



R | K | S | I

ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative



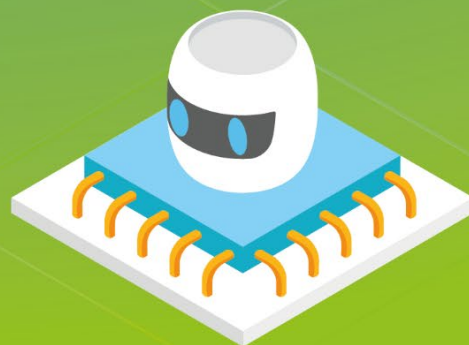
EAST ASIA FORUM 2025

Advancing High-Quality Development in East Asia:
Productivity, Innovation, and Economic Openness



**Harnessing AI to Promote
High-Quality Development**

23–24 September
Beijing, the People's Republic of China



EAST ASIA FORUM 2025

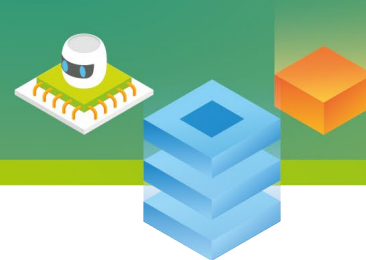
Advancing High-Quality Development in East Asia

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ADB's East Asia Forum (EAF) is an annual event organized by the East Asia Department (EARD) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The forum aims to share lessons from ADB's operations and knowledge work in East Asia—with special emphasis on the People's Republic of China (PRC)—with a wider audience. In the spirit of South-South learning, the EAF facilitates the exchange of ideas and practices among key stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific. It is supported by EARD-administered technical assistance and various funding sources, including the People's Republic of China's Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation Fund (PRCF).

The East Asia Forum 2025, with the theme “Advancing High-Quality Development in East Asia: Productivity, Innovation, and Economic Openness,” aims to:

- Share knowledge and good practices from East Asia on enhancing productivity, driving innovation, and promoting economic openness, notably in the service sector.
- Discuss key trends in achieving high-quality economic development.
- Explore innovative practices, policies, and technologies to increase productivity, encourage innovation, and further open economic sectors.
- Encourage replication of successful experiences from the PRC and other East Asian economies across other ADB members.

The ADB–PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (R K S I) is a South–South platform jointly established by the Ministry of Finance of the PRC and ADB to promote development knowledge exchange among ADB's developing member countries. As part of its efforts, R K S I organizes the Talk China Seminar Series, a quarterly event that brings together experts and policymakers to explore pressing development issues. The upcoming session—the third in the series—will focus on harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) for high-quality development, featuring expert discussions and field visits to AI sites in Beijing.

EAST ASIA FORUM 2025

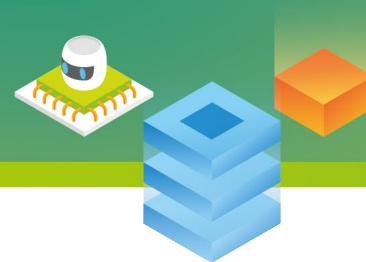
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AGENDA

DAY 1 | 23 September (Tuesday)

East Asia Forum 2025: Advancing High-Quality Development in East Asia:
Productivity, Innovation, and Economic Openness

Emcee: **Guan Xin**, Anchor and Chief Editor, China Global Television Network (CGTN)

8:30–9:00 **Registration**

9:00–9:30 **Welcome Remarks**

Scott Morris, Vice-President (East and Southeast Asia, and the Pacific), Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Liao Min, Vice Minister of Finance, People's Republic of China

9:30–9:35 **Photo Session**

9:35–9:50 **Setting the Stage: Enhancing Productivity and Openness in East Asia and Beyond**
Chong-En Bai, Dean of the School of Economics and Management, Tsinghua University

9:50–10:20 **Coffee/Tea Break**
Ballroom 3 Foyer, Kerry Hotel

10:20–12:40 **Session 1: Boosting Productivity through Competition and Innovation: Experience from the PRC and Other Countries**

Presentation 1: **Boosting Total Factor Productivity through Competition and Innovation: Experience of the PRC**

Bert Hofman, Professor, National University of Singapore, former Country Director of World Bank, PRC, and former Chief Economist for the World Bank in the East Asia and Pacific region

Presentation 2: **Australia's Experience in Boosting Productivity and Competitiveness**
Catie Bradbear, Assistant Commissioner, Australian Productivity Commission

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Scott Morris, Vice-President (East and Southeast Asia, and the Pacific), ADB

Panelists:

- **Qiong Zhang**, Director and Professor, Renmin University of China

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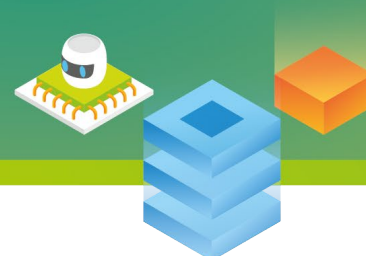
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- **Elisa Hörhager**, Chief Representative China, Federation of German Industries (BDI)
- **Dong Liu**, Chairman and Principal Partner of Ping An Capital Co., Ltd.
- **Albert Park**, Chief Economist and Director General, Economic Research and Development Impact Department, ADB

Q and A

12:40–14:30 Lunch at Kerry's Kitchen, 1st Floor, Kerry Hotel

14:30–16:30 **Session 2: Expanding Economic Openness and Service Sector Liberalization in the PRC and Experience from Other Countries**

Presentation 1:

Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson of Board of Directors for Pakistan Stock Exchange; former Minister of Finance, Government of Pakistan; former Executive Secretary of UNESCAP

Presentation 2: **Opening the PRC's Services Industry for Innovative and Shared Development**

Hildegunn Kyvik Nordås, Visiting Professor, Örebro University, Sweden; Senior Associate, Council on Economic Policies, Switzerland

Panel Discussion:

Moderator: **Justine Diokno-Sicat**, Alternate Executive Director, ADB

Panelists:

