

**FIJI**  
**2019**

52nd ADB ANNUAL MEETING  
1-5 MAY

**ADB**



**PROSPERITY  
THROUGH UNITY**



# HIGHLIGHTS



# BULA

## 52nd ADB ANNUAL MEETING

1-5 MAY





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**PROSPERITY THROUGH UNITY**



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Notes:

In this publication, “\$” refers to United States dollars.

All photos by ADB.

On the cover (clockwise from top): Billboards welcome Annual Meeting participants to Fiji; ADB President Takehiko Nakao at the opening press conference of the Annual Meeting; President Nakao (first row, eighth from right) and His Excellency Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji (first row, ninth from right) with members of the ADB Board of Governors; Fiji host country staff.

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# Annual Meeting by the Numbers

## 3,582 attendees

Delegates: 606 (17%)  



Civil Society: 308 (9%)  


Media: 220 (6%)  


Accompanying Persons: 181 (5%)  


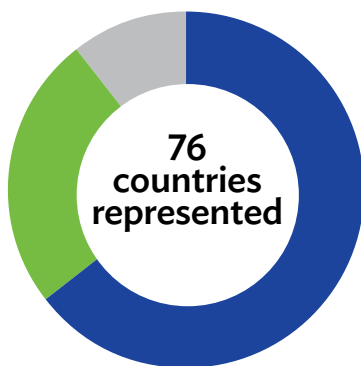
Observers: 138 (4%)  





ADB Personnel: 224 (6%)  


Host Country Secretariat: 83 (2%)  


Guests: 916 (26%)  


Others: 906 (25%)  

-  ADB members from Asia and the Pacific: 49
-  Nonregional ADB members: 19
-  Nonmembers: 8

# Ocean Health Declaration Summary

**ADB LAUNCHED** the Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies for the Asia and Pacific region during the Annual Meeting. “The prosperity of our region depends on healthy oceans and sustainable development,” said ADB President Takehiko Nakao. “We must work toward a more resilient future, where humanity and oceans thrive together.” The action plan will support the efforts of ADB’s developing member countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 14 Life Below Water.

Asia and the Pacific is home to three-quarters of the world’s coral reefs and half of the remaining mangrove forests. The region accounts for more than 80% of the world’s aquaculture and 60% of capture fisheries. However, ocean ecosystems have been pushed to the brink of collapse by the threats of climate change, pollution, and illegal and unregulated fishing, among others. This, in turn, will significantly threaten food security, the global economy, and livelihoods, especially for millions of poor and vulnerable communities in the region.

ADB Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development Bambang Susantono stated that the action plan will expand financing and technical assistance for ocean health and marine economy projects to \$5 billion from 2019 to 2024, including cofinancing from partners. It will focus on four areas: creating inclusive livelihoods and business opportunities in sustainable tourism and fisheries; protecting and restoring coastal and marine ecosystems and key rivers; reducing land-based sources of marine pollution, including plastics, wastewater, and agricultural runoff; and improving sustainability in port and coastal infrastructure development.

As a part of the action plan, ADB will launch the Oceans Financing Initiative to create opportunities for the private sector to invest in bankable projects that will help improve ocean health. The initiative will provide technical assistance grants and funding from ADB and other donors to reduce the technical and financial risks of projects. The Oceans Financing Initiative will be piloted in Southeast Asia in collaboration with the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund and the Republic of Korea. The World Wide Fund for Nature, a longtime partner of ADB, will support the design and implementation of the financing initiative.



Children enjoying the day at the beach in Fiji.

# Message from the Secretary

**BULA VINAKA!** Thank you for joining us in Nadi, Fiji for the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank's Board of Governors.

This year's Annual Meeting was a historic milestone for us. For the first time ever, we held our meeting in a Pacific developing member country. This underscored our solid commitment to our Pacific partners and also our emphasis on expanding our operations across the region.

Our engagement in the Pacific started way back at the founding of ADB in 1966. Our first project there was the Faleolo Airport in what was then called Western Samoa. Over the years, we welcomed members from the Pacific and have been working closely with each one of them.

Last year, we embarked on our new vision for the region—Strategy 2030—working to achieve a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining our efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Part of this strategy is expanding our scope and operations for small island developing states most vulnerable to our changing climate, natural disasters, and marine pollution. We are thus opening offices across the Pacific, increasing funding for programs, and providing technical assistance to these states. We received a resounding yes from all our member countries supporting these efforts and more.

Fiji 2019 was remarkable—we pivoted toward the health of our oceans and looked into ways we can save and protect them. Ocean ecosystems have been pushed to the brink of collapse by the threats of climate change, pollution, and illegal and unregulated fishing, among others. Unless immediate action is taken, about 90% of Asia and the Pacific's coral reefs will be dead by 2050, and all commercially exploitable fish stocks will disappear by then. As such, we endeavored to address this problem and rolled out our **Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies** for Asia and the Pacific with a funding commitment of \$5 billion from 2019 to 2024, including cofinancing with partners. We called on stakeholders—governments, civil society, and young people—to take part in this initiative. We are delighted that all our member countries supported this idea and several have committed to funding related programs.

The Annual Meeting provided the opportunity to delve into key issues—from renewable energy, trade and gender, financial inclusion, and digital technology to debt sustainability and the role of tourism in sustainable development. We brought in experts and stakeholders from a host of backgrounds and together explored solutions and innovative approaches.

The 52nd Annual Meeting was truly a productive and successful one. We thank the Government of Fiji and all the volunteers for being such gracious hosts. We appreciate all their support and cooperation. We also thank all of our partners for coming to Fiji to discuss and tackle a myriad of issues, and for coming up with innovative solutions for our tasks ahead.

As they say in Fiji: "Vinaka Vaka Levu!" (Thank you very much!)  
See you in Incheon, Republic of Korea in 2020!

**Eugene Zhukov**  
The Secretary  
Asian Development Bank



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*This year's Annual Meeting was a historic milestone for us. For the first time ever, we held our meeting in a Pacific DMC. This underscored our solid commitment to our Pacific partners and also our emphasis on expanding our operations across the region.*

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Visit the 2019 Annual Meeting website to access the Summary of Proceedings, news articles, event photos, videos, and more: [www.adb.org/annual-meeting/2019](http://www.adb.org/annual-meeting/2019)

If you are interested in learning more about a particular seminar, send a message to [amseminars@adb.org](mailto:amseminars@adb.org). The names of the seminar organizers are listed for each event.





# ADB Seminars and Institutional Events

Economic, finance, and development issues of current interest to ADB stakeholders

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Role of Tourism for Sustainable Development **10**

Ocean Health: Actions from Source to Sea **12**

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Digital Solutions for a More Livable Future in Asia and the Pacific **14**

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Sink or Sync: Managing Natural Resources and Vulnerability in Asia and the Pacific **20**

# Governors' Seminar: Role of Tourism for Sustainable Development

4 MAY 2019, 11:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M. • SEMINAR COORDINATOR: JOSEPH ERNEST ZVEGLICH JR.

## PANELISTS

**Taro Aso**, Governor for Japan, ADB; and Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, and Minister of State for Financial Services, Japan

**Sri Mulyani Indrawati**, Governor for Indonesia, ADB; and Minister of Finance, Indonesia

**Takehiko Nakao**, President and Chairperson of the Board of Directors, ADB

**Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum**, Governor for Fiji, ADB; and Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, and Communications, Fiji

**Gelsomina Vigliotti**, Alternate Governor for Italy, ADB; and Director-General for International Financial Relations, Department of the Treasury, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Italy

## MODERATOR

**Zeinab Badawi**, International Broadcaster and Chair of the Royal African Society

**TOURISM** is one of the fastest growing industries in the world—and developing Asia is a key part of its expansion. The region offers incredibly diverse tourist destinations and has become a major

source of global tourists. Tourism can generate jobs, raise incomes, and help revitalize stagnant regions of countries. However, a rapid surge of tourists can also put stress on local infrastructure

and have serious environmental consequences. Asia's policy makers face the challenge of guiding the expansion of tourism in a way that protects the environment and improves the quality

*“Asia and the Pacific has some of the world’s most beautiful natural landscapes and unique cultural monuments,” Mr. Nakao said. “As tourism continues to expand rapidly, it will be important to pursue sustainable tourism that protects the environment such as forests and coral reefs, preserves local cultures, and benefits local communities.”*





of life of local residents. A distinguished panel gave their insights on these issues at this seminar.

“Asia and the Pacific has some of the world’s most beautiful natural landscapes and unique cultural monuments,” Mr. Nakao said. “As tourism continues to expand rapidly, it will be important to pursue sustainable tourism that protects the environment such as forests and coral reefs, preserves local cultures, and benefits local communities.”

Panelists raised the importance of good infrastructure to support tourists and, through improved water and wastewater systems, for example, to protect the environment. “There should be development of tourist infrastructure both

in quantity and quality,” emphasized Minister Aso. Minister Sayed-Khaiyum stressed the importance of ensuring resilience to both natural hazards and the longer-term issue of climate change. In Fiji, the government imposes a 10% tax on tourism-related businesses which funds climate change mitigation projects.

Minister Indrawati addressed the issue of ensuring that local culture and heritage are protected as tourist destinations attract visitors from other countries with different attitudes and mores. Work to develop local skills to ensure tourism-inspired jobs are high quality is also key. Ms. Vigiotti noted the common challenges faced by tourist

destinations, whether in Europe or Asia and the Pacific. She underscored the importance of governance and a policy center that defines and implements a strategy.

President Nakao mentioned the importance of the tourism sector to many of ADB’s developing member countries. He noted that ADB assistance has, for example, helped protect natural lakes and local livelihoods in the Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia, supported tourism planning in the Federated States of Micronesia and Myanmar, and worked to improve transport, infrastructure, and utilities to ensure sustainable tourism in Bhutan and India. ■

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*Minister Sayed-Khaiyum stressed the importance of ensuring resilience to both natural hazards and the longer-term issue of climate change. In Fiji, the government imposes a 10% tax on tourism-related businesses which funds climate change mitigation projects.*

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Taro Aso



Sri Mulyani Indrawati



Takehiko Nakao



Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum



Gelsomina Vigiotti



Zeinab Badawi

# Ocean Health: Actions from Source to Sea

2 MAY 2019, 3:00–4:30 P.M. • SEMINAR COORDINATOR: BRUCE DUNN

## PANELISTS

**Bambang Brodjonegoro**, Alternate Governor for Indonesia, ADB; and Minister of National Development Planning, Indonesia

**Naoko Ishii**, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility

**Takehiko Nakao**, President and Chairperson of the Board of Directors, ADB

**Cristelle Pratt**, Deputy Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

**Andrew Steer**, President and CEO, World Resources Institute

## MODERATOR

**Craig Leeson**, Founder of Leeson Media, Director/Writer/Executive Producer of A Plastic Ocean, and Chief Global Evangelist for the Plastic Oceans Foundation



From left: Craig Leeson, Bambang Brodjonegoro, Cristelle Pratt, Naoko Ishii, Andrew Steer, Takehiko Nakao

**THIS SEMINAR** discussed the interconnectedness of ocean health and economic development, as well as actions to protect and restore our oceans.

