

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



SPEAKERS' PROFILES

CONFERENCE ON TRADE IN SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

28–29 September 2026 | ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines

Monday | 28 September 2026

Session I. High-Level Opening Session



WEMPI SAPUTRA

Vice-President for Sectors and Themes
Asian Development Bank

Dr. Wempi Saputra joined the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 1 September 2026 as the Vice-President for Sectors and Themes. He oversees the strategy and operations of ADB's eight sectors, important themes, and business intelligence and operations coordination.

VP Saputra brings more than 30 years of professional experience in development finance, economic governance, public policy, economic diplomacy, and institutional reform across government and multilateral organizations.

Prior to ADB, VP Saputra served as Executive Director at the World Bank, representing 11 Asia-Pacific member countries and providing board-level oversight of the institution's operations, strategy, and governance. From 2021 to 2022, he served as the Assistant Minister for Macroeconomic Policy and International Finance in the Ministry of Finance of Indonesia. Concurrently, he served as G20 Finance Deputy during the country's 2022 G20 Presidency and co-chaired the Joint Finance and Health Task Force that established the USD 1.3 billion Pandemic Fund to strengthen global health financing.

VP Saputra previously held several senior leadership positions in the Ministry of Finance of Indonesia, including Chief of Staff to the Minister of Finance, Director of the Center for Policy Analysis and Harmonization, and Chief Change Management Officer for the Ministry's transformation program. Earlier in his career, he served in a range of leadership roles within the Directorate General of Customs and Excise. He has also held board and advisory positions with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the National Committee on Islamic Economy and Finance (KNEKS), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), among others.

VP Saputra holds a PhD in Economics from Nagoya University, Japan, a Master of Public Finance from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Japan, and a Bachelor's degree in Financial Management from the University of Indonesia. He has also completed his post graduate study in AI and Machine Learning from the University of Texas at Austin, USA.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



JOHANNA HILL

Deputy Director General
World Trade Organization

Johanna Hill began her role as Deputy Director-General in November 2023. She is a trade expert with more than 25 years of experience in international trade. Previously, she was Managing Partner of the San Salvador Office of CA Trade Consulting Group, advising firms and small and medium-sized enterprises on international trade and foreign direct investment. Her other roles included Executive Director of El Salvador's Chamber of Telecommunications and member of the Board of Directors of Banco Azul. She also served as Vice Minister of Economy, responsible for trade policy, bilateral free trade agreements, and multilateral negotiations.

She holds a master's degree in international economic policy from Columbia University and a bachelor's degree from Tufts University.



ARSENIO BALISACAN

Secretary
Department of Economy, Planning, and
Development of the Philippines

Arsenio M. Balisacan is Secretary of the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev), the successor to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), which he has led under two presidential administrations.

Before returning to NEDA in 2022, he served as founding Chairperson of the Philippine Competition Commission, Dean of the University of the Philippines School of Economics, and Centre Director and Chief Executive of the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA).

Dr. Balisacan has taught economics for more than three decades. Earlier in his career, he was a research fellow at the East-West Center in Honolulu and an economist at the World Bank in Washington, DC.

He is an Academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Hawai'i.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



ALBERT PARK

Chief Economist and Director General
Economic Research and Development Impact
Department, Asian Development Bank

Albert F. Park is Chief Economist of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Director General of its Economic Research and Development Impact 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.

Mr. Park 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.

Mr. Park is Chair Professor of Economics, Social Science, and Public Policy at HKUST (on leave). He served as a founding director of HKUST's Institute for Emerging Market Studies and Center for Economic Policy, and previously held faculty positions at the University of Oxford and the University of Michigan.

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.



ÇİĞDEM AKIN

Director, Public Sector Management and Governance,
Sectors Department 3
Asian Development Bank

Çiğdem Akin is Director of Public Sector Management and Governance Sector Office, Sectors Group at ADB, responsible for the design, implementation, and evaluation of ADB projects as well as policy advice, capacity building, and knowledge dissemination in the field of public sector management. Çiğdem Akin has worked on a variety of areas ranging from public resource management and fiscal policy, SOE reforms, ICT applications in public finance and financial inclusion, decentralization and local governance, financial sector development, and MSME development.

