



Asian Development Bank

ADB Seminar Series on Regional Economic Integration

Title: Institutions for Regionalism: Agency and Power in Asia
Date: 5 August 2009
Time: 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Venue: Briefing Theater 1 (Room 1402W)
Office Tower Block, ADB
Organizer: Office of Regional Economic Integration
Keynote Speaker: Amitav Acharya
Discussants: Carolina G. Hernandez
M. C. Abad, Jr.

Program

10:30 – 10:35 **Welcome Remarks and Introduction of Speakers**
Jong-Wha Lee, Chief Economist, Economics and Research
Department, concurrently Head, Office of Regional
Economic Integration, ADB

10:35 – 11:10 **Presentation on “Institutions for Regionalism:
Agency and Power in Asia”**
Speaker: Amitav Acharya, Professor, American University,
Washington D. C.

11:10 – 11:20 **Comments by**
Carolina G. Hernandez, Professor, University of the
Philippines, Quezon City

11:20 – 11:30 **Comments by**
M. C. Abad, Jr., Head, Government Relations Unit, Asian
Development Bank

11:30 – 12:00 **Open Floor Discussion**

Synopsis

Who made Asia's regional institutions and how? In his lecture, Prof. Acharya argues that Asian institutions were made largely from within the region and through the localization of some powerful ideas such as non-intervention (politics and security), developmental regionalism and open regionalism (in economics and trade). This view challenges those who argue that Asian institutions were Western influenced and result of material forces like power or economic interdependence. The policy implication of this argument is that when the international community wants to reform Asian institutions for regionalism, it needs to find local norm entrepreneurs who can fit new ideas about cooperation to the local context and need, rather than simply impose them on the old ones and expect the latter to disappear. Asian institutions for regionalism do not resist change all the time and in response to all new ideas. But they are path dependent, and move through an evolutionary rather than revolutionary trajectory, with implications for their evolving role in overcoming non-interference and implementing cooperative security, financial reforms, and free trade initiatives.

Profile of Speakers

Amitav Acharya is a well-known political scientist, currently Professor of International Affairs at the School of International Service at the American University in Washington D.C. and Chair of the ASEAN Studies Center in the same University. Prof. Acharya is a scholar of Asian and comparative regionalism and theory of international affairs. He is also an expert of ASEAN history, political and security cooperation, and institutional development. He is the author of several articles and books including: *The Quest for Identity: International Relations of Southeast Asia* (Oxford, 2000); *Constructing a Security Community in Southeast Asia* (Routledge 2001, 2009); and *Whose Ideas Matter: Agency and Power in Asian Regionalism* (Cornell, 2009).

Carolina G. Hernandez is Professor of Political Science at the University of the Philippines and is Carlos P. Romulo Professor of International Relations. Prof. Hernandez is Founder and President of the Institute for Strategic and Development Studies. She is a scholar of Asian regionalism and institutional development.

M. C. Abad, Jr. is Head of Government Relations Unit in the Asian Development Bank. Prior to joining ADB, Mr. Abad served for 15 years in various capacities at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, including as Director for ASEAN Regional Forum and Director in charge of social issues. His writings cover subjects like community building, cooperative security, human security, and social construction.

Jong-Wha Lee is the Chief Economist of the Asian Development Bank and concurrently Head of the Office of Regional Economic Integration. Before joining the Bank in early 2007, Dr. Lee was the Director of the International Center for Korean Studies and a Professor of Economics at Korea University. He has over 20 years of professional experience as an economist and an academic. He worked as Economist at the International Monetary Fund and taught at Harvard University as a Visiting Professor. He also served as a member of the National Economic Advisory Council in the Republic of Korea.