

ADB

R | K | S | I

ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative

Talk  China
S E M I N A R

Advancing the
Regional Flyway Initiative

Lessons from the People's Republic of China

26–27 May 2026

Auditorium Hall 1, ADB Headquarters



Advancing the Regional Flyway Initiative

Lessons from the People's Republic of China

26–27 May 2026 • Auditorium Hall 1, ADB Headquarters



AGENDA

DAY 1 | 26 May (Tuesday)

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

09:00–09:20

Opening Session

Moderator: **Lin Lu**, Advisor, East Asia Department, ADB

Opening remarks

- **Hongxia Li**, Executive Director, ADB
- **Scott Morris**, Vice-President (East and Southeast Asia, and the Pacific), ADB

09:20–09:50

Keynote Speech

- **Lijuan Cui**, Vice President, Chinese Academy of Forestry, National Forestry and Grassland Administration, the PRC
- **Guangchun Lei**, Vice Chair, and Secretary General of the National Wetland Science and Technology Committee, the PRC

09:50–10:10

Group Photo

Tea Break

10:10–11:30

Panel Discussion 1: Insights from the PRC's Regional Flyway Initiative Journey

Moderator and Presenter: **Zhiming Niu**, Lead Project Officer, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, ADB

Panelists:

- **Bertrand Furno**, Executive Director, ADB
- **Sinong Yu**, Official in Charge, Administrative Committee of Tinghu Economic Development Zone, Yancheng City, Jiangsu Province, the PRC

Advancing the Regional Flyway Initiative

Lessons from the People's Republic of China

26–27 May 2026 • Auditorium Hall 1, ADB Headquarters



- **Hinako Maruyama**, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, ADB
- **Mingming Jia**, Professor, Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- **Lei Wang**, Secretary-General, Ecotourism Branch of China Tourism Association; Founder & CEO, Yunjoy Nature

Q & A

11:30–13:30 Lunch

13:30–14:45 **Panel Discussion 2: Beyond the PRC: Scaling Success**

Moderator and Presenter: **Duncan Lang**, Principal Environment Specialist, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB

Panelists:

- **Natthiya Kongphuthorn**, Director, Knowledge Management and Development Division, Biodiversity-based Economy Development Office, Thailand
- **Mustafa Murshed**, Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh
- **Yalaltbayar Baatar**, Director, Galba-Uush-Dolood Gobi River Basin Administration, Mongolia
- **Yong Ye**, Deputy Director General, Central and West Asia Department, ADB

Q & A

14:45–15:00 Tea Break

15:00–16:15 **Panel Discussion 3: Shared Mission, Stronger Together: Partnering with International Organizations**

Moderator: **Au Shion Yee**, Principal Water Resources Specialist, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, ADB

Advancing the Regional Flyway Initiative

Lessons from the People's Republic of China

26–27 May 2026 • Auditorium Hall 1, ADB Headquarters



Panelists:

- **H. E. Dr. Heng Chanthoeun**, Deputy Director General, General Directorate of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
- **Vagi Leke Rei**, Senior Manager for Marine Ecosystem, Conservation and Environment Protection Authority, Papua New Guinea
- **Vinayagan Dharmarajah**, Regional Director (Asia), BirdLife International
- **Yoon Kyung Lee**, Deputy Chief Executive, East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership
- **Ye Wang**, Acting Director, Biodiversity Convention Division, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the PRC (Online)
- **Terry Townshend**, Advisor, Paulson Institute (Online)

Q & A

16:15–16:20

Closing Remarks

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

Advancing the Regional Flyway Initiative

Lessons from the People's Republic of China

26–27 May 2026 • Auditorium Hall 1, ADB Headquarters



DAY 2 | 27 May (Wednesday)

The Ideas Lab: A Brainstorm with ADB Sector Groups, Regional Departments and International Partners

- 09:00–09:20 **Scene Setting Opportunities Presentations—RFI Site Studies**
Duncan Lang, Principal Environment Specialist, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB
- 09:20–09:30 **ADB Existing RFI Project Pipeline**
Au Shion Yee, Principal Water Resources Specialist, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, ADB
- 09:30–10:00 **Facilitated Break-out Session—Discussions on Opportunities**
- 10:00–10:15 Tea Break
- 10:15–10:30 **Facilitated Break-out Session—Conclusions**
- 10:30–11:00 **RFI Opportunities—Nature Credits**
Guy Williams, International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Advisor, ADB External Expert
- 11:00–11:20 **Nature Credits—Open Discussion**
- 11:20–11:30 **Closing Remarks**

BIOGRAPHIES



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 (RKSII).