- **Albert Park**, Chief Economist and Director General, Economic Research and Development Impact Department, ADB
- **Hildegunn Kyvik Nordås**, Visiting Professor, Örebro University, Sweden; Senior Associate, Council on Economic Policies, Switzerland
- **Cui Fan**, Professor, University of International Business and Economics, PRC
- **Arpita Mukherjee**, Professor of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (Online)
- **Dongsoo Kang**, Executive Director, Global Knowledge Exchange and Development Center, Korean Development Institute, Republic of Korea

Q and A

16:30–16:45 **Closing Remarks**
Zhan Shu, Alternate Executive Director, ADB

16:45 onwards Networking Reception, Ballroom 3 Foyer, Kerry Hotel

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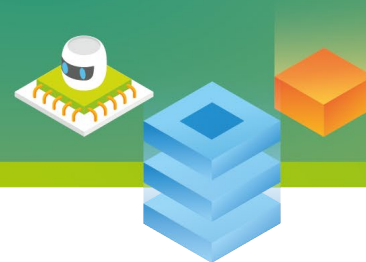
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DAY 2 | 24 September (Wednesday)



Harnessing AI to Promote High-Quality Development

Emcee: **Lijuan Chen**, Economist, East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

9:00–9:10

Opening Remarks

Muhammad Ehsan Khan, Director General, East Asia Department, ADB

Zhan Shu, Alternate Executive Director, ADB

9:10–10:10

Session 1: What Experiences from the PRC Can be Learned and Replicated in the Region

Presentation: **Promoting AI Applications for High-Quality Development in the PRC**

Tongning Wu, Deputy Director, Artificial Intelligence Research Institute, China

Academy of Information and Communications Technology

Panel Discussion:

Moderator: **Aiming Zhou**, Deputy Country Director, ADB PRC Resident Mission

Panelists:

- **Sen Gong**, Director, Centre for International Studies on Development and Governance, Zhejiang University
- **Patrick Renz**, Director's Advisor, ADB
- **Huijie Zhang**, Deputy Director General, Agricultural Information Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
- **Ikram Ul Haque Qureshi**, Member, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan

Q and A

10:10–10:30

Tea Break

Ballroom 3 Foyer, Kerry Hotel



10:30–11:30

Session 2: How ADB Can Support DMCs with AI Application to Promote High-Quality Development

Presentation: ADB's Role in Promoting AI Application in the Region

Albert Park, Chief Economist and Director General, Economic Research and Development Impact Department, ADB

Panel Discussion:

Moderator: **Bobur Alimov**, Advisor, East Asia Department, ADB

Panelists:

- **Boedistoeti Ontowirjo**, Deputy Chairman for Research and Innovation Policy, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia
- **Justine Diokno-Sicat**, Alternate Executive Director, ADB
- **Yongping Zhai**, Senior Advisor, Strategic Development Department, Tencent
- **Antonio G. Zaballos**, Director, Digital Sector Office, ADB

Q and A

11:30–13:00

Lunch at Kerry's Kitchen, 1st Floor, Kerry Hotel

13:00–14:00

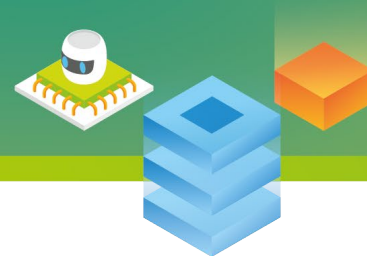
Departure from the Kerry Hotel for site visit

14:00–16:30

Site visit: Beijing Innovation Center of Humanoid Robotics, Beijing High-level Autonomous Driving Demonstration (BJHAD) Zone Innovation and Operation Center, to experience the WeRide Autonomous Bus.

16:30–17:30

Return to the hotel



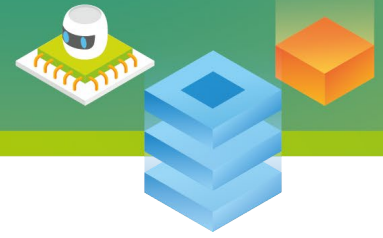
Site Visit Introduction

The site visit will be conducted in **Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area**, which is also called Beijing E-Town. It is the only national-level economic-technological development area in Beijing and an important window for reform and opening up of the capital city.



The **Beijing Innovation Center of Humanoid Robotics** is the first innovation center in the PRC that focuses on the core technology, product development, and application ecosystem construction of humanoid robots. It is a comprehensive robot exhibition center featuring “Robot Displays + Application Experiences.” The exhibition area includes four sections: the Technology Innovation Display Area, the Application Scenario Demonstration Area, the Science Popularization Education Experience Area, and the Future Commercial Consumption Area. It showcases the current development status and latest achievements of the robotics industry in Beijing.

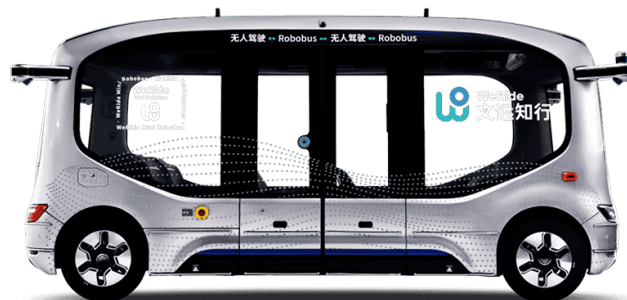




The **Beijing High-level Autonomous Driving Demonstration Zone Innovation and Operation Center** began trial operations in November 2021. It focuses on four core functions: 1) aggregating data and coordinating command for various connected cloud control scenarios; 2) showcasing new technologies, products, and phased construction achievements of the demonstration zone; 3) undertaking the functions of the national management platform and completing the integration into the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology's Intelligent Connected Vehicle Innovation Data Management Platform; and 4) creating an industry exchange center for intelligent connected vehicles, establishing an international dialogue platform for the development path of the intelligent connected vehicle industry.



WeRide is an autonomous driving technology company. Their autonomous vehicles have been tested or operated in over 30 cities across 10 countries. The products have received autonomous driving permits in five markets: the PRC, the UAE, Singapore, France, and the US. The portfolio includes Robotaxi, Robobus, Robovan, Robosweeper, and advanced driver-assistance system (ADAS), delivering smart mobility, smart logistics, and smart sanitation solutions that help build smarter, safer, and more sustainable cities. The product Robobus provides a fully autonomous service worldwide for public operations (including day transport, Bus Rapid Transit, and night shuttle).