Prior to joining ADB, she was teaching economics at the George Washington University as a lecturer and at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) as an assistant professor. Along with her academic career, she was a researcher at the IMF and at the Asian Development Bank Institute in Japan.

Çiğdem Akin holds a PhD degree in economics from the George Washington University in the United States and a master's degree in international development from the International University of Japan as a Monbusho scholar. Her dual BA degrees are in international relations and political science, and sociology from Boğaziçi University in Türkiye.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



PR. THAM SIEW YEAN

Professor Emeritus, Universiti Kebangsaan
Visiting Senior Fellow, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute,
Singapore
Board Member, Khazanah Research Institute,
Malaysia

Tham Siew Year is Professor Emeritus at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Visiting Senior Fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore. She is also a board member of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) and a Trustee of Khazanah Research Institute (KRI). She has served as a consultant to national agencies in Malaysia [Ministry of Economy; Ministry of Investment, Trade, and Industry (MITI); and Ministry of Higher Education]; as well as international agencies, including the World Bank, World Bank Institute, ADB, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), UNCTAD, and Asian Development Bank Institute. Her research interests cover trade in goods and services, as well as foreign direct investment, including Belt and Road initiatives in the region. She also covers trade agreements as well as industrial policies that facilitate development. Her current research interests include innovation, trade, and development. She sits on the editorial boards of *Malaysian Journal of Economic Studies* (MJES); *Journal of Southeast Asian Economies* (JSEAS), Singapore; and *Asian Economic Panel* (AEP); MIT Press. She is also a member of the Advisory Panel for *International Journal of China Studies* at the University of Malaya.



GONZALO VARELA

Practice Manager for Trade Policy and Facilitation
World Bank Group
(virtual)

Gonzalo Varela is Practice Manager for Trade Policy and Facilitation at the World Bank Group, a role he took up on 1 September 2026. He leads the global unit responsible for analytics, advisory services, and operational support on trade policy and trade facilitation across all regions. An economist with more than 20 years of experience, he has combined research with country delivery throughout his career. His current work focuses on trade policy under fragmentation, digital and AI-enabled trade, and value chain upgrading. His research has appeared in the *European Economic Review*, the *Canadian Journal of Economics*, and the *Review of International Economics*. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Sussex.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



Session II. Building Competitive Services Sectors



JOSÉ SIGNORET
Senior Economist
World Bank

José Signoret is a Senior Economist in the World Bank Group's global Trade Policy and Facilitation team, with more than 20 years of experience in international trade, development economics, and applied policy analysis. He leads analytical and diagnostic work, advises governments, and supports reforms related to trade policy, regional integration, competitiveness, subsidies, services trade, and nontariff measures across developing economies. Before joining the World Bank, he conducted economic research at the U.S. International Trade Commission and directed trade capacity-building initiatives at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. His research has appeared in peer-reviewed journals and major global and country reports. He holds a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's degree from the University of Michigan.



MARTIN ROY
Counsellor, Trade in Services and Investment
Division
World Trade Organization

Martin Roy is Counsellor in the Trade in Services and Investment Division of the WTO Secretariat. He is Secretary of the Special Session of the Council for Trade in Services and leads the Trade in Services for Development initiative at the WTO. In the lead-up to the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference in June 2022, he worked in the Director General's Delivery Unit, focusing on the WTO response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Between 2014 and 2016, he was Senior Advisor at the Office of the Chief Trade Advisor for Pacific Island Countries. Mr. Roy co-edited *Research Handbook on Trade in Services* and *Opening Markets for Trade in Services*.



