

**SPEAKERS' PROFILES****Day 1: 6 October 2026****Opening Session****HENG SWEE KEAT***Chairman*

National Research Foundation

Former Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore

Heng Swee Keat is Chairman of the National Research Foundation. He is a Director of the GIC Board and a member of the GIC Investment Strategies Committee. He served as Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister from 2019 to 2025, Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies from 2020 to 2024, Minister for Education from 2011 to 2015, and Minister for Finance from 2015 to 2021. Before entering politics in 2011, he was Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore. He also served as Permanent Secretary of the then-Ministry of Trade and Industry, as well as Chief Executive Officer of the then-Trade Development Board. Between 1997 and 2000, he was Principal Private Secretary to then-Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Mr Heng holds a Master of Arts in Economics from Cambridge University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.

**IQBAL SINGH SEVEA***Director*Institute of South Asian Studies,
National University of Singapore

Iqbal Singh Sevea is the Director of the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) at the National University of Singapore. He is a scholar of contemporary and modern South Asia, with a focus on South Asian politics, political thought and geopolitics.

He has held academic appointments at leading institutions globally and is the author of several publications. Before joining ISAS, he was an Associate Professor with the Department of History at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where he was a faculty member from 2012 to 2021. Prior to this, he was an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Contemporary Islam Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His publications include *The Political Philosophy of Muhammad Iqbal: Islam and Nationalism in Late Colonial India* (Cambridge University Press, 2012); *India and the Future of G20: Shaping Policies for a Better World* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2023); and *South Asia: Retrospect and Prospects* (World Scientific Publishing, 2026).

Associate Professor Sevea completed his doctorate at the University of Oxford.

**Opening Session****BAMBANG BRODJONEGORO***Dean and CEO*

Asian Development Bank Institute

Bambang Brodjonegoro, an Indonesian national, is the Dean and CEO of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI). Before joining ADBI in April 2025, he was Special Advisor to the President of the Republic of Indonesia for Economic Affairs and National Development. He served the Government of Indonesia in several senior leadership roles from 2011. He was Indonesia's Minister of Finance (2014–2016), Minister of National Development Planning (2016–2019), and Minister of Research and Technology (2019–2021). Besides government and academic, he also served as Director General of Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) (2009–2010).

Dean Brodjonegoro holds a doctorate and master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a bachelor's degree in economics from the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Indonesia, where he was full Professor and serving as Dean during 2005–2009.

**ABDUL ABIAD***Deputy Chief Economist*Economic Research and Development
Impact Department
Asian Development Bank

Abdul Abiad is Deputy Chief Economist at the Asian Development Bank in Manila, where he provides guidance on the Research Department's strategic direction, flagship reports, and research priorities.

In his prior role as Director of Macroeconomic Research, he oversaw the preparation of the *Asian Development Outlook* reports. From 2000 to 2015, he was with the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC, where he worked on the *World Economic Outlook*. His research has focused on financial sector development, international financial integration, fiscal and monetary policy, exchange rates, trade, economic resilience, and infrastructure.

A Philippine national, he has a BS in Mathematics from the University of the Philippines and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania.

**High Level Session I: Global Value Chains and Inclusive Development****ABDUL ABIAD***Deputy Chief Economist*

Economic Research and Development Impact
Department
Asian Development Bank

Abdul Abiad is Deputy Chief Economist at the Asian Development Bank in Manila, where he provides guidance on the Research Department's strategic direction, flagship reports, and research priorities.

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A Philippine national, he has a BS in Mathematics from the University of the Philippines and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania.

**NEIL FOSTER-MCGREGOR***Principal Economist*

Economic Research and Development Impact
Department
Asian Development Bank

Neil Foster-McGregor has broad research interests and has worked and published widely on topics including global value chains; preferential trade agreements; structural transformation; innovation and knowledge transfer; trade and labor markets; and new technologies, inequality and labor market outcomes. Prior to joining ADB, he worked at the United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) initially as a Research Fellow (2014-2016) and later as Deputy Director and Professor of Globalization and Innovation (2016-2023).

**BAMBANG BRODJONEGORO***Dean and CEO*

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**High Level Session I: Global Value Chains and Inclusive Development**

Economics and Business, University of Indonesia, where he was full Professor and serving as Dean during 2005–2009.

**RUPA CHANDA**

*Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation
Division*

United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific

Rupa Chanda is Director of Trade, Investment, and Innovation Division at UN ESCAP. Previously, she was Professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore and an Economist at the International Monetary Fund. She holds a PhD from Columbia University and a BA from Harvard University. Her research focuses on international trade in services, WTO issues, regional integration, health services, and migration. She has advised national and international bodies, undertaken research for leading international organizations, and published extensively in books, journals, and policy reports.

**RADHIKA RAO**

Senior Economist and Executive Director
DBS Bank

Radhika Rao is Senior Economist and Executive Director in the Economics & Strategy Research Department at DBS Bank, Singapore. With nearly two decades of experience in macroeconomics and financial markets research, she covers South and Southeast Asia, with a particular focus on India and Indonesia, as well as the Eurozone. She regularly engages with corporate clients, policymakers, trade missions, sovereign institutions, and the media on economic and market developments. Prior to joining DBS in 2013, she worked with private-sector research firms and gained experience in investment banking in Singapore.

**High Level Session II: Impact of FDI on ASEAN countries: Looking Back to Look Forward****SANCHITA BASU DAS***Senior Economist*

Economic Research and Development Impact
Department
Asian Development Bank

Sanchita Basu Das is Senior Economist in the Regional Cooperation and Integration Division of ADB's Economic Research and Development Impact Department, where she contributes to flagship publications, analytical studies, and policy forums including G20, ASEAN, and ASEAN+3. Her research focuses on regional cooperation and integration, including trade, logistics, economic corridors, tourism, and the digital economy. Before joining ADB in 2018, she was Lead Researcher for Economic Affairs at the ASEAN Studies Centre of the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore. She holds a PhD in International Political Economy from Nanyang Technological University and master's degrees from the University of Delhi and the National University of Singapore.

**KIAN HENG PEH**

Group Head and Lead Economist
ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office

Kian Heng Peh is Group Head and Lead Economist at the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), where he focuses on macroeconomic surveillance of ASEAN+3 economies. Previously, he was Head of Corporate Investment at United Overseas Bank and an investment strategist at OCBC. He also held senior roles at the Monetary Authority of Singapore and was seconded to the International Monetary Fund. He holds a Master of Arts in International Political Economy from the University of Warwick and a Bachelor of Social Sciences from the National University of Singapore.

**ROLANDO AVENDANO***Senior Economist*

Economic Research and Development Impact
Department
Asian Development Bank

Rolando Avendano is a Senior Economist at the Economic Research and Development Impact Department of the Asian Development Bank. His research focuses on financial and international economics, particularly cross-border investment, financial development, regional integration, and competitiveness. His recent work centers on FDI and geoeconomic fragmentation, trade in digital services, and regional integration, and productivity. Prior to joining ADB, he held several roles at the OECD in Paris. He was Lecturer at the School of Engineering at University of Los Andes (Colombia) and research associate at University College London (UK). He holds a B Sc, in Industrial Engineering for the University of Los Andes and M.Sc and PhD in Economics from the Paris School of Economics (PSE).