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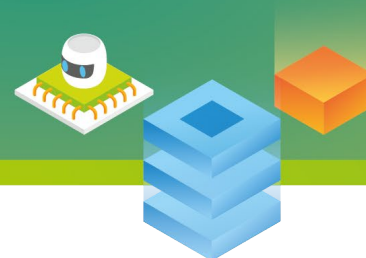
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BIOGRAPHIES: SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

East Asia Forum 2025

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Emcee



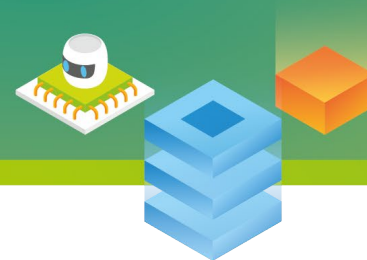
GUAN XIN

Anchor and Chief Editor
China Global Television Network

Guan Xin hosts *Global Business* and *BizTalk*, the two flagship financial and business programs on CGTN that have become resources for viewers seeking analysis and discussions on the most pressing issues affecting international markets and economies.

Throughout her career, Guan Xin has engaged in one-on-one dialogues with a myriad of influential figures from the global business landscape, including top executives of multinational corporations, distinguished scholars, prominent political leaders, and ADB. She had interviewed former ADB President Takehiko Nakao, Vice-President Scott Morris, Chief Economist Albert Park, and Country Director Safdar Parvez, among others.

She has a BA in Journalism from Tsinghua University and MA in Finance from Peking University.



Welcome Remarks



SCOTT MORRIS

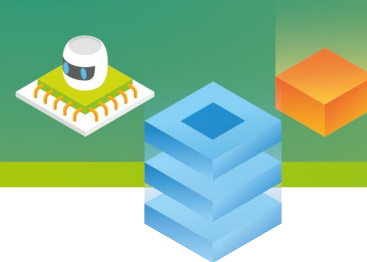
**Vice-President
East and Southeast Asia, and the Pacific
Asian Development Bank**

Scott Morris joined ADB on 1 November 2023 and has significant prior leadership experience in both government and the nonprofit sector. He is responsible for overseeing ADB's operations in East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific.

Mr. Morris is an expert on development finance and debt policy with more than 25 years of experience in international economic policymaking and research. Prior to joining ADB, Mr. Morris was a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development (CGD) in Washington, DC. At CGD, he led work on multilateral and bilateral development finance, including the role of concessional finance in supporting low-income and climate-vulnerable countries.

Mr. Morris previously served in senior roles in the US government, including as deputy assistant secretary for Development Finance and Debt in the US Treasury. In this role, he oversaw the participation of the US in multilateral development banks, including ADB, as well as US participation in the Paris Club. Prior to his US Treasury appointment, he managed the international and monetary policy portfolio of the Committee on Financial Services, US House of Representatives.

Mr. Morris holds a Master of Public Policy Studies (International Economics) from the University of Michigan, Institute for Public Policy Studies, in Michigan, US. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from Franklin and Marshall College in Pennsylvania, US.



LIAO MIN

**Vice Minister of Finance
People's Republic of China**

Liao Min has been serving as the Vice Minister of Finance since September 2023. Before this role, he was also the Vice Minister at the Office of the Central Commission for Finance and Economy.

He began his career at the People's Bank of China and later served as deputy director at China Everbright Group. Following this, he became an assistant general manager at the Bank of China. He then transitioned to the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC), where he held several key positions. After his time at the CBRC, Mr. Liao took on prominent roles at the Office of the Central Leading Group for Financial and Economic Affairs and the Office of the Central Commission for Finance and Economy.

Mr. Liao earned a master's degree in economics from Peking University in 1993 and received an MBA from the Judge Business School at Cambridge University in 2006.

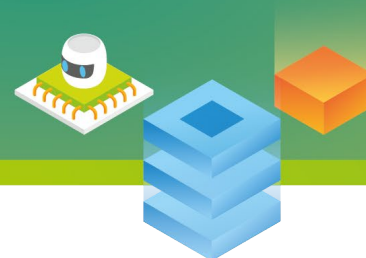
Setting the Stage: Enhancing Productivity and Openness in East Asia and Beyond



BAI CHONG-EN

**Dean
School of Economics and Management
Tsinghua University**

Professor Chong-En Bai is dean of the School of Economics and Management and distinguished professor of arts, Humanities and Social Sciences of Tsinghua University. He earned his PhD in Economics from Harvard University. His research focuses on the relationship between economic institutions, policy, and development, and from this perspective, the Chinese economy.



Prof. Bai is vice-chairman of the 13th All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce. He is a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the "15th Five-Year Plan" National Development Planning Expert Committee, the Chinese Economists 50 Forum, the China Finance 40 Forum, and Chinainfo 100. He is also chairman of the Academic Committee of China Wealth Management 50 Forum. He was a member of the monetary policy committee of the People's Bank of China and of the executive council of the International Economic Association, a nonresident senior fellow of the Brookings Institution, and Adjunct Vice-President of Beijing State-Owned Assets Management Co., Ltd.

Session 1: Boosting Productivity through Competition and Innovation: Experience from the PRC and Other Countries

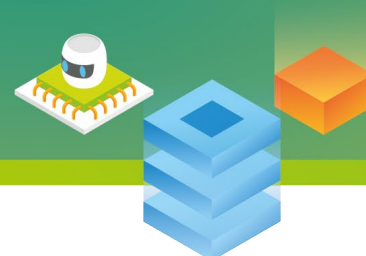


BERT HOFMAN

Professor, National University of Singapore
former Country Director of World Bank, PRC
former Chief Economist for the World Bank in the East Asia and Pacific Region

Bert Hofman (郝福满) is a professor at the East Asian Institute (EAI) of the National University Singapore. He was director of EAI 2019–2023 and was a professor of practice at the Lee Kuan Yew School of the National University Singapore during that time. He is also an honorary senior fellow at the Center for China Analysis of the Asia Society Policy Institute, Senior Fellow at MERICS in Germany and Fellow of the World Association for China Studies at the China Academy of Social Sciences.