HANNA P. BUCHER
Senior Public Sector Specialist (Trade and Industry),
Public Sector Management and Governance,
Sectors Department 3, Asian Development Bank

Hanna P. Bucher has worked for over 15 years in trade and investment promotion, SME development and logistics. She joined ADB in 2025 as Senior Public Sector Specialist (Trade and Industry) in the Public Sector Management and Governance Sector Office (PSMG). Previously, she worked for the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) as Trade Policy Adviser for the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and as Urban Transport and Logistics expert in New Delhi, India. She also has 10 years of experience working for the International Trade Centre (UN / WTO) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and Geneva, Switzerland, advising governments and SMEs in Asia and Africa on topics of south-south trade and regional integration.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



JIALI GONG

Deputy Director, Department of International Trade
and Economic Affairs
Ministry of Commerce
People's Republic of China

Jiali Gong was the Chinese Financial Services Lead Negotiator for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), People's Republic of China (PRC)–Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA) subsequent negotiations on services, and PRC–Panama FTA; the Chinese Services Lead Negotiator for PRC–Singapore FTA upgrade negotiations, and PRC–New Zealand FTA subsequent negotiations on services. She has also been involved in trade in services negotiations of RCEP, China-GCC FTA, China–Sri Lanka FTA, among others.



TAN TAI HIONG

Head of Services and Investment Division
ASEAN Secretariat

Tan Tai Hiong is Head of the Services and Investment Division of the ASEAN Secretariat. He joined the ASEAN Secretariat in 2001 and has worked on the coordination and facilitation of ASEAN policies and initiatives in trade in services, and subsequently also investment, as well as ASEAN's Free Trade Area-related work with ASEAN's dialogue partners.

In parallel, Mr. Tan also works on the coordination and facilitation of overall trade and economic policies among ASEAN member countries as well as between ASEAN and its dialogue partners, which are coordinated through the Senior Economic Officials' Meeting and ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



JAN REDMOND DELA VEGA

Chief Trade-Industry Development Specialist
Bureau of International Trade Relations
Department of Trade and Industry, Philippines

Jan Redmond Dela Vega is Chief of the Multilateral Relations Division under the DTI-Bureau of International Trade Relations (BITR-MRD). He oversees the inter-agency consultation and submission of recommendations on existing and proposed negotiations of the Philippines under its membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) as well as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Mr. Dela Vega also represents the Philippines in international trade negotiations, particularly as the country lead for Trade in Services (TIS) in the ongoing Philippines–European Union Free Trade Agreement (PH–EU FTA) and Philippines–Canada FTA negotiations. He also led the services negotiations for the Philippines–UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (PH–UAE CEPA) and Philippines–Chile Comprehensive Economic Partnership (PH–Chile CEPA).

Prior to his appointment as Division Chief in May 2024, he also served as the country's TIS lead under ASEAN Free Trade Agreements (*i.e., Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand FTA Upgrade*) and was the Officer-in-Charge of BITR-Regional Relations Division and Arrangements Division (ASEAN Desk) from January – May 2023 during which the Philippines secured Senate concurrence in the ratification of the RCEP Agreement.

Mr. Dela Vega holds a Master of Arts in Political Economy, with Specialization in International Relations and Development, from the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) in the Philippines. He joined the Bureau in 2016.

Session III. Trade Restrictions in Services Trade: Scenarios for Asia and the Pacific



ANNA KATARIINA NILSSON HAKKALA

Senior Economist
Economic Research and Development Impact
Department, Asian Development Bank

Anna Katariina Nilsson Hakkala is Senior Economist at the Economic Research and Development Impact Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). She has more than 20 years of experience in economic research, academic teaching, and policy consulting for governments and international organizations. Before joining ADB, she was a Professor at the UP School of Economics, Philippines. She held senior research positions at ETLA Economic Research and the VATT Institute in Finland, and taught economics at Aalto University, Hanken School of Economics, and Lund University.

