I. INTRODUCTION

1. Every two to three years, the Regional Cooperation and Integration (RCI) community of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) hosts a conference to connect with stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific, collect feedback on ADB actions and strategies, share knowledge, and explore innovative RCI initiatives. The 2019 RCI Conference discussed the RCI Operational Plan (OP7), which was prepared as part of ADB’s Strategy 2030.

2. OP7 was carefully designed and balanced to build higher quality connectivity (pillar 1); expand global and regional trade and investment opportunities for firms in the region and make RCI benefits more inclusive given their unequal distribution (pillar 2); and generate more regional public goods (RPGs), which includes promoting collective action to support climate change mitigation and adaptation and mitigate cross-border transmission of infectious and communicable diseases (pillar 3).

3. The 2022 RCI Conference will provide a venue to discuss with key stakeholders of ADB’s RCI operations (i) the performance, to date, of implementing OP7, and (ii) key strategic directions for the rest of the OP7 period and beyond. The participants of the Conference will include: (i) senior officials of developing member economies of the ADB responsible for coordinating regional cooperation initiatives, and (ii) representatives of development partner agencies, regional cooperation organizations, and relevant private sector organizations.

4. The Conference will be conducted in hybrid format, i.e., combination of physical and virtual event. In the afternoon of 22 August 2022, the day before the start of the Conference, a physical gathering of officials involved in the ADB-supported subregional cooperation programs together with ADB representatives will be held for a brief experience sharing session. Virtual participation is noted with an icon.
II. CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 23 AUGUST 2022

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>AGENDA</th>
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| 9:00 am–9:30 am | Welcome and Opening Address | Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith  
Minister of Finance  
Royal Thai Government |
| | Keynote Address | Mr. Woochong Um  
Managing Director General of the  
Asian Development Bank (ADB) |
| 9:30 am–12:30 pm | Session 1: Mid-term Review of ADB Strategy 2030 Operational Priority 7 (OP7) on Fostering Regional Cooperation and Integration | Moderator:  
Ms. Xiaohong Yang  
Chief Thematic Officer,  
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC), ADB  
Presenter:  
Mr. Ronald Antonio Butiong  
Chief, Regional Cooperation and Integration Thematic Group, SDCC, ADB |
| | | Brief comments by delegation heads, and representatives of regional and multilateral organizations (At most 5-minute intervention per delegation leader)¹ |
| | Open Forum |
| | There will be a 15-minute coffee/tea break starting at 10:45 am. |
| 12:30 pm–1:30 pm | Lunch Break | Chadra Ballroom |
| 1:30 pm–4:30 pm | Session 2: Trends and Thematic Priorities Affecting the Future Directions of OP7 | Moderator:  
Mr. Alfredo Perdiguero  
Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, Southeast Asia Department (SERD), ADB |

¹ A draft of the midterm review of OP7 will be sent to the Conference participants no later than 15 August 2022.
### 2A: Key priorities of RCI work in the next decade

**Connectivity:** This includes the hard (infrastructure) and soft (regulations) components of connectivity including 3 sectors: (i) transport road, railways, maritime, and air, (ii) energy (energy transmission, renewable energy, energy efficiency); and (iii) Information and Communication technologies (digital infrastructure and digital regulations)

**Competitiveness:** This includes 4 sectors (i) trade and investment, (ii) interconnected and interdependent network of livable, and smart cities, (iii) tourism cooperation, and (iv) joint development of high-value sustainable agriculture

**Regional Public Goods:** This includes (i) health cooperation, and (ii) managing climate change and/or natural disasters.

### 2B: Cross-cutting issues for RCI work in the next decade

**Questions:**
(i) **ADB as Secretariat of RCI groups.** What should ADB focus in terms of it secretarial roles in each subregion including: as (a) financier, (b) mobilizer of cofinancing from development partners and private sector, (c) knowledge provider, or (d) honest broker?
(ii) **How could ADB promote more open RCI beyond well-established subregional initiatives?**
(iii) **How can ADB promote participation of other stakeholders in RCI (private sector, local governments, knowledge institutions)?**
(iv) **How could ADB work with countries, subregions and beyond to develop a robust RCI pipeline or projects?**