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.



Lin Lu

Advisor

East Asia Department

Asian Development Bank

Lin Lu, a national of the People's Republic of China, holds a Doctorate and a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering, from Drexel University and Temple University, USA, respectively. She also holds a Master's degree and a Bachelor's degree in Thermal Energy Engineering from Northeastern University and University of Science and Technology of Beijing, respectively, in the People's Republic of China.

Lin Lu brings more than 14 years of experience with ADB, having served in CWRD, EARD, CCSD, and SEC. She has extensive experience in operational policy, project processing, and cross-departmental coordination. Prior to joining ADB, she worked as a Business

Development Manager with HollySys Asia Pacific in Singapore/ Philippines; was an Electrical Engineer in MDCI Automation; and was a System Engineer in Scientific Products & Systems in the US.

Lin Lu was the team leader for the first and the largest air quality improvement program in ADB: Air Quality Improvement in the Greater Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei Region.



Hongxia Li
Executive Director
Asian Development Bank

Ms. Hongxia Li is elected as Executive Director for the People's Republic of China effective 16 February 2026. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Li was the Director-General of China Accounting Standards Committee.

Prior to that role, she worked as Deputy Director General of the Department of International Economic and Financial Cooperation in the Ministry of Finance of China (CMOF) from July 2021 to March 2025, where she was responsible for China's engagement with multilateral development banks such as the World Bank Group (IDA Deputy), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as Member of the Executive Board for China (2021-2022), the Global Environment Fund (GEF) as Council Member for China (2021-2025) and the Pandemic Fund as Alternate Board Member for China (2022-2024).

Previously, she served as Deputy Director General of the Department of International Economic Relations in CMOF from June 2016 to July 2021 in charge of G20 (acting as the Chinese Deputy's Deputy on the Finance Track of G20), BRICS, APEC, ASEAN+3, as well as bilateral economic and financial dialogues with some major economies such as France, Japan, Russia, Brazil, India and Saudi Arabia. She was a Board Member for China (2016-2019) of the Credit Guarantee Investment Fund (CGIF), a trustee fund of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Ms. Li worked in the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the U.S. as Financial Counselor starting from March 2013 until May 2016. In that role, she coordinated the China-U.S. Strategic & Economic Dialogue between CMOF and the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Ms. Li started her career with setting China Accounting Standards in CMOF since 1995 until early 2013 and was seconded by CMOF to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (2003-2004) and PricewaterhouseCoopers in the U.S. (April-October 2001).

Ms. Li graduated with a Master's Degree in Economics from the Capital University of Economics and Business and holds a PhD in Management from the Business School of Renmin University.



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.



Lijuan CUI

**Vice President, Chinese Academy of Forestry
National Forestry and Grassland Administration
The People's Republic of China**

Prof. Lijuan Cui is Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF). Her research focuses on wetland ecological processes and restoration. She also directs the State Key Laboratory of Wetland Conservation and Restoration.

Prof. Cui is the first Chinese expert appointed to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention, and the first Chinese scientist to receive the Society of Wetland Scientists Merit Award.



Guangchun Lei

**Vice Chair and Secretary General of the National Wetland Science and Technology Committee
The People's Republic of China**

Guangchun Lei is a professor at Beijing Forestry University, Chair of the East Asia-Australasia Flyway University Alliance, and the Chair of board of directors, Mangrove Conservation Foundation.

Guangchun Lei joined Beijing Forestry University in 2008. He has more than 40 years experience in nature conservation including conservation practice at local, national and international organizations, as well as a researcher in conservation biology with more than 240 publications in peer reviewed international journals.

He served as the Chair of Ramsar STRP (2020-2022), and also has been serving as the vice Chair of China National Wetland Science Committee, director of the Center for East Asia-Australasia Flyway Studies.

Prior to joining Beijing Forestry University, he served as the senior advisor for Asia-Pacific region at Ramsar Convention Secretariat (2003-2007). Previously, he was a professor at Peking University (1999-2003), and deputy director of the division of nature conservation in Hunan Province, China (1988-1993). In recognition his contribution to wetland science and conservation, Wetlands International Awarded him the Luc Hoffmann award in 2018.

Dr. Guangchun Lei has a PhD in Ecology at the Faculty of Science, Helsinki University since 1997.