Dr. Nilsson Hakkala has extensive experience advising governmental organizations and international organizations. Her research has been published in leading journals such as *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Economic Journal*, *European Economic Review*, and *Industrial and Corporate Change*. She holds a PhD in Economics from the Stockholm School of Economics.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



JOSÉ SIGNORET
Senior Economist
World Bank

José Signoret is a Senior Economist in the World Bank Group's global Trade Policy and Facilitation team, with more than 20 years of experience in international trade, development economics, and applied policy analysis. He leads analytical and diagnostic work, advises governments, and supports reforms related to trade policy, regional integration, competitiveness, subsidies, services trade, and nontariff measures across developing economies. Before joining the World Bank, he conducted economic research at the U.S. International Trade Commission and directed trade capacity-building initiatives at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. His research has appeared in peer-reviewed journals and major global and country reports. He holds a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's degree from the University of Michigan.



HUMBET MANSIRLI
Head of Division on Foreign Investment Policy
Department on Trade and Foreign Investment Policy
Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Humbet Mansirli is Head of Division on Foreign Investment Policy in the Department of Trade and Foreign Investment Policy of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He has served in this role since April 2025. From July 2023 to March 2025, he was Chief Adviser in the same division. Previously, from May 2018 to June 2023, he was an Adviser in the Department on Cooperation with International Organizations. His areas of interest include trade and investment policy, political economy, and international cooperation.

Mr. Mansirli holds an MSc in Strategic Management from Cass Business School, now Bayes Business School, University of London, and a BSc in Marketing- Management from the Graduate School of Management, Saint Petersburg State University.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



NARANTUYA DASHBALJIR

Senior Specialist
Trade and Economic Cooperation Policy Department
Ministry of Economy and Development, Mongolia

Narantuya Dashbaljir has been working at the Ministry of Economy and Development of Mongolia since 2022 and currently serves as a Senior Specialist in Economic Cooperation and Trade Policy.

Her work covers economic cooperation and ODA policy, coordinating with international financial institutions and development partners, including the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, and bilateral European development partners.

In addition, she works on trade policy, with a particular focus on the negotiation and coordination of trade agreements, including Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).



**WICKRAMAGE THILOKA SULOCHANI
PERERA**

Assistant Director of Commerce, Department of
Commerce, Sri Lanka

W. Thiloka Sulochani Perera is an Assistant Director of Commerce at the Department of Commerce, Sri Lanka, with over seven years of experience in international trade, trade policy, and commercial diplomacy. She has extensive experience in bilateral and regional trade affairs, trade negotiations, and stakeholder engagement, including supporting the organization and coordination of Joint Commissions and Joint Working Groups between Sri Lanka and its trading partners.

From 2023 to 2026, she served as First/Second Secretary (Commercial) at the High Commission of Sri Lanka in Pretoria, South Africa, where she promoted trade, investment, and tourism relations between Sri Lanka and South Africa.

Her areas of professional interest and expertise include WTO rules, trade in services, GATS, trade negotiations, government procurement, and international trade policy. She holds postgraduate and undergraduate qualifications in Business Economics, Business Administration, and Law, along with professional training in international trade and WTO law.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



Session IV. Best Practices in the Export Promotion of Services in Asia and the Pacific



MARTIN ROY

Counsellor, Trade in Services and Investment
Division
World Trade Organization

Martin Roy is Counsellor in the Trade in Services and Investment Division of the WTO Secretariat. He is Secretary of the Special Session of the Council for Trade in Services and leads the Trade in Services for Development initiative at the WTO. In the lead-up to the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference in June 2022, he worked in the Director General's Delivery Unit, focusing on the WTO response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Between 2014 and 2016, he was Senior Advisor at the Office of the Chief Trade Advisor for Pacific Island Countries. Mr. Roy co-edited *Research Handbook on Trade in Services* and *Opening Markets for Trade in Services*.



