

# Rural Development and Food Security Forum 2019

28–30 October 2019, ADB headquarters



26 October 2019

## Guide for Participants

### Welcome!

The **Rural Development and Food Security Forum (#RDFS2019)** is an excellent opportunity for you to share and learn best practices, recent trends, and innovations to promote rural development and achieve food security.

This three-day event will offer participants a venue to connect and strategize ways to scale up innovations in the Asia and Pacific region. This is also the place for you to build and strengthen synergies, networks, and partnerships.

The Forum will gather over 400 participants from ADB developing member countries, public and private sector organizations, NGOs and civil society organizations, development partners, and other practitioners engaged in agriculture and rural development.

- **Let's get social!** Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Make sure to tag your posts with #RDFS2019. We are excited to connect with and learn from you.
- **Let's go paperless!** Bring the program and materials with you on your mobile device. Download "**The Event App by EventsAIR**" on [Google Play](#) or the [Apple Store](#).

[Register online](#) until **15 September 2019!**

Confirmed participants can check the [Guide for Registration](#).

## Program

With the theme ***"Transformative changes for rural prosperity and nutritious food,"*** #RDFS2019 aims to:

- a. share and learn from the best practices, recent trends and innovations to promote rural development and achieve food security;
- b. strategize ways and means to scale up innovations in the Asia-Pacific region; and
- c. discuss ways to build and strengthen synergies, networks, and partnerships.

Discussions will focus on:

- a. **Farming crisis** with emphasis on transforming unprofitable farming to profitable farming with livable incomes and strengthening agricultural value chains;
- b. **Malnutrition** that still significantly impacts Asia and the Pacific with emphasis on meeting the malnutrition and food safety challenges to achieve ADB's Strategy 2030 and commitments to SDGs; and
- c. **Transformative policies and technologies for rural prosperity** to help overcome structural constraints and rural areas to become spaces of economic development, giving impetus to growth, modernized agriculture, and non-farm goods and services.

## Technology and Innovation Marketplace

Find out the recent innovations and technologies that support the **#RDFS2019** theme!

The Marketplace allows exhibitors to feature their products, technologies, and innovative projects. Come and enjoy this vibrant open space and use it to engage with the exhibitors, participants and guests to exchange ideas, explore solutions, and forge partnerships. Participation to the Marketplace is by invitation only.

## Online Discussions

**#RDFS2019** offers participants, speakers, and guests the chance to join the informal online discussions through [Facebook](#) before and during the Forum. You can also use this platform to share your feedback, insights, and resources after the event.

Visit the [RDFS Forum page](#) regularly to read announcements and reminders from the Forum Secretariat before and during the event.

## Mobile App

Let's go paperless! Participants can access information about the Forum, updates, and more special features through the EventsAIR mobile application.

Download "**The Event App by EventsAIR**" app from [Google Play](#) (Android users) or the [Apple Store](#) (IOS users) on your mobile device. The instructions and codes will be provided in October 2019.

# Travel Essentials

## a. Venue and Facilities

The Forum will be held at the ADB Auditoriums at the first floor. You can also find it by following the signages placed in the hallways. If in doubt, ask the Forum Secretariat.

Participants are also free to use the following ADB facilities during the Forum:

- ADB Cafeteria Level 1, Special Facilities Block
- Executive Dining Room Level 2, Special Facilities Block
- ADB Cashier Ground Floor, Office Tower Building
- Commercial Banks Ground Floor, Office Tower Building
- Travel Agents Ground Floor, Office Tower Building
- Library, Level 1, Office Tower Building
- Medical/Dental Clinic, Level 2, Special Facilities Block
- Pharmacy, Level 2, Special Facilities Block
- Personal Counter (for phone cards, Ground Floor, Office Tower Building Courier services, etc.)
- Post Office, Ground Floor, Office Tower Building

For your guidance, here is a [map](#) of the ADB first floor. In case you need help, please ask ADB security personnel.

## b. Registration and Forum Badge

**Online Registration.** [Online registration](#) for the Forum will open in July 2019 until 15 September 2019. Please take note that acceptance of an application does not mean ADB will provide funding support. We advise you to wait for the Secretariat's update on your application status before making travel plans.

