



RCI-POD Webinar #12

Supporting SME Internationalization in the New Normal

Across Asia-Pacific, SMEs are an important part of the economy in terms of production and employment generation. However, they found it difficult to participate in the world economy even before the COVID-19 pandemic and have been devastated further by it now. This webinar will examine what opportunities SME globalization offers the region and how these have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. It will also explore how public and private sectors can work together to help globalized SMEs become more resilient.

15 September (Tuesday), 15:00 - 16:30 (Manila time), MS Teams

- 15:00–15:10 **Opening Remarks**
Jeffrey Tan, Head, Corporate Development & Technologies, YCH Group
- 15:10–15:30 **Presentation: *SME Internationalization: Was there an old normal, is there a new normal?***
Shigehiro Shinozaki, Senior Economist, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD), ADB
Paul Vandenberg, Senior Economist, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD), ADB
- 15:30-16:25 **Panel Discussion, followed by Q&A**
Moderator:
Ashish Narain, Principal Economist, RCI Thematic Group, SDCC, ADB
Panelists:
- **Anil Bhardwaj**, Secretary General, Federation of Indian MSMEs (FISME)
 - **Jennifer Buckley**, Senior Managing Director, Small Enterprise Assistance Funds (SEAF)
 - **Madhurjya Kumar Dutta**, Director, Trade & Investment Facilitation (TIF), Department at Mekong Institute for Cooperation and Development (MI), Thailand
 - **Nana Khurodze**, Investment Specialist, Private Sector Financial Institutions Division, ADB
- 16:25–16:30 **Summary & Closing of the Webinar**