DONG IL CHOI

Director of the Service Industry Policy Division,
Ministry of Economy and Finance, Republic of Korea

Dong Il Choi is Director of the Service Industry Policy Division at the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MOFE), Republic of Korea. He has held several director-level roles in MOFE, including in Regional Economic Policy and Trade Division and Trade Policy Coordination Division, and has experience in international labor policy through his work as Senior Technical Specialist at the International Labour Organization in Geneva. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in engineering from Seoul National University, as well as a master's degree in international public policy and management from the University of Southern California.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



ANDREW KAM JIA YI
Professor of International Trade
National University of Malaysia

Andrew Kam Jia Yi is Professor of International Trade and Principal Research Fellow at the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). He holds a PhD in Economics from the Australian National University and is a recipient of the Chevening, Australia Awards, and Fulbright scholarships. He also serves as a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER), an independent, nonprofit economic research institute and think tank serving policymakers and the private sector. His research and policy expertise cover international trade, global value chains, digitalization, food security, and applied econometrics. Dr. Kam has led and provided consultancy services for major research and policy projects involving the Malaysian government and international organizations, including the World Bank, UNCTAD, ADB, and UNESCO. His work has contributed to national and regional policy development in areas including international trade, regional integration, the green, blue and creative (orange) economies, the digital economy, and economic recovery.



GLORIA O. PASADILLA
Consultant
Asian Development Bank

Gloria O. Pasadilla is an economist and trade policy consultant with more than 20 years of work experience. She has held positions including Director and Business Partner at Leadership Design Studio in Singapore, Senior Analyst at the APEC Policy Support Unit in Singapore, and Research Fellow at the ADB Institute in Tokyo. Her research encompasses various trade issues such as services and digital trade, global value chains, social protection, and the gig economy. She has edited books on topics such as services, trade relations between Asia and Latin America, and social protection in Asia. Additionally, she served briefly as a trade negotiator while working with the government as a Fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies. She holds a PhD in Economics from New York University, a Master in International Law and Economics, summa cum laude, from the World Trade Institute in Bern, Switzerland, a master's degree in industrial economics from the Center for Research and Communication; and a bachelor of science in mathematics from the University of the Philippines Diliman.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



SUMANTA CHAUDHURI
Principal Adviser
International Trade Policy
Confederation of Indian Industry

Sumanta Chaudhuri is Principal Adviser, International Trade Policy, at the Confederation of Indian Industry. With over two decades of experience in international trade, he has held significant roles in the Department of Commerce, Government of India, including Joint Secretary and Director. He managed the Trade Policy Division, focusing on WTO issues and trade agreements. He was India's Chief Negotiator for key trade agreements, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and agreements with ASEAN and Malaysia. He also served as Counsellor at India's Permanent Mission to the WTO, where he led negotiations on services in the Doha Round.

Session V. Good Regulatory Practices in Asia and the Pacific



AMINUR RAHMAN
Advisor
Economic Research and Development Impact
Department
Asian Development Bank

Aminur Rahman is an Advisor in the Office of the Chief Economist and Director General, Economic Research and Development Impact Department, of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He has over 22 years of experience across ADB, the World Bank, and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), delivering integrated, innovative, and results-oriented solutions to development challenges in more than 40 low-, middle-, and high-income countries across Asia, the Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and Europe. His work has been published in several journals, including the *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Economic Geography*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, and *World Development*, as well as by publishers such as MIT Press, Routledge, and Palgrave Macmillan. As a Royal Economic Society Junior Fellow, he obtained a PhD in Economics from University College London and, as a Laila Hirani Memorial Scholar, an MSc in Development Economics from the University of Oxford.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



MARKUS JELITTO
Counsellor
Trade in Services and Investment Division
World Trade Organization

Markus Jelitto is Counsellor in the Trade in Services and Investment Division of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, with more than 25 years of experience in trade in services. He has served as Secretary to several WTO bodies, including the Council for Trade in Services in Special Session and the Working Party on Domestic Regulation.

From 2010 to 2013, he was Senior Trade in Services Advisor to the Southern African Development Community (SADC), supporting regional services integration and negotiations.

At the WTO, Markus leads the Secretariat's work on services domestic regulation and supported Members during the negotiations concluded in 2021. He works with governments on domestic regulation and broader regulatory reform in services, and is a co-author of the World Bank/WTO *Handbook on Good Regulatory Practices to Facilitate Trade in Services* (2025). He also advises on GATS legal issues and professional services.



