RDE Special Issue Launch:
Rural and Agricultural Development in Digital Age
Friday, 18 August 2023
Virtual Conference, Japan Standard Time (JST)

Biography Form for Speakers
(As of 28 July 2023)

*Speakers in alphabetical order of last name

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<th>Wanglin Ma</th>
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<td>Associate Professor of Applied Economics, Lincoln University, New Zealand</td>
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**Short Bio**

Wanglin Ma mainly works in the field of Agricultural Economics and Development Economics, covering a wide range of topics. These include, for example, sustainability and economies of agrifood systems, food production and marketing, farmer organization, agribusiness (agrifood value chain), climate change and adaptation, land transfer, agricultural technology adoption, productivity, and efficiency. He also investigates the ways that facilitate sustainable rural development and improve farmers’ well-being. He has published over 120 articles in internationally peer-reviewed journals and reviewed articles for more than 100 journals. According to the 2023 economists ranking based on the past 10 years publishing at IDEAS, he is ranked "Top 10 Economists" (Authors 10) in New Zealand.
Thilak Mallawaarachchi

Associate Professor and Managing Partner, University of Queensland and Mallawa Insights, Australia

Short Bio

**Associate Professor Thilak Mallawaarachchi** is a resource economist with a strong background in public policy backed by publications across many areas of agricultural development and resource economics. He is currently President of AARES, the Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society. Thilak has worked across the complex policy-research interface, focusing on the management of externalities and public goods in land and water management, climate change and biodiversity. In late 1990s, he worked with the Australian sugar industry, including on his PhD with Prof John Quiggin, focusing on resource use conflicts and value trade-offs. His most rewarding period was in the policy areas of the Australian Government department of agriculture, fisheries, and forestry (DAFF), contributing to public policies on climate change, drought and food policy, and concurrent research with John Quiggin at the University of Queensland on climate adaptation and water management.

Andy McKay

Professor of Development Economics, University of Sussex, United Kingdom

Short Bio

**Andy McKay** is a professor of Development Economics (Economics) at the University of Sussex Business School. He researches on development economics, especially in relation to poverty/inequality and how these are impacted by policy (trade, fiscal etc.); on labour issues including female employment and informality; on inclusive growth; on agriculture; and on international trade. In terms of geographic focus, he works predominantly on East and West Africa, South Asia, and Viet Nam. He has recently co-led two multi-country research project on female labour issues in Africa and South Asia. He has been Managing Editor of the *Review of Development Economics* since 2015, a period which has seen a significant increase in numbers of quality of publications as well as a number of successful Special Issues. Andy was supervised many PhD students on a wide range of topics in development economics. He has extensive experience of giving policy advice to bilateral donors including DFID, international organisations and governments of developing countries. Andy has previously worked at the Universities of Nottingham, Bath and the Overseas Development Institute.
Dil B. Rahut
Vice-Chair of Research and Senior Research Fellow, Asian Development Bank Institute

Short Bio

**Dil Rahut** is Vice Chair and Senior Fellow at Asian Development Bank Institute. He was a Senior Global Program Manager for the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre. He previously worked for the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan’s Research and Statistics Department. He also served as a research fellow at the WorldFish Centre; senior fellow and Japan chair at the Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations; chief of research, planning, and monitoring and Visa/Mastercard director at the Bank of Bhutan Ltd; and assistant professor of development economics at South Asian University. He has a Ph.D. in development economics from the University of Bonn’s Center for Development Research, a master’s degree in economic policy management from the University of Tsukuba, an MBA, and a Bachelor of Science degree from India. He has over 160 publications in Scopus-indexed journals focusing on development.

Tetsushi Sonobe
Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute, Japan

Short Bio

**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.