Mr. Brodjonegoro discussed the Government of Indonesia's commitment to reduce plastic waste by 70% by 2025. He talked about the negative impact plastic pollution has had on tourism and is advocating to impose an excise tax on single-use plastics.

Ms. Ishii pointed out that the ocean is a global common that needs mechanisms to address various issues. She cited three solutions: mapping resources, bringing stakeholders together, and realizing the values of the ocean as natural capital to maximize and protect its global benefits.

Mr. Steer talked about the WRI's role in support of the High Level Panel

for a Sustainable Ocean Economy with 14 heads of state. He encouraged governments to recognize the power of the ocean to make life on earth livable. He added that there was more collective action when women are involved in conservation.

According to Ms. Pratt, the Pacific is "the largest oceanic continent on the blue planet." The region has shown leadership and willingness to work together on ocean issues. Well-established regional policies already exist to ensure sustainable use of resources.

President Nakao shared that the recently launched ADB Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies included a financing component of \$5 billion between 2019 and 2024. He cited successful projects

in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, and Boracay, Philippines where ecosystems were restored through political will and supportive investments in pollution control and waste management. ■

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*According to Ms. Pratt, the Pacific is "the largest oceanic continent on the blue planet." The region has shown leadership and willingness to work together on ocean issues. Well-established regional policies already exist to ensure sustainable use of resources.*

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# Is Debt Sustainability a Cause for Concern?

2 MAY 2019, 5:00–6:30 P.M. • SEMINAR COORDINATORS: JOSEPH ERNEST ZVEGLICH JR

## PANELISTS

**Kshama Fernandes**, CEO, Northern Arc

**Mitsuhiro Furusawa**, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

**Sonja Gibbs**, Managing Director, Global Policy Initiatives, Institute of International Finance (IIF)

**Ishtat Husain**, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Institutional Reforms and Austerity, and Federal Minister, Pakistan

**Takehiko Nakao**, President and Chairperson of the Board of Directors, ADB

## MODERATOR

**Stefania Palma**, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore Correspondent, Financial Times



Mitsuhiro Furusawa



Kshama Fernandes



Sonja Gibbs



Ishtat Husain



Takehiko Nakao



Stefania Palma

## ABUNDANT GLOBAL LIQUIDITY

helped developing Asia maintain its growth through the global financial crisis. Emerging markets accumulated record amounts of debt—which stood at 186% of GDP in 2016—facilitated by this easy money. As the era of abundant global liquidity winds down, it is critical to ensure that Asia's debt level can be sustained. Panelists in this seminar co-hosted by ADB and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) discussed how to manage the debt buildup so it does not jeopardize future growth and stability.

Heightened public debt levels will add stress to public finances as interest rates rise making it even more important

to ensure that new debt is used to finance investments with adequate returns, particularly in light of the region's massive infrastructure needs. Creative financing, such as public-private partnerships, may help bridge the financing gap while containing the debt burden. With new official lenders making the network of creditors more complex, there is a need to rethink creditor coordination to ensure it continues to work smoothly.

President Nakao emphasized that financial viability is a requirement for all ADB lending, and that assistance terms are adjusted depending on country borrowing capacity, including by providing grants.

Panelists closed by noting that authorities in developing Asia should closely monitor the debt buildup. While the region currently enjoys relatively strong fundamentals, elevated debt burdens do carry a destabilizing potential. Panelists agreed that improved information on public and private debt is critical for better debt management. ■

JOINT SEMINAR WITH



# Digital Solutions for a More Livable Future in Asia and the Pacific

3 MAY 2019, 9:00–10:30 AM. • SEMINAR COORDINATORS: MANOJ SHARMA, RANA HASAN, AND CHRISTIAN WALDER

## PANELISTS

**Tevita Kuruvakadua**, CEO, iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB), Suva, Fiji

**Jason Pomeroy**, Founding Principal, Pomeroy Studio and PomeroyAcademy, and television host

**Yan Song**, Full Professor, Department of City and Regional Planning, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Bambang Susantono**, Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, ADB

**Maria Vassilakou**, Deputy Mayor and Executive City Councillor for Urban Planning, Traffic & Transport, Climate Protection, Energy, & Public Participation, Vienna, Austria

## MODERATOR

**Sharanjit Leyl**, Producer and Presenter, BBC

**CITIES ARE HOME** to more than half of the world's population and are expected to add another 2.5 billion new residents by 2050. They face increasing environmental pressures and infrastructure needs—as well as growing demands from residents to deliver a better quality of life at a sustainable cost. The seminar brought together eminent panelists who discussed digital solutions that help cities optimize urban planning, infrastructure development and management of urban services.

The panelists discussed how cities in ADB's developing member countries (DMCs) can leapfrog to the latest technologies. The use of data, supported by low-cost sensors and high-speed computers, can help cities take more evidence-based and rational decisions for enhancing efficiencies and effectiveness and improving urban services, for example, mobility (e.g. real-time traffic lights), accessibility (e.g. internet-of-things-based citizens' services), and climate change resilience (e.g. analyzing climate change data on geographic information system platforms).

Big data analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence (AI), and

blockchain are becoming increasingly important for cities. To address the new challenges of data ownership, accessibility, data security, and privacy, the global community should develop standards on the ethical use of data, a regulatory framework, and proper enforcement.

While discussing the impacts of new technologies like robotics and AI on jobs, the panel agreed that the job market would witness a few traditional sectors losing jobs and a few new sectors creating different types of jobs requiring reskilling and capacity building.

The panel suggested that area-specific digital solutions need to be coupled with appropriate policies

and governance systems in an inclusive and participatory manner for a more livable future. Digital solutions can help “planning by the people, for the people and with the people.” Cities in DMCs could learn from developed cities like Vienna, which took smart decisions very early in their development trajectory ranging from focus on public transport and affordable housing to keeping large areas as green spaces that make Vienna one of the most livable cities in the world.

The panelists also discussed ADB's approach under Strategy 2030 that combines physical and digital infrastructure with investments in human capital for increased productivity and prosperity. ■

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*Big data analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence (AI), and blockchain are becoming increasingly important for cities. To address the new challenges of data ownership, accessibility, data security, and privacy, the global community should develop standards on the ethical use of data, a regulatory framework, and proper enforcement.*

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Tevita Kuruvakadua



Yan Song



Bambang Susantono



Maria Vassilakou



Jason Pomeroy



Sharanjit Leyl

# Renewable Energy Investing in Asia and the Pacific— The Fast-Changing Model

3 MAY 2019, 2:00–3:30 P.M. • SEMINAR COORDINATORS: JACKIE SURTANI, AND ANTON NAGUIAT

## OPENING REMARKS

**Diwakar Gupta**, *Vice-President for Private Sector Operations and Public-Private Partnerships, ADB*

## PANELISTS

**Preeyanart Soontornwata**, *President, B. Grimm Power Public Company Limited*

**Amit Singh**, *General Manager and Director, CBS Power Solutions (Fiji) Ltd*

**Christina Tonkin**, *Managing Director, Loans and Specialized Finance, ANZ*

**Gilles Pascual**, *Partner, ASEAN Infrastructure Advisory and Transaction Advisory Services, Power and Utilities Leader, Ernst & Young Solutions LLP*

**Michael Barrow**, *Director General, Private Sector Operations Department, ADB*

## MODERATOR

**Tanya Beckett**, *Broadcaster, Charlatan Media Ltd*

**THE ISLAND NATIONS** in the Pacific are geographically widespread, with small populations and stretched government resources. Many of these countries rely to a high extent on imported diesel as a source of fuel. This means that retail electricity tariffs are

among the highest in the world. The use of fossil fuels adds to environmental uncertainty for islanders who are already at the frontline of climate change.

The conditions for solar and in some cases, hydro, wind, and biomass energy are very favorable. However, the

financing of such projects is hindered as governments are financially stretched and the private sector has little track record for lenders to draw upon. In the wake of the financial crisis, banks struggle to lend for long tenors. Additionally, the markets in the region are often small, which detracts from their appeal to investors.

Despite the challenges, there is a growing and solid investor community focused on sustainable projects, including from the pension sector, which can be linked back to the region in the renewables sector.

ADB is harnessing private sector appetite for the development of renewable energy projects, by providing partial underwriting of risk. This creates the conditions for projects to move forward and be developed. ■



Top, from left: Gilles Pascual, Michael Barrow, Tanya Beckett, Christina Tonkin, Amit Singh, Preeyanart Soontornwata. Below, Diwakar Gupta opens the event.



# Trading Up: Economic Empowerment and Gender Equality

4 MAY 2019, 9:00–10:30 A.M. • SEMINAR COORDINATORS: SONOMI TANAKA AND CYN-YOUNG PARK

## PANELISTS

**Nur Bano Ali**, *Managing Partner, PKF Fiji – Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors and Chairperson of South Pacific Stock Exchange*

**Bambang Brodjonegoro**, *Alternate Governor for Indonesia, ADB; and Minister of National Development Planning, Indonesia*

**Cristelle Pratt**, *Deputy Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat*

**Yasuyuki Sawada**, *Chief Economist, ADB*

## MODERATOR

**Haslinda Amin**, *Chief International Correspondent for Southeast Asia, Bloomberg*



Nur Bano Ali



Bambang Brodjonegoro



Cristelle Pratt



Yasuyuki Sawada



Haslinda Amin

**THIS SEMINAR** brought together a panel that comprised perspectives from international organizations, government, and the private sector to discuss how international trade can better promote inclusive growth and gender equality by generating decent employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women. While international trade has been instrumental to rapid economic growth and poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific, the benefits of trade are not always shared equitably among all segments of the economy, with women often left behind. Trade can positively impact women through better economic opportunities, socioeconomic empowerment, technological upgrading, and improvement in labor conditions. However, trade can also reinforce common forms of workplace gender discrimination and inequalities. This puts the spotlight on how policy design should be specifically tailored to allow women as well as men to benefit from trade and share the gains.

In this context, the panel discussion shed light on challenges and opportunities for women's participation in international trade in Asia and the Pacific in general, and the Pacific

in particular. ADB Chief Economist Yasuyuki Sawada shared findings from a new ADB report, *Leveraging Trade for Women's Economic Empowerment in the Pacific*, providing an overview of the region's progress toward women's empowerment, and the remaining challenges. He also emphasized the need to better mainstream gender into aid for economic infrastructure and improve gender targets in trade policies.

