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The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) works with policy makers to identify strategies to reduce poverty and promote growth. In 2016, ADBI was ranked the best regional studies center and the second-best government-affiliated think tank in the world by the University of Pennsylvania’s Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program.

ADBI’s research topics
- Sustainable development goals and trade
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- Overweight and obesity and their economic consequences
- Financial inclusion, regulation, and education
- Housing for inclusive growth

ADBI’s activities
- Training officials from the Asian Development Bank’s developing member countries
- Presentations by experts
- Regional and international seminars and conferences
Naoyuki Yoshino, Dean
PhD, Johns Hopkins University, USA
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Expertise

• Quantitative easing policy of Japan and its impact
• Abenomics and structural reform
• Economic effect of infrastructure investment (Japan, Philippines, Uzbekistan)
• Infrastructure finance
• Small and medium-sized enterprise finance
• Innovative finance for startup businesses
• Exchange rate systems in Asia
• Government bond markets
• Fiscal sustainability

Professor emeritus, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan
Director of the Japan Financial Services Agency’s Financial Research Center (FSA Institute) in 2004
Chair of the Financial Planning Standards Board in 2007
Received the Fukuzawa Award for economic policy research in 2013

Japanese national

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Director of Capacity Building and Training, and Special Activities  
MS, Georgia State University, USA  
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Expertise

- Macroeconomic, financial, and social issues

Was the Republic of Korea president’s secretary for economic and financial affairs; deputy minister for planning and coordination; director general of the Economic Policy Bureau; director general of the Public Policy Bureau, Ministry of Strategy and Finance. Worked at the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Republic of Korea national

Sayuri Shirai, Visiting Scholar  
PhD, Columbia University, USA  
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Expertise

- Japan’s macroeconomic policy
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) policy
- Official Development Assistance policy
- European sovereign debt crisis
- Exchange rate system of the People’s Republic of China
- Monetary policies of the Bank of Japan (BOJ), European Central Bank, and Federal Reserve Board

Guest professor at Keio University. Member of the Policy Board of the BOJ (2011–2016) and economist at the IMF (1993–1998).

Japanese national
Shinichi Nakabayashi
Director for Administration, Management, and Coordination
MPhil, University of Oxford, UK
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Expertise
• Macroeconomic policy
• International finance
• Public economics

Previously director of the Economic Policy Research Office at the Ministry of Finance; first secretary of Japan’s Permanent Delegation to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris; and advisor, Asia and the Pacific Department at the International Monetary Fund.

Japanese national

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Research Department Co-Chair
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Expertise
• Monetary policy
• Fiscal policy
• Financial regulation and supervision
• Financial development
• Financial inclusion
• Financial education
• Macroeconomic policy
• Policy coordination
• Pensions and aging
• Japanese economy
• Economy of the People’s Republic of China
• International financial architecture

Was chief Asia economist for HSBC, Hong Kong, China, and chief Japan economist for HSBC, Merrill Lynch, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, and Jardine Fleming.

US national
Matthias Helble, Senior Economist
Research Department Co-Chair
PhD, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Switzerland
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Expertise
- World Trade Organization (WTO) and WTO agreements
- Noncommunicable diseases and obesity
- Climate change and the environment
- Urban economics
- Housing policy
- German economy
- Japanese economy

Worked for the World Bank, the World Health Organization, and the WTO.
German national

Naoko Nemoto, Financial Economist
PhD, Hitotsubashi University, Japan
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Expertise
- Fixed-income market in Japan and Asia
- Financial stability and the health of financial institutions in Japan and Asia
- Financial regulation and supervision
- Monetary policy and negative interest rates
- The role of rating agencies
- Fiscal policy and sovereign ratings
- Structural reforms
- Corporate governance
- Strategy of Japanese companies
- Aging issues and the role of financial institutions

Was managing director at Standard & Poor’s Rating Services and economist for the Bank of Japan.
Japanese national
Li Xu, Senior Research Fellow
PhD, Chinese Academy of Fiscal Sciences, People’s Republic of China
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Expertise

- Fiscal management and international knowledge cooperation
- Economic forecasting and analysis fiscal policy
- Finance
- National accounting
- Computable general equilibrium modeling

Seconded from the People’s Republic of China (PRC) Ministry of Finance. Was a consultant at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

PRC national

Bihong Huang, Research Fellow
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Expertise

- Income inequality and poverty reduction
- Health and education
- Financial inclusion
- Urbanization and migration
- Real estate market
- Environmental regulation
- Innovation and growth
- Social security
- Fiscal relations
- Economy of the People’s Republic of China

Was assistant professor at University of Macau and worked for Renmin University of China.

People’s Republic of China national
Aladdin D. Rillo
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Expertise
- Regional economic integration
- Trade and financial integration
- Economies of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- Financial cooperation in ASEAN
- Monitoring economic integration

Formerly director and chief economist of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office; senior manager and head of the Centre for Economic Excellence (Transfer Pricing) at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Toronto, Canada; assistant vice president and chief economist at Development Bank of Singapore Securities Philippines; and visiting lecturer at Chinese University of Hong Kong and Varna University of Economics in Bulgaria.

Philippine national

Wawan Juswanto
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Special Advisor to the Dean
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Expertise
- Economic policy and development decision making
- Macroeconomic policy
- Fiscal policy
- International cooperation
- Taxation and tax evasion

Held various senior positions at the Ministry of Finance in Indonesia.

Indonesian national
David Dole
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US national

KE Seetha Ram
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Expertise
- Infrastructure development
- Public–private partnerships
- Urban and regional transport
- Water and sanitation
- Health systems and aging
- Education, vocational training, e-learning
- Social entrepreneurship
- System dynamics
- Philanthropy
- Environmental impact assessment
- Earth observation, remote sensing, big data
- Climate change and disaster management

Concurrently, visiting professor, University of Tokyo; special advisor to JR East for India HighSpeed Rail. Previously, Asian Development Bank (ADB) knowledge management specialist; ADB visiting professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore; founding director of the Institute of Water Policy and NUS–Global Asia Institute.

Indian national
Koichiro Omoto
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Seconded from the Japan Water Agency. Previously, specialist in financing, accounting, and contracts in the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transportation and Tourism; and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Japanese national
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About the Asian Development Bank Institute

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Institute engages with policy makers in ADB’s developing member countries through research and training activities. Its goal is to reduce poverty in Asia and the Pacific.

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