



Digitalization as an Opportunity for Inclusive Growth in Asia and the Pacific

Call for Papers

Asian Think Tank Network 2024

Digital transformation has gained significant attention in the last decade, with a surge in adoption of digital technologies and applications in various facets of the economy. It offers opportunity for the greater inclusion of firms, particularly the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and people in a country's economic growth. Digital adoption post-COVID-19 has accelerated mass digital adoption and expedited use of technology in many sectors.

However, digital inequalities undermine digital inclusion, particularly for the poorer and disadvantaged part of the population. Moreover, the digital economy generates negative externalities, with higher consumption of electricity and increased electronic waste. It also increases the possibility of violation of some basic principles of information security and privacy if access to information and personal data is not well regulated. Digitalization also increases the risk of misinformation, fraud, and deception.

Ensuring equity through digitalization will thus require policy planning and investment in infrastructure. It will require forming partnerships and crafting regulations, mandating universal broadband, upskilling workers, and introducing social protections for fair distribution of gains. Global and regional agreements will be required to manage cross-border information flows, facilitate digital trade and investment, including the integration of MSMEs into the world economy, regulate competition and taxation, and ensure users' safety and privacy.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), under its Asian Think Tanks Network (ATTN) platform, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), invite submissions of original research papers under the theme *Digitalization as an Opportunity for Inclusive Growth in Asia and the Pacific*. The objective is to enhance capacity of researchers and think tanks in developing countries and promote policy relevant empirical research in a key development issue in the region.

The project consists of a small grant for researchers from think tanks or universities to complete a research paper under the guidance of an established researcher, who will serve as a mentor and potential co-author, if needed. The selected paper will then be presented at the ATTN Forum on **2-4 October 2024**, in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The submission could use theoretical, empirical, and/or practical methodologies as deemed appropriate. All submissions must be original and not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Paper topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

1. MSMEs, cross-border e-commerce and payment
2. Ensuring gender-inclusive digitalization
3. Digital government for improved accessibility of social services
4. Digital literacy, skills, and the future of jobs
5. Generative artificial intelligence and inequality
6. Digital infrastructure and regulations for secure transactions
7. Digital trade and Investment for inclusive growth
8. Digital economy agreements, ensuring equitable benefits between countries.

Submission Procedure

Authors should submit their **extended abstract** in English by **15 April 2024**. The deadline is not extendable. The abstract should be about 750 words, including the title, name of author(s), affiliation(s), research background, motivation, methodology, and expected policy implications. Incomplete submissions without clear research question and methodology will be rejected. [Please click to submit your entry.](#) Successful applicants will be notified by **10 May 2024**.

Up to 10 abstracts will be selected. Authors of selected abstracts must submit their **draft paper** (5,000 words) by **20 July 2024**. The review and comments of the assigned reviewers will be shared to authors by **9 August 2024**.

The **full paper** should be 6,000-8,000 words in length and clearly address the research questions stated in the initial submission. Submissions should contain the following:

- Paper title
- Author information (including co-authors): name, affiliation, address, email
- Abstract (150-250 words)
- Introduction
- Main text (split into various sections with headings and subheadings)
- Conclusion and policy recommendations
- References

The **draft paper with submission deadline of 20 July 2024**, and **full paper with submission deadline of 13 September 2024**, should be submitted to arosario@adb.org copy nlozano.contractor@adb.org.

Upon approval of the final paper, authors of selected papers will be invited to present their papers at the **ATTN Forum on 2-4 October 2024, at CSIS, Jakarta**. The ATTN Forum will bring together researchers, experts, and policy makers to discuss the policy issue and the papers.

An honorarium of US\$1000 (research grant) will be paid to the selected authors upon approval of the final paper and presentation at the conference. ADB will provide travel and accommodation support to one author per paper, who must be a citizen of an [Asian Development Bank member economy](#). Selected papers will also be considered for publication as policy briefs or inclusion in a monograph, subject to their quality and policy relevance, to be determined by ADB. Final paper submission is thus expected by **15 November 2024**.

Project Organizing Committee:

- Sanchita Basu Das, Economist, ERDI, ADB
- Daniel Suryadarma, Senior Research Fellow, ADBI
- Yose Rizal Damuri, Executive Director, CSIS, Jakarta
- Rupa Chanda, Director, ESCAP

Contacts

Inquiries may be directed to any of the following:

ADB	arosario@adb.org
CSIS	adinova.fauri@csis.or.id
ESCAP	sukpaibool@un.org