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.
**Moderator**

**Agnes Surry**  
Deputy Head of Capacity Building and Training (CBT) and Senior CBT Economist, ADBI  

Agnes Surry joined ADBI in September 2022. Her areas of interest include development and public finance, aid effectiveness, climate change adaptation, gender equality, social policies, fiscal policies, public debt sustainability, resource mobilization, and country risk analysis.

She is seconded from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), where she worked in the Strategy, Policy, and Partnerships Department for more than 6 years. As senior planning and policy specialist, she supported policy work including country classification processes to determine access to concessional finance and reforms to provide better solutions to ADB developing member countries. She led the replenishment of the Asian Development Fund 13 in 2020, which is the main ADB grant facility.

Prior to joining ADB, she worked at the African Development Bank as a resource mobilization expert and at the Treasury of France as a social economist and policy analyst.

She has a master’s degree in international economics (development) and bachelor’s degrees in econometrics and social sciences from Sciences Po Paris and École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France.

**Panelists**

**John Beirne**  
Vice Chair of Research and Senior Research Fellow, ADBI  

John Beirne ADBI as a Research Fellow in March 2019. He has over 20 years of experience as an economist in the public and private sectors. In his current role, he co-heads ADBI’s Research Department, leading research workstreams on macroeconomics, finance, and infrastructure. He is also co-managing editor of the ADBI Working Paper Series. He concurrently holds the position of Senior Economist at the European Central Bank (ECB), on leave since March 2019. Having spent over a decade at the ECB, his work focused mainly on international policy analysis and economic research on global financial markets, capital flows, and commodities. He also worked for around six years as an economic consultant with KPMG and senior economist with DTZ in Ireland and the United Kingdom (UK), and for three years as a part-time lecturer in economics at Brunel University in the UK.

His research focuses on international macroeconomics, financial economics, and applied econometrics. He has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals in economics and finance, and co-authored or coedited several ADBI books. He currently serves as an editorial board member of the *Asian Development Review* and *Asian Economics Letters*, and as Associate Editor of the *Bulletin of Monetary Economics and Banking* (the academic journal of Bank Indonesia). He presents his research regularly at international conferences and lectures at the University of Tokyo and Hitotsubashi University in Japan on topics related to financial globalization, monetary policy, and macro-financial risk. He is also a frequent commentator in the media on global macro issues, having interviewed with outlets such as Al Jazeera, Arirang, BBC, Bloomberg, China Daily, CNBC, Handelsblatt, The Japan Times, The Straits Times, and RTHK. He holds a PhD in Economics from Brunel University.
Louis Kuijs
Chief Economist, Asia Pacific, S&P Global Ratings

Louis Kuijs leads the Asia Pacific macro team and its research. He contributes to S&P Global Ratings’ macro-credit narrative and represents the firm in events, conferences, and the media, delivering its insights and thought leadership to the marketplace.

Before joining S&P Global Ratings in 2022, Louis held senior positions in both the public and private sectors, including at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington DC, the World Bank in Beijing, and at the Royal Bank of Scotland and Oxford Economics in Hong Kong. While with the World Bank, he led the China Quarterly Update, headed the Bank’s mid-term review of China’s 11th Five Year Plan, and led research on China’s saving and investment, rebalancing, and long-term growth and structural change.

Louis is a well-known observer of China’s economy and contributes regularly to the international media on China and Asia.

Emma Fan
Director, Finance Sector Office, Sectors Group, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Emma Fan is the Director of the newly created Finance Sector Office within the Sectors Group of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). She heads the team that covers the East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Pacific operations.

Prior to this position, Emma served as the Director of the Public Management, Financial Sector, and Regional Cooperation Division (EAPF) in the East Asia Department between 2019 and June 2013.

Emma was the Regional Director for ADB’s Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office (PLCO) in Sydney from June 2016 to 2019, where she supervised country operations for Nauru, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu; managed the financial sector and private sector development for ADB’s Pacific Department; and managed ADB’s country relationships Australia and New Zealand.

At ADB, Emma also worked as the Head of ADB’s Results Management Unit at the Strategy and Policy Department. Her other ADB experience included working as a project team leader at the South Asian and Central Asian regional departments, and as an economist at the Economic Research Department.

Before joining ADB, Emma worked at the Finance Department of Australia, New Zealand Institute of Economic Research, and Lanzhou University in the People’s Republic of China.

Emma has a PhD degree in Economics from the Australian National University.