Before joining NUS in 2019, Mr. Hofman worked with the World Bank for 27 years, 22 of which in Asia, and 12 in the PRC. Mr. Hofman was the World Bank country director for China 2014–2019, the China country economist 2004–2008, and the chief economist for the World Bank in the East Asia and Pacific region 2011–2014. Mr. Hofman worked at the Kiel Institute of



World Economics, the OECD and NMB Bank (now ING). He studied economics in Rotterdam and Kiel.



CATIE BRADBPEAR

**Assistant Commissioner
Australian Productivity Commission**

Catie Bradbear is Assistant Commissioner at the Productivity Commission, the Australian Government's independent research and advisory agency, and is leading the inquiry into delivering quality care more efficiently. She has worked on a diverse range of inquiries since she joined the Commission in 2012, including reviews of resources sector regulation, the economic regulation of Airports, the Migrant Intake, and International Education Services. Ms. Bradbear started her career at the Treasury, followed by a stint at the Australian National University, conducting research through the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health.

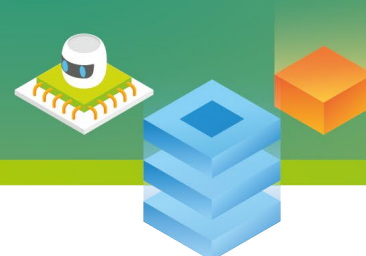
She is a member of the ACT WEN Committee and is particularly interested in the role of mentoring in retaining women in economics. Ms. Bradbear lives in Canberra and has a Bachelor of Economics and Master's of Economic Studies from the University of Queensland.



QIONG ZHANG

Director and Professor, Renmin University of China

Qiong Zhang is a professor and the director of the Institute of Social Security of School of Public Administration at Renmin University of China. Her research focuses on development economics, public economics, and randomized field experiments. To date, she has published over 40 academic papers in prestigious domestic and international journals, including American Economic Review, Population Studies, Journal of Development Studies, Economic Research Journal, China Economic Quarterly, and Journal of Financial Research. She has presided over projects such as the General Program and Youth Program of the National Natural Science Foundation of China, and projects of the



Humanities and Social Sciences Research Planning Fund of the Ministry of Education. Her paper achievements won the 2016 (17th) Sun Yefang Economic Science Award (Paper Award).



ELISA HÖRHAGER

Chief

Representative China

Federation of German Industries (BDI)

Elisa Hörhager has served as the chief representative of the Federation of German Industries (BDI) in the PRC since August 2024. Previously, she worked as a German diplomat on international economic affairs with postings in Beijing, Berlin, and Brussels.

As an expert in EU-China economic relations, she advises European industry leaders and policymakers on the evolving bilateral landscape. In her capacity at BDI, she regularly engages with the PRC government on policy advocacy and leads initiatives to provide for a more level playing field and improved European market access in the PRC. Ms. Hörhager holds a postgraduate MA from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium, as well as degrees in political science and sinology from universities in Germany, France, and the PRC.

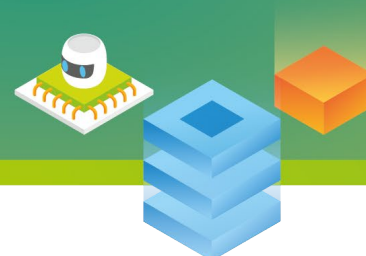


LIU DONG

Chairman and Principal Partner

Ping An Capital Co., Ltd.

Liu Dong is chairman and principal partner of Ping An Capital. Previously, Mr. Liu served as chief representative of GIC Greater China (2007–2014), principal investment officer of the International Finance Corporation (1998–2007), and senior economist of the World Bank (1993–1998). From 1993 to 2003, Mr. Liu worked on infrastructure privatization projects in Indonesia, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Pakistan, Argentina, Brazil, Panama, and Türkiye. Since 2003, Mr. Liu led investments in leading Chinese companies in consumers, healthcare, education, environmental



protection, financial services, technology, and agribusiness. Mr. Liu holds bachelor and master's degrees from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and a PhD from Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.



ALBERT PARK

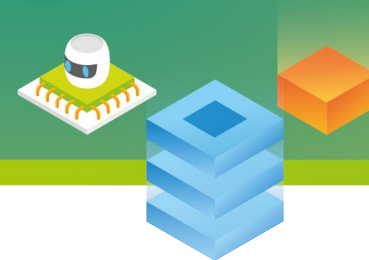
Chief Economist Asian Development Bank

Albert F. Park is chief economist of ADB and director general of its Economic Research and Development Impact Department. He is chief spokesperson on economic and development trends and leads the production of ADB's flagship knowledge products and support for regional cooperation fora.

Mr. Park has more than two decades of experience as a development economist and is a well-known expert on the economy of the PRC. He has worked on a wide range of development issues, including poverty and inequality, intergenerational mobility, microfinance, migration and labor markets, the future of work, and foreign investment.

Mr. Park is chair professor of economics, social science, and public policy at HKUST. He served as a founding director of HKUST's Institute for Emerging Market Studies and Center for Economic Policy, and previously held faculty positions at the University of Oxford and University of Michigan.

He received his bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard University and his doctorate in applied economics from Stanford University.



Session 2: Expanding Economic Openness and Service Sector Liberalization in the PRC and Experience from Other Countries



SHAMSHAD AKHTAR

**Chairperson of Board of Directors for Pakistan Stock Exchange; former Minister of Finance, Government of Pakistan; former Executive Secretary of UNESCAP
Chairperson of the Board of the Sui Southern Gas Company**

Shamshad Akhtar served as the Federal Finance Minister of Pakistan holding multiple economic portfolios in the caretaker government. Earlier she served as the Governor, State Bank of Pakistan.