Discussions focused on strategies to promote women-led small and medium enterprises and inclusive trade

including through regional cooperation and donor support for generating good data and quality jobs, policies to improve women's work conditions, and strengthen women's business capacity to access markets.

Related areas of discussion included enhancing women's leadership positions, addressing trade-related infrastructure constraints, the role of digital connectivity, technology and innovation to widen opportunities, improving access to finance, and fostering skills development. ■





# ADB's Development Effectiveness in 2018

2 MAY 2019, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. • SEMINAR COORDINATOR: BERNARD WOODS

## PRESENTER

**Bernard Woods**, Director, Results Management and Aid Effectiveness Division, Strategy, Policy and Review Department, ADB

## PANELISTS

**Helen Clark**, Former Administrator of UNDP and Former Prime Minister of New Zealand

**Cristelle Pratt**, Deputy Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

## MODERATOR

**Deborah Stokes**, Vice-President for Administration and Corporate Management, ADB



From left: Bernard Woods, Helen Clark, Deborah Stokes, Cristelle Pratt

**THE SEMINAR** launched ADB's *Development Effectiveness Review* in 2018. Moderator Deborah Stokes stressed the important role of the report as a significant input into decision making at ADB that informs its work planning and budgeting processes. Bernard Woods presented the findings of the report highlighting ADB's contribution to sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific and its achievements against Strategy 2020, which is based on a transitional results framework that was adopted at the end of 2017.

ADB has made a year of substantial achievement with regard to the ADB's corporate targets, as the bank's lending hit an all-time high. ADB's performance, as shown by the 2018 DEfR scorecard, was the strongest on record since ADB began using the scorecard system in 2009. ADB continued its significant investments in infrastructure for sustainable development, particularly related to clean energy, water and sanitation for all (SDGs 6 and 7). ADB also reached a record high contribution in support of quality education (SDG 4). Gender equality (SDG 5) and

climate action (SDG 13) supports also remained strong.

Helen Clark welcomed the report and the improvements it highlighted. She also reflected on ADB's 2018 achievements, noted alignments global agendas, highlighted the importance of "no one left behind" in reference to programming in fragile and conflict-affected situations, and stated that the DEfR shows the region can progress and ADB can be part of that story. Cristelle Pratt highlighted the opportunities and challenges associated with delivering on Strategy 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific region and the need for ADB to strengthen country systems, with a focus on the needs of small island developing states. Audience participation through Pigeonhole was also vibrant. ■



**ADB's performance, as shown by the 2018 DEfR scorecard, was the strongest on record since ADB began using the scorecard system in 2009.**

[www.adb.org/documents/series/development-effectiveness-review](http://www.adb.org/documents/series/development-effectiveness-review)

# Improving Project-Level Grievance Redress Mechanisms and Accountability

3 MAY 2019, 9:00–10:00 A.M. • SEMINAR COORDINATOR: WARREN EVANS

## PANELISTS

**Amy Leung**, Director General, East Asia Department, ADB

**Imrana Jalal**, Chair, Inspection Panel, World Bank Group

**Philip Rose**, Executive Director for Austria, Germany, Luxembourg, Turkey, and United Kingdom, ADB

**Dingding Tang**, Chair, Compliance Review Panel and concurrently Head, Office of the Compliance Review Panel, ADB

**Woochong Um**, Director General and concurrently Chief Compliance Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

## MODERATOR

**Warren Evans**, Special Project Facilitator, ADB

**THE ADB** Accountability Mechanism Policy requires a joint learning report (JLR) describing lessons learned relating to complaints about ADB projects and resolution measures. The focus of the seminar was on a discussion draft of the 3-year JLR covering 2016–2018.

Warren Evans as moderator introduced the panelists and the scope of the panel, and explained that the JLR will be revised after the annual meeting to incorporate key messages from the seminar.

Dingding Tang summarized the lessons learned over the last 3 years, highlighting the increased number of complaints ADB Accountability Mechanism received compared to 2012–2016. He said that a key lesson is the need to strengthen project-level grievance redress mechanisms to better manage complaints and minimize

complaints elevated to ADB and the Accountability Mechanism.

Amy Leung summarized experiences and lessons from the operations perspective—reflecting particularly on an ongoing case in Mongolia. She concluded a collaborative approach between ADB’s Office of the Special Project Facilitator and operational departments is critically important for securing the support needed from executing agencies to effectively resolve disputes.

Woochong Um noted the linkages of ADB’s Safeguard Policy Statement to the Accountability Mechanism, and measures to improve project-level complaint management, particularly through strengthened grievance redress mechanisms. He also pointed out that the current accountability mechanism structure seems to be working well.

Imrana Jalal compared experiences from World Bank inspection cases and highlighted the emergence of gender-based violence as the source of complaints and inspections at the World Bank.

Philip Rose reflected on the messages from the JLR and the panel members from the perspective of the higher level oversight of the ADB Board. He discussed risks and issues going forward, especially in light of the increased lending levels for large-scale infrastructure under ADB’s Strategy 2030.

Some of the participants, particularly NGOs, emphasized the need to keep the accountability mechanism strong and independent. They expressed some concern as to the upcoming review of the Safeguard Policy Statement and how that might impact on the Accountability Mechanism Policy. ■



From left: Philip Rose, Imrana Jalal, Warren Evans, Amy Leung, Woochong Um, Dingding Tang

# ADB's New Procurement Framework and Business Opportunities

3 MAY 2019, 2:30–3:30 P.M. • SEMINAR COORDINATOR: JEFFREY TAYLOR

## PANELISTS

**M. Teresa Kho**, Deputy Director General, East Asia Department, ADB

**Ashraf Mohammed**, Deputy Director General, Procurement, Portfolio and Financial Management Department (PPFD), ADB

**Jeff Taylor**, Director, Procurement Division 1, Procurement, Portfolio and Financial Management Department (PPFD), ADB

## MODERATOR

**Pete Troilo**, Director, Global Advisory and Analysis, Devex



From left: Pete Troilo, Jeff Taylor, Ashraf Mohammed, M. Teresa Kho

**THE SEMINAR** provided participants with an overview of ADB's new procurement framework and the status of its implementation and provided the essentials of exploring and identifying ADB-financed business opportunities.

Ashraf Mohammed described the drivers for change that led to ADB's new procurement framework. The new features of the procurement framework were presented, specifically risk-based procurement, alternative procurement arrangements, management and tracking of complaints, decentralization and

delegation of authority, and a focus on more efficient and beneficial beginning to end procurement support.

Jeff Taylor explained ADB's operational cycle from the identification of a pipeline project through to project completion identifying the types of opportunities to contractors and consultants throughout this cycle. The presentation included practical tips on how to find information using ADB's Business Opportunities webpage on potential opportunities at each stage in the process.

Mr. Mohammed and Mr. Taylor were joined by Teresa Kho for a panel discussion moderated by Pete Troilo. Ms. Kho brought a deep knowledge and experience of the operational aspects of procurement and a broad range of issues were discussed including: strategic procurement planning; the benefits of placing procurement specialists closer to clients; ADB's continued support in the development of national consulting industries and various outreach activities undertaken by ADB in support of the business community. ■



# Sink or Sync: Managing Natural Resources and Vulnerability in Asia and the Pacific

3 MAY 2019, 4:00–5:00 P.M. • SEMINAR COORDINATOR: JOSE ANTONIO TAN III

## PANELISTS

**Helen Clark**, *Former Administrator of UNDP and Former Prime Minister of New Zealand*

**Dame Meg Taylor**, *Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum*

**Vinod Thomas**, *Visiting Professor, the National University of Singapore and the Asian Institute of Management*

**Woochong Um**, *Director General and concurrently Chief Compliance Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB*

## MODERATOR

**Marvin Taylor-Dormond**, *Director General, Independent Evaluation Department, ADB*

**AT THE SEMINAR** organized by ADB's Independent Evaluation Department, panelists Helen Clark, Dame Meg Taylor, Vinod Thomas, and Woochong Um discussed the urgency to manage natural resources and mitigate vulnerabilities as the only way to achieve sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. Their key messages were:

- Economic performance in Asia and Pacific has been strong, but the road ahead remains challenging as risks posed by the depletion of natural capital through environmental degradation and disasters remain high.
- Further gains in human development and human security are put at risk by the pace of environmental degradation and climate change. Greater heat stress, the spread of mosquito-borne diseases to higher altitudes, food and water insecurity, and greater exposure to climate-related disasters are all consequences of the world's

unsustainable development, and will make it harder to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

- In the Pacific, nobody is packing up and leaving. For the Pacific, it an existential matter and Pacific islanders are determined to do what it is needed.
- There is need to rethink how growth and development performance are measured, and then take into account the depletion of natural capital and their associated consequences. This will require rigorous evidence-based measurement of progress made to keep everybody on track, as well as to find a way to incorporate climate change and environmental degradation externalities to national income accounting.
- With rapidly aggravating climate risks, the region needs disruptive change to tap financial and human resources that can be deployed to build resilience and prevention. The menu of options include disaster-proofing all

projects, pooling financial risks across the islands and the region, scaling up catastrophe bonds and debt draw-down options as well as deploying rapid assessments and the use of big data for greater preparedness.