**Open Forum**

### Panelists:

- **Mr. Samson Uridia**  
  CAREC Trade Facilitation Focal, Head, International Relations Department, Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance of Georgia
- **Mr. Ranmuthu Hewage Kumarasiri**  
  Director General, Department of National Planning Sri Lanka
- **Mdm. Sisomboun Ounavong**  
  Director General, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao PDR
- **Dr. Zunika Binti Mohamed**  
  Deputy Director General (Policy) Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia
- **Dr. Zhan Shu**  
  Director, IFI Division 2 Ministry of Finance, People’s Republic of China
- **Mr. Mahmudul Islam Khan**  
  Deputy Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh
- **H.E. Dr. Suon Sophal**  
  Director, Council for the Development of Cambodia
- **Mr. Vudthidech Chamnikij**  
  Senior Policy and Plan Analyst, NESDC, Thailand
- **Dr. Edi Prio Pambudi**  
  Deputy Minister, Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs, Indonesia
There will be a 15-minute coffee/tea break starting at 3:00 pm.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Organizer/Leader</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:30 pm – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Brief Wrap Up of Day 1</td>
<td>Mr. Ronald Antonio Butiong (Chief, RCI Thematic Group, SDCC, ADB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm – 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Welcome Dinner</td>
<td>Niche Restaurant</td>
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**DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 24 AUGUST 2022**

**Session 3: OP7 Future Strategic Directions for Pillar 1: High-quality Connectivity Infrastructure**

**Moderator:**
Mr. Thiam Hee Ng  
Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, South Asia Department (SARD), ADB

**Presentations/Interventions**

(i) Implementing resilient, high-quality regional connectivity infrastructure to support the net-zero transition
- Showcase: Best practices and innovative cross-border transport projects from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- Showcase: The World Bank’s experience in implementing inclusive, resilient, high-quality regional connectivity infrastructure in South Asia

Ms. Supee Teravaninthorn  
Director General, Infrastructure Investment Department (Region 2), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Ms. Mandakini Kaul  
Regional Coordinator, South Asia Regional Integration and Engagement, World Bank

(ii) Ensuring energy security and growing energy trade
- Showcase: The Monsoon Wind Power Project

Mr. Peck Khamkanist  
Chief Executive Officer, Impact Electrons Siam Company Limited

(iii) Enhancing regional connectivity through ICT
- Showcase: The Asia-Pacific Remote Broadband Internet Satellite Project

Mr. Olivier Richard  
Chief Financial Officer, Kacific Broadband Satellites Group

(iv) Elevating the status and functionality of cross-border logistics
- Showcase: The electronic cargo tracking system (ECTS) initiative under the South Asia Subregional Economic

Mr. Nilaya Mitash  
Principal Operations Coordination Specialist (Regional Cooperation), SARD, ADB
Cooperation Program (SASEC) and the Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE) program in India

Open Forum

There will be a 15-minute coffee/tea break starting at 10:30 am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session 4: OP7 Future Directions for Pillar 2: Regional Trade and Investment</th>
<th>Moderator: Ms. Emma Fan</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 am–12:15 pm</td>
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<td>Ms. Emma Fan</td>
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<td>The session will cover three topics on key trends and prospects in regional trade and investments, including agriculture value chains and food security, digital trade and free trade areas.</td>
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<td><strong>(i) Promoting Sustainable Agro-Based Value Chains and Food Security</strong></td>
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<td><strong>(ii) Digital Trade: Trends and Prospects</strong></td>
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<td><strong>(iii) Regional Trade: FTA Trends and Prospects</strong></td>
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**Moderator:** Ms. Emma Fan  
Director, East Asia Department (EARD), ADB

**Speaker:**  
Mr. Abdelkarim Sma  
Lead Regional Economist, Asia and Pacific Division, Department Programme Management Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development

**Panelist:**  
Mr. Takeshi Ueda  
Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist, Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division, SERD, ADB

**Panelist:**  
Ms. Hannah Nguyen  
Director, Digital Ecosystems, ICC Digital Standards Initiative

**Panelist:**  
Mr. Luca Castellani  
Legal Officer, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), Vienna

**Panelist:**  
Mr. Yann Duval  
Chief of Trade Policy and Facilitation Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations ESCAP