JAIME COGHI ARIAS
Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO
Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the WTO

Jaime Coghi Arias is the Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the WTO and Chairman of the negotiations under the WTO initiative on services domestic regulation. Mr. Coghi has been negotiator for Costa Rica in the WTO since 1997 in the areas of trade in services, electronic commerce, trade facilitation, information technology products (ITA), nontrade barriers and dispute settlement, among others, and has served as panelist under the WTO dispute settlement mechanism.

Mr. Coghi Arias holds an MBA in Finance from the Instituto Centroamericano de Administración de Empresas (INCAE). He previously obtained a degree in Law from the Universidad de Costa Rica.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



SOKHENG KONG

Director
WTO Affairs and International Organizations
Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia

Sokheng Kong is Director of WTO Affairs and International Organizations at Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce. He has more than a decade of experience in multilateral trade policy and economic diplomacy, including roles at Cambodia's Permanent Mission to the WTO in Geneva and its mission to the European Union in Brussels. His work covers WTO, UNCTAD, WIPO, ITC, trade-in-services negotiations, and trade legal compliance. He has also taught international trade as an adjunct professor and held earlier roles with the Cambodian Mine Action Center and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. He holds master's degrees in international commerce and in law.



DEVI ARIYANI

Executive Director
Indonesia Services Dialogue (ISD) Council

Devi Ariyani is Executive Director of Indonesia Services Dialogue (ISD) Council, an independent council that focuses on policy and regulatory reforms for the development of services sectors in Indonesia and promotes a tripartite dialogue between government, the private sector, and research institutions. Devi has spent most of her career in services industries, starting from manufacturing services, to marketing services, retail and distribution services, and business consulting services. Prior to joining Indonesia Services Dialogue Council, Devi served as Managing Partner of Dash Consulting, a Brand, Retail and Management Consulting firm for Consumer goods, Automotive, Pharmaceutical and Financial sectors. Educated in multi disciplines; Sociology at University of Indonesia, Marketing from School of Professional Studies at New York University in New York City, United States, and Asia Pacific Management Program at Capilano University in Canada.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



ANDRE WIRJO

Senior Analyst, Policy Support Unit
APEC Secretariat

Andre Wirjo is a Senior Analyst at the APEC Policy Support Unit, where he undertakes policy-oriented research to support APEC's work in promoting economic growth, cooperation, trade, and investment in the Asia-Pacific region. His work has covered a range of topics including services, the digital economy, micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and structural reform. Prior to this, he was with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore (NUS), where he coordinated ASEAN-related projects such as the Survey on ASEAN Competitiveness across all 10 member economies. He holds a master's degree in economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).



JONG WOO KANG

Regional Cooperation and Integration Division
Economic Research and Development Impact
Department, Asian Development Bank

Jong Woo Kang is Director of the 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 holds a BA in economics and an MA in public administration from Seoul National University, and a PhD in economics from the University of Washington.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ


Tuesday | 29 September 2026
Session VI. Unlocking Digital Services as an Engine for Growth in Asia and the Pacific

TAHANI IQBAL

Senior Digital Transformation Specialist
Digital Sector Office, Sectors Department 2
Asian Development Bank

Tahani Iqbal has over 15 years of experience in digital transformation, telecommunications, and technology policy across the Asia-Pacific region. She currently champions ADB's digital sector operations in Central, West, and South Asia. Prior to joining ADB, she was part of Meta's APAC Connectivity and Access Policy team where she led initiatives on connectivity, infrastructure, and digital inclusion. She also served as a regulatory and policy specialist at Axiata Group Berhad, supporting telecom and digital investments across South and Southeast Asia.

Tahani has also worked with the World Bank, the Singapore Internet Research Centre (SIRC) at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore, and LIRNEasia, a regional digital advocacy think tank in Sri Lanka. She is a published author on digital sector issues.

Tahani holds a master's degree in public policy from the National University of Singapore and a BSc in Economics and Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science.