- Partnerships are crucial. It is very important for the Pacific to drive multi-stakeholder partnerships for resilient development—to deliver on the aspiration of the countries and Sustainable Development Goals by combining to combine resources and expertise.
- Multilateral development banks like ADB play an important role in supporting countries to mobilize finance, harness knowledge, and tap strategic partnerships.
- Currently, there is insufficient commitment to climate change mitigation to reach the Paris Climate Agreement target of keeping global warming under a 1.5°C rise. With stronger political leadership, that can change. ■

*Partnerships are crucial. It is very important for the Pacific to drive multi-stakeholder partnerships for resilient development.*



Helen Clark



Woochong Um



Dame Meg Taylor



Vinod Thomas



Marvin Taylor-Dormond

# Sponsored Seminars

**The role of private sector and public institutions in the development of  
Asia and the Pacific**

Accelerating Private Sector Financing for  
Disaster Risk Management and Climate Resilience in the  
Asia and Pacific Region **23**

Connectivity for Development  
How Submarine Cable Systems Can Support Inclusive  
Economic Growth in Asia and the Pacific **24**

Emerging Digital Technologies for Financial Inclusion:  
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Prosperity through Unity Powered by  
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Mobilizing Capital Markets for Sustainable Infrastructure:  
Connecting Institutional Investors with  
Asian Development **28**



# Accelerating Private Sector Financing for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Resilience in the Asia and Pacific Region

2 MAY 2019, 12:30–2:00 P.M.

## OPENING REMARKS

**Ekhosuehi Iyahen**, *Secretary General, Insurance Development Forum*

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Bambang Susantono**, *Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, ADB*

## PANELISTS

**Hongjoo Hahm**, *Deputy Executive Secretary for Programmes, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)*

**Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum**, *Governor for Fiji, ADB; and Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, and Communications, Fiji*  
**Sarah-Jane Wild**, *Principal Disaster Risk Insurance and Finance Specialist, ADB*

## MODERATOR

**Simon Young**, *Strategic Capital, Science, and Policy Practice Advisor, Willis Towers Watson*

**WITH OVER 160 ATTENDEES**, including senior representatives from international organizations and ADB member countries, the seminar highlighted the high levels of vulnerability to natural disasters and climate risks within the Asia and Pacific region and the need for greater innovation and partnerships to accelerate financing for disaster risk management and climate resilience. Some reflections included:

1. Disaster risks are outpacing disaster resilience in Asia and the Pacific. More than four in five people (84%) affected by natural hazards live in developing Asia. The region also accounts for 55% of the global disaster death toll and 26% of global damages between 2000 and 2018.
2. The rate of economic losses has outpaced the growth of insured losses, with individuals, corporations, and governments bearing the brunt of the impact. Over the past 20 years, less than 5% of economic losses in developing Asia were insured, compared to 40% in developed countries.
3. Disaster risk financing, including insurance, can help countries ensure that their economies and populations are financially protected in the event



From left: John Young, Hongjoo Hahm, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Sarah-Jane Wild

of a disaster. Research demonstrates that a 1% increase in insurance penetration can reduce the disaster recovery burden on taxpayers by 22%. However, the deployment of the insurance industry's risk management capabilities and general access to commercial insurance against disasters remains limited and unevenly distributed across the region. Actions are needed to stimulate commercial insurance markets, including for homeowners, businesses, and agriculture including insurance of public assets. Public-private partnerships, including engagement of the insurance industry through institutions like the IDF, were identified as critical.

There is a need for significant scaling up of resources and financing for resilience-building, including

considerations around lower interest rates on loans for programs that focus on resilience-building. There is a need to inculcate a culture of insurance built on public education, awareness, and clear policy signals from governments in collaboration with civil society and broader stakeholders as part of deepening disaster risk financing systems across the region. Development finance institutions and donors were challenged to be more innovative and to play a greater role in leveraging private sector expertise and capacities. ■

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# Connectivity for Development

## How Submarine Cable Systems Can Support Inclusive Economic Growth in Asia and the Pacific

2 MAY 2019, 12:30–2:00 P.M.

### PANELISTS

**Kshama Fernandes**, CEO, Northern Arc

**Premila Kumar**, Minister of Industry, Trade, Tourism, Local Government, Housing, and Community Development, Fiji

**Motoyoshi Tokioka**, Executive Director, Submarine Networks, NEC Corporation

**Woochong Um**, Director General and concurrently Chief Compliance Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

### MODERATOR

**Shinya Kukita**, Chief Engineer, NEC Corporation

**WHILE THE TRADITIONAL** economy is physical and materials-based, the digital economy is essentially dependent on “soft” resources and capabilities: digital data and human skills such as creativity and innovation. Digital infrastructure includes high-speed connectivity, cloud computing, and data analytics, among others. These provide opportunities for developing countries to make quantum leaps in economic development, social inclusion, improved efficiency, and empowerment.

In this context, the reliable connectivity that submarine cable systems provide can be a great tool to boost countries’ economies, to promote equality and improve quality of life. Premila Kumar cited Fiji’s connectivity experience as a society changer: digital platforms improve government services and enhance delivery, and facilitate information transparency. Connectivity directly affects the ease of doing business by reducing approval process periods and leveraging universal access to information.

Along the same lines, Kshama Fernandes presented two initiatives as examples to explain how technology has been transforming Indian society. The India Unique ID, Aadhaar, is part of the Digital India Programme and provides identification, credit profiling, and digital platforms to all its citizens. Innovations in finance, like the ones provided by Northern Arc, allow highly complex payment methods that



From left: Motoyoshi Tokioka, Premila Kumar, Kshama Fernandes, Woochong Um, Shinya Kukita

*Digital infrastructure includes high-speed connectivity, cloud computing, and data analytics, among others.*

serve millions of people, including the unbanked. Woochong Um linked the importance of connectivity to achieve ADB’s Strategy 2030, being a cross-sector tool that touches all seven operational priorities related to poverty, gender, climate change, livable cities, rural development, governance, and regional cooperation and integration.

Finally, to fully enjoy the digital transformation and all its benefits, the quality of connectivity is crucial. According to Motoyoshi Tokioka, data network capacity needs to remain

sufficient to satisfy increasing demands, and equally low latency of connectivity is important. In addition, in today’s societies where the connectivity is vital for their proper functioning, networks need to be robust, often requiring diverse routes in the case of submarine cable systems. ■

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**NEC**



# Emerging Digital Technologies for Financial Inclusion: Role of Central Banks

ADB Office of Information Systems and Technology Digital Sandbox Program

3 MAY 2019, 12:00–1:30 P.M.

## WELCOME REMARKS

**Diwakar Gupta**, Vice-President for Private Sector Operations and Public-Private Partnerships, ADB

## WELCOME REMARKS

**Phil Middleton**, Deputy Chair, OMFIF

## PANELISTS

**Robert Bell**, Chairman and Executive Officer, KlickEx

**Carmelle Cadet**, Bank and Central Bank Currencies and Financial Inclusion Lead, IBM

**Adam Cotter**, Director and Head of Asia, OMFIF

**Chuchi G. Fonacier**, Deputy Governor, Financial Supervision Sector, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)

**Robert Guild**, Chief Sector Officer, ADB

**Shirin Hamid**, Principal Director (Chief Information Officer), ADB

**Esala Masitabua**, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of Fiji



From left: Robert Guild, Carmelle Cadet, Diwakar Gupta, Mollie Martin, Chuchi G. Fonacier, Phil Middleton, Adam Cotter, Robert Bell, Esala Masitabua, Stanley Wong



Shirin Hamid

**IN COLLABORATION WITH** IBM and ADB's Office of Information Systems and Technology Digital Sandbox Program, OMFIF held a seminar as part of the official program of events at ADB's annual meetings—the second year it has done so.

Technological innovations can facilitate the transition toward more sustainable global economic growth, though the impact of such advancements on markets and consumers remains a growing concern for central banks and regulators. The discussions of the seminar focused on the potential benefits and risks of digital currencies

and their financial market implications. Attendees also addressed the role played by the private sector, and how emerging technologies may aid central bank efforts to bolster financial inclusion and improve preemptive supervisory activities. ■

JOINT SEMINAR BY



# Achieving the 2030 Agenda through Strengthened Partnerships for Development

3 MAY 2019, 12:30 PM–2:00 P.M.

## PANELISTS

**Bambang Brodjonegoro**, *Alternate Governor for Indonesia, ADB; and Minister of National Development Planning, Indonesia*

**Bambang Susantono**, *Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, ADB*

**Mereseini Vuniwaqa**, *Minister for Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji*

**Haoliang Xu**, *Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UN Development Programme*

## MODERATOR

**Dame Meg Taylor**, *Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum*



Bambang Brodjonegoro



Meg Taylor



Haoliang Xu



Mereseini Vuniwaqa



Bambang Susantono

**THE JOINT** ADB-UN Development Programme (UNDP) seminar reflected the diverse efforts of government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders across Asia and the Pacific to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since they were adopted in September 2015. While there has been substantial innovation to develop new solutions, reforms, and partnerships for the SDGs over the last 3 years, there is a general recognition that more needs to be done.

Moderator Meg Taylor began the session by emphasizing the leadership and ownership of Pacific leaders through the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development on the 2030 Agenda and the need for an integrated approach to planning, implementation, and reporting on the Pacific's multiple commitments to the 2030 Agenda, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway, Paris Agreement, and other frameworks. Ms. Taylor also stressed the need to focus more on the role of partnerships for the SDGs.

Mereseini Vuniwaqa reflected on Fiji's key achievements and challenges with regard to the theme of the High-level Political Forum on Inclusivity and Equality as well as on the kind of partnership most critical for Pacific Island states, such as Fiji, to enable delivery of the SDGs.

Bambang Susantono explained how ADB's operations were shifting to support the SDGs, including through its Strategy 2030, which commits ADB to helping its developing member countries meet the SDGs and other global commitments through seven operational priorities, which include eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities, promoting gender equality, and climate action.

However, he argued that a number of issues must still be addressed, including long-standing challenges of coordination and working across sectors as well as the collection of more and better data, in order to successfully achieve the SDGs.

Haoliang Xu reflected on some of the challenges and opportunities that

UNDP faced as the "integrator" of SDGs at country level, helping countries pursue both integrated approaches to the SDGs and integrating the SDGs into national priorities. Mr. Xu also stressed the importance of public-private collaboration at the country level for SDG achievement, particularly in the area of financing.

Lastly, Bambang Brodjonegoro discussed Indonesia's experience with steering finance, including through public-private partnership financing strategies, and the role of development partners in helping the country advance and realize its ambitions on the SDGs. ■

JOINT SEMINAR BY



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# Prosperity through Unity Powered by the Hydrogen Economy

4 MAY 2019, 12:30 PM–2:00 P.M.

## PANELISTS

**Helen Clark**, *Former Administrator of UNDP and Former Prime Minister of New Zealand*

**Robert Guild**, *Chief Sector Officer, ADB*

**Traver Kennedy**, *Chairperson and CEO, Joi Scientific*

**William McGill Jr.**, *Executive Chairperson of the Board, MarineMax, Inc.*

**Terry Mohn**, *CEO, Microgrids, Inc.*

## MODERATOR

**John Cann**, *Regional Director, Joi Scientific*



From left: William McGill Jr., Traver Kennedy, Robert Guild, Terry Mohn, Helen Clark, John Cann

**THE OBJECTIVE** of this seminar was to raise awareness of the economic, social and environmental benefits of the hydrogen economy. Present on the panel were eminent experts in the field of renewable energy, climate change, clean energy financing, and the hydrogen economy. They shared insights, knowledge, and inspiration with participants to further deepen their understanding of hydrogen as a reliable, affordable, and “always on” energy solution for Asia and the Pacific.

The seminar examined the role of clean, affordable, and abundant hydrogen and its impact on democratizing energy for all. The speakers discussed how unifying people through universal hydrogen access will drive prosperity and reduce social and economic gaps in the region.