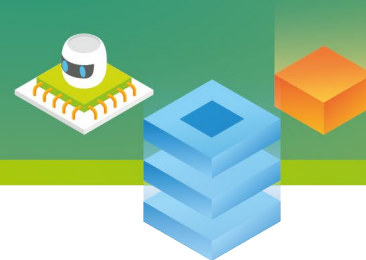
As the Under-Secretary General of the Economic and Social Commission of the Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) and the United Nations Secretary General's senior special advisor on Economics and Finance/UN DESA, she oversaw the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. Among others, she was closely involved in the development and implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (SDG), the Addis Ababa Financing frameworks and work on the Paris Climate Accord.

Dr. Akhtar served as the vice president, Middle East and North Africa at the World Bank, a director general of (ADB, and special senior advisor to the President of ADB.

In 2008, the *Wall Street Journal Asia* recognized her as one of Asia's top 10 professional women.

Recently, she has been awarded the HUM Women's Leadership Global Award and Medals by the President of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

Dr. Akhtar is now serving as the Chairperson of a few Boards in Pakistan. She is also a member of the Advisory Council of the Sustainable Finance Centre at the SOAS at London University and a member of UN Global Women Leaders Group. She served as an advisor of SG Food Security and Financing for Development Group, one of the 12 global advisors to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on China on Belt and Road, Council of Advisor and Policy Sherpa for the Boao Forum for Asia and Advisor to the Shanghai Forum.



HILDEGUNN KYVIK NORDÅS

Visiting Professor

Örebro University, Sweden; Senior Associate, Council on Economic Policies (CEP), Switzerland

Hildegunn Kyvik Nordås holds a PhD in Economics, is a visiting professor at Örebro University, Sweden, and a senior associate with the Council on Economic Policies (CEP), Switzerland. Prior to that, she was leading OECD's work on services trade policy analysis, developing the services trade restrictiveness indices and database and related analytical activities (2005–2019). She also spent two years at the research department of the WTO (2002–2004).

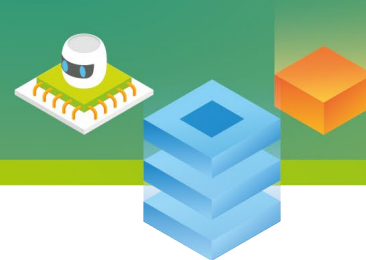
Her research interest is the digital transformation of the services industries, including the adoption of artificial intelligence, and services trade; areas where she has published extensively.



JUSTINE DIOKNO-SICAT

Alternate Executive Director Asian Development Bank

Justine Diokno-Sicat is a member of the Board of Directors of ADB representing the Philippines, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Timor-Leste. In her capacity as Executive Director, she was the Chair of the Development Effectiveness Committee. Before joining ADB, she was a research fellow at the government policy think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies. She has a PhD in Business Administration, PhD in Economics candidacy, an MS in Management, and MA and BS in Economics, all from the University of the Philippines (UP). Her academic and professional experience has focused on public sector economics and political economy. As a former professor at UP Diliman, she taught courses on public sector and development economics and fiscal and monetary policy. She is also an international consultant in the areas of public expenditures and financial management at national and local government levels.



CUI FAN

Professor in International Trade

**School of International Trade and Economics (SITE) of the University
of International Business and Economics (UIBE)
China**

Deputy General Secretary

China Society for WTO Studies

Cui Fan is a professor in international trade, School of International Trade and Economics of the University of International Business and Economics, the PRC, and Deputy General Secretary, China Society for WTO Studies. He serves as a member of the Advisory Committee on Global Value Chains, Ministry of Commerce, PRC, acting lead expert of Expert Committee on World Economy and Finance in the Ministry of Finance, and senior consultant in the Beijing office of Dacheng law firm. He is also an arbitrator at China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission and Independent Director at Sinotrans. Prof. Cui holds a PhD in Economics and an LLM in International Business Law, both from London School of Economics and Political Science.



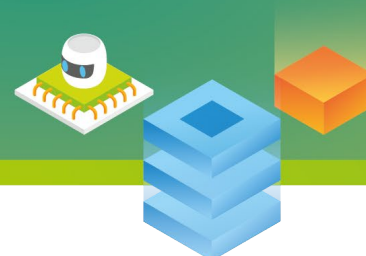
ARPITA MUKHERJEE

Professor

**Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations
(ICRIER)
New Delhi, India**

Arpita Mukherjee has over 30 years of experience in policy-oriented research, working closely with the Government of India and policymakers in the European Union, the United States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and in East Asian countries.

Her areas of expertise include trade, investment, and trade facilitation; services; agriculture and manufacturing supply chains (domestic and cross-border and special economic zones/economic corridors. Dr. Mukherjee has a PhD in Economics from the University of Portsmouth, UK.



Prior to joining ICRIER she worked with the UK-based think tank Policy Studies Institute and taught at the University of Portsmouth. She has over 80 publications including national and international referred journals, books and book chapters and government reports. Dr. Mukherjee is a member of various government committees and policy panels and is on the editorial board of 10 journals of newspapers and magazines.



DONGSOO KANG

Executive Director
Global Knowledge Exchange and Development Center
Korean Development Institute, Republic of Korea

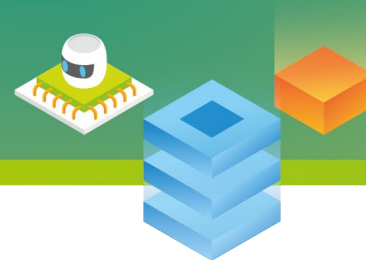
Dongsoo Kang serves as the executive director of the Global Knowledge Exchange and Development Center at the Korea Development Institute (KDI).

Since joining KDI in 2000, he has conducted diverse policy research and managed various projects. At KDI, he has held various executive positions, including senior director of the Department of Macroeconomic and Financial Policies (2021–2022), vice president (2019–2021), chairman of the Committee for Planning Research Projects (2018–2019), and executive director of the Research Planning & Coordination Bureau (2018–2019).

He served as a senior advisor to the deputy prime minister of the Ministry of Strategy and Finance from 2014 to 2017. Further, he worked as an economist at the Economics Department of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development from 2007 to 2009.