**High Level Session II: Impact of FDI on ASEAN countries: Looking Back to Look Forward****AHMAD ZAFARULLAH ABDUL JALIL***Director**ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate
ASEAN Secretariat*

Ahmad Zafarullah Abdul Jalil is Director of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate at the ASEAN Secretariat, where he oversees the monitoring of ASEAN's regional economic integration agenda and related initiatives. Previously, he served as Senior Economist at the Islamic Development Bank, Senior Manager at the Securities Commission Malaysia, and Associate Professor of Economics at Universiti Utara Malaysia. He holds a PhD in Economics from CERDI, Université d'Auvergne, France.

**EVELYN DEVADASON***Professor, Faculty of Business and Economics
Universiti Malaya*

Evelyn S. Devadason is Professor at the Faculty of Business and Economics, Universiti Malaya, and Vice President of the Malaysian Economic Association. Her research focuses on international trade and regional integration, with an emphasis on policy relevance and cross-regional analysis. She serves as an Expert Member of the Malaysian Parliament's Special Committee on Economics and Finance and holds advisory and board roles with several national and regional institutions. She is also an associate editor of leading economics journals and has undertaken research and policy collaborations with international organizations, including ADB, ADBI, the World Bank, UNCTAD, and the European Union.

**CASSEY LEE***Principal Fellow, Coordinator, Regional Economic
Studies Programme
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute*

Cassey Lee is currently Principal Fellow and Coordinator of the Regional Economic Studies Programme at ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute and Honorary Professor at the Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Malaya. He has held academic appointments at the University of Wollongong, Nottingham University Business School (Malaysia) and University of Malaya. Dr Lee received his PhD (Economics) from University of California, Irvine. His current research focuses on structural change, competition policy and political economy. He is the co-managing editor of the Journal of Southeast Asian Economies and associate editor of the Asian Economic Journal and Asian Economic Policy Review.

Special Session: Advancing Digital Trade and Cross-Border E-Commerce



SHU TIAN

Principal Economist

Economic Research and Development Impact
 Department
 Asian Development Bank

Shu Tian is a Principal Economist at the Economic Research and Development Impact Department (ERDI) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Her research interests include financial sector development, sustainable and climate finance, and digitalization. Her work has been published in the Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, Journal of Banking & Finance, Journal of Corporate Finance, Financial Management, Finance and Accounting. Prior to joining ADB, she was an Associate Professor of Finance at Fudan University in China.



JONG WOO KANG

Director

Regional Cooperation and Integration Division
 Asian Development Bank

Jong Woo Kang is Director of Regional Cooperation and Integration Division at the Economic Research and Development Impact Department (ERDI) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). As director, he plays a role as an interface between ADB's internal and external stakeholders on regional cooperation and integration. He is a seasoned economist with extensive knowledge and experience on policy and strategic issues. He was Principal Economist at ERDI, Senior Advisor to the Managing Director General of ADB and Senior Economist at Strategy and Policy Department at ADB. He leads the annual publication of Asian Economic Integration Report. His research interests include regional integration, inclusive growth, macroeconomic policies, international trade and finance, and aid effectiveness. He published articles in economics journals such as Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Applied Economics, and World Economy. Before joining ADB, he was director at Ministry of Finance and Economy of Korea until 2006. He completed his BA in economics and MA in public administration from Seoul National University, and PhD in economics from University of Washington.



RUPA CHANDA

*Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation
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Rupa Chanda is Director of Trade, Investment, and Innovation Division at UN ESCAP. Previously, she was Professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore and an Economist at the International Monetary Fund. She holds a PhD from Columbia University and a BA from Harvard University. Her research focuses on international trade in services, WTO issues, regional integration, health services, and migration. She has advised national and international bodies, undertaken research for leading international organizations, and published extensively in books, journals, and policy reports.

**Special Session: Advancing Digital Trade and Cross-Border E-Commerce****KIYOSHI TANIGUCHI***Regional Lead Economist*

Economic Research and Development Impact
Department
Asian Development Bank

Kiyoshi Taniguchi is Regional Lead Economist for ADB's South Asia Department. He previously served as Regional Lead Economist for the Central and West Asia Department and as Country Economist at the Pakistan Resident Mission, covering Afghanistan and Pakistan. His experience at ADB also includes economic analysis for the Pacific and Private Sector Operations Departments and an assignment at the Uzbekistan Resident Mission, where he led a team covering Central Asia and the South Caucasus. Before joining ADB, he worked with the World Bank in Indonesia and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. He has also taught development economics at universities in Japan, Uzbekistan, and the Philippines. He holds a doctorate and master's degree in Economics from Ohio State University, a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Oregon, and a law degree from Chiba University.

**ASHUTOSH BAJPAI***Vice President*

APEC Gateway and Customs
DHL Express APEC Regional Office Singapore

Ashutosh Bajpai is a senior logistics executive with extensive regional and country leadership experience across DHL Express and the broader logistics sector. Since 2020, he has led Ground, Gateways and Customs Operations for DHL Express across APEC, based in Singapore. Previously, he served for nearly a decade as COO of DHL Express India and as Senior Director for Public Policy at Deutsche Post DHL, leading government engagement initiatives across South Asia.

His experience spans logistics operations, customs and regulatory affairs, trade facilitation, and public policy. He has contributed to government and industry initiatives, including as Logistics Expert on the Minister of Commerce's Task Force on Reduction of Transaction Cost and Chairman of the Trade Facilitation Council of the SAARC Chamber. He holds an MBA in International Business and a Diploma in Logistics Management.

**Session I: State and Trends of FDI and Supply Chain Transformation in Asia and the Pacific****PHONGPOB BEN METHAKULLAWAT**

Capacity Building Specialist
Asian Development Bank Institute

Phongpob (Ben) Methakullawat is an economist with a diplomatic background and extensive experience in regional integration, trade, investment, and development cooperation. He began his career as a diplomat with Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and later served as an economist at the ASEAN Secretariat, working on regional economic integration initiatives. He also served as National Project Coordinator for the International Trade Centre and held a leadership role at the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), where he coordinated partnerships with UN agencies and South-South cooperation initiatives. He holds a PhD and master's degrees in Economics from the Australian National University and an honours degree from the University of Melbourne.

**GEETHANJALI NATARAJ**

Principal
International Trade Policy
Confederation of Indian Industry

Geethanjali Nataraj is Principal, International Trade Policy, at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi. An economist with more than 28 years of research and teaching experience, her expertise spans international trade policy, WTO issues, regional trade agreements, foreign direct investment, services, and the economies of South Asia, Japan, and China. She previously served as Director (Policy and Research) at the Services Export Promotion Council and has held positions with leading think tanks and academic institutions in India. She has published widely in national and international journals and regularly writes on trade, G20, and BRICS issues.

**MAITRI GHOSH**

*Joint Director of Public Instruction & Officer on
Special Duty*
Department of Higher Education, Government of
West Bengal

Maitri Ghosh is Joint Director of Public Instruction and Officer on Special Duty at the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, India. Previously, she served as Joint Secretary (Academic) at the West Bengal State Council of Higher Education and taught Economics for over two decades, most recently as Associate Professor at Bethune College, Kolkata. She holds a PhD in Economics from Jadavpur University. Her research focuses on foreign direct investment, international trade, technology spillovers, export performance, and labour market outcomes in manufacturing. She has contributed to national and state-level higher education committees, led funded research projects, and published journal articles, book chapters, and edited volumes.