**Access to ADB.** All participants must show a photo ID (e.g., passport or driver's license) and the confirmation letter to get the RDFS Forum event badge to enter the ADB premises. The badge will be valid for 28-30 October 2019. Please always wear your Forum badge while inside ADB premises or when leaving and entering ADB.

**ADB Security.** For security reasons:

- ADB will not accept walk-in participants who have not registered online or were not registered by the Forum Secretariat and did not receive confirmation letters/emails; and
- ADB will not accept participants replacing registered self-funded participants who were not registered by the Forum Secretariat and did not receive confirmation letters/emails.

### c. Dress Code and Conduct

**Dress Code.** We expect all participants to come in business attire during the Forum. We advise that you wear comfortable shoes since the ADB building has long hallways. Take note that ADB Headquarters is fully air-conditioned.

**Conduct.** We expect all Forum participants to conduct themselves professionally and respectfully.

### d. Food and Drinks During the Forum

Coffee will be available starting 8:00 a.m. Morning and afternoon snacks will be served at the Auditorium Lobby during the session breaks.

Daily lunches (28-30 October) will be served at the Executive Dining Room located at the second floor, which can be accessed using the spiral staircase near the auditorium. Halal and vegetarian meal options will be provided.

ADB will host welcome cocktails in the evening of 28 October. Participants are encouraged to use this time to broaden your networks, get to know rural development and food security sector peers, and visit the exhibition booths.

Please be aware of sudden venue changes and other announcements via voice-overs, digital displays or the messages feature of the mobile app.

## Forum Essentials

### a. Travel and Visas

You may choose from a number of international airlines that operate regular services to and from Manila. We advise you to secure the required visa/s and your return bookings before you depart for Manila.

Please make sure that you have prepared the required travel documents to enter the Philippines as early as possible. Your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond the intended date of entry into the Philippines.

**Philippine Visa.** Many nationals can enter the Philippines without visas for a stay not exceeding 21 days. Please check out the Official Website of the Republic of the Philippines' [Department of Foreign Affairs](#) for information about visa requirements.

Important: If you are a national of a country that requires a Philippine entry visa, please consider the length of visa processing which is 10–15 days (depending upon embassy / consulate in your area).

You may choose from the following hotels for your accommodations:

- Crowne Plaza Galleria
- Discovery Suites Manila
- EDSA Shangri-la Hotel
- Holiday Inn Manila
- Joy Nostalg Center

ADB have extended special rates for self-funded participants. Kindly mention that you are attending the Forum during your booking in order to avail of the hotel's ADB corporate rate.

The hotel check-in is at 14:00 hours and check-out at 12:00 hours. Participants are requested to proceed to the reception counters at the hotel lobby. Passport will be required for identity verification upon check-in. Early check-in and late check-out may be allowed subject to availability of the rooms.

Please consider the travel time to get to ADB especially during rush hour. You may choose to walk to ADB from your hotel. You can use Google maps or ask the hotel concierge for directions.

#### **b. Airport and Transfers**

Your hotel can help arrange your airport transfers from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). Please call the hotel in advance to ask about this service. You can also take accredited fixed rate or metered taxis.

- If the drop-off or pick- up point is within Ortigas Center, where ADB and ADB-accredited hotels are located, please expect to pay around Philippine Peso (PhP) 750.00 (or about US\$14, at exchange rate of PhP53.00 per US\$1.00) for accredited transfer services on a prepaid coupon basis.
- Accredited NAIA metered taxis (different from regular taxis) generally fetch lower rates than prepaid transfer services.

Due to frequent heavy traffic between Ortigas Center and the airport, we strongly suggest that you leave for the airport at least 4 or 5 hours before your flight departure.

The international terminal fee, Philippine travel tax and departure tax are usually included in the ticket cost. However, we recommend that you verify this information with your local travel agency. You may also check the fine print of your e-ticket.

### c. About Manila

The Philippines is an archipelagic country in Southeast Asia comprising of more than 7,000 islands. It is one of the fastest-growing economies in the region and is home to the ADB headquarters.

Metro Manila is the national capital region of the Philippines. It covers one municipality (Pateros) and 16 cities, including the City of Manila (the country's capital), Quezon City (the most populous), and Mandaluyong City (where ADB is located).

