



**Virtual Regional Conference on
ASEAN Plus Three Economies in Post COVID-19 New Normal**

Jointly organized by:

Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)

Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University

26 – 27 November 2020

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has quickly become a severe global crisis, with a drastic spread and shifts in its epicenter across the world. As of September 2020, more than 33 million people have been infected with the virus around the world, and the number of deaths has shot up rapidly and continues to grow. Although the fatality rate is comparative low, COVID-19's infection rate is uniquely higher and has spread faster than other deadly viruses, such as SARS, Ebola, and MERS.

With world-wide border and travel restrictions imposed to slow the virus spread and prevent transmission, this unprecedented pandemic not only has caused global health crisis, but also potentially economic crisis, and humanitarian crisis. The ADB (June 2020) forecasts that developing Asia will grow only 0.1% in 2020 as contraction is expected in all subregion, except in East Asia. The regional growth is however expected to rebound to 6.2% in 2021.

As the COVID-19 outbreak plays out, the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) and the plus three countries i.e., People's Republic of China (PRC), Japan, and the Republic of Korea, are in the same situation, as other nations around the world, to maintain economic robustness and stability while putting the best effort to control and/or stop the virus spread.

Many policy measures and fiscal stimulus have been implemented to help affected people and businesses and avoid escalation of economic turmoil and health and humanitarian crises caused by the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. Together, this pandemic is a wake-up call for governments and the international community to realize deep inequalities, extreme poverty, and other failures addressed in the 2030 Agenda for SDGs and how unprepared we are to the similar circumstance. It is then a perfect timing for ASEAN+3 community to reevaluate usual policies and social norms in search for bold steps to steer the economy back on track towards the global agenda to achieve the economic stability and sustainable development.

Objectives

This conference aims to serve a platform that gathers policymakers, scholars, and experts from international organizations and academic institutes to discuss ways forward for policy strategies and designs in response to the new normal as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also build a network between public sector and academics through the policy dialogues. The tentative program is enclosed.

Agenda

26 November 2020	
15:00 – 15:10 (JP) 13:00 – 13:10 (TH)	Welcoming Remarks Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean and CEO, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) Sittidaj Pongkijvorasin, Dean, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University (CU)
15:10 – 15:25 (JP) 13:10 – 13:25 (TH)	Keynote Address on ASEAN+3 in Post COVID-19 New Normal Yasuyuki Sawada, Chief Economist and Director General, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
15:25 – 15:30 (JP) 13:25 – 13:30 (TH)	Virtual Group Photo
15:30 – 16:15 (JP) 13:30 – 14:15 (TH)	Session 1: Regional Economic Outlook and Challenges in COVID-19 <i>This session focuses on overall economic outlook of the ASEAN+3 economies during/ after COVID-19 pandemic.</i> <i>Moderator: Chul Ju Kim, Deputy Dean, ADBI</i> Speakers: Asia and the Pacific Economic Outlook Jochen Schmittmann, Deputy Head, IMF Office for Asia and the Pacific Thailand in the Time of COVID-19 Kiatipong Ariyapruchya, Senior Country Economist, World Bank, Thailand Q&As (15 minutes)
16:15 – 17:00 (JP) 14:15 – 15:00 (TH)	SESSION 2: COVID-19 and Macroeconomic Policy Responses <i>This session discusses policy responses to the impacts of COVID-19, which include fiscal stimulus, monetary policy, and other support measures to affected people and businesses.</i> <i>Moderator: Chayodom Sabhasri, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University</i>

	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>Korea's Policy Responses Kyu-Chul Jung, Director, Office of Macroeconomic Analysis and Forecasting, Korea Development Institute, Republic of Korea</p> <p>Thailand's Policy Responses Arnunchanog Sakondhavat, Director, Macroeconomic Modeling, Office of the National Economic and Social Department Council, Thailand</p> <p>Q&As (15 minutes)</p>
<p>17:00 -17:10 (JP)</p> <p>15:00 – 15:10 (TH)</p>	<p>Wrap-up Session</p> <p><i>Pitchaya Sirivunnabood, Capacity Building and Training (CBT) Economist, ADBI</i></p> <p><i>Piti Srisangnam, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University</i></p>
<p>27 November 2020</p>	
<p>15:00 – 15:15 (JP)</p> <p>13:00 – 13:15 (TH)</p>	<p>Special Talk on COVID19 Crisis: Impact on Businesses and Choices of Policy Tools</p> <p>Somprawin Manprasert, Executive Vice President and Head of Research Division, Bank of Ayudhya (Krungsri Bank)</p>
<p>15:15 – 16:00 (JP)</p> <p>13:15 – 14:00 (TH)</p>	<p>Session 3: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) amid COVID-19</p> <p><i>This session covers the discussion on impacts of COVID-19 on the implementations of policy measures.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Piti Srisangnam, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Regional Perspective and Challenges Rony Soerakoesoemah, Head of the ESCAP Sub-regional Office for South-East Asia</p> <p>Country experience Girle Grace J. Casimiro-Igtiben, Chief Economic Development Specialist, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines</p> <p>Q&As (15 minutes)</p>
<p>16:00 – 16:45 (JP)</p> <p>14:00 – 14:45 (TH)</p>	<p>Session 4: Preparing and Improving National Healthcare System for Epidemic and Pandemic</p> <p><i>Moderator: Pitchaya Sirivunnabood, CBT Economist, ADBI</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Building Inclusive Care Economy for All Eduardo P. Banzon, Principal Health Specialist, ADB</p>

	Country experience Nopphol Witvorapong, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University Q&As (15 minutes)
16:45 – 17:00 (JP) 14:45 – 15:00 (TH)	Closing Session Yong Yoon, Associate Dean, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University