**Session I: State and Trends of FDI and Supply Chain Transformation in Asia and the Pacific****KUN CAI***Postdoctoral Researcher*
Wuhan University

Kun Cai is a postdoctoral researcher at Wuhan University in China. Her research interest lies at the intersection of global value chains and geoeconomics, particularly on innovation networks and firm heterogeneity. Her recent work focuses on China's new energy vehicle industry, industrial upgrading, and cross-border activities of Chinese firms. She participated in projects on the construction of China's input-output tables. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of International Business and Economics in China

**IVAN HARRIS TANYAG***Graduate Student*
University of the Philippines Diliman

Ivan Harris Tanyag is an advanced-stage master's candidate at the University of the Philippines Diliman and an alumnus of the ASEAN Law and Policy Academy at the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore. He has worked on policy research and consulting with the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities and has engaged with research institutions including the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Ateneo School of Government, and UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies. His work has appeared in internationally published volumes by Springer Nature, Routledge, and the Asian Development Bank Institute. His research interests include big-data analytics, remote sensing, urban and environmental studies, urban economics, international trade, and regional economic integration.

**Session II: FDI Policy, Geopolitics, and Strategic Enablers of Supply Chain Resilience****KIYOSHI TANIGUCHI***Regional Lead Economist*

Economic Research and Development Impact
Department
Asian Development Bank

Kiyoshi Taniguchi is Regional Lead Economist for ADB's South Asia Department. He previously served as Regional Lead Economist for the Central and West Asia Department and as Country Economist at the Pakistan Resident Mission, covering Afghanistan and Pakistan. His experience at ADB also includes economic analysis for the Pacific and Private Sector Operations Departments and an assignment at the Uzbekistan Resident Mission, where he led a team covering Central Asia and the South Caucasus. Before joining ADB, he worked with the World Bank in Indonesia and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. He has also taught development economics at universities in Japan, Uzbekistan, and the Philippines. He holds a doctorate and master's degree in Economics from Ohio State University, a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Oregon, and a law degree from Chiba University.

**ELIZABETH CHELLIAH***Principal Trade Consultant*

Centre for the Future of Trade and Investment
Singapore Business Federation

Elizabeth Chelliah, a lawyer by profession, recently retired as Principal Trade Specialist (PTS) at Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI). She has since been appointed Principal Trade Consultant with the Singapore Business Federation (SBF), as well as Associate Trainer with CSC and a member of the panel of experts at the Centre for Trade Excellence. She is concurrently an Adjunct Senior Fellow at RSIS.

Over her 30 years in the Singapore Civil Service, which began in April 1995, she has covered a wide range of portfolios. Notable highlights include her role at the Singapore Mission to the WTO in 1998, where she worked on trade in goods, WTO dispute settlement, and WTO accession issues. She also served as a panelist on several WTO dispute settlement panels. As part of Singapore's APEC team during its hosting of APEC in 2009, she served as Chair of the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) from 2008 to 2010.

She has been involved in FTA negotiations since 2002, serving as Singapore's Chief Negotiator for the Singapore-Peru FTA and leading several chapters during the TPP negotiations. Her last negotiating engagement was as Chair of the RCEP Intellectual Property Working Group, which concluded its negotiations in 2019.

She has also provided guidance and advice to government agencies and the private sector on WTO and FTA matters, trade facilitation and connectivity, and internationalisation strategies. She regularly speaks at events organised by institutions such as Chatham House, GTR, Asia Society, UNCTAD, RSIS, and the WTO. Since March 2020, she has also supported the Singapore Business Federation on FTA outreach and training for businesses.

**Session II: FDI Policy, Geopolitics, and Strategic Enablers of Supply Chain Resilience****CARLOS MANGUNSONG***Senior Advisor*
DTS Indonesia

Carlos Mangunsong is Senior Advisor at DTS Indonesia, where his work focuses on macroeconomics, international trade and investment, industrial policy, and applied econometrics. He is concurrently Director of Development Investment at the Danantara Development Management Fund. With over two decades of experience in economic research and policy, he has held senior roles with Prospera, the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Economic Governance, the World Bank Group, and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta. His research covers trade agreements, export promotion, production networks, and digital financial inclusion. He holds master's degrees in Business Economics from Monash University and Development Studies from the Bandung Institute of Technology.

**ARZU HUSEYN***Visiting Professor*
Ankara Haci Bayram Veli University

Arzu Huseyn is Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Tourism, Ankara Haci Bayram Veli University. Previously, she served as Head of the Department of Management at Azerbaijan Tourism and Management University and held research and leadership positions at the Institute of Economics of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences. With over two decades of teaching and research experience, her work focuses on tourism, regional development, and public administration. She has authored four books and more than 50 academic articles. She holds advanced degrees in public administration and economics, including a PhD and Doctor of Science in Economics.

**Day 2: 7 October 2026****High Level Session III: Trade and Quality Growth****JONG WOO KANG***Director*Regional Cooperation and Integration Division
Asian Development Bank

Jong Woo Kang is Director of Regional Cooperation and Integration Division at the Economic Research and Development Impact Department (ERDI) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). As director, he plays a role as an interface between ADB's internal and external stakeholders on regional cooperation and integration. He is a seasoned economist with extensive knowledge and experience on policy and strategic issues. He was Principal Economist at ERDI, Senior Advisor to the Managing Director General of ADB and Senior Economist at Strategy and Policy Department at ADB. He leads the annual publication of Asian Economic Integration Report. Areas of his research interest include regional integration, inclusive growth, macroeconomic policies, international trade and finance, and aid effectiveness. He published articles in economics journals such as Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Applied Economics, and World Economy. Before joining ADB, he was director at Ministry of Finance and Economy of Korea until 2006. He obtained his BA in economics and MA in public administration from Seoul National University, and PhD in economics from University of Washington.

**BAMBANG BRODJONEGORO***Dean and CEO*

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**LILI YAN ING***Secretary General*

International Economic Association

Lili Yan Ing is Secretary General of the International Economic Association and a Distinguished Fellow of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network. She previously served as Senior Advisor on Trade and Investment at the President's Office of Indonesia and Lead Advisor to Indonesia's Minister of Trade, contributing to major trade and investment initiatives and negotiations, including RCEP and several comprehensive economic partnership agreements. She has represented Indonesia at G20 and WTO-OECD ministerial meetings. Her contributions to economics have been recognized through the IEA Fellow Award and the PAFTAD Promising Young Economist recognition.

**High Level Session III: Trade and Quality Growth****ALLEN NG**

Group Head and Lead Economist
ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office

Allen Ng leads the Regional Surveillance group, which is responsible for the annual ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook and related updates, and oversees macroeconomic and financial surveillance of Thailand. Previously, he served as Chief Economist of the Securities Commission Malaysia and Director of Research at the Khazanah Research Institute. He also spent more than a decade at Bank Negara Malaysia, where his senior roles included Deputy Director of the Monetary Policy Department and Deputy Director of the Economics Department, focusing on macroeconomic surveillance, monetary policy, and structural policy research. He holds a BA and an MPhil in Economics from the University of Cambridge.