Manila was the first "global city" that connected Asia, the Americas, and Europe during the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade in the 1500s. Before this, it was a bustling trading outpost for goods from the People's Republic of China and other Asian neighbors.

Today, Metro Manila is a cosmopolitan city with a rich history and unique fusion of East and West, meshed with modern and traditional influences.

**Language.** Filipino is the national language. English is the business language and is widely spoken. English is the official language that will be used at the Forum.

**Time Zone.** Manila is 8 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+8).

**Business Hours.** Private and government offices hold office either from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. on weekdays. Some private companies are open on Saturdays until 12:00 noon. Most shopping malls are open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily. There are also 24-hour convenience stores, ATMs, and pharmacies nationwide. Banks usually close at 4:00 p.m.

**Currency Exchange and Credit Cards.** The currency of Philippines is the Peso. Exchange rate is estimated at Php 52 = US\$1. Exchange counters and ATMs are available at the airport, hotel lobbies, and at in-house banks at the ground floor of the ADB headquarters. International credit cards, such as American Express, Master Card, and Visa, are also widely accepted.

**Climate.** Average temperature in Metro Manila for the month of October 2019 will range from a low of 23°C to a high of 31°C. October is considered part of the rainy season, which is from June to November. Please bring jackets, raincoats, or an umbrella. Seasonal changes may also mean warm, humid days in between. For the latest weather information, check the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) website: [www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph](http://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph)

**Electric Current.** Electrical sockets in the Philippines are usually 220 volts AC at 60 hertz, using type "A" electrical sockets. For other types of plugs, you may wish to bring an adaptor.

**Telephone Codes.** The Philippine code is +63 and the area code for Metro Manila is 2. Take note that roaming charges may apply when you use your personal mobile networks.

### **Emergency Numbers**

- Police: 117
- National Emergency Hotline: 911

**Smoking Restrictions.** Smoking in public places is strictly prohibited per the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 (Republic Act 9211). Please know that violators may be fined.

### **Other Information**

- [List of Foreign Embassies in Manila](#)
- [Department of Foreign Affairs – Philippines](#)
- [Department of Tourism – Philippines](#)

#### **d. Around ADB**

The following establishments are mostly walking distance from ADB. Should you need medical assistance, the Forum Secretariat can assist you at your own expense.

### **Medical Clinics and Hospitals**

- Clinica Manila, 2nd Floor, SM Megamall Building A., Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Tel: +632 661 7777
- De Los Santos STI Mega Clinic, 5th Floor, SM Megamall Building A, Tel: +632 637 9661 to 68
- The Medical City Hospital (a long walk or a short taxi ride), Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City, Tel: +632 988 1000 or 7000

### **Shopping Centers**

- SM Megamall, EDSA corner Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, Tel: +632 633 1769
- Robinsons Galleria, EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City, Tel: +632 397 1888 local 32389
- The Podium, 18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, Tel: +632 638 9781 to 85

**Shopping for Souvenirs.** ADB merchandise can be bought at the Main Visitors Reception Center of ADB headquarters (near the reception desk at the Main Gate).

For Philippine-made products and other local souvenirs, we suggest that you visit the following stores:

- Kultura Filipino (branches can be found in both SM Megamall Building A and at The Podium, walking distance from ADB);
- Greenhills Shopping Center (for an array of bazaars and stalls, a 20-minute ride away);
- Tiendesitas (also an array of bazaars and stalls, a 30-minute ride away); and
- Tesoro's (for trusted traditional handicrafts, which is 30 minutes away in Makati City).

**Map.** Kindly refer to the [Ortigas Center map](#) for your guidance on nearby establishments.

## Materials

All RDFS Forum materials are available via the mobile application. General information is posted in the [Forum website](#).

Visit the [ADB Knowledge Events Repository](#) for the **#RDFS2019** materials to be available in November 2019. Check out the **#RDFS2019** photos in [Flickr](#) to be available in November-December 2019.

## Contact Us

### The Secretariat

Rural Development and Food Security Forum

Asian Development Bank

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Website: <https://www.adb.org/news/events/rural-development-and-food-security-forum-2019>

Facebook Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/343568849909818/>