



ADB I Featured Speaker Webinar:
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Benjamin E. Diokno
on Financial Digitalization and Inclusive COVID-19 Recovery
21 April 2021

Speaker Biographies

Benjamin E. Diokno, Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)

Benjamin E. Diokno was appointed Governor of BSP in March 2019. Governor Diokno previously served as the Secretary of Budget and Management of the Philippines from 2016-2019 and from 1998-2001. He also served as Undersecretary of Budget and Management of the Philippines from 1986-1991 and taught economics for over 40 years. He holds a PhD in economics from Syracuse University, an MA in political economy from Johns Hopkins University, and master's degrees in public administration and economics and a BA in public administration from the University of the Philippines.

Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)

Tetsushi Sonobe is the Dean and CEO of ADBI. Previously, Dean Sonobe served as a vice president of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo. He has more than 20 years' experience analyzing the role of human capital, institutions, and management in industrial development in Asia and other regions. He obtained his PhD in economics from Yale University and BA in economics from the University of Tokyo. His research interests include the empirics of economic development, particularly industrial development processes and poverty reduction in developing countries.

Francisco G. Dakila, Jr., Deputy Governor, Monetary and Economics Sector, BSP

Francisco G. Dakila, Jr. is Deputy Governor of the Monetary and Economic Sector at BSP. He previously served as Assistant Governor of BSP's Monetary Policy Sub-Sector. Before that, he worked at the United States Agency for International Development and at the Agricultural Credit Policy Council. He received his PhD, MA, and BS, all in economics, from the University of the Philippines-School of Economics.

Mamerto E. Tangonan, Deputy Governor, Payments and Currency Management Sector, BSP

Mamerto E. Tangonan is head of the Payments and Currency Management Sector (PCMS) of BSP, tasked to address the interplay between digital money and physical currency, and support the digital transformation of the country's financial services. He leads PCMS in maintaining the safety and integrity of the Philippine currency, as well as ensuring a well-functioning payments and cash ecosystem that fosters long-term economic growth. He brings with him over 28 years of experience in digital and traditional financial services, telecommunications, technology, financial inclusion, and consulting services. He earned his BA in civil engineering from the University of the Philippines and his Executive MBA from the Asian Institute of Management.

Peter J. Morgan, Senior Consulting Economist, Vice Chair, ADBI

Peter J. Morgan joined ADBI as a Senior Consulting Economist and Vice Chair of Research in 2008. Previously, he served as Chief Asia Economist for HSBC where he was responsible for macroeconomic analysis and forecasting for Asia. Before that, he was Chief Japan Economist for HSBC and held comparable positions at various private financial institutions. His research focuses are macroeconomic policy and financial sector regulation, reform, financial development, financial inclusion, fintech, financial literacy, and financial education. He earned his PhD and MA in economics from Yale University.

Naoko Nemoto, Financial Economist, ADBI

Naoko Nemoto is a Financial Economist at ADBI. Her research interests include monetary policy, financial markets, and structural reform. As former Managing Director of Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, she led research and thought leadership activities on Japan-related issues and financial institutions in Asia and the Pacific. She also previously served as an economist and analyst at the Bank of Japan. She holds a PhD in finance from Hitotsubashi University, an MBA from the University of Chicago, and a BA in law from Waseda University.

John Beirne, Research Fellow, ADBI

John Beirne is a Research Fellow at ADBI, specializing in international finance and macroeconomics. Previously, he worked at the European Central Bank for over ten years, where he focused mainly on research and analysis of global financial market developments, commodities, and financial stability, as well as global governance issues. He holds a PhD in economics from Brunel University.