**Panelist:**  
Ms. Deborah Elms  
Director, Asian Trade Center, based in Singapore. She is an expert in RCEP, CPTPP

Open Forum
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 pm–1:15 pm</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
<td>Chadra Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15 pm–2:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>Session 5: OP7 Future Directions for Pillar 3: Regional Public Goods and Collective Action</strong>&lt;br&gt;Session overview and introduction of speakers</td>
<td>Moderator: &lt;br&gt;&lt;b&gt;Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova&lt;/b&gt;&lt;br&gt;Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, Central and West Asia Department, ADB</td>
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<td>Panel discussion on RPG related issues work in four key priority areas:</td>
<td><strong>Panelists</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;(i) A green deal for Asia and the Pacific? Connecting the global commons with regional and national public goods: RCI in support of ADB’s role as the region's Climate Bank&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;(ii) Regional public health and equitable national vaccination: RCI in support of achieving &quot;vaccine security&quot; in the region&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;(iii) Regional cooperation and collective action for better disaster resilience&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;(iv) Operationalizing regional public goods through regional investment projects</td>
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<td><strong>Open Forum</strong></td>
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<td>There will be a 15-minute coffee/tea break starting at 2:45 pm.</td>
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3:00 pm–4:45 pm  | **Session 6: Future RCI Research and Innovation**

Presentations followed by moderated panel discussion on the focus of RCI research for the next decade, which could be on three priority areas:  
(i) Digital transformation for productivity and inclusive growth  
(ii) Digitalization of trade and supply chain for improved accessibility and trade facilitation  
(iii) Digitalization and regional cooperation for sustainable and inclusive growth.  
Need for new way of governance and policy making will also be discussed across all three priority areas.

**Moderator:**  
**Ms. Cyn-Young Park**  
Director, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD), ADB

| Presentation on digital transformation and RCI:  
**Presenter:**  
**Ms. Lorraine Carlos Salazar**  
Senior Knowledge Expert, McKinsey & Company  

| Panel Discussion:  
**Panelists:**  
**Ms. Rupa Chanda**  
Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UNESCAP (services trade and RCI agenda)  
**Mr. Fukunari Kimura**  
Chief Economist, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (trade and investment policy and facilitation and RCI)  
**Mr. Thomas Abell**  
Advisor, SDCC and Chief of Digital Technology for Development, SDCC, ADB  

| Open Forum |

4:45 pm–5:00 pm  | **Brief Wrap Up of Day 2**  
**Mr. Yuebin Zhang**  
Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, SDCC, ADB
### DAY 3: THURSDAY, 25 AUGUST 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Moderator(s)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
<th>Panelists</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 9:00 am–10:30 am | Session 7: Green Finance for RCI and Economic Growth | Ms. Naeeda Crisha Morgado  
Infrastructure Specialist  
(Innovation and Green Finance), SERD, ADB | Remarks: Mr. Anouj Mehta  
Country Director for Thailand and Unit Head, ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility (ACGF), ADB | Mr. Kosintr Puongsophol  
Financial Sector Specialist, ERCD, ADB  
Mr. Sanjeev Kaushik  
Principal Financial Sector Specialist, South Asia Department, ADB  
Mr. PVS Suryakumar  
Deputy Managing Director, NABARD, Mumbai  
Ms. Emma Fan  
Director, EARD, ADB |
|              | Presentation on Green finance through multilateral and regional cooperation |                                                                   |                                              |                                                         |
|              | • ASEAN Green Finance Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance                   |                                                                   |                                              |                                                         |
|              | • Supporting green bonds and green finance across ASEAN                   |                                                                   |                                              |                                                         |
|              | • Green Finance Initiative in South Asia                                  |                                                                   |                                              |                                                         |
|              | • Green Finance for Net Zero Transformation and High-Quality Growth: Examples from ADB’s Engagement in the PRC and Its Regional Implications |                                                                   |                                              |                                                         |
|              | There will be a 15-minute coffee/tea break starting at 10:30 am.         |                                                                   |                                              |                                                         |
| 10:45 am–12:00 pm | Session 8: Summary and Conclusion of the Conference | Ms. Rosalind McKenzie  
Principal Operations Coordination Specialist (Fragile Situation), Pacific Department, ADB |                                             |                                                         |
|              | Presentation of Summary of RCI Conference                                |                                                                   |                                              |                                                         |
| 12:00 pm–12:15 pm | Closing Remarks              | Ms. Xiaohong Yang  
Chief Thematic Officer, SDCC, ADB                                      |                                             |                                                         |
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 pm–1:30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Chadra Ballroom</td>
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