

OPTIMAL PROVISION OF REGIONAL PUBLIC GOODS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: IMPLICATIONS FOR SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Asian Development Bank

6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Metro Manila, Philippines

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Globalization and the increased flows of goods, services, and factors of production across borders brought new challenges such as dealing with cross-border infrastructure, clean energy, environment, natural disaster response, and communicable diseases in Asia and the Pacific. Tackling these cross-border challenges through promoting regional public goods (RPGs), the region would likely benefit further from deepening regional cooperation and integration.

The concept of RPGs draws on the rationale that regional economies share common challenges for development, which can be addressed more effectively and efficiently at a regional level through collective action and cooperation. For example, regionally shared infrastructure, power, water, and health care are essential to take on development challenges, but may not be adequately provided by national governments, given the nature of substantial cross-border externalities.

The role of RPGs is also crucial in achieving sustainable and inclusive growth because of its non-excludable and non-rivalrous properties. RPGs generate economies of scale and have the potential to benefit economies involved with increased trade or investment as well as stable financial flows. Well-established RPGs can help attract private and public investment to the region as a whole.

Amid the increasing importance of RPGs, there is growing demand for comprehensive studies on RPG provision and institutional arrangements that can be delivered in the region. The workshop will help gather ideas and directions on RPG research for leading academics, policymakers, and international organizations to broadly discuss theories, practice, their related issues and policy implications, including political economy, of RPGs provision.

PROGRAM

Inception Workshop on Asian Economic Integration Report (AEIR) 2018 Theme Chapter “OPTIMAL PROVISION OF REGIONAL PUBLIC GOODS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC” Thursday, 14 December 2017 Learning Resource Center 2	
8:30a.m.–9:00a.m.	Registration
Opening Session	
9:00a.m.–9:05a.m.	Opening Remarks: <i>Bambang Susantono, Vice President (Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development), ADB</i>
9:05a.m.–9:25a.m.	Keynote Presentation: Field experimental approach on voluntary public goods contribution, <i>Yasuyuki Sawada, Chief Economist, ERCD, ADB</i>
9:25a.m.–9:30a.m.	<i>Coffee Break</i>
Session 1: Concept, Theory and Framework of Regional Public Goods	
Chair: <i>Cyn-Young Park, Director, ERCD, ADB</i>	
9:30a.m.–10:45a.m.	Overview of ADB’s study on RPG, <i>Junkyu Lee and Kijin Kim, ERCD, ADB</i>
	Conceptual framework on RPG, <i>Gustav Fredriksson, Bruegel</i>
	Open discussion with a leading discussant: <i>Abdul Abiad, Economic Advisor, ERCD</i>
Session 2: Benefits and Costs of RPGs: Evidence and Implications	
Chair: <i>Arjun Goswami, Chief, RCI-TG, ERCD</i>	
10:45a.m.–12:00p.m.	Lessons from Latin America, <i>Joaquim Tres, IDB</i>
	Benefit valuation for regional projects and RPGs, <i>John Weiss, University of Bradford</i>
	Open discussion with a leading discussant: <i>Juzhong Zhuang, Deputy Chief Economist, ADB</i>
12:00p.m.–1:30p.m.	Lunch
Session 3: Issues and Challenges in Optimal Provision of RPGs	
Chair: <i>Alfredo Perdiguero, Director, SERC, ADB</i>	
1:30p.m.–1:50p.m.	Keynote Presentation: Lessons for Asia from Europe RPG cases, <i>Guntram Wolff, Bruegel (pre-recorded video)</i>
1:50p.m.–3:05p.m.	Towards inclusive growth through technology and innovation: the role of RPGs <i>Bo Zhao, Peter Rosenkranz, Kijin Kim, and Junkyu Lee, ERCD, ADB</i>
	The role of regional human resource development in the era of demographic change <i>Aiko Takenaka, Economist, ERCD, ADB</i>
	Open discussion with a leading discussant: <i>Joaquim Tres, IDB</i>
3:05p.m.–3:20p.m.	<i>Coffee Break</i>
Session 4: Wrap-up and Next Step	
Chair: <i>Juzhong Zhuang, Deputy Chief Economist, ADB</i>	
3:20p.m.–4:10p.m.	Panel Discussion
	• <i>Joaquim Tres, IDB</i>
	• <i>John Weiss, University of Bradford</i>
	• <i>Gustav Fredriksson and Guntram Wolff, Bruegel</i>
	• <i>Safdar Parvez, Director, CWRD, ADB</i>
4:10p.m.–4:15p.m.	Closing remarks: <i>Juzhong Zhuang, Deputy Chief Economist, ADB</i>