



Emerging Financial Inclusion Priorities in the COVID-19 Era

24 February 2022; 10:00 - 11:30 (Manila time, GMT+8)

Virtual

The economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has brought greater attention to the important role financial services play in supporting economic recovery and resilience, especially among the region's most vulnerable populations.

In response to the pandemic many governments have adopted economic recovery strategies which seek to accelerate digital transformation, including access to digital financial products and services. While the rapid expansion of digital services is bringing new opportunities to achieve greater financial inclusion, it is also creating new risks and challenges. As a result, the region's policy makers and regulators are under increased pressure to ensure that the development of the digital economy contributes successfully to greater inclusion and prosperity for all.

Against this backdrop, this webinar will highlight a series of recommendations for policy makers and regulators developed through the Asia-Pacific Financial Inclusion Forum (APFIF), an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) initiative to help expand the benefits of useful, affordable, and sustainable financial products and services to those at the base of the economy. Led by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), in collaboration with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC), and the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the APFIF initiative provides an important platform for regional cooperation between a wide range of stakeholders to achieve greater development outcomes that are inclusive and benefit those at the base of the economy.

The webinar will examine key outcomes of the 2021 APFIF report: *Emerging Priorities in the COVID-19 Era*. This will include discussion on financial inclusion priorities for policy makers and regulators to stimulate economic recovery as well as emerging challenges and opportunities associated with financial inclusion as a result of digital transformation.

Following a presentation of specific recommendations developed for policy makers and regulators, including practical examples through case studies, a panel discussion among policy experts will take place, aiming to contribute to the overall discussions of enhancing financial inclusion across the Asia-Pacific region amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



Agenda

Date: 24 February 2022

Host: Ms. Cyn-Young Park, Director, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD), ADB

10:00 – 10:05 **Opening Remarks**

Mr. Albert Park, Chief Economist and Director General, ERCD, ADB

10:05 – 10:25 **Joint Presentation of the Report’s Main Findings**

Mr. Peter Rosenkranz, Financial Sector Specialist; Public Management, Financial Sector, & Regional Cooperation Division; East Asia Department; ADB

Mr. Shawn Hunter, Industry Fellow (APEC), Griffith Asia Institute and ADB Consultant

10:25-11:15 **Panel Discussion**

Theme: Emerging Financial Inclusion Priorities in the COVID-19 Era

Moderator: Ms. Cyn-Young Park, Director, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, ERCD, ADB

Panelists:

- **Ms. Lisette Cipriano**, Senior Digital Technology Specialist (Financial Technology Services), Finance Sector Group, Sustainable and Development and Climate Change Department, ADB
 - **Mr. JC Parreñas**, Senior Advisor, Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd, Daiwa Securities Group
 - **Mr. Ricky Satria**, Director, Customer Protection Group, SME Development and Customer Protection Department, Bank Indonesia
 - **Mr. Peter Morgan**, Senior Consulting Economist, Vice Chair, ADBI
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11:15-11:30 **Q&A**