**CARLOS LÓPEZ-GÓMEZ**

Head of Policy, IfM Engage
University of Cambridge

Carlos López-Gómez is Head of Policy, IfM Engage, University of Cambridge, where he leads work on industrial and innovation policy. His team advises governments, international organisations and development banks on technology, innovation and competitiveness. He began his career in automotive and industrial automation engineering and has international experience, including a secondment to the Japan Science and Technology Agency. He holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge and is a Fellow of Churchill College.

**ASEAN Regional Roundtable****PHONGPOB BEN METHAKULLAWAT**

Capacity Building Specialist
Asian Development Bank Institute

Phongpob (Ben) Methakullawat is an economist with a diplomatic background and extensive experience in regional integration, trade, investment, and development cooperation. He began his career as a diplomat with Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and later served as an economist at the ASEAN Secretariat, working on regional economic integration initiatives. He also served as National Project Coordinator for the International Trade Centre and held a leadership role at the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), where he coordinated partnerships with UN agencies and South-South cooperation initiatives. He holds a PhD and master's degrees in Economics from the Australian National University and an honours degree from the University of Melbourne.

**AHMAD ZAFARULLAH ABDUL JALIL**

Director
ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate
ASEAN Secretariat

Ahmad Zafarullah Abdul Jalil is Director of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate at the ASEAN Secretariat, where he oversees the monitoring of ASEAN's regional economic integration agenda and related initiatives. Previously, he served as Senior Economist at the Islamic Development Bank, Senior Manager in the Economic and Market Analysis Division of the Securities Commission Malaysia, and Associate Professor of Economics at Universiti Utara Malaysia. He holds a PhD in Economics from CERDI, Université d'Auvergne, France.

**ROBERTO LAI**

Deputy Executive Director
TradeInvest Timor-Leste

Roberto Lai is Deputy Executive Director at TradeInvest Timor-Leste, the national agency responsible for promoting and facilitating private investment and exports. In this role, he works to strengthen Timor-Leste's international visibility, promote investor confidence, and build partnerships that support the country's sustainable development goals. Prior to joining TradeInvest, he held various positions in the banking sector, with experience in lending, risk and compliance, and global markets. He holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the Indonesian Adventist University and a Postgraduate Diploma in Business and Administration from Massey University, New Zealand.

**ASEAN Regional Roundtable**

MASNI BINTI MUHAMMAD
Senior Executive Director
Investment Policy Advocacy
Malaysian Investment Development Authority

Masni Muhammad is the Senior Executive Director of Investment Policy Advocacy at the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA). She is a central figure in shaping Malaysia's industrial landscape and investment framework. She leads the division responsible for the planning, formulation, and review of national investment policies. Her work is particularly focused on policy intervention and structural reforms designed to keep Malaysia competitive in a shifting global economy. She is actively involved in navigating complex investment-related tax challenges, including the implementation of the Global Minimum Tax (GMT) and the development of the New Investment Incentive Framework. She held leadership roles across diverse sectors, including petrochemicals, advanced materials, and oil & gas. She provides deep insights into how policy decisions directly influence investor confidence and national economic development. She obtained a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering (Hons) from University Malaya.



MARIA CORAZON HALILI-DICHOSA
Executive Director
Board of Investment, Philippines

Maria Corazon Halili-Dichosa is Executive Director of the Industry Development Services at the Board of Investments (BOI), overseeing infrastructure and services, resource-based and manufacturing industries, as well as investment policy and planning. Her work spans industry development, international marketing, treaty negotiations, investment policies and programs, and environmental policy. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Chemical Engineering from Mapúa Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Laws from Adamson University, with further training in regional marketing of Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft and strategic business economics from the University of Asia and the Pacific.



BOUNTHANOM MEKDALA
Deputy Director, Investment Cooperation Division
Investment Promotion and Management Committee
Office, Lao PDR

Bounthanom Mekdala is Deputy Director of the Investment Cooperation Division at the Investment Promotion and Management Committee Office of Lao PDR. Previously, at the Ministry of Planning and Investment, he supported the mobilization of Official Development Assistance for key development sectors. He also served at the Lao Embassy in Japan, where he promoted investment opportunities in Lao PDR. In his current role, he works to strengthen investment cooperation and engage foreign investors across various sectors.



ASEAN Regional Roundtable



EDGARD RODRIGUEZ

Senior Program Specialist

International Development Research Centre

Edgard Rodriguez is an expert in capacity building for public policy research, economic development, small enterprise development, and labour markets, with a particular focus on youth employment and the care economy across Asia and Latin America. At IDRC, he has worked with universities, think tanks, and research networks to strengthen training and mentoring for emerging policy researchers and thought leaders. He has also led initiatives promoting gender-sensitive public policy in Myanmar. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Toronto, specializing in economic development and labour economics.

**Session III: Impact of FDI, Digital Governance, and External Shocks on Supply Chain Resilience and Sustainability****VINOD RAI**

*Honorary Senior Fellow
Institute of South Asian Studies
and Former Comptroller and Auditor General of India*

Vinod Rai is an Honorary Senior Fellow at ISAS and former Comptroller and Auditor General, India. He joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1972 as part of the Kerala Cadre. He has wide experience of having worked in the state government of Kerala as well as the central government of India. He was District Collector of Thrissur district and inter alia, the Finance Secretary to the Kerala government. In the Union government, Mr Rai worked in the Ministries of Commerce, Defence and Finance. He also served on the Board of Directors of the State Bank of India, the ICICI Bank, the LIC of India and the IDFC.

Mr Rai has served on the board of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, the Chair of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions and Chair of the United Nations (UN) panel of external auditors. He was also a member of the Independent Audit Committee of the UN. He also served as a Trustee, for six years, on the Global Board of Trustees of the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation. London.

**EDGARD RODRIGUEZ**

*Senior Program Specialist
International Development Research Centre*

Edgard Rodriguez is an expert in capacity building for public policy research, economic development, small enterprise development, and labour markets, with a particular focus on youth employment and the care economy across Asia and Latin America. At IDRC, he has worked with universities, think tanks, and research networks to strengthen training and mentoring for emerging policy researchers and thought leaders. He has also led initiatives promoting gender-sensitive public policy in Myanmar. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Toronto, specializing in economic development and labour economics.

**VIGHNESWARA SWAMY**

*Professor
ICFAI School of Social Sciences*

Vighneswara Swamy is Professor of Economics and Dean of Research at the ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (IFHE), Hyderabad, India, with over two decades of experience in research, teaching, academic leadership, and consultancy. His research spans international economics, macroeconomic policy, banking and finance, digital trade, foreign direct investment, global value chains, and economic resilience. He has led research projects supported by ADB and other institutions, and his work has been published in leading international journals, including *The World Economy*, *World Development*, *International Review of Economics & Finance*, and *Economic Analysis and Policy*. His recent research focuses on digital trade restrictions, FDI, ASEAN global value chains, supply-chain resilience, fintech, and macro-

**Session III: Impact of FDI, Digital Governance, and External Shocks on Supply Chain Resilience and Sustainability****AMINUR RAHMAN***Advisor*

Office of the Chief Economist and Director General
Asian Development Bank

financial transmission. He has also received several research and teaching awards and held research fellowships in India.

