Welcome Remarks

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

Tetsushi Sonobe is the Dean and CEO of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the Tokyo-based think tank of the Asian Development Bank that promotes the realization of a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific through policy research and capacity building.

Born in 1960 in Tokyo, Dean Sonobe obtained his PhD in economics from Yale University and BA in economics from the University of Tokyo. His research interests are centered on the empirics of economic development, particularly the roles of industrial clusters, human capital, social capital, management practices, and market competition in industrial development in developing Asia and other regions.

Before joining ADBI in April 2020, Dean Sonobe served for six years as a vice president of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo and taught economics for thirty years at Tokyo Metropolitan University and GRIPS. Dean Sonobe is a recipient of the Nikkei Book Publication Prize and the Masayoshi Ohira Memorial Prize, and a founding board member of the Japanese Association for Development Economics.
Opening Address

Jenny Gordon
Chief Economist, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

Dr Jenny Gordon joined DFAT in November 2019 as the Chief Economist in the new Office of the Chief Economist. This Office is providing economic analysis support for DFAT policy and program development across trade, investment, foreign policy and development assistance.

Jenny joined DFAT from Nous Group, an Australian management consultancy firm, where she was the chief economist. Her work at Nous ranged from the development of new innovation policy options using a human centred design approach to measuring the economic impact of earth and marine observing on the APEC economies.

Jenny spent 10 years with the Australian Productivity Commission, where she was the Principal Adviser (Research), providing oversight of the research program and quality assurance across the Commission’s inquiries. Jenny led the 2010 inquiry into reform of the not-for-profit sector, and a 2012 inquiry into the approaches to regulatory reform, as well as a major role in inquiries into reforming the aged care and the childcare systems, migration, and the Five year Productivity Review.

At the Productivity Commission, Jenny led research on productivity growth, industry assistance and trade, the digital economy, and measurement and analysis of the sources of disadvantage. Before joining the Commission, Jenny was a partner in the Centre for International Economics, an Australian economic consultancy. She has a PhD in Economics from Harvard University, and started her professional career at the Reserve Bank of Australia at the exciting time of floating the Australian dollar and major financial liberalisation of the Australian economy.

Session One

Charity Moore
Director, South Asia Economics Research, MacMillan Center, Yale University

Charity Troyer Moore is Director for South Asia Economics Research at Yale University’s MacMillan Center, where she provides strategic direction and oversight of research, policy and capacity building engagements in India and other countries in South Asia for a portfolio of work co-led with faculty at Yale University. Her research examines public service delivery and governance in the bureaucracy; the drivers and potential solutions to India’s low female labor force participation, with a focus on the ways in which current policy initiatives can put women on better footing as economic agents; and social protection, notably public works and cash transfer programs. Prior to her current position at Yale, she held multiple roles at Harvard Kennedy School’s Evidence for Policy Design, most recently as India Research Director, where she co-founded EPoD India at IFMR. Charity holds an M.A. in Economics and Ph.D. in Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics from The Ohio State University.
Sofia Shakil
Director for Economic Programs, Asia Foundation

Sofia Shakil serves as The Asia Foundation’s director for Economic Programs and brings to this role her extensive knowledge of and passion for Asia’s economic and social development. An experienced policy economist, Sofia brings nearly 25 years of experience in the development sector, with a focus on human development, public sector policy, and governance reform. She has held several positions with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and international NGOs, including as the country representative in Pakistan for The Asia Foundation.

Sofia previously served as the principal knowledge management specialist for innovations within the Asian Development Bank’s East Asia Regional Department. In this role, she led the innovation agenda for East Asia and promoted knowledge and partnerships with diverse clients and innovation giants, and stimulated innovation in program design and approaches. In her earlier role at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as senior education specialist, Sofia led project operations and policy research and advisory work in human development in the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and Mongolia. Among her many achievements at the ADB, Sofia successfully designed and obtained approval for the first Results-Based Lending Program loan ($200 million) for ADB in Sri Lanka and introduced innovative financing approaches and programs in the PRC including a public-private partnership project for elderly care, prepared the education assessment and roadmap for the country partnership strategies for Sri Lanka, Mongolia, and the PRC, developed the human resource development strategy as part of the Tourism Master Plan for the Maldives, and led several projects and policy work in the areas of vocational education reform, elder care services, and graduate employment initiatives. She also served as a social sector focal point in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Prior to her appointment at ADB, she worked in the World Bank’s South Asia Human Development team.

