



ADB Seminar Series on Regional Economic Integration

organized by the Office of Regional Economic Integration (OREI)

Title: “Assessing the Impact of Regional Integration on Productivity and Income Inequality”

Date: 4 July 2014

Time: 2:00 PM–3:30 PM Manila time

Venue: 7653 East OCO Conference Room, ADB Headquarters

Organizer: Office of Regional Economic Integration (OREI)

Speaker: David Roland-Holst
Associate Dean, College of Natural Resources
Professor, Departments of Economics and Agricultural and Resource Economics
University of California at Berkeley

Program

2:00 – 2:05 Chairperson: Iwan J. Azis, Head, OREI

2:05 – 2:55 Presentation on
“Assessing the Impact of Regional Integration on Productivity and Income Inequality”

2:55 – 3:30 Open Floor Discussion

Profile of Speaker: David Roland-Holst

David Roland-Holst is Associate Dean for International Programs in the College of Natural Resources and Professor in the Departments of Economics and Agricultural and Resource Economics at UC Berkeley. Dr. Roland-Holst is one of the world's leading authorities on policy modeling, and has extensive research experience in economics related to agriculture, development, environment, and international trade, authoring six books and over 100 articles and chapters in professional publications.



He has served in academic posts in the US, Europe, and Asia and conducted research in over 40 countries, working with US and foreign national governments, the Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development bank, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), World Bank, and several United Nations agencies. Professor Roland-Holst holds a Ph.D. in Economics from UC Berkeley and is a US citizen.

Synopsis of the Presentation

Today's Asia represents every stage of economic development, from subsistence agriculture to highest-tech luxury services such as cosmetic surgery. Likewise, the region encompasses some of the world's poorest and wealthiest populations, with abundant natural resources in the former and abundant financial resources in the latter. This diversity (and complementarity) of initial conditions suggests challenges, but also enormous opportunities, exist for more effective regional economic integration. Indeed, Asian integration over the last two decades has already conferred many benefits already, but its potential is far from being realized.

The challenge going forward will be to increase both the scope and inclusiveness of regional growth. As OECD experience suggests, tapering growth rates may be inevitable, but inequality need not be. In this talk, Professor Roland-Holst will discuss what economic theory and evidence suggest about RCI's potential to promote more sustained and inclusive growth in Asia, as well as what kinds of policies can facilitate this at the national and regional level.