Before his tenure at KDI, he taught macroeconomics at the State University of New York (as an assistant professor and worked for the Financial Supervisory Service of the Republic of Korea as an economist.

He holds a BA in Economics from Seoul National University and an MA and PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago



Closing Remarks



ZHAN SHU

Alternate Executive Director Asian Development Bank

Zhan Shu was appointed as the Alternate Executive Director (AED) for the People's Republic of China at ADB, effective 30 August 2024.

Mr. Zhan is a national of the People's Republic of China. He completed his PhD and Master's degree in Economics from Renmin University of PRC in 2020 and 2009. He also obtained a Master's degree in Health, Population, and Society at the London School of Economics in UK in 2010. He received his Bachelor's degree in Chinese Language and Literature from Zhejiang Wanli University of PRC in 2004.

Prior to his appointment as AED, Mr. Zhan was the director in the International Department of the Ministry of Finance (MOF), PRC. He had been working in various positions in the MOF including as deputy director in the Minister's office since 2004. He also served as senior advisor in the New Development Bank based in Shanghai and analyst in Barclays Capital headquartered in London.



Harnessing AI to Promote High-Quality Development

Emcee

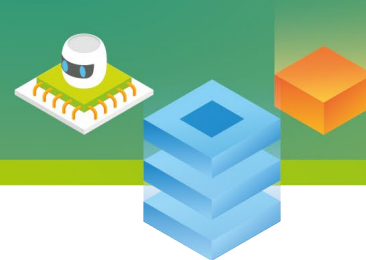


LIJUAN CHEN

Economist
East Asia Department
Asian Development Bank

Lijuan Chen is an economist in ADB's East Asia Department and the head of ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative (RKSI).

Prior to her joining ADB, she was the deputy director in the International Economic and Financial Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Finance, PRC, where she participated in the cooperation with the World Bank Group (WBG), ADB, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), CAREC Institute, etc. She also worked as the advisor to Executive Director, China ED Office, at the World Bank Group and project manager at the Agricultural Bank of China. She holds bachelor and master's degree in Economics from Renmin University of China.



Opening Remarks



MUHAMMAD EHSAN KHAN

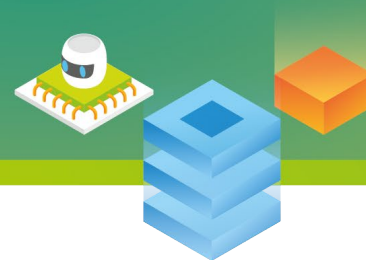
**Director General
East Asia Department
Asian Development Bank**

Muhammad Ehsan Khan is the Director General of ADB's East Asia Department. As the Director General, he leads the planning, implementation and supervision of the department's vision, goals, strategies, and work plan in support of ADB operations in East Asia region. Prior to this, Mr. Khan served as the ADB Secretary from January 2021 to December 2023, where he was the focal point for relations between the boards of directors and governors, and ADB's Management and Staff. Between May 2019 and January 2021, as senior advisor, Central and West Asia Regional Department (CWRD), he supported the Director General, CWRD in overseeing the operational matters relating to the 10 developing members.

Between February 2017 and May 2019, Mr. Khan headed the Human Resources Business Partners Division, in the Budget, Personnel and Management Systems Department (BPMSD) as director, where he was responsible for bank-wide human resources management, including talent acquisition. Prior to that between 2003 and 2017 he worked in various roles in BPMSD, Office of the President, Economic Impact and Research Department, and Southeast Asia Regional Department.

Before joining ADB in 2003, Mr. Khan was working with Halcrow Group, a consulting firm, where he managed the group's projects in agriculture, irrigation and rural development sectors in Pakistan. In addition, he worked as a freelance consultant for ADB, and other multilateral and bilateral development partners.

Mr. Khan holds PhD in Agricultural Economics (Oklahoma State University 1993), MS in Agricultural Economics (University of Wyoming 1990), and a BS in Agriculture (Colorado State University 1989).



ZHAN SHU

Alternate Executive Director Asian Development Bank

Zhan Shu was appointed as the Alternate Executive Director (AED) for the People's Republic of China at ADB, effective 30 August 2024.

Mr. Zhan is a national of the People's Republic of China. He completed his PhD and Master's degree in Economics from Renmin University of PRC in 2020 and 2009. He also obtained a Master's degree in Health, Population and Society at the London School of Economics in UK in 2010. He received his Bachelor's degree in Chinese Language and Literature from Zhejiang Wanli University of PRC in 2004.

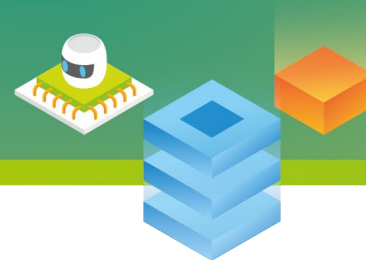
Prior to his appointment as AED, Mr. Zhan was the director in the International Department of the Ministry of Finance (MOF), PRC. He had been working in various positions in the MOF including as deputy director in the Minister's office since 2004. He also served as senior advisor in the New Development Bank based in Shanghai and analyst in the Barclays Capital Headquartered in London.



TONGNING WU

Deputy Director Artificial Intelligence Research Institute China Academy of Information and Communications Technology

Dr. Tongning Wu is a Chinese Researcher with expertise in artificial intelligence applied to biomedical image analysis and electromagnetic simulation. He has authored over 100 papers, three books, and holds 30 patents. He currently serves as Vice Chair of International Telecommunication Union-Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) Study Group 2 on Digital Transformation. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).



Session 1: What Experiences from the PRC Can be Learned and Replicated in the Region?