Sofia has spent a significant part of her career working in Pakistan and other countries across Asia, including as a senior education specialist for the World Bank, where she successfully designed and implemented an education sector results-based financing program for Punjab education reforms and many projects in Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Philippines, Indonesia. She has also served as program development manager for Save the Children and program manager for Policy and Research for the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme. She also worked as a freelance Education and Development Planning consultant.

Education: Master’s degree in Economics from the London School of Economics and bachelor’s degree in International Relations and Politics from Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan.

Samantha Hung
Chief of Gender Equality Thematic Group, Asian Development Bank

Samantha Hung provides leadership for advancing gender equality across all aspects of ADB operations and knowledge work. She has over 20 years of experience in gender equality at project, program and policy levels in the Asia Pacific. Before ADB, she held various gender advisor and specialist roles for the New Zealand Agency for International Development, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, UNICEF, Australian Government Office on the Status of Women and UK Institute of Development Studies attached to the University of Sussex.

Samantha is also a seasoned provider of management support, including for an ADB Vice President and the Director General of Budget and Human Resources, and was previously the Deputy Representative of ADB’s European Representative Office. She started her international development career as a Australian-funded volunteer in Vietnam.
Samantha is a dual Australian/UK citizen. She holds a master’s degree in international development from RMIT University in Melbourne, Honors Law and Commerce degrees from the University of Melbourne, and a post-graduate qualification in Human Resources Management from CIPD, UK.

Session Two

Don Lambert  
Principal Private Sector Development Specialist, Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank

Don Lambert leads the Private Sector Development Unit within ADB’s Viet Nam Resident Mission. The unit supports expanding the role of the private sector in contributing to Viet Nam’s socio-economic development. Previously at ADB, he worked on financial sector development in India and Sri Lanka, served as head of the corporate recovery unit, and was a credit risk management specialist covering ADB’s financial institutions portfolio. Employment prior to ADB included with the US Federal Reserve and as a US Army officer. Mr. Lambert holds a master’s degree from Harvard University, a bachelor’s degree from Princeton University, and is a CFA® charterholder.

Daniel Suryadarma  
Research Fellow, Asian Development Bank Institute

Daniel conducts applied economics research in the areas of education, labor, poverty, and social policy. His work has appeared in peer-reviewed journals, such as *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, and *Journal of Development Economics*. His research has informed policy discussions at the Indonesian Vice President's Office, Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture, and various international organizations and donor agencies.

Prior to joining ADBI, Daniel was the deputy team leader of the Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Programme in Indonesia and a senior research fellow at the SMERU Research Institute in Jakarta. He was previously a research fellow at the Australian National University and led the impact evaluation unit at the Center for International Forestry Research. He is currently a member of the Indonesian Young Academy of Sciences.

Daniel has economics degrees from Brandon University, the University of Toronto, and the Australian National University.

Twitter: @dsuryadarma
Linda Arthur
Senior Specialist, Asian Development Bank Institute

Linda Arthur is a senior specialist at the Asian Development Bank Institute. She works with government officials by designing knowledge products to strengthen policy making and implementation across a range of priority areas for developing and emerging Asia, including use of strategic foresight for inclusive recovery policies; innovation ecosystems to spur green growth; and leveraging behavioral insight to augment development impact. She is seconded from the Asian Development Bank, where she has worked since 2003, in various positions, including field assignments in Afghanistan and Pakistan. She holds a PhD from Oxford University and an MA and BA from the University of Toronto.