12th ADBI-OECD-ILO Roundtable on Labor Migration in Asia
Recovering from COVID-19: What does it mean for labour migration in Asia?

Jointly organized by:
Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and International Labour Organization (ILO)

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Online / In-Person

Speaker Biographies (by session)

Welcoming 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 include the empirics of economic development, particularly industrial development processes and poverty reduction in developing countries.

Dean Sonobe has more than 20 years’ experience analyzing the role of human capital, institutions, and management in industrial development in Asia and other regions. Notably, he and prominent agricultural and development economist, Keijiro Otsuka, applied their unique enterprise survey approach to a series of development process case studies in different industries in East Asia. They expanded the scope of their industry study to cover South Asia, Africa, and Central America and conducted randomized controlled trials of management training programs for business owners and managers. 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. He also previously served as a professor of economics 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.
Session 1

Peter Morgan
Consulting Economist and Advisor to the Dean, ADBI

Peter Morgan previously served as ADBI’s Vice-Chair of Research until March 2022. He also worked 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. His recent publications include Fintech and Financial Inclusion in Southeast Asia and India and Impacts of COVID-19 on Households in ASEAN Countries and Their Implications for Human Capital Development. He earned his MA and PhD in economics from Yale University.

Jean-Christophe Dumont
Head, International Migration Division, OECD

Jean-Christophe Dumont has been the Head of the International Migration Division in the Direction for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD since 2010. He joined the OECD Secretariat in 2000 to work on international migration issues. He oversees the OECD annual flagship publication on migration International Migration Outlook and of numerous publications on the economic impact of international migration as well as on migration management and the labour market integration of immigrants and their children in OECD countries. He has also worked on migration and development issues and on the international mobility of health workers. He holds a PhD in development economics from the University Paris IX-Dauphine and was a research fellow at Laval University, Quebec, Canada.

Nilim Baruah
Senior Regional Labour Migration Specialist, Decent Work Team, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, ILO

Nilim Baruah has been working on migration issues since 1998 and earlier in the development field. Before assuming his current responsibilities as Senior Migration Specialist at the ILO (International Labour Organization) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok in 2011, he was the Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) of ILO technical cooperation labour migration projects in Southeast Asia (2010-11) and Eastern Europe/Central Asia (2007-2010). Earlier he headed IOM’s (International Organization for Migration) Labour Migration Unit in Geneva from 2002-2007. He has authored several papers on labour migration, recruitment and remittances. Prior to the IOM, Nilim Baruah worked in the development field with Oxfam (U.K/Ireland) as the Country Representative in Yerevan, Armenia (1995-2002) and Regional Representative in Bhubaneshwar, India (1991-94). He studied Development Studies at Carleton University, Ottawa, (1984-86) where he obtained a Master’s Degree in International Affairs.
Pitchaya Sirivunnabood  
Capacity Building and Training Economist, ADBI

Pitchaya Sirivunnabood is a Capacity Building and Training Economist at ADBI. Her expertise is international economics and finance, specializing in regional economic integration and financial cooperation as well as bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements, development of financial markets, and international/transnational investment.

Prior to joining ADBI, she was an assistant director and the head of finance integration division at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia. She was senior researcher and policy consultant for a Thai government think tank, the UNDP’s Asia Pacific Regional Center, and the European Association for Business and Commerce. She was also an assistant director and macroeconomist at the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office, in charge of surveillance and monitoring process for the ASEAN Economic Community. She has a PhD in international economics (trade and finance) from the University of Utah, United States.

Session 3

Françoise De Bel-Air  
Senior Fellow, Gulf Labour Markets, Migration and Population Programme (GLMM), Switzerland

Françoise De Bel-Air (PhD) is a researcher and consultant. A socio-demographer by training, she specializes in the demography and population policies in Arab countries. Since 2013, she has been a Senior Fellow within the Gulf Labour Markets, Migration and Population Programme (GLMM) of the Gulf Research Centre (GRC), Geneva. She was a part-time Professor at the Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute of Florence, Italy, and a senior fellow at the French Institute for the Near East (IFPO) in Amman, Jordan. Her research and expertise focus on population issues, among which labour migration, irregular, highly skilled, and female migration, migration policies in Arab countries, as well as on migration to the EU and the Gulf States.

Shaikha Al Khater  
Director, International Relations Department, Ministry of Labour, Qatar

Ms. Shaikha Al Khater is the Director of the International Cooperation Department at the Ministry of Labour. In her role since 2019, Ms. Al Khater coordinates with various governmental stakeholders, bilateral and multilateral organizations, UN agencies, workers’ and employers’ organizations and civil society actors on policies and programmes related to labour rights. She acts as one of the focal points for the Technical Cooperation Project with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Qatar. In this role, Ms. Al Khater has worked closely with the ILO in the adoption and implementation of policies and procedures on internal labour mobility and Fair recruitment. Ms. Al Khater has been working with the Ministry of Labour since 2008. She has previously worked in the Public Relations and Communications Department, Human Resources Department and Recruitment Department.
Session 4

Jonathan Chaloff
Senior Policy Analyst, OECD

Jonathan Chaloff is a Senior Policy Analyst and comparative migration policy expert at the International Migration Division of the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), specialised in admission policies and management of economic migration. He has written and co-written numerous OECD book chapters and working papers. He has worked directly with a wide range of governments and non-governmental organisations for 25 years. Prior to coming to the OECD in 2007, he was the correspondent for Italy to the OECD’s SOPEMI network from 1998 to 2006, and co-ordinated a trilateral working group on implementation of the 1998 Italian framework immigration law (1998-2002).