Aminur Rahman is Advisor in the Office of the Chief Economist and Director General of ADB's Economic Research and Development Impact Department. He has over 22 years of experience across ADB, the World Bank, and the International Finance Corporation, working on development challenges in more than 40 countries across Asia, the Pacific, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. His research has appeared in leading journals, including the Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Comparative Economics, and World Development, as well as in publications by MIT Press, Routledge, and Palgrave Macmillan. He holds a PhD in Economics from University College London and an MSc in Development Economics from the University of Oxford

**MINH TAM BUI**

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Economics
Srinakharinwirot University

Minh Tam Bui is Assistant Professor of Economics at Srinakharinwirot University, Bangkok, with over 15 years of teaching and research experience. Prior to joining academia, she worked as an economist with government agencies and international development projects in Vietnam, collaborating with organizations including the World Bank, ADB, ILO, and UNDP. She has also been a Visiting Scholar at the University of Utah and Meiji University. Her research focuses on international and labor economics, gender and development, trade and FDI, regional economic integration, and the care economy, with recent work covering migration, skills, green industrial policy, ASEAN integration, and global value chains. She holds a PhD in Economics from Thammasat University.

**Panel Session: FDI and Regional Mechanisms for Supply Chain Resilience****AMINUR RAHMAN***Advisor*Office of the Chief Economist and Director General
Asian Development Bank

Aminur Rahman is Advisor in the Office of the Chief Economist and Director General of ADB's Economic Research and Development Impact Department. He has over 22 years of experience across ADB, the World Bank, and the International Finance Corporation, working on development challenges in more than 40 countries across Asia, the Pacific, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. His research has appeared in leading journals, including the Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Comparative Economics, and World Development, as well as in publications by MIT Press, Routledge, and Palgrave Macmillan. He holds a PhD in Economics from University College London and an MSc in Development Economics from the University of Oxford

**KOH HOW TZE***Director*

BSYS Solution (M) Sdn Bhd

Koh How Tze is a Computer Engineering graduate from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and an industry veteran who believes the best way to predict the future is to create it—by turning ideas into scalable systems and real-world outcomes. He is the architect of the ABCDE Framework within the True Wealth Hexagon, a columnist for the Sarawak Tribune's Leadership Horizon, a technology strategist and a trainer specializing in AI/AIGC and Blockchain. A speaker for organizations like The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM), Koh regularly presents globally to promote his True Wealth model and highlight Borneo's growing role in global innovation.

**ADEEL AHMED***Lecturer in Economics*

RMIT University, Vietnam

Adeel Ahmed is a Lecturer in Economics at RMIT University Vietnam. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Malaya and completed his postdoctoral research at the University of Waterloo, Canada. He is also certified in Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) courses offered by Purdue University. His expertise lies in computable general equilibrium (CGE) modelling using GTAP and GAMS. His research focuses on international trade, trade policy, energy economics, and environmental economics.



Panel Session: FDI and Regional Mechanisms for Supply Chain Resilience



NURUL HASANAH USWATI DEWI
Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business
Hayam Wuruk Perbanas University

Nurul Hasanah Uswati Dewi is Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business at Hayam Wuruk Perbanas University, Indonesia. With extensive experience in academia and professional practice, her expertise spans financial accounting, auditing, corporate governance, accounting information systems, and internal control. Prior to her academic career, she worked as a Senior Auditor and has served as a consultant to small and medium-sized enterprises. She has published widely in national and international journals and has led research supported by Indonesia's Ministry of Higher Education and Bank Indonesia. She holds a Doctorate in Accounting from Brawijaya University and master's and bachelor's degrees in Accounting.

**Think Tank Policy Roundtable****IQBAL SINGH SEVEA***Director*Institute of South Asian Studies,
National University of Singapore

Iqbal Singh Sevea is the Director of the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) at the National University of Singapore. He is a scholar of contemporary and modern South Asia, with a focus on South Asian politics, political thought and geopolitics.

He has held academic appointments at leading institutions globally and is the author of several publications. Before joining ISAS, he was an Associate Professor with the Department of History at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where he was a faculty member from 2012 to 2021. Prior to this, he was an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Contemporary Islam Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His publications include *The Political Philosophy of Muhammad Iqbal: Islam and Nationalism in Late Colonial India* (Cambridge University Press, 2012); *India and the Future of G20: Shaping Policies for a Better World* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2023); and *South Asia: Retrospect and Prospects* (World Scientific Publishing, 2026).

Associate Professor Sevea completed his doctorate at the University of Oxford.

**ONG KENG YONG***Executive Deputy Chairman*

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong is Executive Deputy Chairman of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. He is concurrently Director of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) and Head of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) at RSIS.

He served as the 11th Secretary-General of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), based in Jakarta, Indonesia, for 5 years from January 2003.

**JOSEPH LIOW CHINYONG***Dean*

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Joseph Liow Chinyong joined the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore as the Wang Gungwu Professor in East Asian Affairs on 1 October 2025.

Prior to that, Prof Liow was the Tan Kah Kee Chair in Comparative and International Politics and Professor at the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

Prof Liow holds a PhD (2003) and MPhil (2001) in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science, an MSc (1999) in Strategic Studies from NTU, and a BA (Hons) (1995) in Political Science from the University of Madison-Wisconsin.

**Think Tank Policy Roundtable**

He started his academic career as a researcher at NTU in 1997 and was appointed to an Assistant Professorship in 2003. He progressed through the ranks and was promoted to a full Professorship in 2012. During his 28-year academic career with NTU, he held several leadership roles over the years, with the more recent being Dean of the NTU S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (2014-2018) and Dean of NTU College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (2018-2025). He was also the inaugural Lee Kuan Yew Chair in Southeast Asia Studies at Brookings Institution, Washington DC. (2014-2016).

A recognised thought leader, Prof Liow's research interests encompass Muslim politics and social movements in Southeast Asia and the geopolitics and geoeconomics of the Asia-Pacific region. He is one of Singapore's most thoughtful and respected scholar-communicators on the region's geopolitics, and is highly sought-after for consultation by Singapore's ministries and agencies, visiting ambassadors, foreign policymakers, as well as a wide range of MNCs including Shell, BHP Billiton, Chevron etc. Prof Liow is the author, co-author, or editor of 18 books, the most recent being *Navigating Uncertainty: Our Region in an Age of Flux* (World Scientific 2024), *Islam and Political Power in Indonesia and Malaysia* (Cambridge University Press Element Series 2022), and *Dictionary Page 2 of 2 of the Modern Politics of Southeast Asia*, fifth edition (Routledge, 2022).

As a regular columnist for The Straits Times, his commentaries on international affairs have also appeared in overseas media such as New York Times, Washington Post, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, National Interest, Nikkei Asian Review, Wall Street Journal, and South China Morning Post.

Prof Liow sits on the board of several peer-reviewed academic and policy journals and is Singapore representative on the Experts and Eminent Persons Group of the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Trilateral Commission. He is also on the boards of the Social Science Research Council (Singapore), ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute and the National Arts Council, and appointed Chairman of the NUS Middle East Institute's Management Board from 1 September 2024.