JAVIER LÓPEZ-GONZÁLEZ

Head of Digital Trade Unit
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and
Development
(virtual)

Javier López-González is Head of the Digital Trade Unit at the OECD. His research examines the challenges and opportunities that digitalisation and artificial intelligence (AI) present for global trade. This includes analysing regulatory approaches to cross-border data flows and data localisation, assessing their economic impacts, and exploring how emerging technologies, such as additive manufacturing and AI, are reshaping trade. He also investigates the economic costs and benefits of digital connectivity and digital trade policies, and has undertaken extensive work on Global Value Chains. Javier holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Sussex.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



KARINA TUREKHANOVA
Chief Expert, Foreign Trade Department
Kazakhstan

Karina Turekhanova is a Chief Expert in the Trade Negotiations Division at the Ministry of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan. She works on the development and negotiation of Kazakhstan's trade policies, with a focus on trade in services, goods and regional economic integration. Her experience includes preparing national negotiating positions within the WTO, the EAEU, and bilateral Free Trade Agreements.



KAZUSHI UZAWA
Deputy Director for Digital Trade Rules
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI),
Japan

Kazushi Uzawa is a Deputy Director in the Digital Trade Rules Office at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan. He works on the development, negotiation, and implementation of digital trade rules, including disciplines on e-commerce, data governance, and the digital economy in the WTO and various regional and bilateral trade agreements.

He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Tokyo, as well as a Master of International Relations and a Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



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 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 a Lecturer at the School of Engineering at the University of Los Andes (Colombia) and a research associate at University College London in the United Kingdom.

Session VII. Tapping the Potential of MSMEs for Services Trade and Inclusiveness



ÇİĞDEM AKIN

Director, Public Sector Management and
Governance, Sectors Department 3
Asian Development Bank

Çiğdem Akin is Director of Public Sector Management and Governance Sector Office, Sectors Group at ADB, responsible for the design, implementation, and evaluation of ADB projects as well as policy advice, capacity building, and knowledge dissemination in the field of public sector management. Çiğdem Akin has worked on a variety of areas ranging from public resource management and fiscal policy, SOE reforms, ICT applications in public finance and financial inclusion, decentralization and local governance, financial sector development, and MSME development.

Prior to joining ADB, she was teaching economics at the George Washington University as a lecturer and at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) as an assistant professor. Along with her academic career, she was a researcher at the IMF and at the Asian Development Bank Institute in Japan.

Çiğdem Akin holds a PhD degree in economics from the George Washington University in the United States and a master's degree in international development from the International University of Japan as a Monbusho scholar. Her dual BA degrees are in international relations and political science, and sociology from Boğaziçi University in Türkiye.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



SHIGEHIRO SHINOZAKI

Senior Economist
Economic Research and Development Impact
Department, Asian Development Bank

Shigehiro Shinozaki is a Senior Economist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He supports ADB's developing member countries in designing small- and medium-sized enterprise (SME) policies through various technical assistance projects. His research expertise includes SME development and inclusive finance in developing Asia. Prior to joining ADB, he held several expert positions at Japan's Ministry of Finance, OECD in France, and as JICA expert in Indonesia. He holds a PhD in International Studies from Waseda University in Japan.



MUHAMMAD ASHRAF

Executive Director General
Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan

Muhammad Ashraf is the Executive Director General of the Ministry of Commerce of Pakistan and a distinguished trade policy expert with more than 27 years of public sector experience. Throughout his career, he has led initiatives in international trade policy, export promotion, trade diplomacy, and regulatory reform, serving across key divisions of the Ministry of Commerce as well as the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan. He recently spearheaded the development of Pakistan's national export strategies, operationalized the National Compliance Centre, and advanced major institutional reforms to strengthen the country's trade ecosystem. Recognized for his strategic leadership and deep expertise in international trade, he is committed to driving sustainable economic growth through collaboration, innovation, and effective policy development.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



OHANNA GARGALOYAN

Head of Customs Cooperation Division
International Cooperation Department
State Revenue Committee of the Republic of
Armenia

Ohanna Gargaloyan is Head of the Customs Cooperation Division at the International Cooperation Department of the State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia (SRC RA). She has over 20 years of experience in international cooperation, customs administration and trade facilitation. Her areas of expertise include customs cooperation, border management, trade facilitation and the implementation of international agreements and reforms.