The experts presented the contours of the emerging hydrogen economy and its myriad benefits to society and the environment. The seminar also explored specific solutions that use hydrogen and

how they can be deployed by governments and industry in ADB’s developing member countries. ■

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*The seminar examined the role of clean, affordable, and abundant hydrogen and its impact on democratizing energy for all.*



# Mobilizing Capital Markets for Sustainable Infrastructure

## Connecting Institutional Investors with Asian Development

4 MAY 2019, 12:30 PM–2:00 P.M.

### PANELISTS

**Clive Kerner**, CEO, Clifford Capital

**Kiyoshi Nishimura**, CEO, Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility

**Katharine Tapley**, Head of Sustainable Finance, ANZ

### MODERATOR

**Steve Garton**, Asia Bureau Chief, International Financing Review



From left: Kiyoshi Nishimura, Steve Garton, Clive Kerner, Katharine Tapley

**THE SEMINAR** tackled one of the hottest topics in the international capital markets, where sustainable finance is drawing a growing following in various forms—from green, sustainable, and social bonds to sustainability-linked loans.

This year's annual meeting host, Fiji, made an ideal backdrop for the discussion, as a vulnerable Pacific Island economy and one of the few countries to have issued green bonds, tapping an increasingly popular funding tool to raise awareness and promote its own sustainability credentials. The Climate Bonds Initiative puts the global market at a size of \$521 billion at the end of 2018, with Asian issuance up 35% in 2018. ADB itself is one of Asia's biggest green issuers.

The panel provided an update on efforts to stimulate Asia's capital markets to support resilient and sustainable infrastructure, connecting

private sector investors and development finance opportunities.

Delegates heard firsthand of the challenges in creating Asia's first securitization of project loans from the head of Singapore-based Clifford Capital, which is working on a follow-up to 2018's landmark deal.

The audience also got an early introduction to plans for a new ASEAN-backed fund to promote long-term local-currency funding for infrastructure assets. Endorsed by ministers only 2 days earlier, the concept of an Infrastructure Investors Partnership aims to ensure project-related loans and bonds to make it easier for Asian infrastructure owners to access the capital markets. It will also raise finance from institutional investors in developed markets, most likely Japan.

The seminar proved a timely addition to the ADB's efforts to deepen

the region's markets and provide more local currency funding for its borrowing clients: days later, the ADB announced plans to issue its first bond in Fiji dollars. ■

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# Host Country Seminar

Organized by the Annual Meeting host government

Fiji's "30 Under 30" honorees with  
Takehiko Nakao and Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum



## 30 Under 30: The Faces of Fiji's Future

2 MAY 2019, 9:00–11:00 A.M.

### WELCOME REMARKS

**Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum**, Governor for Fiji, ADB; and Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, and Communications, Fiji

### MESSAGE FROM ADB

**Takehiko Nakao**, President and Chairperson of the Board of Directors, ADB

### MODERATOR

**Holly Ransom**, CEO, Emergent

**AT THE 52ND** ADB Annual Meeting's host country seminar, Fiji unveiled the inaugural class of honorees chosen in a nationwide campaign aimed at recognizing extraordinary youth achievement. "30 Under 30: The Faces of Fiji's Future," run as a partnership between the Fijian government and Fiji-based *MaiLife* magazine, put a spotlight on the immense human capital of Fiji's

young people and their impressive achievements across a wide range of fields and industries.

ADB President Takehiko Nakao gave opening remarks, speaking of ADB's commitment to investing in young people in the Asia and Pacific region.

"We have talented entrepreneurs, hi-tech innovators, teachers and changemakers, environmentalists and

climate champions, athletes and artists, to name a few in the room today. I commend their commitment to building a more inclusive and sustainable region. Let me congratulate the Fijian government for leading this important '30 Under 30' initiative," said President Nakao.

Fiji's Attorney-General and Chair of the ADB Board of Governors, Aiyaz



Sayed-Khaiyum, echoed the President's sentiments in his keynote remarks.

"Among today's honorees, you'll see that the winners are having real, on-the-ground impact in their communities. A special education teacher from our more sparsely-populated Northern Division stands shoulder-to-shoulder with a businessman from Suva overseeing millions of dollars in manufacturing operations," said Mr. Sayed-Khaiyum.

"A rising surgeon stands alongside a twelve-year-old climate activist," he continued. "A medal-winning boxer is joined by a software

engineer-turned-hydroponics farmer. These young leaders are truly role models who are at the forefront of a revolution in their communities, the region, and the world."

Following the speeches by the ADB President and Fijian Attorney-General, the audience heard from six of the "30 Under 30" winners in a sweeping, 90-minute panel-style discussion and interactive question and answer session moderated by Holly Ransom, a world-renowned businesswoman and public speaker. "Thanks to Fijian Attorney-General

Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and the Fijian government for inviting me to host the opening session of the ADB meeting in Nadi," said Ms. Ransom after the event. "We talked about education, entrepreneurship, culture, access to finance, gender equality and more, and I was so inspired by the passion and ideas of Fiji's emerging leaders. With 70% of their population under 40, I thought it was fantastic that the Fijian government chose to diversify the ADB conversation and perspectives by convening this session. Well done to all involved!" ■



Scenes from the Host Country Seminar

# Civil Society Program

CSO attendees gather to engage in dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and networking

Discussions on ADB Strategy 2030's  
Operational Priorities **34**

Meeting between CSOs and  
ADB Senior Management **35**

Impact of ADB's Energy Policy and  
the Paris Agreement **36**

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Destination Equal:  
Opportunities and Challenges for Young Women's  
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TED-Style Talks **39**

Gender-Based Violence and the Rise in  
Climate-Related Disasters: Applying CSO Insights to  
Multilateral Investments in Asia and the Pacific **40**

Unpacking the Delivery of  
ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement **41**





Members of civil society organizations from all over Asia and the Pacific gathered at the opening program of the Talanoa Celebration.

**ADB WELCOMES** the participation of accredited civil society organizations (CSOs) and other NGOs to its Annual Meeting. As in previous years, the civil society program serves as a venue for dialogue on key development topics, knowledge-sharing, and networking.

A total of 218 civil society participants assembled at the 52nd Annual Meeting, representing 30 organizations from 24 members. Pacific CSOs were well represented, with 169 attendees, or 79% of the total registration. While

most of the Pacific CSOs were based in Fiji, organizations from other Pacific countries such as the Cook Islands, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu were also present.

This year's program was inspired by the Pacific concept of "Talanoa", which refers to a conversation, storytelling, and sharing of ideas. The purpose of Talanoa is to exchange information, teach a skill, to resolve problems, and to build relationships.

On 2-3 May 2019, the Civil Society Talanoa featured CSO exhibits, learning

events, informal talks, and cultural presentations.

The Talanoa provided an opportunity to share lessons, build network, and promote collaboration among CSOs and other development partners. Bambang Susantono, ADB's Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, opened the Civil Society Talanoa Celebration on 2 May, by encouraging CSO participants to engage and share important lessons in development. ■

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*"I am pleased to be part of this Talanoa, where civil society organizations and NGOs in many parts of Asia and the Pacific come together with other ADB stakeholders to share lessons and good practices as well as potential solutions to address the challenges facing the region." — Bambang Susantono, Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, ADB*

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Scenes from the Civil Society Program

## Special Olympics



**THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS** held a unified sport interactive activity on 4 May 2019 that allowed participants to engage and understand the challenges and unique abilities of individuals with intellectual disabilities. A total of 17 young Fijians with intellectual disabilities joined the events.

The competition featured Bocce, a simple game that involves rolling a bocce ball closest to the target ball. Mixed teams of persons with and without disability were formed to promote teamwork and inclusion. Children aged 2 to 7 years took part in the Young Athletes Demonstration, where they learned basic sports skills such as running, kicking and throwing. ■

## Discussions on ADB Strategy 2030's Operational Priorities

1 MAY 2019, 2:00–4:30 P.M.

### OPENING REMARKS

**Woochong Um**, Director General and concurrently Chief Compliance Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

### PANELISTS

**Chiara Bronchi**, Chief Thematic Officer, Thematic Advisory Service Cluster, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

**Bruce K. Dunn**, Director, Environment & Safeguards, ADB

**Arjun Goswami**, Chief of Regional Cooperation and Integration Thematic Group, ADB

**Manoj Sharma**, Chief of Urban Sector Group, ADB

**Akmal Siddiq**, Chief of Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture) Thematic Group, ADB

**Sonomi Tanaka**, Chief of Gender Equity Thematic Group, ADB

**Wendy M. Walker**, Chief of Social Development Thematic Group, ADB

### MODERATOR

**Vinay Bhargava**, Chief Technical Advisor Partnership for Transparency Fund



From left: Vinay Bhargava, Wendy Walker, Sonomi Tanaka, Bruce Dunn, Manoj Sharma, Akmal Siddiq, Chiara Bronchi, Arjun Goswami



**AROUND 140** CSO representatives attended the discussions on draft Operational Plans to operationalize ADB's new Strategy 2030.

Approved in 2018, the new corporate strategy aims to sustain efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and expand its vision of a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific. It is aligned with major global commitments and focuses on seven key operational priorities.

The meeting began with an overview of each of the following operational priorities:

1. addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities;
2. accelerating progress in gender equality;
3. tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience,

and enhancing environmental sustainability;

4. making cities more livable;
5. promoting rural development and food security;
6. strengthening governance and institutional capacity; and
7. fostering regional cooperation and integration.

The presentations were followed by breakout discussions on the operational priorities, which were facilitated by chiefs of relevant thematic and/or sector groups. The small-group sessions provided an opportunity for CSOs seek clarification and share suggestions on the draft Operational Plans for the seven operational priority areas, which will be approved in September 2019. ■

## Meeting between CSOs and ADB Senior Management

2 MAY 2019, 9:45–10:45 A.M.



On stage: Takehiko Nakao and Christopher Morris, head of ADB's NGO Center

**MORE THAN 130** representatives of CSOs and NGOs from various parts of Asia and the Pacific assembled for the yearly meeting with the ADB President Takehiko Nakao. Mr. Nakao underscored the contribution of the CSOs in development projects particularly in targeting the poor and marginalized through grassroots participatory approaches.

The ADB President's welcome remarks were followed by a question

and answer session that covered issues related to climate change, safeguards in ADB projects, and implementing ADB's new Strategy 2030. The meeting also highlighted topics on youth engagement, inclusion of intellectually disabled persons in ADB programs, as well as ADB support to CSOs.

The meeting between CSOs and ADB Management is a regular feature of ADB annual meetings. ■




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*“Through our new corporate strategy, we will continue to work with CSOs—tapping your unique strengths, local presence, and specialized knowledge in the design and implementation of projects. ADB recognizes the valuable contribution of CSOs in development programs by using grassroots participatory approaches to target poor and vulnerable groups.” —ADB President Takehiko Nakao*

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# Impact of ADB's Energy Policy and the Paris Agreement

CIVIL SOCIETY PANEL (WITH NGO FORUM ON ADB) • 2 MAY 2019, 12:30–2:00 P.M.