Peter Govindasamy is Executive Director of the Energy Studies Institute at the National University of Singapore). He is also an Adjunct Professor and serves as the University's WTO Chair Holder. He is concurrently Director-General (Special Duties), International Trade and ASEAN, and Dean of the Ministry of Energy, Trade and Industry (METI) Singapore Academy. Peter has over 30 years of experience with MFA and MTI (now METI) at the UN, WTO and other International Organizations straddling Trade, Investment, Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development issues.

**Think Tank Policy Roundtable****PETER GOVINDASAMY**

*Executive Director, Energy Studies Institute and Adjunct
Professor, WTO Chair Holder National University of
Singapore*

At the UNFCCC, Peter served as Senior Adviser to the UAE Presidency of COP28 and was earlier appointed by the UK Presidency of COP26 to facilitate negotiations on the Decision Text on Response Measures. He is a founding member and Co-Chair of the UNFCCC Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Climate Response Measures, and negotiations on the same issue. He has also co-chaired negotiations on the interlinkages between the UNFCCC's Technology and Financial Mechanisms.

On trade, Peter served two postings in Geneva as First Secretary and Counsellor between 1995-1999 and 2003-2009. He negotiated various negotiating issues in the DDA (Doha Development Agenda) over the course its 16 year history. He chaired the WTO negotiations on Domestic Regulation in Services from 2005 to 2009. He also served as Singapore's Chief Negotiator for the Pacific Alliance-Singapore Free Trade Agreement in 2021 and led negotiations on a number of bilateral investment agreements.

Beyond his role at NUS, Peter is an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). He is a member of the Remaking the Global Trade System Project, led by Yale University and The Fletcher School at Tufts University; the World Economic Forum's Climate Trade Zero Initiative; and the International Dialogue on Climate and Trade, convened by Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy. He is a member of the ASEAN Dispute Settlement Mechanism Panel.

**CHAN HENG CHEE**

*Chair, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute; Ambassador-at-
Large; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore;
Honorary Professor, Lee Kuan Yew Centre for
Innovative Cities, SUTD*

Chan Heng Chee is Ambassador-at-Large with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore and SUTD Honorary Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities in the Singapore University of Technology and Design.

She is a member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights.

Ambassador Chan is the Chair of ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, the premier research Institute on Southeast Asia in the region.

Ambassador Chan serves as the Deputy Chair of the Social Science Research Council and a Member of the Science of Cities Committee Workgroup (WG) in Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) at National Research Foundation (NRF). She is a Trustee of the University of the Arts Singapore.

Ambassador Chan is Global Co-Chair of Asia Society. She was a member of the Board of SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) in Sweden from March 2021 to March 2026..

Previously, she was Singapore's Ambassador to the United States and Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations with concurrent accreditation as High Commissioner to Canada and Ambassador to Mexico.



Think Tank Policy Roundtable

Ambassador Chan has received several awards including The Public Administration Medal (Gold); The Meritorious Service Medal and The Distinguished Service Order from the Singapore government. Ambassador Chan received Honorary Degrees of Doctor of Letters from the National University of Singapore; Doctor of Laws from the University of Warwick (United Kingdom); Doctor of Letters from the University of Buckingham (United Kingdom) and Doctor of Letters from the University of Newcastle (Australia).

When Ambassador Chan left Washington at the end of her appointment, she received the inaugural Asia Society Outstanding Diplomatic Achievement Award, the inaugural Foreign Policy Outstanding Diplomatic Achievement Award 2012 and the United States Navy Distinguished Public Service Award.

**Day 3: 8 October 2026****High Level Session IV: Creative Economy and its Role in Enhancing Economic Resilience****VINOD RAI**

*Honorary Senior Fellow
Institute of South Asian Studies
and Former Comptroller and Auditor General
of India*

Vinod Rai is an Honorary Senior Fellow at ISAS and former Comptroller and Auditor General, India. He joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1972 as part of the Kerala Cadre. He has wide experience of having worked in the state government of Kerala as well as the central government of India. He was District Collector of Thrissur district and inter alia, the Finance Secretary to the Kerala government. In the Union government, Mr Rai worked in the Ministries of Commerce, Defence and Finance. He also served on the Board of Directors of the State Bank of India, the ICICI Bank, the LIC of India and the IDFC.

Mr Rai has served on the board of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, the Chair of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions and Chair of the United Nations (UN) panel of external auditors. He was also a member of the Independent Audit Committee of the UN. He also served as a Trustee, for six years, on the Global Board of Trustees of the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation. London.

**AMITENDU PALIT**

*Senior Research Fellow and Research Lead
(Trade and Economics)
Institute of South Asian Studies,
National University of Singapore*

Amitendu Palit is Senior Research Fellow & Research Lead (trade and economics) at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), National University of Singapore (NUS). He is also Senior Associate Fellow at Asia Centre of ISPI Milan, Italy; and an expert with Economic Security Forum, Helsinki, Finland. He was also on the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Council on Trade and Investment. Prior to joining NUS, he worked for several years in India's Ministry of Finance.

A trained economist, Amitendu works on international trade policies; geoeconomics; AI and digital trade rules; the Indo-Pacific; Global South; and India. His books include 'India and the Future of G20' (2023, Bloomsbury), 'Globalisation Impacts: Countries, Institutions and COVID19' (2022, Springer), 'Seven Decades of Independent India' (2018, Penguin); 'The Transpacific Partnership, China and India' (2014; Routledge) and 'China India Economics: Challenges, Competition and Collaboration' (2011; Routledge). He is published in several peer-reviewed academic journals and consulted for the World Bank, ADB, and IDRC. He is featured regularly as expert on CNA, CNBC, BBC, ABC and Bloomberg News.

**CARLOS KURIYAMA**

*Director
Policy Support Unit, APEC*

Carlos Kuriyama is Director of the Policy Support Unit at the APEC Secretariat, where his work focuses on trade and investment liberalization, regulatory reform, and structural reform across the Asia-Pacific region. Prior to joining the APEC Secretariat, he served at Peru's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism, including as Chief Negotiator for the Peru-China Free Trade Agreement and General Coordinator for the Peru-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. He also has academic experience as an Associate Researcher and Lecturer in Economics at Universidad del Pacífico, with research focusing on trade, investment, and regional economic integration. He holds a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University and a bachelor's degree in Economics from Universidad del Pacífico.

**High Level Session IV: Creative Economy and its Role in Enhancing Economic Resilience****SANCHITA BASU DAS***Senior Economist*

Economic Research and Development
Impact Department
Asian Development Bank

Sanchita Basu Das is Senior Economist in the Regional Cooperation and Integration Division of ADB's Economic Research and Development Impact Department, where she contributes to flagship publications, analytical studies, and policy forums including G20, ASEAN, and ASEAN+3. Her research focuses on regional cooperation and integration, including trade, logistics, economic corridors, tourism, and the digital economy. Before joining ADB in 2018, she was Lead Researcher for Economic Affairs at the ASEAN Studies Centre of the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore. She holds a PhD in International Political Economy from Nanyang Technological University and master's degrees from the University of Delhi and the National University of Singapore.

**EVELYN DEVADASON**

*Professor, Faculty of Business and
Economics
Universiti Malaya*

Evelyn S. Devadason is Professor at the Faculty of Business and Economics, Universiti Malaya, and Vice President of the Malaysian Economic Association. Her research focuses on international trade and regional integration, with an emphasis on policy relevance and cross-regional analysis. She serves as an Expert Member of the Malaysian Parliament's Special Committee on Economics and Finance and holds advisory and board roles with several national and regional institutions. She is also an associate editor of leading economics journals and has undertaken research and policy collaborations with international organizations, including ADB, ADBI, the World Bank, UNCTAD, and the European Union.

**Forward Looking Session: Digital Trade and AI: New Opportunities and Risks for Growth, Trade and Investment****ABDUL ABIAD**

Deputy Chief Economist
Economic Research and Development
Impact Department
Asian Development Bank

Abdul Abiad is Deputy Chief Economist at the Asian Development Bank in Manila, where he provides guidance on the Research Department's strategic direction, flagship reports, and research priorities.

In his prior role as Director of Macroeconomic Research, he oversaw the preparation of the *Asian Development Outlook* reports. From 2000 to 2015, he was with the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC, where he worked on the *World Economic Outlook*. His research has focused on financial sector development, international financial integration, fiscal and monetary policy, exchange rates, trade, economic resilience, and infrastructure.

A Philippine national, he has a BS in Mathematics from the University of the Philippines and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania.

**SHU TIAN**

Principal Economist
Economic Research and Development
Impact Department
Asian Development Bank

Shu Tian is a Principal Economist at the Economic Research and Development Impact Department (ERDI) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Prior to joining ADB, she was an Associate Professor of Finance at Fudan University in China. Her main working area is financial sector development, sustainable and climate finance, and digitalization. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, *Journal of Banking & Finance*, *Journal of Corporate Finance*, *Financial Management*, *Finance and Accounting*.

**ROLANDO AVENDANO**

Senior Economist
Economic Research and Development
Impact Department
Asian Development Bank

Rolando Avendano is a Senior Economist at the Economic Research and Development Impact Department of the Asian Development Bank. Recent work centers on FDI and geoeconomic fragmentation, trade in digital services, and regional integration and productivity. Prior to joining ADB, he held several roles at the OECD. He was Lecturer at the School of Engineering at University of Los Andes (Colombia) and research associate at University College London (UK).

**Forward Looking Session: Digital Trade and AI: New Opportunities and Risks for Growth, Trade and Investment****AMITENDU PALIT**

*Senior Research Fellow and Research Lead
(Trade and Economics)*
Institute of South Asian Studies,
National University of Singapore

Amitendu Palit is Senior Research Fellow & Research Lead (trade and economics) at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), National University of Singapore (NUS). He is also Senior Associate Fellow at Asia Centre of ISPI Milan, Italy; and an expert with Economic Security Forum, Helsinki, Finland. He was also on the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Council on Trade and Investment. Prior to joining NUS, he worked for several years in India's Ministry of Finance.

A trained economist, Amitendu works on international trade policies; geoeconomics; AI and digital trade rules; the Indo-Pacific; Global South; and India. His books include 'India and the Future of G20' (2023, Bloomsbury), 'Globalisation Impacts: Countries, Institutions and COVID19' (2022, Springer), 'Seven Decades of Independent India' (2018, Penguin); 'The Transpacific Partnership, China and India' (2014; Routledge) and 'China India Economics: Challenges, Competition and Collaboration' (2011; Routledge). He's published in several peer-reviewed academic journals and consulted for the World Bank, ADB, and IDRC. He's featured regularly as expert on CNA, CNBC, BBC, ABC and Bloomberg News.

**MARIA MONICA WIHARDJA**

Fellow
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

Maria Monica Wihardja is a Fellow and Co-Coordinator of the Media, Technology and Society Programme at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. She is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and has served as an external examiner and a supervisor to PhD and Master's theses at NUS and other universities. She serves as a member of the East Asia Forum's Editorial Board, the Asian-Pacific Economic Literature's Editorial Advisory Board and the Center for Indonesian Policy Studies' Board of Directors. Her other affiliations include Global Associate at the Indonesia Project and Honorary Senior Lecturer at the College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University. She has a PhD in Regional Science from Cornell University, a MPhil in Economics from Cambridge University, and a BA in Applied Mathematics-Economics from Brown University.

**KAH MEI CHAN**

Director
Ministry of Energy, Trade and Industry,
Singapore

Kah Mei Chan is the Director of the Indian Directorate at the Singapore Ministry of Energy, Trade and Industry, where she also heads the Singapore-India Partnership Office. In these roles, she drives cross-border economic cooperation, strategic investments, and public-private alliances between Singapore and India, with a specific focus on high-growth sectors such as green energy, semiconductors, and digital trade infrastructure. Prior to this, Ms Chan held portfolios in the World Trade Organization, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, South Asia and Middle East divisions and was posted to the Singapore High Commission in New Delhi as Counsellor (Economics) from May 2011 to 2014. She started her career as a broadcast journalist at Mediacorp Radio in Singapore and was a research associate at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.



Forward Looking Session: Digital Trade and AI: New Opportunities and Risks for Growth, Trade and Investment



WAKANA ASANO

Research Associate, Takano Fellow
International Institute for Strategic Studies

Wakana Asano is a Research Associate and inaugural Takano Fellow at IISS–Asia in Singapore. With a background in business and policy, her research focuses on science and technology policy and economic development, including AI and digital connectivity.

Prior to joining the IISS, Wakana was a Senior Consultant at IBM, where she led cross-border digital transformation and strategy development projects for clients in manufacturing, healthcare and the public sector. She has also conducted research on geo-economics and development economics at the Stimson Center and Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business.

Wakana holds an MS in Foreign Service from Georgetown University as a Fulbright Scholar and a BA in American Studies from the University of Tsukuba.

**Policy Learning Session: Aligning Investors and Policymakers for Resilient,
Sustainable Supply Chains****Part 1: Corporate strategies in a fragmenting world: How firms are reconfiguring investment and supply chains****PHONGPOB BEN METHAKULLAWAT***Capacity Building Specialist*
Asian Development Bank Institute

Phongpob (Ben) Methakullawat is an economist with a diplomatic background and extensive experience in regional integration, trade, investment, and development cooperation. He began his career as a diplomat with Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and later served as an economist at the ASEAN Secretariat, working on regional economic integration initiatives. He also served as National Project Coordinator for the International Trade Centre and held a leadership role at the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), where he coordinated partnerships with UN agencies and South-South cooperation initiatives. He holds a PhD and master's degrees in Economics from the Australian National University and an honours degree from the University of Melbourne.

**SELENA LING***Chief Economist and Head of Global
Markets Research and Strategy*
OCBC Bank

Selena Ling is Chief Economist and Head of Global Markets Research and Strategy at OCBC Bank, where she leads research on macroeconomic developments and financial markets, including fixed income, interest rates, foreign exchange, and corporate credit. She is a member of the OCBC Wealth Panel for Singapore and Malaysia and a council member of the Economic Society of Singapore. In 2017, she received the Institute of Banking & Finance Fellow Award in Financial Markets. Prior to joining OCBC, she worked with Singapore's Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Trade and Industry. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the London School of Economics and a Master's in Applied Economics from the National University of Singapore.

**MARCUS NG***Head of APAC and Economics Strategy*
Access Partnership

Marcus Ng serves on the global Management Board of Access Partnership, leads the firm in Asia-Pacific, and is Global Head of Economics Strategy. He has 20 years of experience in economics and public policy, including senior roles at Deloitte, the Australian Treasury, and the Reserve Bank of Australia. His work focuses on technology and AI, international trade and trade facilitation, supply chain resilience, regulatory reform, and the digitalisation of trade, including research for APEC and ASEAN. He has also served as Financial Services and Trade Adviser in the Australian Parliament and represented the Australian Treasury at the G20.

**Policy Learning Session: Aligning Investors and Policymakers for Resilient,
Sustainable Supply Chains****ELIZABETH CHELLIAH**

Principal Trade Consultant
Centre for the Future of Trade and
Investment
Singapore Business Federation

Elizabeth Chelliah, a lawyer by profession, recently retired as Principal Trade Specialist (PTS) at Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI). She has since been appointed Principal Trade Consultant with the Singapore Business Federation (SBF), as well as Associate Trainer with CSC and a member of the panel of experts at the Centre for Trade Excellence. She is concurrently an Adjunct Senior Fellow at RSIS.

Over her 30 years in the Singapore Civil Service, which began in April 1995, she has covered a wide range of portfolios. Notable highlights include her role at the Singapore Mission to the WTO in 1998, where she worked on trade in goods, WTO dispute settlement, and WTO accession issues. She also served as a panelist on several WTO dispute settlement panels. As part of Singapore's APEC team during its hosting of APEC in 2009, she served as Chair of the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) from 2008 to 2010.

She has been involved in FTA negotiations since 2002, serving as Singapore's Chief Negotiator for the Singapore-Peru FTA and leading several chapters during the TPP negotiations. Her last negotiating engagement was as Chair of the RCEP Intellectual Property Working Group, which concluded its negotiations in 2019.

She has also provided guidance and advice to government agencies and the private sector on WTO and FTA matters, trade facilitation and connectivity, and internationalisation strategies. She regularly speaks at events organised by institutions such as Chatham House, GTR, Asia Society, UNCTAD, RSIS, and the WTO. Since March 2020, she has also supported the Singapore Business Federation on FTA outreach and training for businesses.

**Part 2: Making strategic investment work: sustainability, policy predictability and public-private risk sharing****NEIL FOSTER-MC-GREGOR***Principal Economist*

Economic Research and Development Impact
Department
Asian Development Bank

Neil Foster-McGregor has broad research interests and has worked and published widely on topics including global value chains; preferential trade agreements; structural transformation; innovation and knowledge transfer; trade and labor markets; and new technologies, inequality and labor market outcomes. Prior to joining ADB, he worked at the United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) initially as a Research Fellow (2014-2016) and later as Deputy Director and Professor of Globalization and Innovation (2016-2023).

**MASNI BINTI MUHAMMAD***Senior Executive Director*

Investment Policy Advocacy
Malaysian Investment Development Authority

Masni Muhammad is the Senior Executive Director of Investment Policy Advocacy at the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA). She is a central figure in shaping Malaysia's industrial landscape and investment framework. She leads the division responsible for the planning, formulation, and review of national investment policies. Her work is particularly focused on policy intervention and structural reforms designed to keep Malaysia competitive in a shifting global economy. She is actively involved in navigating complex investment-related tax challenges, including the implementation of the Global Minimum Tax (GMT) and the development of the New Investment Incentive Framework. She held leadership roles across diverse sectors, including petrochemicals, advanced materials, and oil & gas. She provides deep insights into how policy decisions directly influence investor confidence and national economic development. She obtained a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering (Hons) from University Malaya.

**MARIA CORAZON HALILI-DICHOSA***Executive Director*

Board of Investments, Philippines

Maria Corazon Halili-Dichosa is Executive Director of the Industry Development Services at the Board of Investments (BOI), overseeing infrastructure and services, resource-based and manufacturing industries, as well as investment policy and planning. Her work spans industry development, international marketing, treaty negotiations, investment policies and programs, and environmental policy. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Chemical Engineering from Mapúa Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Laws from Adamson University, with further training in regional marketing of Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft and strategic business economics from the University of Asia and the Pacific.

**Part 2: Making strategic investment work: sustainability, policy predictability and public-private risk sharing****BOUNTHANOM MEKDALA***Deputy Director*Investment Promotion and Management
Committee Office, Lao PDR

Bounthanom Mekdala is Deputy Director of the Investment Cooperation Division at the Investment Promotion and Management Committee Office of Lao PDR. Previously, at the Ministry of Planning and Investment, he supported the mobilization of Official Development Assistance for key development sectors. He also served at the Lao Embassy in Japan, where he promoted investment opportunities in Lao PDR. In his current role, he works to strengthen investment cooperation and engage foreign investors across various sectors.

**CARLOS LÓPEZ-GÓMEZ***Head of Policy, IfM Engage*
University of Cambridge

Carlos López-Gómez is Head of Policy. IfM Engage, University of Cambridge, where he leads work on industrial and innovation policy. His team advises governments, international organisations and development banks on technology, innovation and competitiveness. He began his career in automotive and industrial automation engineering and has international experience, including a secondment to the Japan Science and Technology Agency. He holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge and is a Fellow of Churchill College.

**PHONGPOB BEN METHAKULLAWAT***Capacity Building Specialist*
Asian Development Bank Institute

Phongpob (Ben) Methakullawat is an economist with a diplomatic background and extensive experience in regional integration, trade, investment, and development cooperation. He began his career as a diplomat with Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and later served as an economist at the ASEAN Secretariat, working on regional economic integration initiatives. He also served as National Project Coordinator for the International Trade Centre and held a leadership role at the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), where he coordinated partnerships with UN agencies and South-South cooperation initiatives. He holds a PhD and master's degrees in Economics from the Australian National University and an honours degree from the University of Melbourne.

**Closing Session****SANCHITA BASU DAS***Senior Economist*

Economic Research and Development Impact
Department
Asian Development Bank

Sanchita Basu Das is Senior Economist in the Regional Cooperation and Integration Division of ADB's Economic Research and Development Impact Department, where she contributes to flagship publications, analytical studies, and policy forums including G20, ASEAN, and ASEAN+3. Her research focuses on regional cooperation and integration, including trade, logistics, economic corridors, tourism, and the digital economy. Before joining ADB in 2018, she was Lead Researcher for Economic Affairs at the ASEAN Studies Centre of the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore. She holds a PhD in International Political Economy from Nanyang Technological University and master's degrees from the University of Delhi and the National University of Singapore.

**AMITENDU PALIT**

*Senior Research Fellow and Research Lead
(Trade and Economics)*

Institute of South Asian Studies,
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Amitendu Palit is Senior Research Fellow & Research Lead (trade and economics) at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), National University of Singapore (NUS). He is also Senior Associate Fellow at Asia Centre of ISPI Milan, Italy; and an expert with Economic Security Forum, Helsinki, Finland. He was also on the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Council on Trade and Investment. Prior to joining NUS, he worked for several years in India's Ministry of Finance.

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