



## Book Launch: *Harnessing Digitalization for Sustainable Economic Development: Insights for Asia*

26 January 2022

### *Biographies of Speakers*



**Seungju Baek**  
Deputy Dean,  
Asian Development Bank  
Institute (ADBI)

*Seungju Baek* joined ADBI as Deputy Dean (Capacity Building and Training and Special Activities) in March 2021.

Prior to joining ADBI, he served as Deputy Minister for Planning and Coordination at the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Korea. He has 30 years of economic and development policy experience. His other previous roles include serving as a senior policy analyst focused on developing countries for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as well as an international development expert at the World Bank Institute.

His capacity building and training interests include post-COVID-19 recovery and inclusive growth for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

He earned his Doctor of Public Administration degree in public policy from Korea University.



**John Beirne**  
Research Fellow, ADBI

*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*.



**David G. Fernandez**  
Director, Sim Kee Boon  
Institute for Financial  
Economics and Professor of  
Finance, Singapore  
Management University

*Professor Dave Fernandez joined Singapore Management University in 2018. He has a joint appointment as Director of the Sim Kee Boon Institute for Financial Economics and as Professor of the Practice of Finance at the Lee Kong Chian School of Business. Prior to returning to academia, Prof Dave worked in the private sector for 20 years as chief economist and market strategist covering Asia for JPMorgan and then Barclays. Earlier, he was an Assistant Professor of International Economics at the Johns Hopkins University's international studies school (SAIS) in Washington DC. Dr Fernandez started his career in the public sector, serving as an economist in the administration of President George H.W. Bush and at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Prof Dave holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University where he completed his dissertation under the guidance of Ben S. Bernanke. His undergraduate degree is from the University of Pennsylvania where Robert S. Mariano was his mentor.*



**Theepakorn Jithitikulchai**  
Lecturer, Faculty of  
Economics, Thammasat  
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*Theepakorn Jithitikulchai is a lecturer at the Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University, a consultant at the World Bank, and a former Takemi fellow at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University, MA in Economics from Thammasat University, and BSc in Economics from Khon Kaen University. His recent research on the fiscal space and health workforce of the health system was awarded from the National Research Council of Thailand. He was a recipient of the Fulbright U.S.-ASEAN Visiting Scholarship. His PhD dissertation was funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Science Foundation (NSF), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He was elected to Gamma Sigma Delta, Honor Society for Agriculture. He has published in journals such as Health Policy and Planning, Applied Health Economics and Health Policy, Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics, and Climate.*



**Yasheng Huang**  
Epoch Foundation Professor of  
International Management and  
Faculty Director of Action  
Learning at the MIT Sloan  
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*Yasheng Huang is Epoch Foundation professor of international management and faculty director of action learning at Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Between 2013 and 2017, he served as an associate dean in charge of MIT Sloan's global partnership programs and its action learning initiatives. His previous appointments include faculty positions at the University of Michigan and at Harvard Business School. He is currently involved in research projects in four broad areas: 1) a book project on "The Nature of the Chinese State," 2) collaboration with researchers at Tsinghua University to create a complete database on historical technological inventions in China, 3) as a co-PI in "Food Safety in China: A Systematic Risk Management Approach" (supported by Walmart Foundation, 2016-), and 4) research on venture finance, production of scientific knowledge, work of the future in China. He has published numerous articles in academic journals and in media and 11 books in English and Chinese.*



**Cyn-Young Park**  
Director, Director, ERCI,  
Asian Development Bank  
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*Dr. Cyn-Young Park is Director of the Regional Cooperation and Integration Division in the Economics Research and Regional Cooperation Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). She manages a team of economists to examine economic and policy issues related to regional cooperation and integration. She has been a main author and contributor to ADB's flagship publications such as Asian Development Outlook and Asian Economic Integration Report. Her work also appeared in the Journal of Banking and Finance, the Journal of Financial Stability, and the Journal of Futures Markets. Before joining the ADB, she served as Economist (1999-2002) at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), where she contributed to the OECD Economic Outlook. She received her PhD in Economics from Columbia University. She holds a bachelor's degree in international economics from Seoul National University.*



**Bernard Yeung**  
Stephen Riady Distinguished  
Professor in Finance and  
Strategic Management,  
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*Professor Bernard Yeung is Stephen Riady Distinguished Professor in Finance and Strategic Management at the National University of Singapore Business School. He is also the President of the Asian Bureau of Finance and Economic Research. He was Dean of NUS Business School from Jun 2008 to May 2019. Before joining NUS in 2008, he was the Abraham Krasnoff Professor in Global Business, Economics, and Management at New York University (NYU) Stern School of Business and the Director of the NYU China House. From 1988 to 1999, he taught at the University of Michigan and at the University of Alberta from 1983 to 1988. Professor Yeung received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Mathematics from the University of Western Ontario and his MBA and PhD degrees from the Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago.*