## PANELISTS

**Avril De Torres**, *Research and Policy Head, Center for Energy, Ecology and Development*

**Robert Guild**, *Chief Sector Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB*

**Siddhart Sreenivas**, *Food and Climate Justice Lead for Asia, Oxfam*

**Francis Kim Uppi**, *Director of Economic and Social Policy, International Trade Union Confederation - Asia Pacific*

**Hemantha Withanage**, *Executive Director, Centre for Environmental Justice*

## MODERATOR

**Annabel Perreras**, *Advocacy Coordinator on AIIB, NGO Forum on ADB*

**ADB'S ENERGY POLICY** is based on three pillars: promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy; maximizing access to energy for all; and promoting energy sector reform, capacity building, and governance.

Together with other multilateral development banks, ADB has pledged to help developing member countries meet the Paris Agreement by further mobilizing public and private finance

to help countries reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

The panel discussed concerns related to ADB-supported energy projects in some developing member countries. The speakers also highlighted the urgency of transitioning into renewable energy and promoting energy efficiency consistent with the principles of the Paris Agreement. The

discussions also noted ADB's increased financing for renewable energy and energy efficiency and its support to its member countries to fulfill their nationally determined contributions to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

ADB will be undertaking a review of its Energy Policy 2009 in consideration of technological advances and its recently approved Strategy 2030. ■



Hemantha Withanage and Siddhart Sreenivas



Avril De Torres and Hemantha Withanage



Siddhart Sreenivas and Francis Kim Uppi



Above, from left: Annabel Perreras, Robert Guild, Avril De Torres, Hemantha Withanage, Siddhart Sreenivas, Francis Kim Uppi

# Resilient Approach to Climate Action

CIVIL SOCIETY PANEL (ORGANIZED BY THE PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSOCIATION OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS)  
2 MAY 2019, 3:30–5:00 P.M.

## PANELISTS

**Vani Catanasiga**, *Fiji Council of Social Services*  
**Fiu Elisara**, *Ole Siosiomaga Society Incorporated*  
**Keu Mataroa**, *Cook Islands Association of CSOs*  
**Villaney Remengesau**, *Belau (Palau) Association of NGOs*  
**Sara Thomas**, *WestCare Pacific*

## MODERATOR

**Emele Duituturaga**, *Pacific Islands Association of NGOs*



From left: Sara Thomas, Vani Catanasiga, Keu Mataroa, Villaney Remengesau, Fiu Elisara, Emele Duituturaga

**CSOS IN THE PACIFIC** believe that climate change is the single most critical development challenge facing the region today. The session highlighted the vulnerable situation of developing small island countries to the sudden onset of disasters and resulting climate-induced displacement. The panel

of civil society leaders from the Pacific discussed inclusive and resilient approaches in addressing climate change. The session also explored opportunities by which ADB can engage CSOs in the Pacific more meaningfully in view of the ADB strategy 2030 operational priority on tackling climate change. ■

*Developing small island countries are especially vulnerable to the sudden onset of disasters and resulting climate-induced displacement.*

# Destination Equal: Opportunities and Challenges for Young Women's Economic Empowerment in the Pacific

LEARNING WITH PARTNERS (PLAN INTERNATIONAL) • 3 MAY 2019, 9:1-10:15 A.M.

## PANELISTS

**Chiara Bronchi**, Chief Thematic Officer, Thematic Advisory Service Cluster, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

**Tara Chetty**, Gender Adviser, Pacific Women

**Alexandra Robinson**, Global President, AIESEC International

**Temalesi Lutu**, National Trainer – Hospitality, Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC)

## MODERATOR

**John Trew**, Global Head of Skills and Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, Plan International



From left: Chiara Bronchi, Alexandra Robinson, Temalesi Lutu, Tara Chetty, John Trew

**THE SESSION** examined the barriers brought about by gender inequality and discrimination that prevent girls in the Pacific from acquiring needed skills to access decent work and break out of poverty. Panel speakers highlighted how investing in girls' economic empowerment and enabling them to lead, decide, and thrive can transform lives, communities, and entire countries. The discussions explored practical solutions

to bring women's empowerment to greater levels.

During the discussions, ADB reconfirmed its support for inclusiveness and gender equality. ADB has been supporting projects that aim to empower young women—the Pacific population being young—which include capacity-building programs and enhancing women's entrepreneurship, among others. ■

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*Panel speakers highlighted how investing in girls' economic empowerment and enabling them to lead, decide, and thrive can transform lives, communities, and entire countries.*

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## TED-Style Talks

3 MAY 2019, 1:30-2:30 P.M.

TED-style talks are short, powerful presentations that focus on topics related to the role of civil society organizations in addressing key development concerns, such as resilience and adaptation to climate change, ending gender-based discrimination, and promoting accountable government institutions, among others.



### MYTHS AND REALITIES OF CSOS PROMOTING TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

**Vinay Bhargava**, *Chief Technical Adviser, Partnership for Transparency Fund*

The presentation discussed common myths such as CSOs lacking in accountability, governments and CSOs as adversaries, and civic space as unitary, among others. It drew on several studies to present evidence and stories that dispel these myths and highlight the important role of civil society in promoting good governance.



### UNBLOCKED: CAN BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY IMPROVE CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN THE PACIFIC?

**Sandra Uwantege Hart**, *Pacific Cash Transfer and Livelihoods Advisor, Oxfam*

Delivering aid in the Pacific is costly due to its vast geographical spread, resulting in expensive commodity, logistics, and staff costs. Oxfam aims to reduce the cost and improve the efficiency of delivering humanitarian aid in the Pacific, by establishing an innovative and multipurpose cash transfer delivery platform using blockchain technology to improve disaster preparedness.



### CREATING AWARENESS AND HELPING VULNERABLE GROUPS THROUGH COMMUNITY THEATER

**Michael Taurakoto**, *Executive Director, Wan Smolbag Fiji*

In the Pacific, community theater is an effective way to inform, raise awareness, and encourage discussions on a range of important issues such as health, governance, and the environment. The NGO, Wan Smolbag, produces theater performances coupled with structured workshops to discuss key development issues. It has also produced films, radio shows, and printed materials, while maintaining a health clinic and a youth center for the community it serves. ■

# Gender-Based Violence and the Rise in Climate-Related Disasters: Applying CSO Insights to Multilateral Investments in Asia and the Pacific

LEARNING WITH PARTNERS (THE ASIA FOUNDATION) • 3 MAY 2019, 4:00–5:30 P.M.

## PANELISTS

**Nandita Baruah**, Country Representative for India, The Asia Foundation

**Susan Grey**, Executive Director, FemLINKPACIFIC

**Savina Nongebatu**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Disability Forum

**Nalini Singh**, Executive Director, Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM)

**Sonomi Tanaka**, Chief of the Gender Equity Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change, ADB

**Isikeli Vulavou**, Founder and Executive Director, Rainbow Pride Foundation (RPF)

**WOMEN AND GIRLS** are especially vulnerable to climate-related disasters. Due to social and cultural restrictions, they are unable to gain access to post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation. The panel discussion examined the links between climate change, disaster risk, and sexual and

gender-based violence (SGBV) across Asia and the Pacific. The discussions broadened to violence against LGBT+ communities and people with disability in disaster situations.

The panel speakers identified strategies to promote climate resilience and address SGBV. While there

is weak alignment between SGBV and disaster response and disaster risk management, it was noted that ADB has been promoting gender-inclusive response in its disaster projects. More infrastructure projects—including urban transport—incorporate features to prevent gender-based violence. ■

*Due to social and cultural restrictions, women and girls are unable to gain access to post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation.*



From left: Susan Grey, Nalini Singh, Sonomi Tanaka, Isikeli Vulavou



# Unpacking the Delivery of ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement

CIVIL SOCIETY PANEL (NGO FORUM ON ADB) • 4 MAY 2019, 10:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M.

## PANELISTS

**Prem Lal Bhatia**, Secretary, All Himachal PWD-IPH & Contractual Workers Union

**Rayyan Hassan**, Executive Director, NGO Forum on ADB

**Walter Kolkma**, Director, Country and Thematic Evaluation Division, Independent Evaluation Department, ADB

**Annabel Perreras**, Advocacy Coordinator on AIIB, NGO Forum on ADB

**Rajeev Sharma**, South Asia Projects Director, Building and Wood Workers International

**Woochong Um**, Director General and concurrently Chief Compliance Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

**Hemantha Withanage**, Executive Director, Centre for Environmental Justice

## MODERATOR

**Avril De Torres**, Research and Policy Head, Center for Energy, Ecology and Development



From left: Woochong Um, Walter Kolkma, Annabel Perreras, Rajeev Sharma, Prem Lal Bhatia, Hemantha Withanage, Rayyan Hassan

**ADB'S** Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS) promotes sustainability of project outcomes by protecting the environment and people from projects' potential adverse impacts. The forum discussed issues and concerns related to the implementation of SPS in ADB-supported projects. Panelists

highlighted challenges with national instruments, environmental laws, and social safeguard mechanisms of selected borrowing countries, which are not always able to uphold ADB's SPS standards. The session also highlighted ADB's efforts to strengthen the implementation of the SPS by adding

more safeguard staff positions and supporting safeguard learning centers and other capacity development activities. The panel also noted that ADB's Independent Evaluation Department is currently undertaking a review of the SPS that will consider its implementation effectiveness. ■

# Special Features

## CNBC Debate and side events organized by partner organizations

Financing Climate and Disaster Resilience in the Pacific (ADB-SDCC) **43**

Report Launch: ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook 2019 (AMRO) **44**

Regional Workshop on Blue Economy, Disaster Risk Financing, and Ocean Infrastructure (ADB, FNU, APAEA, and OPRI) **45**

Building Capacity and Connectivity for the New Economy in East Asia (AMRO) **46**

Pacific Priorities and Private Sector Solutions (U.S. Department of Commerce, Australia and New Zealand Counterparts) **47**

Financing Partners' Forum  
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CNBC Debate: Navigating Global Uncertainties in Asia—Lessons from Tourism, Technology, and Trade **49**

New Tools for Sustainable Infrastructure Development (U.S. Government) **50**

# Financing Climate and Disaster Resilience in the Pacific

A SESSION AT THE PACIFIC GOVERNORS' MEETING WITH ADB MANAGEMENT (ADB SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT) • 1 MAY 2019, 3:15-4:15 P.M.