AKHROR KHOLMURZAEV

Head of Division
Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade,
Uzbekistan

Akhror Kholmurzaev is an investment and international trade professional from Uzbekistan with extensive experience in strategic planning, policy analysis, foreign economic relations, and investment project implementation. He has held several senior positions at the Ministry of Investments, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, working on investment strategies, trade development, and cooperation with international financial institutions. He holds a Master of International Business from Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics and a bachelor's degree in International Economic Relations from Dnipropetrovsk National University.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



Session VIII. Advancing Services Trade Integration in Regional Development Agendas



JULIAN CLARKE

Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist
Regional Cooperation and Integration and Trade
Division, Climate Change and Sustainable
Development Department, Asian Development
Bank

Julian Latimer Clarke is Senior Specialist for Regional Cooperation and Trade (Climate Change and Regional Cooperation) at the Asian Development Bank.

Julian was a Senior Economist at the World Bank for 15 years. He previously worked for the International Monetary Fund, International Development Research Centre, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the World Trade Organization (WTO). He has published in academic journals such as the *Antitrust Bulletin*, the *Journal of World Economics*, book chapters published by the WTO, as well as numerous World Bank reports.

He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of St. Gallen, a master's degree in international law and economics from the World Trade Institute in Bern, Switzerland, and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Sydney.



DEEPIKA SINGH

Director
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Fiji

Deepika Singh is Director of Trade, specializing in trade policy and international negotiations. With 12 years of public and private sector experience, including service as Director of Trade in Fiji, she has led trade negotiations and implementation across areas such as fisheries subsidies, agriculture, customs, labor rights, e-commerce and digital trade, climate and environmental issues, MSME development, trade logistics, and supply chain resilience. She is also experienced in market access, tariff policy, rules of origin, trade facilitation, and nontariff barrier analysis.

Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

28-29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4, ADB HQ



JAN REDMOND DELA VEGA

Chief Trade-Industry Development Specialist
Bureau of International Trade Relations
Department of Trade and Industry, Philippines

Jan Redmond Dela Vega is Chief of the Multilateral Relations Division under the DTI-Bureau of International Trade Relations (BITR-MRD). He oversees the inter-agency consultation and submission of recommendations on existing and proposed negotiations of the Philippines under its membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) as well as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Mr. Dela Vega also represents the Philippines in international trade negotiations, particularly as the country lead for Trade in Services (TIS) in the ongoing Philippines-European Union Free Trade Agreement (PH-EU FTA) and Philippines-Canada FTA negotiations. He also led the services negotiations for the Philippines-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (PH-UAE CEPA) and Philippines-Chile Comprehensive Economic Partnership (PH-Chile CEPA).

Prior to his appointment as Division Chief in May 2024, he also served as the country's TIS lead under ASEAN Free Trade Agreements (*i.e. Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA Upgrade*) and was the Officer-in-Charge of BITR-Regional Relations Division and Arrangements Division (ASEAN Desk) from January to May 2023 during which the Philippines secured Senate concurrence in the ratification of the RCEP Agreement.

Mr. Dela Vega holds a Master of Arts in Political Economy, with Specialization in International Relations and Development, from the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) in the Philippines. He joined the Bureau in 2016.



TAN TAI HIONG

Head of Services and Investment Division
ASEAN Secretariat

Tan Tai Hiong is currently Head of the Services and Investment Division of the ASEAN Secretariat. He joined the ASEAN Secretariat in 2001 and has worked on the coordination and facilitation of ASEAN policies and initiatives in trade in services, and subsequently also investment, as well as ASEAN's Free Trade Area-related work with ASEAN's dialogue partners.

In parallel, Mr. Tan also works on the coordination and facilitation of overall trade and economic policies among ASEAN member countries as well as between ASEAN and its dialogue partners, which are coordinated through the Senior Economic Officials' Meeting and ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting.