



# Asian Regional Cooperation and Integration Roundtable Conference

## The Future of Regional Cooperation and Integration and Productivity

17–18 NOVEMBER 2014  
ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines

Organized by the ADB Office of Regional Economic Integration



## RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND

Since the 1990s, global and regional economic landscapes changed extensively. Consequently, in 2006 the Asian Development Bank (ADB) saw the need to revisit its fragmented Regional Cooperation and Integration (RCI) efforts—mainly in addressing poverty in the region, and came up with a more coherent and strategically focused approach to address RCI-related issues relating to cross-border infrastructure and related software, trade and investment, monetary and financial cooperation, and regional public goods. This was complemented in 2008 by RCI targets under ADB's Strategy 2020. To review ADB's RCI efforts, in March 2012, ADB organized its first Conference on RCI in Kunming, People's Republic of China.

To further analyze the changing global economic trends in the context of ADB's efforts under Strategy 2020, ADB conducted its medium-term review (MTR) of the strategy. The MTR indicated that the recent global economic environment and the region's current socio-economic conditions have focused attention on the path that RCI needs to take on structural reforms, over and above national efforts, to support productivity growth, reduce inequality, and mitigate vulnerability risks in the region.

Given the complexities of productivity, inequality and vulnerability issues in the context of RCI, as discussed in the MTR, special attention must be given to each on a sequential basis rather than all three at once. Hence, building from the success of the Kunming Conference, ADB is organizing a series of roundtable conferences to define the future RCI agenda based on analytical studies on RCI-related factors contributing to sustained, equitable, and efficient economic growth and development in the region.

In this Conference, six major background papers on RCI and Productivity will be presented and discussed in separate sessions, which will attempt to address, among others, the following key questions:

- What role will RCI play in driving productivity and reducing inequality?
- What role can regional financing mechanisms play in promoting productivity growth?
- Why has trade not driven sustainable economic development in many of the region's landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and fragile and conflict affected states (FCAS)? Based on case studies of Timor-Leste, Mongolia and Afghanistan, how can RCI better support countries' efforts to link into the international economy?
- Based on the Cambodia and Malaysia case studies, how can RCI help middle income and high income aspirants in the context of RCI-productivity-inequality nexus?
- What RCI instruments (i.e. special economic zones, information and technology) business and government can pursue to attract investment & technology?
- What are the opportunities and challenges of enhanced cooperation and integration between South Asia and Southeast Asia and beyond?

This Conference, which serves as the first of a series of discussions on the future RCI agenda, brings ADB's developing member countries, RCI experts and practitioners in various sectors, to share their views and inputs on the productivity challenges faced by the region. Based upon the understanding of these challenges, the Conference hopes to derive a number of policy implications on RCI that will ultimately focus on people's welfare. These will be translated into ADB's first ever RCI operational plan in 2015 to help address the future RCI agenda.

# PROGRAM AGENDA

Day 0 16 November (Sunday)

18:00–20:00 Welcome Dinner (*by Invitation*)  
Venue: Joy 1&2, 5th Floor, Oakwood Premier

Day 1 17 November (Monday)

08:00–09:00 Registration

09:00–09:15 Photo Session

09:15–09:45 **Opening Session**

**Keynote Remarks by Takehiko Nakao**  
President, Asian Development Bank (ADB)  
Q&A

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09:45–12:00 **Session 1: RCI and Productivity**

**Moderator: Iwan J. Azis**  
Head, Office of Regional Economic Integration (OREI), ADB

**ADB Presenter: Iwan J. Azis**  
Head, OREI, ADB

**Panelists:**

- Anupam Khanna, Chief Economist & Director General, Policy, National Association of Software & Service Companies, India
- Justin Lin, Honorary Dean and Professor, National School of Development, Peking University, PRC
- Kozo Kiyota, Professor, Keio University, Japan

Open Discussion

12:00–14:00 Lunch (Venue: Executive Dining Room (EDR) coffee lounge, ADB)

**Special Lunch hosted by Takehiko Nakao**  
President, ADB  
Venue: Private Dining Room (PDR) 4a and 5, ADB  
(*By Invitation*)

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14:00–16:00 **Session 2: Trade Cooperation in Fragile and Landlocked States**

**Moderator: Xianbin Yao**  
Director General, Pacific Department, ADB

**ADB Presenter: Alisa Di Caprio**  
Regional Cooperation Specialist, OREI, ADB

**Panelists:**

- Helder da Costa, Head, g7+ Secretariat
- Erdenetsogt Odbayar, Director General in Charge of the International Think Tank for LLDCs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia
- Mohammad Saeed, Senior Adviser, Trade Facilitation, Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business, International Trade Centre
- Swarnim Wagle, Honorable Member, National Planning Commission, Singha, Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Open Discussion

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16:00–16:15	Coffee Break
16:15–18:15	<p><b>Session 3: The Role of Regional Financing Mechanisms in Driving Productivity Growth</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Stephen Groff</b> Vice President (Operations 2), ADB</p> <p><b>ADB Presenter: Ayumi Konishi</b> Director General, East Asia Department, ADB</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nguyen Ba Toan, Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Finance, Viet Nam</li> <li>• Syed Afsor Uddin, Chief Executive Officer, Public Private Partnership Office, Bangladesh</li> <li>• Naoyuki Yoshino, Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute</li> </ul> <p>Open Discussion</p>
18:15–19:30	Cocktail reception hosted by the Office of Regional Economic Integration Venue: Executive Dining Room, ADB
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>18 November (Tuesday)</b>
08:30–09:30	Registration
09:30–09:45	<b>Sessions Recap by Arjun Goswami</b> Director, OREI, ADB
09:45–11:45	<p><b>Session 4: How Can RCI Help Middle Income and High Income Aspirants?</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Richard S.M. Bolt</b> Country Director, Philippines Country Office, ADB</p> <p><b>ADB Presenters: Jin Cahn</b> Principal Economist, SERD, ADB, and <b>Jayant Menon</b> Lead Economist, OREI, ADB</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dante Canlas, President and CEO of Alternative Fuels Corporation of the Philippine National Oil Company</li> <li>• Hal Hill, Professor of Economics, Australian National University</li> <li>• Felipe Medalla, Monetary Board Member, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Philippines</li> <li>• Ros Seilava, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Cambodia</li> <li>• Wing Thye Woo, Professor of Economics, University of California-Davis</li> </ul> <p>Open Discussion</p>
11:45–13:00	<p>Lunch (Venue: Executive Dining Room (EDR) coffee lounge, ADB)</p> <p>Lunch Talk on <b>The Role of the Private Sector in RCI</b></p> <p><b>Presenter: Todd Freeland</b> Director General, Private Sector Operations Department, ADB Venue: Private Dining Room (PDR) 2,3 and 3a, ADB (By Invitation)</p>

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13:00–15:00 **Session 5: Economic Corridors and Economic Zones as Instruments for Regional Production Networks and Supply Chain**

**Moderator: Wencai Zhang**

Vice President (Operations 1), ADB

**ADB Presenters: Pradeep Srivastava**

Principal Economist, CWRD, ADB and

**Arup Chatterjee**

Principal Financial Sector Specialist, OREI, ADB

**Panelists:**

- Paban Chowdhury, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority
- Hiroshi Uematsu, CEO, Phnom Penh SEZ Co., Ltd.
- Rana Hasan, Assistant Chief Economist, Economics and Research Department, ADB

Open Discussion

15:00–15:15 Coffee Break

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15:15–17:15 **Session 6: Opportunities and Challenges of Enhanced Cooperation and Integration between South Asia and Southeast Asia and Beyond**

**Moderator: Hun Kim**

Director General, South Asia Department (SARD), ADB

**ADB Presenters: Ronald Butiong**

Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, SARD, ADB and

**Cuong Minh Nguyen**

Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, SERD, ADB

**Panelists:**

- Bambang Permadi Soemantri Brodjonegoro, Minister of Finance, Indonesia
- Truong Trieu Duong, Ambassador, Embassy of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
- Sumith Nakandala, Secretary General, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
- Lei Zhuning, Associate Professor/Deputy Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences

Open Discussion

17:15–17:45 Closing Remarks

**Bindu N. Lohani**

Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, ADB