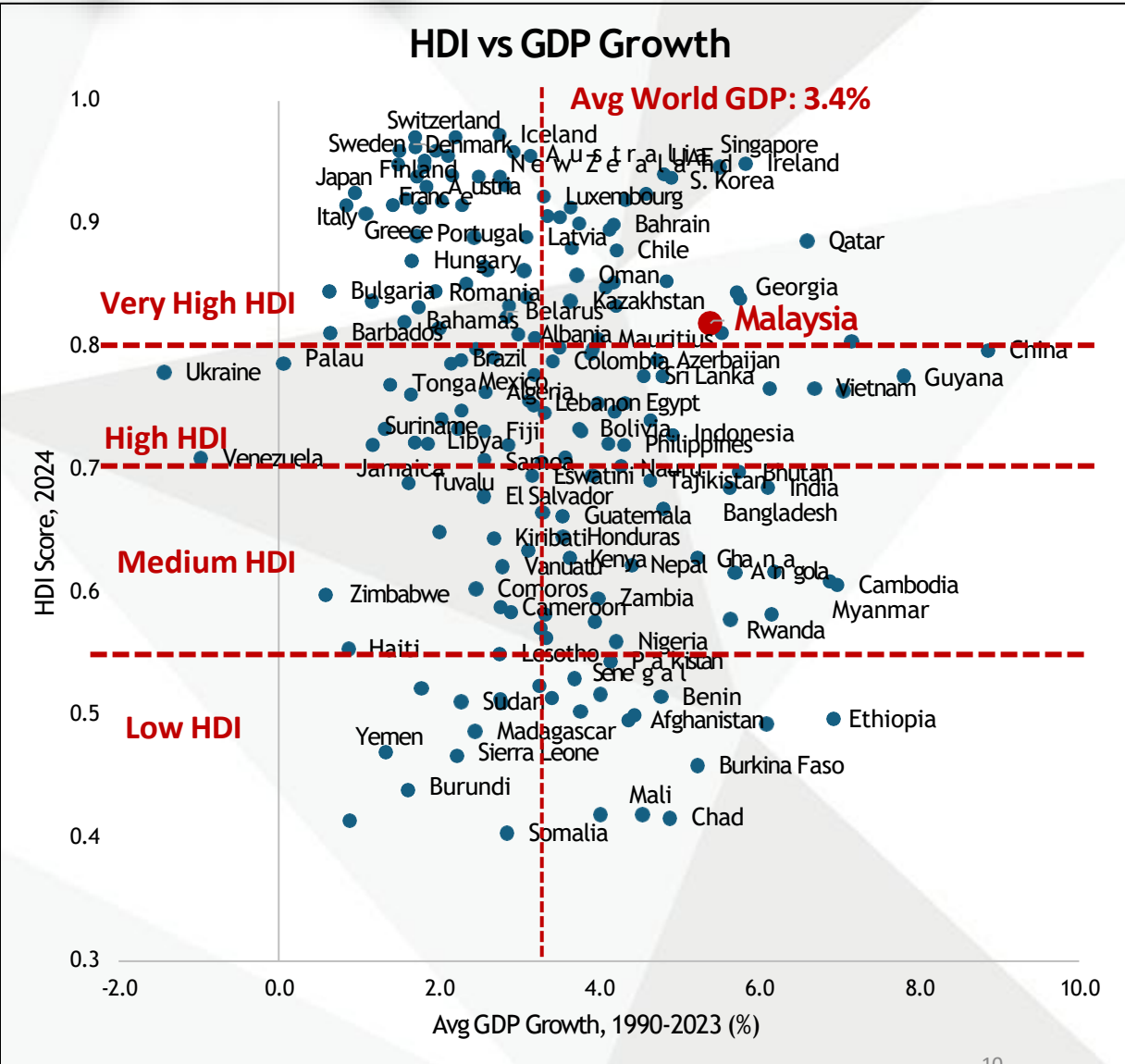
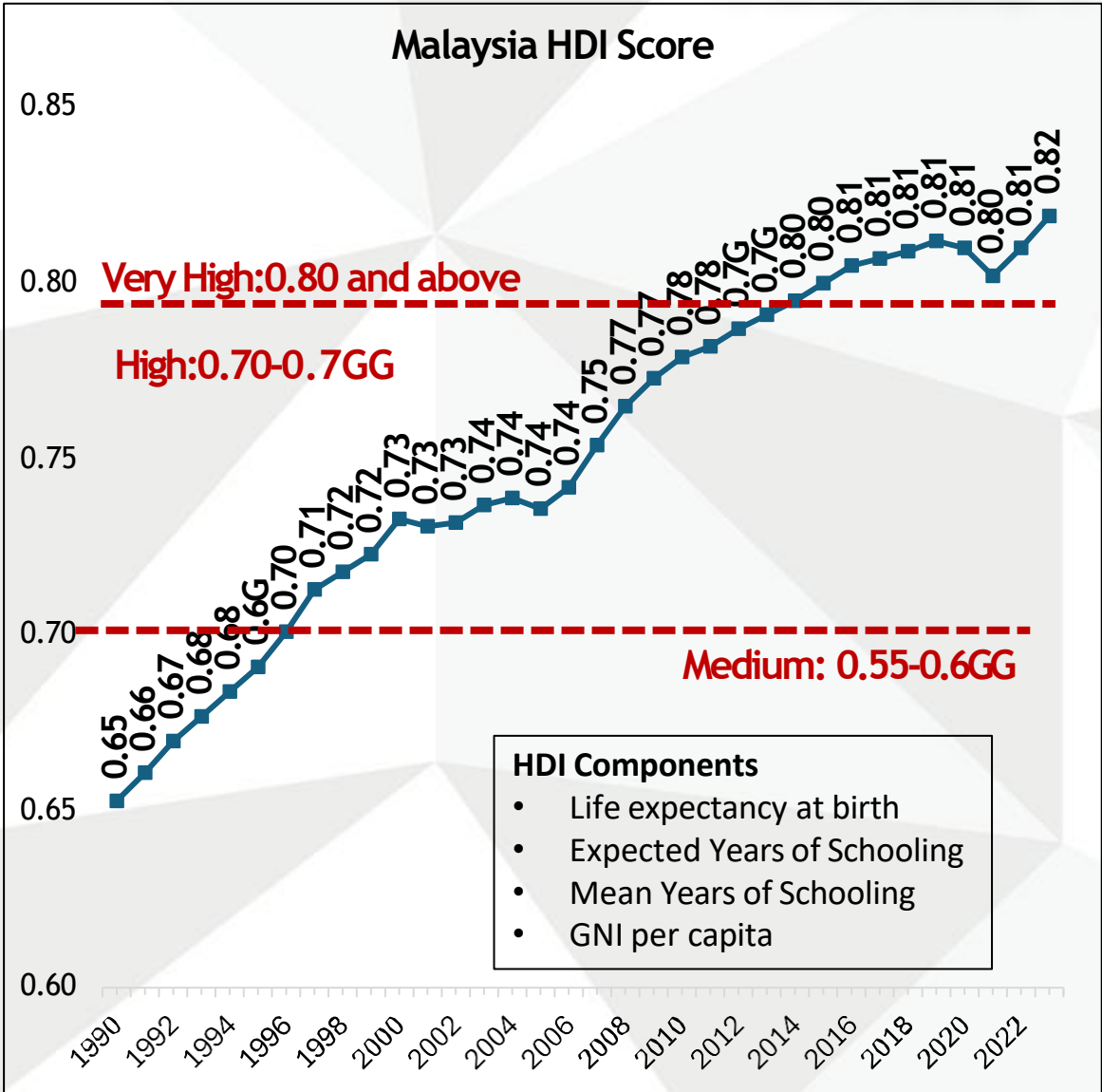


Over time, Malaysia has achieved commendable economic growth

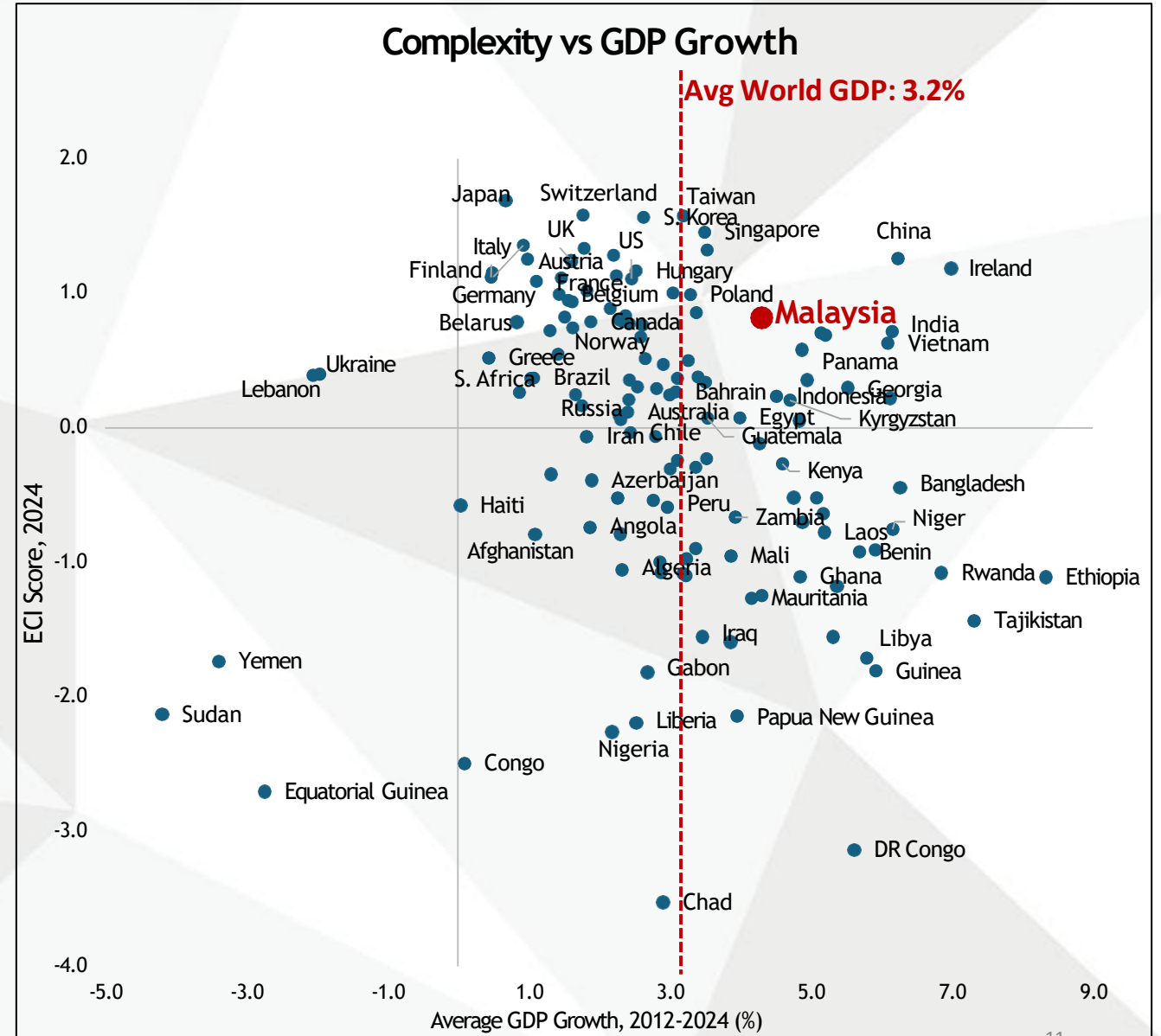
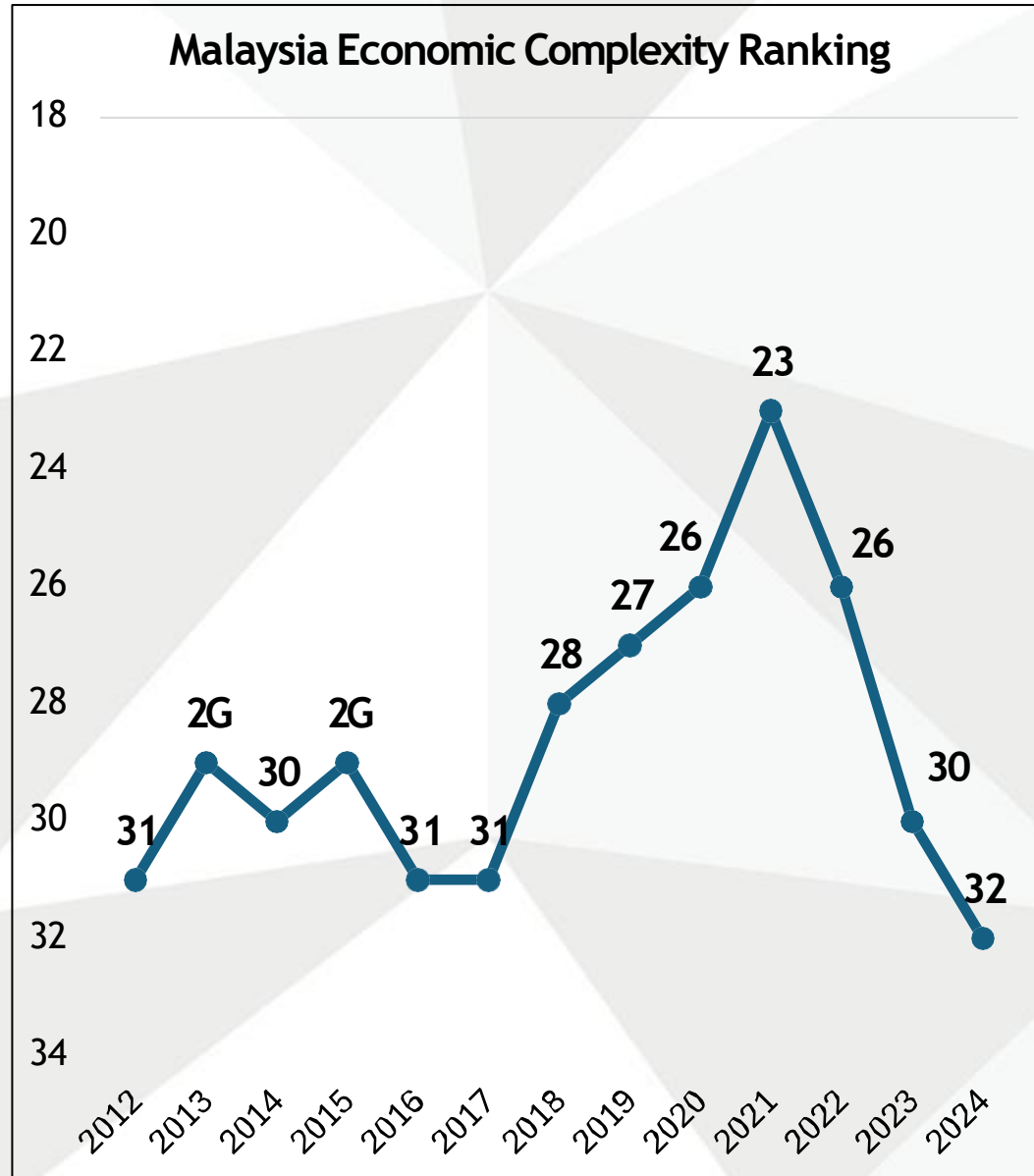


- ❖ Malaysia is a small open economy
- ❖ Average GDP Malaysia: 5.4%
- ❖ Average GDP Malaysia without crisis: 6.5%

Are We Progressing?

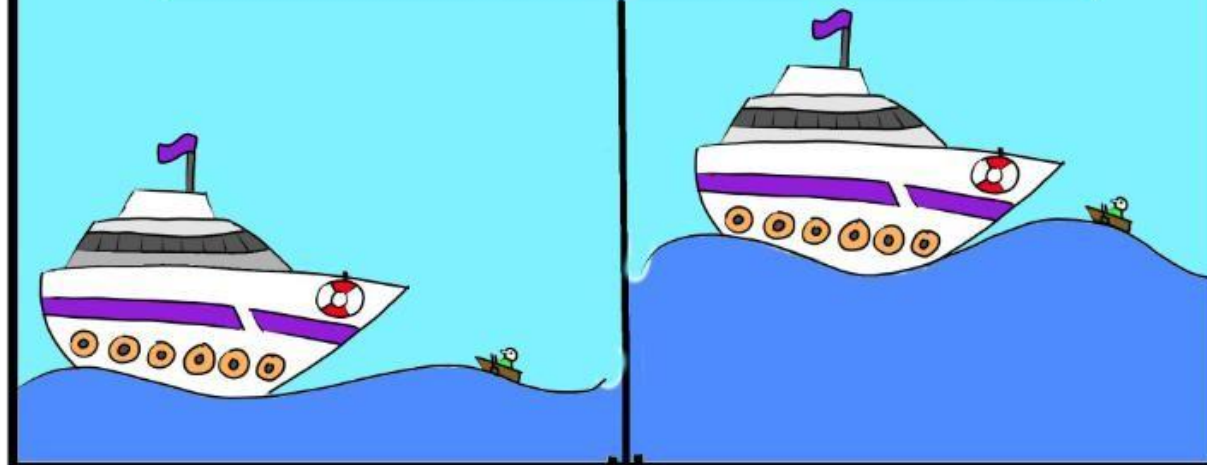


Are We Progressing?



AN UNTIDEY SHIP

A RISING TIDE LIFTS ALL SHIPS.



EXCEPT FOR LARRY'S



IT CAN TURN INTO A SUBMARINE.



Sekian, Terima Kasih.