## CHAIR

**Brenson Wase**, *Finance Minister, Republic of the Marshall Islands*

## PANELISTS

**Andrew Steer**, *President and CEO of the World Resources Institute*

**Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum**, *Governor for Fiji, ADB; and Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, and Communications, Fiji*

**Dame Meg Taylor**, *Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum*

## MODERATOR

**Preety Bhandari**, *Director, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department and concurrently Chief, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, ADB*

**ADB'S PACIFIC** developing member countries (DMCs) have exhibited exemplary leadership in bringing global attention to their climate adaptation needs and also the importance of commitments toward the ambitious goal in the Paris Agreement to hold temperature increase to below 1.5°C.

ADB is supporting Pacific DMCs in addressing these risks through investments in climate and disaster-proofed infrastructure, as well as through the provision of contingent disaster financing, providing rapid liquidity in the immediate aftermath of disasters to facilitate more timely recovery.

Pacific DMCs have also had some success in securing access to global climate finance, in particular through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) from which they have accessed \$134 million in grants. Significant further financing is

required to strengthen resilience, utilizing a broader range of instruments that can provide sustainable long-term financing solutions. Pacific DMCs also require suitable enabling environments to attract such solutions, overcoming existing deterrents to investment in the region.

The panelists highlighted the role of fiscal policy in addressing climate change and underscored the critical role of finance ministers in leading the charge. Examples included: the financial products for risk management, including contingent financing and insurance; the importance of upfront investments in preparedness to reduce post-disaster recovery expenditure; and the successful launch of green bonds, the Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy in Fiji, together with the unique arrangement of the climate portfolio being lodged in the Ministry of Economy.

Incentives and regulatory measures for mobilizing private sector financing were seen as another important tool. Panelists also argued for an aggregated approach by funders for impact at scale. The effective use of climate finance and the need for robust financial management systems were seen as important corollary for ensuring that resilience is built as intended. A new concept for a Pacific Resilience Facility was introduced and ADB governors urged continued development of capacity to enhance absorption of climate finance and to deploy innovative financing tools.

The governors agreed that securing financing for climate and disaster resilience requires a fundamental change in the narrative, from that of high cost to that of high economic rate of return. ■

*The panelists highlighted the role of fiscal policy in addressing climate change, and underscored the critical role of finance ministers in leading the charge.*



From left: Andrew Steer, Brenson Wase, Dame Meg Taylor, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Preety Bhandari

## Report Launch: ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook (AREO) 2019

SIDE EVENT (ASEAN+3 MACROECONOMIC RESEARCH OFFICE) • 1 MAY 2019, 9:00–10:00 A.M.

### SPEAKER

**Hoe Ee Khor**, Chief Economist, AMRO

### MODERATOR

**Huong Lan Vu**, Public Relations Officer, AMRO



From left: Hoe Ee Khor, Huong Lan Vu

**THE ASEAN+3** Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) launched its flagship report, the ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook (AREO) 2019 at this ADB Annual Meeting side event. The report discusses the economic prospects for the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; the People's Republic of China (PRC); Hong Kong, China; Japan; and the Republic of Korea.

AMRO Chief Economist Hoe Ee Khor presented the key findings of the AREO report. He noted that while regional growth is softening from 5.3% last year to around 5.1% in 2019–2020, the longer-term economic fundamentals remain intact. He highlighted that most of the downside risks that the region faces are external, including the trade war between the United States (US)

and the PRC, volatility in global capital markets, and general slowdown of the global economy. Notwithstanding the softer outlook, the region's long-term fundamentals remain intact, supported by robust consumption and growing intraregional trade amid a rising middle class, rapid urbanization, and adoption of digital technology. However, as downside risks have become more pronounced, policy makers have little room for complacency.

To support the region's growth prospects and foster resilience, ASEAN+3 should prioritize longer-term policies, especially those focused on building capacity and connectivity to leverage the fourth industrial revolution and sustain growth in the new economy.

A lively question and answer session followed the presentation, with

Mr. Khor sharing further insights on the economic prospects of member economies. He noted that the US-PRC trade war could shave 0.5 percentage point off economic growth in the region, and that regional economies should recalibrate their policy mix to mitigate ongoing and expected headwinds to safeguard macroeconomic and financial stability.

In response to several questions on the impact of climate change in regional growth, Mr. Khor explained that these are structural challenges. He then elaborated on how shocks from climate change has been playing a bigger role, affecting economic developments in the region and urged member countries to climate-proof their economies, spending above what they would normally do. ■

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*To support the region's growth prospects and foster resilience, ASEAN+3 should prioritize longer-term policies, especially those focused on building capacity and connectivity to leverage the fourth industrial revolution and sustain growth in the new economy.*

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# Regional Workshop on Blue Economy, Disaster Risk Financing, and Ocean Infrastructure

SIDE EVENT (ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK INSTITUTE, FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, ASIA-PACIFIC APPLIED ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION, AND OCEAN POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE) • 1 MAY 2019, 9:00 A.M.–5:15 P.M.

## WELCOME REMARKS

**Nigel Healey**, Vice Chancellor, Fiji National University (FNU)

**Chul Ju Kim**, Deputy Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)

**Atsushi Sunami**, President, Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF) (VDO presentation)

**Paresh Kumar Narayan**, President, APAEA

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Naoyuki Yoshino**, Dean, ADBI

## SESSION 1: BLUE ECONOMY, OCEAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND ITS IMPACT

**Moderator: Chul Ju Kim**, Deputy Dean, ADBI

**Speaker: Dayang Zhong**, Professor, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics

**Speaker: Farhad Taghizadeh-Hesary**, Assistant Professor, Waseda University

**Discussant: Baljeet Singh**, Senior Lecturer, The University of the South Pacific

**Discussant: Chi Hun Lee**, Senior Researcher, Ministry of the Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea

## SESSION 2: IMPLICATIONS OF DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FOR BLUE ECONOMY

**Moderator: Michael Huang**, Research Fellow, OPRI-SPF

**Speaker: Dan Millison**, Senior Energy Technology Expert (consultant), ADB

**Speaker: Chi Hun Lee**, Senior Researcher, Ministry of the Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea

**Speaker: Joeli Veitayaki**, Professor, The University of the South Pacific

**Discussant: Dayang Zhong**, Professor, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics

**Discussant: Farhad Taghizadeh-Hesary**, Assistant Professor, Waseda University

**Moderator: Pitchaya Sirivunnabood**, Capacity Building and Training Economist, ADBI

**Speaker: Paresh Kumar Narayan**, President, APAEA

**Speaker: Susan Sharma**, Senior Lecturer, Deakin University

**Discussant: Keshmeer Makun**, The University of the South Pacific

**Discussant: Janesh Sami**, Assistant Lecturer, The University of the South Pacific

## SESSION 3: REGIONAL FOCUS—SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

**Moderator: Paresh Kumar Narayan**, President, APAEA

**Speaker: Nepomuk Dunz**, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

**Speaker: Nagisa Yoshida**, Associate Program Officer, OPRI-SPF

**Discussant: Rohit Kishore**, Fiji National University

**Discussant: Miko Maekawa**, Senior Research Fellow, OPRI-SPF

**RECOGNIZING** the growing importance of the ocean/blue economy and the impact of climate change on coastal economies, ADBI, in collaboration with the Ocean Policy Research Institute, Fiji National University, and Asia-Pacific Applied Economics Association, organized the regional workshop on Blue Economy, Disaster Risk Financing, and Ocean Infrastructure as a side event of the ADB Annual Meeting 2019.

The workshop provided intensive discussions as well as proposing new approaches to policy makers and government authorities from small island developing states and other coastal economies with the goal to equip them with the knowledge on disaster risk management and ocean infrastructure that would create economic growth and sustainable development in the face of habitually climate change. The workshop also offered a knowledge-sharing platform for fruitful discussion and opinion-exchange among the government officials and the academia, in which some inputs can be considered for policy design to mitigate the social and economic impacts of natural disasters.

The workshop comprised three sessions. The morning session mainly focused on the impacts of natural disasters to the coastal economies and their implications to the disaster risk management in the blue economy. Selected techniques were presented as options to the authorities for the design of their policy framework in related fields. These also included frameworks of disaster financing and infrastructure investment for ocean economy. The afternoon session extended the scope to ocean health issues and economic impacts on portfolio-investment opportunity.

Consequently, to help strengthen the national frameworks, the workshop emphasized three components of preventive mechanism, mitigation plans, and sustainability strategies. ■



Workshop participants exchanged views on how to promote economic growth and sustainable development in the face of climate change.

# Building Capacity and Connectivity for the New Economy in East Asia

SIDE EVENT (ASEAN+3 MACROECONOMIC RESEARCH OFFICE) • 1 MAY 2019, 10:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M.

## SPEAKERS

**Francisco G. Dakila, Jr.**, Assistant Governor, Monetary Policy Sub-Sector, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)  
**Dong-ik Lee**, Director General, Investment Operations Department, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)  
**Marzunisham Omar**, Assistant Governor, Bank Negara Malaysia  
**Yasuyuki Sawada**, Chief Economist, ADB  
**Chikahisa Sumi**, Director of Regional Office, Asia and the Pacific, International Monetary Fund

## MODERATOR

**Hoe Ee Khor**, Chief Economist, AMRO



From left: Hoe Ee Khor, Chikahisa Sumi, Yasuyuki Sawada, Francisco G. Dakila, Jr., Marzunisham Omar, Dong-ik Lee

**ORGANIZED BY** the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), the seminar brought together high ranking policy makers and officials from multilateral financial institutions to discuss how the ASEAN+3 region may capitalize on opportunities to build capacity and connectivity for the “new economy.” The newly-launched ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook (AREO) 2019 provided the backdrop of this discussion.

Junhong Chang delivered the opening remarks for the seminar. She emphasized that the region has transformed itself from being a crisis-shaken region in the late 1990s to one which came through the global financial crisis

in the late 2000s strongly, and now has to position itself for sustainable growth through transitioning into the new economy.

Hoe Ee Khor then discussed how demographic shifts and technological advances will shape ASEAN+3 economies, and how these economies can tap regional resources, such as intra-regional demand, regional financial safety nets, and regional savings, to enhance infrastructure investments that are needed in the new economy.

Panelists shared their perspective on facilitating capacity and connectivity building in the region. The panel noted that developing economies in the region continue to face three key challenges



to growth, namely funding, foreign exchange, and factors gaps. To bridge the funding and foreign exchange gaps, the region should continue to leverage its savings and investments and strengthen the regional financial safety net. The region as a whole also has ample foreign reserves, and a further strengthening of the regional financial safety net, centered on the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation, will strengthen the resilience of the regional economies to capital flow volatility shocks and allow them to invest more in infrastructure to enhance their capacity for growth. To meet the factors gap, the region should continue developing professional expertise, technology and institutions, and leverage various initiatives to build regional capacity and connectivity. ■

*Developing economies in the region continue to face three key challenges to growth, namely funding, foreign exchange, and factors gaps.*

# Pacific Priorities and Private Sector Solutions

SIDE EVENT (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND COUNTERPARTS) • 2 MAY 2019, 11:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M.

