



Book Launch: COVID-19 Impacts and Policy Options:

An Asian Perspective

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Biographies of Speakers



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.



Rohini Pande
Professor of Economics
and Director of the
Economic Growth Center,
Yale University; and
Co-Editor of ADBI Book
Series

Rohini Pande is the Henry J. Heinz II Professor of Economics and Director of the Economic Growth Center, Yale University.

Pande's research is largely focused on how formal and informal institutions shape power relationships and patterns of economic and political advantage in society, particularly in developing countries. She is interested the role of public policy in providing the poor and disadvantaged political and economic power, and how notions of economic justice and human rights can help justify and enable such change.

Her most recent work focuses on testing innovative ways to make the state more accountable to its citizens, such as strengthening women's economic and political opportunities, ensuring that environmental regulations reduce harmful emissions, and providing citizens effective means to voice their demand for state services. Pande received a PhD in Economics from LSE, BA/MA in Philosophy, Politics & Economics from Oxford University, and BA in Economics from Delhi University.



John Beirne
Research Fellow,
Asian Development Bank
Institute
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John Beirne has been a Research Fellow at the ADBI since March 2019. His research interests are centered on international finance and macroeconomics. Previously, he worked at the European Central Bank for over ten years mainly on research and analysis of global financial market developments, commodities, and financial stability, as well as global governance issues. His recent research focuses on the implications of climate change for sovereign risk. He has also worked for a shorter period at the IMF, in academia, and as an economic consultant in the private sector. He holds a PhD in Economics from Brunel University in the United Kingdom. John has published over 25 articles in journals such as the Journal of International Money and Finance, Sustainable Development, Economic Modelling, Review of International Economics, Emerging Markets Review, and China Economic Review.



Hanming Fang
Professor of Economics,
University of Pennsylvania;
Dean,
School of Entrepreneurship
and Management,
ShanghaiTech University

Hanming Fang is the Joseph M. Cohen Term Chair Professor of Economics and Professor of Health Care Management at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society. His main research areas are public economics, labor economics and the Chinese economy. He served as the Director of the Chinese Economy Working Group for the National Bureau of Economic Research (USA) and is a co-founder of VoxChina.org. He was a co-editor for Journal of Public Economics and International Economic Review, and served on the editorial board for several other journals, including the top economics journal, American Economic Review. He is a leader in applied microeconomics. His current research focuses on issues related to insurance markets, particularly the interaction between the labor market and US health insurance reform, and issues related to the Chinese economy, particularly those related to the population aging, Chinese housing market, and political economy.



Yasuyuki Sawada
Professor of Economics,
University of Tokyo and
former Chief Economist of
Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Yasuyuki Sawada is Professor at the Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo.

From March 2017 until August 2021, he was Chief Economist of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Director General of its Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department. He was chief spokesperson on economic and development trends and led the production of ADB's flagship knowledge products and support for regional cooperation fora.

He has worked with well-known development and economic organizations, among them JICA, World Bank, Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), and Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).



Sweta Saxena
Chief,
Macroeconomic Policy and
Financing for Development
Division

Sweta C. Saxena, on leave from the IMF, is the Chief in the Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division at the UNESCAP in Bangkok, Thailand. She has led 3 flagship reports at ESCAP: 2019 "Ambitions beyond growth", 2020 "Towards sustainable economies", and 2021 "Towards post-COVID-19 resilient economies." At the IMF, she has worked on multilateral surveillance for the G20 countries in the Research Department and on fragile countries in the African Department. Her research focused on policy-relevant macro-financial issues, currently focuses exclusively on sustainable development. Sweta has published extensively, including in the American Economic Review, Journal of Economic Literature and the Journal of International Economics. Prior to joining the IMF, she worked at the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland, and as an Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh. Sweta obtained her PhD in economics from the University of Washington and an M.A. in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics.



Peter J. Morgan
Senior Consulting Economist,
Vice Chair of Research,
Asian Development Bank
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Peter Morgan joined ADBI in December 2008. Previously he served in Hong Kong, China 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 Merrill Lynch, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, and Jardine Fleming. Prior to entering the financial industry, he worked as a consultant for Meta Systems Inc in Cambridge, Massachusetts in the United States specializing in energy and environmental areas, including energy policy issues in Asian countries, and at International Business Information KK in Tokyo specializing in financial sector consulting. His research focuses are macroeconomic policy and financial sector regulation, reform, financial development, financial inclusion, fintech, financial literacy, and financial education. He earned his MA and PhD degrees in economics from Yale University.