



**Regional Cooperation and
Integration Policy Open Dialogue
(RCI-POD)
Webinar Series**

Co-organized by the Regional Cooperation and Integration Division and RCI Thematic Group, the webinar series aims to provide a venue for casual and open policy dialogue on RCI issues.

Will the Post COVID-19 Recovery in Asia and the Pacific Result in Greater Regionalization of Trade and Investment?

Even before the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic a globally significant economic shift was underway—Asia’s GDP was rising in size and as a share of the world economy, and Asia’s economies were becoming increasingly integrated. Intercontinental trade wars involving the world’s largest economies, greater protectionism elsewhere, and the application of new technologies bringing with them more automation have challenged the economic rationale of long-distance supply and value chains with key segments localized in only a few economies. Asia’s integration is increasing and there is a clear shift toward regionalization.

Taken together, the impacts and experience with the COVID-19 pandemic and several major economic forces or trends in favor of greater intra-Asia production, trade and investment may have weakened the region’s preference or dependence on the global multilateral trade system, while increasing perceived risks of overdependence on long-distance value chains vulnerable to disruption anywhere along the ‘chain’. Will the pre-pandemic forces decelerating globalization and accelerating Asia’s economic position in the world plus the shock of the COVID-19 result in a steady ‘structural transformation’ away from globalization to regionalization? Or, will Asia and the rest of the world attempt to redesign but also revitalize globalization once the pandemic is passed and the recovery has commenced? This Webinar will consider—from both the policy and business perspectives—the implications and potential scenarios for greater regionalization of trade and investment among the region’s economies.

29 July 2020 (Wednesday), 16:30-18:00 (Manila)
MS Teams Meeting

Presentation: *Globalization and Regionalism During a Pandemic*

Mr. Joseph Ernest Zveglic Jr., Deputy Chief Economist, ERCD, ADB

Panel Discussion on Options and Potential Scenarios for Greater Regionalization of Existing and New Supply and Value Chains Among the Region’s Economies

Moderator: Mr. Arjun, Goswami, Chief, RCI Thematic Group, SDCC, ADB

Panelists:

- **Ambassador Kishore Mahbubani**, Distinguished Fellow, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
- **Dr. Alex Chandra**, Head of Analysis and Monitoring Division on Trade, Industry and Emerging Issues, ASEAN Secretariat
- **Mr. Md. Mosharaf Hossain**, Director, BIMSTEC Secretariat
- **Ms. Deborah Elms**, Executive Director, Asian Trade Centre
- **Mr. Safdar Parvez**, Director, CWRC, ADB

Forthcoming RCI-POD webinar

4 August: Migrant Workers and Remittances in the Time of Pandemic

