Webinar/Virtual Workshop

Energy and Transport Infrastructure Connecting Asia and Europe: Investment, Transportation, Trade & COVID-19

Dates: 27-29 May 2020
Time: 15:45 -18:15 (Tokyo time)
Venue: Virtual (online)

27 May (Wednesday) 15:45 -18:15 Measuring impacts of infrastructure: Overview
28 May (Thursday) 15:45 -18:15 Measuring impacts of infrastructure: Transportation
29 May (Friday) 15:45 -18:15 Measuring impacts of infrastructure: Trade
Special session: COVID-19

The development of trade routes between Asia and Europe will require substantial investments in transportation infrastructure in Central Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Attracting greater private sector investment is increasingly critical to bridging the region’s nearly 300% annual infrastructure financing shortfall and building on recent connectivity inroads.

Notable infrastructure breakthroughs include construction of rail lines linking the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and Kazakhstan as a gateway to Europe. The PRC has also invested in a variety of energy infrastructure projects in Southeast Asia such as the ‘first Belt & Road power grid cooperation project’ in the Lao PDR enhancing connectivity across its northern provinces and regionally.

Improving understanding of the economic and strategic impacts of infrastructure connecting Asia and Europe is needed to identify and promote policy changes for attracting private finance to sustainably develop projects like these. Selected papers from this workshop will be included in the ADBI Working Paper Series and the special issue of the Asia Europe Journal.
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>15:45 - 16:00</td>
<td>Join Zoom meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00 - 16:10</td>
<td>Welcoming Remarks</td>
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<td>Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean and CEO, ADBI</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:10 - 16:30</td>
<td>Session 1: Measuring impacts of infrastructure: Overview</td>
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<td>Moderator: Dina Azhgaliyeva, Research Fellow, ADBI</td>
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<td>16:10 - 16:30</td>
<td>Competition and Cooperation in the Natural Gas Market: A Game-Theoretic Demand-Base Analysis</td>
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<td>Presenter: Youngho CHANG, Associate Professor, Singapore University of Social Sciences</td>
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<td>Discussant: Vidya C.T, Assistant Professor, Centre for Economic and Social Studies</td>
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<td>16:40 - 16:50</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>16:50 - 17:10</td>
<td>Economic Impact of Transportation Infrastructure Investment under the Belt Road Initiative: A Computable General Equilibrium Analysis</td>
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<td>Presenter: Zhenhua Chen, Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University</td>
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<td>Discussant: Alfred Gerstl, Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellow, Palacky University</td>
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<td>17:20 - 17:30</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>17:30 - 17:50</td>
<td>Implications of European and Chinese infrastructure investment initiatives for Eastern Europe</td>
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<td>Presenter: Julia Gruebler, Economist, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies</td>
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<td>17:50 - 18:00</td>
<td>Discussant: Zhihai XIE, Associate Professor, Kyoai Gakuen University</td>
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<td>18:00 - 18:10</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>18:10 - 18:15</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
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<td>Dina Azhgaliyeva, Research Fellow, ADBI</td>
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Day 2: 28 May (Thursday) 15:45 - 18:15 pm (Tokyo time)

15:45 - 16:00 Join Zoom meeting

Session 2: Measuring impacts of infrastructure: Transportation
Moderator: Dina Azhgaliyeva, Research Fellow, ADBI

Infrastructure Quality, Cross-Border Connectivity and Trade Cost
Presenter: Elvira Kurmanalieva, Expert, Eurasian Development Bank
16:00-16:20 Discussant: Youngho CHANG, Associate Professor, Singapore University of Social Sciences
16:20-16:30 Q&A

Re-evaluating the economic benefits of the Laos - China high speed rail, and its implications for the fiscal stability of Laos
Presenter: Jonathan Andrew Lane, Research Student, London School of Economics School of Public Policy/ University of Tokyo GraSPP
16:40-17:00 Discussant: Lixia Yao, Senior research fellow, National University of Singapore
17:00-17:10 Q&A

Estimating Causal Effects of BRI Infrastructure: Projects Based on the Synthetic Control Method
Presenter: Yuan Li, Professor, University of Duisburg-Essen, Institute of East Asian Studies & Mercator School of Management and Hans-Jörg Schmerer, Professor, the University of Hage
17:20-17:40 Discussant: Hugh Marshall-Tate, Researcher, Asia Pacific Energy Research Center
17:40-17:50 Q&A

18:00-18:15 Closing remarks
Dina Azhgaliyeva, Research Fellow, ADBI
Day 3: 29 May (Friday) 15:45 -18:15 pm (Tokyo time)

15:45 -16:00  
Join Zoom meeting

Session 3: Measuring impacts of infrastructure: Trade  
Moderator: Farhad Taghizadeh-Hesary, Associate Professor, Tokai University

The Impact of Infrastructure on Trade in Central Asia  
16:00-16:20  
Presenter: Burulcha Sulaimanova, Assistant Professor, Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University  
Discussant: Zhenhua Chen, Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University  
16:30-16:40  
Q&A

Does infrastructure facilitate trade connectivity? Evidence from ASEAN+3  
16:40-17:00  
Presenter: Vidya C.T, Assistant Professor, Centre for Economic and Social Studies  
Discussant: Yuan Li, Professor, University of Duisburg-Essen, Institute of East Asian Studies & Mercator School of Management  
17:10-17:20  
Q&A

Special session: COVID-19

COVID-19 and the Need for Resilient Infrastructure Systems  
17:20-17:40  
Ulrich Volz, Director of the SOAS Centre for Sustainable Finance and Reader in Economics at SOAS University of London, Senior Research Fellow at the German Development Institute, and Editor-in-Chief of the Asia Europe Journal  
17:40-17:50  
Q&A

The COVID-19 Pandemic - A Long-Term Challenge to Global and Regional Connectivity?  
17:50-18:00  
Alfred Gerstl, Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellow, Palacky University  
18:00-18:10  
Q&A

18:10-18:15  
Closing remarks  
Farhad Taghizadeh-Hesary, Associate Professor, Tokai University

Time allocation/limit per paper: presentations by authors – 20 min; presentations by discussants – 10 min, Q&A – 10 min.