Asia is disproportionately exposed to disasters, including natural, technological, economic, and violence-related disasters. Over the past few decades, disaster losses have grown at the same rate as gross domestic product in Asia and the Pacific economies. Nevertheless, the region is largely uninsured from disaster losses, further compounding the devastating impact of disasters on development.

Dr. Yasuyuki Sawada, the Chief Economist of Asian Development Bank, will deliver a public lecture at the University of South Pacific on the topic of *Disasters and International Risk Sharing*. Dr. Sawada is the chief spokesperson for ADB on economic and development trends and leads the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD).

The lecture will discuss experience of Asia and the Pacific with disasters, and the effectiveness of market and non-market insurance mechanisms in disaster risk management in the context of within-country and international consumption risk-sharing arrangements.

An invitation is cordially extended to the faculty and students, government officials, members of international organizations, and the business community. Refreshments will be provided.