Dianne Angermüller
Legal and policy officer, Legal Pathways and Integration Unit, DG Home Affairs and Migration, European Commission, Belgium

Diane Angermueller is a legal and policy officer in the unit on Legal Pathways and Integration in DG HOME, at the European Commission in Brussels, since October 2020. She is coordinating the work on the Skills and Talent package, adopted by the Commission in April 2022. Before that, she was a policy coordinator for the DG from 2016 to 2020 and legal officer in DG EMPL on labour law from 2012 to 2016.

Session 5

Aiko Kikkawa
Economist, Economic Research and Cooperation Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Aiko Kikkawa is Economist at the Economic Research and Cooperation Department of the Asian Development Bank. She covers research portfolio of international migration and remittances, aging and demographic change, and economic analysis of ADB projects. Prior to joining ADB, she was with the International Organization for Migration where she led technical assistance programs on overseas employment policy, remittances, and disaster relief operation targeting mobile population. Ms. Kikkawa obtained her Ph.D. in Development Economics from the National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies, Japan, and Master’s degree in Forced Migration from the University of Oxford, UK.
Seori Choi
Senior Policy Researcher, Migration Research and Training Centre (MRTC), Republic of Korea

Seori Choi is a senior policy researcher at the Migration Research and Training Center (MRTC) based in Seoul, Republic of Korea. She has done extensive research on labor migration to Korea and served in an advisory role to national and local authorities in matters relating to migrant workers and their employers. Her research focus has been on establishing pathways and mechanisms for regular migration of workers at all skill levels.

Wai Luen Terence Ho
Associate Professor in Practice, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Terence Ho is Associate Professor in Practice at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Since 2002, he has served in research, policy and leadership roles in the Singapore Public Service, including a stint as Divisional Director of Manpower Planning and Policy at the Ministry of Manpower from 2016 to 2020. He has also been a Board member of the Workforce Singapore Agency and the Building and Construction Authority. Terence is the author of Refreshing the Singapore System: Recalibrating Socio-Economic Policy for the 21st Century (World Scientific, 2021).

Session 6

Stephen Howes
Director, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University, Australia

Professor Stephen Howes is a Professor of Economics at the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University. He is the Director of the Development Policy Centre. He served as Director of the International and Development Economics program of the Crawford School from 2009 to 2014. He is Editor in Chief of the Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies journal, which is the flagship journal of the Crawford School of Public Policy. He also co-edits Devpolicy.org, the blog of the Development Policy Centre. He is also a member of the Advisory Group appointed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for the (Pacific Australia Labour Mobility) scheme. He is Chair of Femili PNG, an NGO that supports survivors of family and sexual violence in Papua New Guinea, and; Chair of Friends of Femili PNG, the Australian support group for Femili PNG.
Yu Korekawa
Director, International Research and Cooperation, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Japan

Dr. Yu Korekawa started his professional career as a staff economist in the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, in 2003. He worked for the council on economic and fiscal policy (CEFP), which the Prime Minister chairs. He was a deputy director in charge of policy planning and economic analysis. He obtained an academic position in IPSS in 2012 and has been in charge of international migration and migration policy research. He has been a delegate of Japan to the Working Party on Migration (WPM) and Expert Group on Migration (SOPEMI), OECD since 2013, and he is also assigned to a bureau member of WPM from 2021-to 2024 for the second term. He obtained a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo, and an M.A. from University of California, Irvine.

Shoshana Strauss
Senior Deputy to the Legal Advisor, Population, Immigration and Border Authority, Israel

Adv. Shoshana Strauss is the Senior Deputy to the Legal Advisor of the Israeli Population and Immigration Authority. In the framework of this position, she provides legal advice, deals with draft legislation and takes part in negotiations concerning bilateral agreements to promote legal and well informed recruitment and employment of foreign workers for temporary work in Israel.

Session 7

Shabarinath Nair
Regional Labour Migration Specialist, Decent Work Team for South Asia, ILO

Shabari Nair is the Labour Migration Specialist for South Asia, based in the ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team (DWT) in New Delhi. He provides technical advisory services to seven countries in the sub region: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Before joining the DWT, he was leading ILO’s work on global migration policy including for the inter-governmental negotiations and adoption of the Global Compact for Migration and for the newly established UN Network on Migration with postings in both the ILO Headquarters in Geneva and at the ILO’s office for the United Nations in New York. He was also focal point for Asia and the Middle East in the Labour Migration Branch. Prior to joining the ILO, he worked with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Government of Switzerland.
Peppi Kiviniemi-Siddiq
Senior Regional Protection Specialist, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, International Organization for Migration

Peppi Kiviniemi-Siddiq is the Senior Regional Specialist for Protection at IOM’s Asia-Pacific regional office in Bangkok, Thailand. In this role she supports the IOM missions in the region on IOM’s migrant protection portfolio ranging from counter trafficking, assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations to return and reintegration assistance to vulnerable migrants. Prior to joining the regional office, Peppi was working with IOM in Bangladesh coordinating the missions’ Rohingya humanitarian response in the country as well as managing projects from safe migration awareness to sustainable reintegration of Victims of Trafficking. Peppi has also worked as a journalist with the Dow Jones Newswires and the Wall Street Journal in London and Brussels. Peppi holds an MSc in Comparative Politics and a BSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Geoffrey Ducanes
Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Ateneo De Manila University, the Philippines and consultant to ASEAN Secretariat

Geoffrey Ducanes is Associate Professor at the Department of Economics, Ateneo de Manila University. In 2014, he was awarded Outstanding Young Scientist in the field of Economics by the National Academy of Science and Technology of the Philippines. He specializes in Applied Econometrics and has published in the areas of International Migration, Education, Poverty, and Inequality.

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