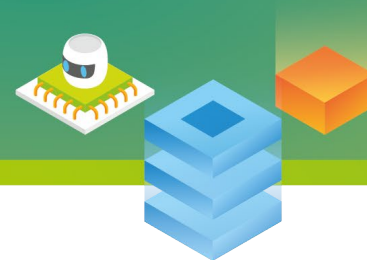


AIMING ZHOU

Deputy Country Director, PRC Resident Mission Asian Development Bank

Aiming Zhou is the Deputy Country Director in the PRC Resident Mission of ADB since April 2023. He was the senior advisor to the Vice-President (Operations 1) at ADB from January 2020 to April 2023. He was a principal energy specialist and a senior energy specialist in the Energy Division of the South Asia Regional Department (SAEN) of ADB from 2016 to 2019. Before joining SAEN, he was a senior energy specialist (2013–2015) and an energy specialist (2009–2012) in the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, where he oversaw ADB's clean energy activities, coordinated ADB's efforts in clean energy development, climate change mitigation and provided technical support to ADB's energy related operations in low carbon development. From 2011 to 2015, Mr. Zhou served as the chairperson of Asia Clean Energy Forum.

Prior to joining ADB in 2009, he worked with the Alliance to Save Energy (2008–2009), University of Delaware (1999–2008) in the United States, and Energy Research Institute of the National Development and Reform Commission in People's Republic of China (1997–1999). He received a doctoral degree in Energy and Environmental Policies from University of Delaware. He also holds a Master's in System Engineering (Economics) from Tsinghua University, and Bachelor degree in Energy Engineering from University of Science & Technology Beijing.



SEN GONG

Director

**Centre for International Studies on Development and Governance
Zhejiang University**

Sen Gong is a professor in social policy at the School of Public Affairs, Zhejiang University. He is also the director of the Centre for International Studies on Development and Governance at Zhejiang and Zhejiang University. Before joining the university, he worked in the Development Research Center of the State Council as well as the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and the Ministry of Civil Affairs. He was a member of the United Nations DESA Committee for Development Policy from 2019 to 2022. Currently, he is leading two research projects on AI's R&D and application in Hangzhou, Zhejiang.

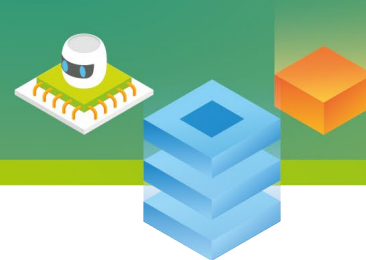


PATRICK RENZ

Director's Advisor

Asian Development Bank

Patrick Renz serves as director's advisor at ADB, representing Belgium, France, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland. A Swiss national, he has over a decade of experience in multilateral development finance and has spent most of his career in Asia. As co-chair of ADB's Board Working Group on Digital Transformation, he helps strengthen the Board's capacity to address digital changes and harness emerging technologies, including AI, to ensure the ongoing transformation drives inclusive and sustainable growth across the region. Previously, he served as advisor to the Green Climate Fund and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank as well as senior policy advisor in Switzerland's UNFCCC COP delegation for the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs. His earlier roles include among others positions with the World Bank in Jakarta, the National Bureau of Asian Research in Washington, DC, ADB in Manila, and Frontier Services Group in Beijing. He holds a Law degree from the University of Bern, a Master's in International Relations from Tsinghua University, and is currently completing an Executive MBA at IMD.



HUIJIE ZHANG

Professor

Information Institute of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences

Huijie Zhang is professor, deputy director general of the Agricultural Information Institute (AII), Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. She is former deputy director general of the International Cooperation Bureau, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Prof. Zhang is also the head of the Agricultural Economics discipline of AII, and vice president, Food Legume Crop Committee of the Crop Society of China.

She has long experience of research on grain economy, agricultural technology economy, and technology policy. She has been serving as the food legume crop industrial scientist of China Agricultural Research System since 2011. In the past 5 years, she has led more than 20 projects including in the Chinese Academy of Engineering, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, National Rural Revitalization Bureau, and ADB; published 51 academic papers and 3 books; and was selected as the highly cited scholar by China National Knowledge Infrastructure in 2024. Her research achievements have been applied to national policy formulation in the fields of agriculture, consolidation and expansion of poverty alleviation achievements, agricultural technology, and agricultural international cooperation.

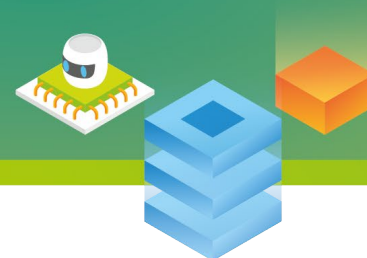


IKRAM UL HAQ QURESHI

Member (Legal), Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication |

Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom Pakistan

Ikram Ul Haq Qureshi is a seasoned legal and regulatory professional with over 30 years of diverse experience across the legal, management, and policy sectors. Currently, he is serving as member (legal) at the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication. Mr. Qureshi brings a robust background in telecom and information technology law,



privatization transactions, antitrust and competition enforcement, corporate governance, and regulatory compliance.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Qureshi has held key positions in major public sector organizations including the Privatization Commission, the Competition Commission of Pakistan), the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan), and the Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited. He has successfully led and restructured legal departments, drafted critical regulations and policies, and developed strategic operating frameworks for various sectors.

With over 16 years of direct experience in corporate commercial law, he has advised on cross-jurisdictional mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, IPOs, PPPs, BOTs, and technology licensing. Mr. Qureshi has advocated for policy reforms, represented institutions before regulatory authorities and superior courts, and worked closely with ministries and government bodies to achieve impactful legal outcomes.

Session 2: How ADB Can Support DMCs with AI Application to Promote High-Quality Development

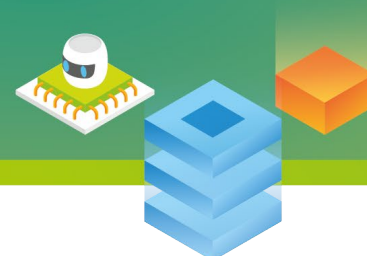


ALBERT PARK

Chief Economist
Asian Development Bank

Albert F. Park is chief economist of ADB and director general of its Economic Research and Development Impact Department. He is chief spokesperson on economic and development trends and leads the production of ADB's flagship knowledge products and support for regional cooperation fora.

Mr. Park has more than two decades of experience as a development economist and is a well-known expert on the economy of the PRC. He has worked on a wide range of development issues, including poverty and inequality, intergenerational mobility, microfinance, migration and labor markets, the future of work, and foreign investment.



