

# ASIAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION REPORT 2023

TRADE, INVESTMENT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

7 February 2023, 10:00–11:30 a.m.  
Lobby, Oei Tiong Ham Building, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy,  
469C Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259772



## AGENDA

9:30–10:00 a.m.	<b>Registration</b>
10:00–10:05 a.m.	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Albert Park, Chief Economist and Director General, Asian Development Bank
10:05–10:10 a.m.	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> Kanti Bajpai, Vice Dean (Research), Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
10:10–10:35 a.m.	<b>Presentation on the Key Findings of <i>Asian Economic Integration Report 2023</i></b> Jong Woo Kang, Principal Economist, Asian Development Bank
10:35–11:15 a.m.	<b>Panel Discussion: Trade, Investment, and Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Albert Park, Chief Economist and Director General, Asian Development Bank  <b>Panelists:</b>  Benjamin Cashore, Director of Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy  Emma Aisbett, Associate Professor, Australia National University (ANU) School of Law; and Associate Director (Research), ANU Grand Challenge <i>Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia-Pacific</i>  Rolando Avendano, Economist, Asian Development Bank
11:15–11:30 a.m.	<b>Open Floor Discussion</b>

\*Refreshments are available after the event.

## SYNOPSIS

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Trade and investment play an outsized role in the economic development story of the Asia and Pacific region, but it has come with environmental costs. Asia and the Pacific is in the frontline of climate change and is responsible for about half of global annual carbon dioxide emissions and is currently experiencing the highest temperatures in the last 3 decades. The theme chapter of the *Asian Economic Integration Report 2023* seeks to better understand how trade and investment contribute to climate change, and how trade and investment policies can be part of the climate action.

## SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

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**Kanti Bajpai**  
Vice Dean (Research)  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP),  
National University of Singapore

Kanti Bajpai's areas of interest include Asian international thought and strategic cultures, international security, and Indian foreign policy and national security. Before coming to the LKY School, Kanti was Professor of International Politics, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Professor in the Politics and International Relations of South Asia, Oxford University. From 2003 to 2009, he was Headmaster, The Doon School, India. He taught at the Maharajah Sayajirao University of Baroda, and has held visiting appointments at Wesleyan University and the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Kanti has held visiting appointments at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace, Notre Dame University, the Brookings Institution, and the Australian Defence Force Academy. He was also Distinguished Fellow, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi.

Kanti's most recent book was *India Versus China: Why They Are Not Friends* (Juggernaut 2021). He is currently working on a book on India's grand strategy.



**Albert Park**  
Chief Economist and Director General  
Economic and Research and Regional Cooperation Department  
Asian Development Bank

Albert F. Park is Chief Economist of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Director General of its Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department. He is chief spokesperson on economic and development trends and leads the production of ADB's flagship knowledge products and support for regional cooperation fora. He has more than 2 decades of experience as a development economist and is a well-known expert on the economy of the People's Republic of China. He has worked on a broad range of development issues including poverty and inequality, intergenerational mobility, microfinance, migration and labor markets, the future of work, and foreign investment.

He is Chair Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for Economic Policy at HKUST (on leave). He served as a founding director of HKUST's Institute for Emerging Market Studies and professor at the University of Oxford. A national of the United States, he received his bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard University and his doctorate in applied economics from Stanford University.

## Asian Economic Integration Report 2023—Official Launch



### Benjamin Cashore

Li Ka Shing Professor in Public Management  
Director of Institute for Environment and Sustainability  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

Benjamin Cashore holds the Li Ka Shing Chair in Public Management at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore and is director of LKYSP's Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES). He specialises in global and multi-level environmental governance, comparative public policy, and transnational business regulation/corporate environmental social governance (ESG) innovations. His substantive research interests include climate policy, biodiversity conservation/land use change, and sustainable environmental management of forests and related agricultural sectors.

His geographic focus includes Southeast Asia, North America, Latin America and Europe. Cashore's theoretical interests include the potential of anticipatory policy design for identifying path dependent policy mixes capable of ameliorating "super wicked" environmental problems; the legitimacy and authority requirements of non-state market driven (NSMD) global governance; and the influence of economic globalization on domestic environmental policies.



### Emma Aisbett

Associate Professor  
Australian National University (ANU) School of Law  
Associate Director (Research)  
ANU Grand Challenge Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia-Pacific

Emma Aisbett is an associate professor at the ANU School of Law and the Associate Director (Research) for the Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia-Pacific Grand Challenge at the Australian National University. She works across disciplines and sectors at the intersection of international economic regulation and the environment, most recently, on the intersection of Trade-Related Climate Policy and Green Industrial Policy. Her recent work on investment treaty reform was awarded this year's John Jackson Prize for most significantly breaking new ground by *Journal of International Economic Law*. In addition to publishing in leading academic journals across law, economics, political science, and engineering, she provides expertise to government, industry, and international organizations.



### Jong Woo Kang

Principal Economist  
Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department  
Asian Development Bank

Jong Woo Kang is Principal Economist at the Economic Research and Cooperation Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He is a seasoned economist with extensive knowledge and experiences on policy and strategic issues. He was 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 and international trade policies, and aid effectiveness. He has published research articles in academic journals such as *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Applied Economics*, and *Journal of World Trade*, and wrote numerous blogs and opinion articles on global macroeconomy and international trade and finance.

Before joining ADB, he was director at Ministry of Finance and Economy of the Republic of Korea. He had got his BA in economics and MA in public administration from Seoul National University, and PhD in economics from University of Washington.



**Rolando Avendano**

Economist  
Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department  
Asian Development Bank

Rolando Avendano is an Economist at the Economic Research and Cooperation Department of the Asian Development Bank. His research focuses on financial and international economics, with an emphasis on regional integration, competitiveness and foreign direct investment.

Prior to joining ADB, he worked for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France. He was partnership coordinator of PARIS21 (OECD Statistics and Data Directorate), economist with the Director's Office and the Americas Desk (OECD Development Centre), and research associate with the OECD Trade Directorate and Economics Department. Previously, he was a lecturer at the Engineering Faculty of University of Los Andes (Colombia), and research associate at University College London (UK).

A French and Colombian national, he holds a B.Sc. in Industrial Engineering from University of Los Andes and a Master and PhD in Economics from the Paris School of Economics (PSE).