## SESSION 1 SPEAKERS

**Diane Farrell**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

**Pablo Kang**, Assistant Secretary, Infrastructure Branch, Office of the Pacific, Australia

**James Lynch**, Deputy Director General, Pacific Department, ADB

**Carolyn Blacklock**, Acting Managing Director, PNG Power

**Jone Usamate**, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management, and Meteorological Service, Fiji

## SESSION 2 SPEAKERS

**Sioban Hartwell**, Market Lead, Water, GHD

**Sam Maresh**, Country Leader, GE Australia

**Andrew Harris**, Business Development, Federal Agencies and Social Infrastructure, Jacobs

## MODERATOR

**Adrian Weeks**, Trade Commissioner, Pacific, Australian Trade Commission (Austrade)



Front row, from left: Sioban Hartwell, Carolyn Blacklock, James Lynch, Andrew Harris, Jone Usamate, Diane Farrell, Pablo Kang. Back row, from left: John Wood, Adrian Weeks, Sam Maresh, Keith Kirkham

**THE ADB ANNUAL MEETING** in Fiji—the first ever hosted in a Pacific Island country (PIC)—afforded the development, government, and commercial worlds an opportunity to take a new look at development in the Pacific.

The U.S. Department of Commerce, in coordination with their Australian and New Zealand counterparts, recognized the importance of this event and produced this seminar to grow awareness of development in the Pacific.

The event encouraged PIC officials to present their infrastructure priorities and gave the private sector a chance

to respond to these officials with their solutions and capabilities.

Opening remarks by Diane Farrell underscored the support of the U.S. government. Remarks by Pablo Kang reinforced for the PIC's the breadth of Australian government support for the region's development. Jone Usamate from the Fiji government and James Lynch of ADB both noted the desire for infrastructure and the growing pipeline projects that would help the region.

The program deliberately emphasized the private sector and their value to the PICs. The CEO of Papua New Guinea's electric utility (PPL) and

the private sector speakers noted the logistical and environmental challenges facing the region, but emphasized the private sector as being best positioned to bring efficient and productive solutions to the region if procurement is transparent, and funding is available.

More than 175 businesses and government officials attended the invitation-only event, showcasing that the event was germane to the growing interest in the Pacific and was synergistic to ADB and regional priorities. Companies gained access to Pacific Island officials and made persuasive cases for their ability to provide infrastructure solutions. ■

*The event encouraged PIC officials to present their infrastructure priorities and gave the private sector a chance to respond to these officials with their solutions and capabilities.*

# Financing Partners' Forum

## Beyond the Horizon: Partnerships and Innovation for the Pacific

SIDE EVENT (ADB SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT) • 2 MAY 2010, 2:30–4:30 P.M.

### REMARKS

**Tomoyuki Kimura**, *Director General, Strategy, Policy and Partnerships Department, ADB*

**Luca Lazzaroli**, *Director General and Deputy Head of Operations, European Investment Bank (EIB)*

**Koichi Hasegawa**, *Senior Vice President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)*

### PANELISTS

**Chiara Bronchi**, *Chief Thematic Officer, Thematic Advisory Service Cluster, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB*

**Ken Odajima**, *Deputy Director General, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)*

**Emma Veve**, *Director, Pacific Department, ADB*



Tomoyuki Kimura



Chiara Bronchi



Ken Odajima



Luca Lazzaroli



Emma Veve

**DONORS** gathered for the annual ADB Financing Partners' Forum, which focused on promoting innovation and partnerships for the Pacific. The thrust of the event affirmed the importance of the region in Asia and the Pacific, and recognized the need for a collaborative response to the unique challenges faced by its people.

Tomoyuki Kimura opened the forum and set the context for discussions within the pursuit of more inclusive development, highlighting differentiated approaches to support various country groups such as small island developing states and countries in fragile and conflict-affected situations. Koichi Hasegawa discussed the challenges of Pacific Islands countries and how they are working to help overcome the vulnerabilities through key pillars of support. Luca Lazzaroli shared examples of their work in the Pacific and scope for further cooperation for development financing in the region.

A highlight of the afternoon was the segment, "Small Projects, Big Impacts"—a showcase of innovative projects in the Pacific by ADB, JICA, and EIB. This featured case studies as a springboard for discussions on how donors can work together more creatively in order to generate scale and reduce risks.

One emphasis was supporting the Pacific to protect and develop its resources—from more sustainable use of natural resources to building up its human capital. Another theme was the role of technology and the importance of being able to capture and analyze reliable data for better informed interventions. This has been demonstrated

in project examples focused on community health care, skills transfer, and leveraging satellite information to promote agriculture, rural development, and better cities.

Also mentioned was the need to strengthen disaster resilience by investing in early preparation and prevention, whether through better designed infrastructure, or systems that could facilitate quick access to finance when disasters hit.

A networking session capped the event and provided additional time to discuss partnership opportunities in more detail. The *2018 Donor Report* was also launched during the forum. ■





# CNBC Debate: Navigating Global Uncertainties in Asia— Lessons from Tourism, Technology, and Trade

MEDIA EVENT • 4 MAY 2019, 9:00–10:00 A.M.

## PANELISTS

**Subhash Chandra Garg**, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, India

**Takehiko Nakao**, President and Chairperson of the Board of Directors, ADB

**Bernadette Romulo-Puyat**, Secretary, Department of Tourism, Philippines

**Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum**, Governor for Fiji, ADB; and Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, and Communications, Fiji

## MODERATOR

**Amanda Drury**, CNBC

**TOURISM** is one of the world's largest economic sectors, supporting one in 10 jobs directly and millions more indirectly. The sector influences economic activity across economies, from technological innovation to manufacturing and trade. It informs countries' cultural identity and influences their international relationships.

How are global uncertainties impacting tourism, technology (including business process outsourcing), and trade in the Asia and Pacific region? Will global tensions over trade, uncertainty over Brexit, and potential slowdowns in developed nations influence Asia's

growth potential? Or can the region seize the opportunities created by indigenous innovation, rapid technological change, and growing inter- and intra-regional foreign direct investment to leverage the strong consumption and expanding demand for travel of a rapidly expanding middle class to reduce inequality and spread prosperity?

The CNBC Debate explored how developing nations, some of which have enjoyed solid economic growth since the global financial crisis, can maintain stability and momentum. The panelists discussed how the region can seize the opportunities, what the

economies must do to maintain stability and growth momentum, and how governments should continue to tackle long-term issues such as promoting growth potential, addressing inequality, and protecting the environment. ■

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Amanda Drury



Subhash Chandra Garg



Bernadette Romulo-Puyat



Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum



ADB President Mr. Takehiko Nakao addresses the Debate.

# New Tools for Sustainable Infrastructure Development

SIDE EVENT (U.S. GOVERNMENT) • 4 MAY 2019, 9:00–10:30 A.M.

## PANELISTS

**Robert Kaproth**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia, Department of Treasury, United States

**Greg Wilcock**, Assistant Secretary, United States and Canada Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia

**Takeshi Akamatsu**, Deputy Assistant Minister / Deputy Director-General, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

**Sameer Kumar Khare**, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, India

**Suahasil Nazara**, Head of Fiscal Policy Agency, Indonesia

## MODERATOR

**Ben Graham**, Chief Secretary, Marshall Islands



From left: Robert Kaproth, Takeshi Akamatsu, Sameer Kumar Khare, Suahasil Nazara, Greg Wilcock, Ben Graham

**THE UNITED STATES** hosted a side event at the annual meeting where representatives from Australia, Japan, India, Indonesia, and the United States discussed the need for sustainable infrastructure and transparent financing and highlighted key new infrastructure financing initiatives. Marshall Islands Chief Secretary Benjamin Graham moderated the panel discussion and a subsequent question and answer session with the audience.

Greg Wilcock outlined Australia's new infrastructure fund for the Pacific as well as expanded technical assistance programs in South and Southeast Asia. He stressed Australia's support for infrastructure investments guided by principles of transparency, debt sustainability, adherence to robust standards, and alignment to genuine needs.

Takeshi Akamatsu highlighted Japan's Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure initiative and work to develop principles on quality infrastructure in the G20, building on the

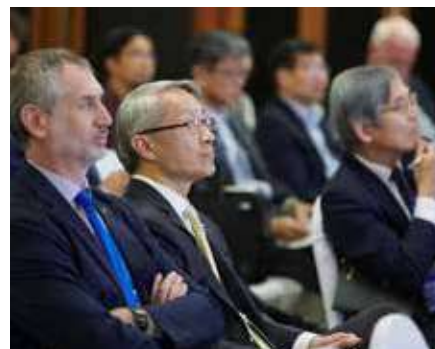
G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure.

Sameer Kumar Khare described innovative efforts to establish brown-field projects as an asset class and to draw private investment through India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund to diversify infrastructure finance beyond traditional banks. He also outlined India's efforts to enhance regional connectivity.

Suahasil Nazara outlined the need for innovative approaches such as a viability gap fund, increased government guarantees, and green bonds to

fill Indonesia's \$47 billion gap in infrastructure investment between 2016 and 2020. Mr. Nazara stressed that governance was key, noting that high standards had to be woven into routine government processes regardless of whether an international lender or donor was involved.

Robert Kaproth outlined the new U.S. International Development Finance Corporation's robust toolkit, including a doubling of its portfolio cap to \$60 billion, and stressed the importance of debt transparency and sustainability in infrastructure investment. ■



# See you in Incheon 2020!

[www.adb.org/annual-meeting/2020](http://www.adb.org/annual-meeting/2020)



Performance organized by the Republic of Korea as part of the future host country event



Passing the baton from Fiji to the Republic of Korea, host of the 2020 ADB Annual Meeting. Nam-ki Hong (second from left) ADB Governor for the Republic of Korea and Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum (second from right), Governor for Fiji, with ADB President Takehiko Nakao (right) and ADB Secretary Eugenuie Zhukov (left).



53rd ADB  
Annual Meeting  
25 MAY



## About the Annual Meetings of the Asian Development Bank Board of Governors

The Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Governors is an opportunity to provide guidance on the administrative, financial, and operational directions of ADB. The meetings provide opportunities for member governments to interact with ADB staff; nongovernment organizations; media; and representatives of observer countries, international organizations, academe, and the private sector. ADB's annual meetings have become a premier forum for the discussion of economic and social development issues in Asia and the Pacific. The 52nd ADB Annual Meeting was held for the first time in a Pacific developing member country, Fiji.

## About the Asian Development Bank

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.