Mr. Park is chair professor of economics, social science, and public policy at HKUST. He served as a founding director of HKUST's Institute for Emerging Market Studies and Center for Economic Policy, and previously held faculty positions at the University of Oxford and University of Michigan.

He received his bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard University and his doctorate in applied economics from Stanford University.



BOBUR ALIMOV

Advisor
East Asia Department
Asian Development Bank

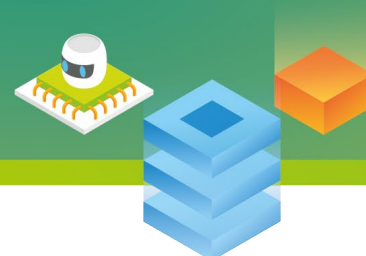
Bobur Alimov holds a doctorate and master's degree in Economics from the University of Connecticut, United States, and a bachelor's degree in Economics from the Bemidji State University, United States. He has over 28 years of professional experience, including more than 22 years in ADB.

He joined ADB in August 2002 as a young economist in the former Agriculture and Environment Division of the Southeast Asia Department, and worked in two resident missions—as an environment economist in the Indonesia Resident Mission, and as a project administration unit head in the Kyrgyz Republic Resident Mission. He later worked in the front offices of two regional departments: Central and West Asia and Southeast Asia.

In 2018–2022, Mr. Alimov worked in the Strategy, Policy and Partnerships Department as head of Strategic Initiatives Unit, leading key organizational and operational efficiency initiatives (e.g., Review of Resident Mission Operations and the organizational review that led to formulation of the new operating model).

In 2023–2025, Mr. Alimov led the Transformation Office in the Office of the President, supporting ADB's Management in providing oversight of the overall progress of the organizational transformation.

Since February 2025, Mr. Alimov has worked in the East Asia Department as advisor to the director general.



Before ADB, he was teaching international trade and mathematical economics at the University of Connecticut.



BOEDIASSTOETI ONTOWIRJO

**Deputy Chairman for Research and Innovation Policy
National Research and Innovation Agency
Indonesia**

Boediasstoeti Ontowirjo has served as deputy chairman for Research and Innovation Policy at Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) since May 2022. She oversees national research and innovation policies, including the National Master Plan for Science and Technology, strategic roadmaps, and governance for nuclear and space activities. She also chairs the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation, advancing regional cooperation and inclusive STI development.

Previously, she was director for State Finance and Monetary Analysis at the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas), where for 6 years she coordinated policies in finance and economic planning. She contributed to Indonesia's economic recovery program, medium-term priorities, and fiscal frameworks, with initiatives in industrial and tourism support, Industry 4.0, high-value exports, and the new capital city relocation. She also represented Indonesia in key international forums, including G20 preparations and trade agreement assessments.

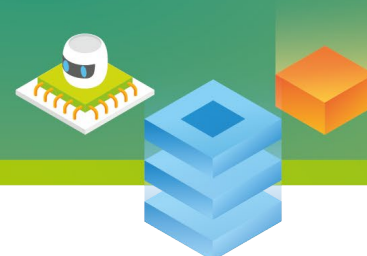
Ms. Ontowirjo holds an MBA from Northeastern University, Boston, and a PhD in Management from the University of Indonesia.



JUSTINE DIOKNO-SICAT

**Alternate Executive Director
Asian Development Bank**

Justine Diokno-Sicat is a member of the Board of Directors of ADB representing the Philippines, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Pakistan and Timor-Leste. In her capacity as Executive Director, she was the Chair of the Development Effectiveness Committee. Before



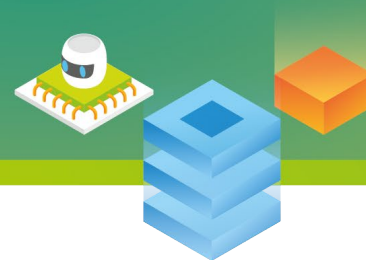
joining ADB, she was a research fellow at the government policy think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies. She has a PhD in Business Administration, PhD in Economics candidacy, an MS in Management, and MA and BS in Economics all from the University of the Philippines (UP). Her academic and professional experience has focused on public sector economics and political economy. As a former professor at UP Diliman, she taught courses on public sector and development economics and fiscal and monetary policy. She is also an international consultant in the areas of public expenditures and financial management at national and local government levels.



YONGPING ZHAI

Senior Advisor
Strategic Development Department
Tencent

Yongping Zhai graduated from the Department of Thermal Engineering at Tsinghua University in 1983 and earned his PhD in Energy Economics from the French Institute for Energy Policy and Economics in 1989. He has had a long career at the African Development Bank (1993–2000) and Asian Development Bank (2000–2021), where he served as the chief of the Energy Sector Group, promoting renewable energy technologies in developing countries. In July 2021, he joined Tencent as a senior advisor in the Strategic Development Department, contributing to the company's carbon neutrality initiatives. In 2024, he became a member of the Steering Committee of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.



ANTONIO G. ZABALLOS

Director
Digital Sector Office
Asian Development Bank

Antonio García Zaballos is the director of the Digital Sector Office at ADB. Before joining the ADB, he was a lead specialist in telecommunications for the Institutions for Development and also led the broadband initiative at the Inter-American Development Bank. He has extensive experience in the telecom sector, having held various positions of responsibility. At Deloitte Spain, he led the regulation and strategy practice for Latin America and the Caribbean. Prior to that, he was the chief economist at Telefónica's Cabinet for Economic Studies of Regulation in Spain. Before joining Telefónica, Mr. Zaballos served as deputy director of economic analysis and markets at the Spanish Telecom Regulator (CMT).

Throughout his career, Mr. Zaballos has provided advisory services to regulators, telecom operators, and governments in countries such as Saudi Arabia, the PRC, Ecuador, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

He also serves as a member and expert on several committees, including the World Economic Forum and the International Telecommunication Union. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University Carlos III of Madrid and has been an associate professor of applied finance for telecommunications at the Instituto de Empresa Business School, as well as a professor of economic regulation at American University and Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of numerous publications on economic and regulatory aspects of the telecommunications sector.

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