Zhiming Niu

Lead Project Officer

Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office Asian Development Bank

Mr. Niu Zhiming is a Lead Project Officer (Environment) at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), focusing on food and nature operations. His responsibilities include the design and management of investment projects and knowledge products. He also serves as the focal for ADB's cofinancing programs with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and biodiversity in the PRC Resident Mission. He previously oversaw environmental safeguards for ADB operations in the PRC from 2006 to 2015. Mr. Niu worked as Senior Advisor for Land Degradation and Environment at ADB from 2002 to 2006. Prior to joining ADB, he served as a Senior Engineer for watershed management at the PRC Ministry of Water Resources.

Mr. Niu received his academic training at Beijing Forestry University and North Carolina State University (USA), where he earned a PhD. He also completed the Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) program at China Europe International Business School (CEIBS) from 2016 to 2018.



Bertrand Furno
Executive Director
Asian Development Bank

Bertrand Furno is an Executive Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) representing Belgium, France, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland. He was appointed effective 1 October 2023.

Mr. Furno is a national of France. He received his Master in Political Science in 1984, completed by a Master in Public Law in 1986. He then joined the French National School of Administration (ENA) from 1988 to 1990.

Prior to joining ADB, Mr. Furno was the Head of the Regional Economic Department for Southern Africa, covering 10 countries and based in Pretoria. He has also held a variety of positions at the Ministry of Economy and Finance (Treasury Board) and worked as Economic Counsellor in several French Embassies (Greece, Sweden, Tunisia). He was also Financial Counsellor at the Permanent mission of France to the UN (New York) and Consul General of France in Guangzhou, PRC.



Sinong Yu
Official in Charge, Administrative Committee of Tinghu Economic Development Zone
Yancheng City, Jiangsu Province
The People's Republic of China

Yu Sinong assumed her current post in March 2024. She is a dedicated local governance professional with solid expertise in wetland ecological conservation, cultural tourism and rural vitalization. She oversees the Yancheng Coastal Wetland Tourism Resort and manages the local section of the Yellow Sea Wetland World Natural Heritage Site within Huangjian Town's jurisdiction.

Prior to her current assignment, she served as Members of the town government leadership team of Huangjian Town starting in 2021 and was appointed Mayor of Huangjian Town in 2023. She has led key initiatives in

investment promotion, cultural tourism development and ecological protection.

She possesses sound experience in grassroots administration and regional sustainable development and actively promotes international exchanges and cooperation in wetland conservation and eco-tourism.

Ms. Yu earned her master's degree in English Language and Literature from the College of Humanities and Development Studies, China Agricultural University.



Hinako Maruyama

**Senior Urban Development Specialist
Water and Urban Development Sector Office
Asian Development Bank**

Hinako Maruyama works with governments in the PRC to formulate and implement strategic and innovative urban and rural projects. She supported multisectoral projects and programs in the PRC cities and promoted a nature-based approach in addressing urban flooding and restoring the local environment and water quality, human capital development and creation of innovation ecosystem, and institutional strengthening to enable multidisciplinary green and low-carbon initiatives.

Prior to ADB, Hinako worked in World Bank offices in Washington D.C. and Tokyo and also worked with a consulting firm to support urban and regional planning projects in Southeast Asian countries. Hinako holds master's degrees in cities programme and urban planning and bachelor's degree in engineering (architecture).



Mingming Jia

Professor

**Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology
Chinese Academy of Sciences**

Prof. Mingming Jia received her Ph.D. degree from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2014. She was recognized as a Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher and has been listed among the Stanford University Top 2% Global Scientists (2022–2025). Her research focuses on coastal wetlands, including mangroves, tidal flats, salt marshes, and migratory waterbird habitats, with an emphasis on remote sensing for ecological monitoring and environmental assessment. She integrates remote sensing, machine learning, and explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) to improve wetland classification, biodiversity monitoring, habitat assessment, and ecosystem sustainability evaluation.

Her current research explores the spatial dynamics of coastal wetlands, especially mangrove forests, and develops innovative remote sensing approaches for ecosystem and SDG monitoring under global environmental change.



Lei Wang

Secretary-General

**Ecotourism Branch of China Tourism Association
Founder and CEO, Yunjoy Nature**

Dr. Wang Lei is a leading practitioner and policy researcher in China's national park ecotourism and concession-based operations. She holds a PhD in Ecology from Beijing Forestry University and brings more than 15 years of experience bridging conservation science, policy design, community development, and sustainable tourism operations.

From 2008 to 2019, Dr. Wang spent 12 years in senior roles at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), where she designed and managed conservation programs, and served as China Liaison for the Ramsar Convention CEPA (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) Programme.

Her work focused on national park pilot projects, wetland conservation outreach, and building multi-stakeholder partnerships across government, academia, and civil society.

Dr. Wang is widely recognized as a frontline pioneer in China's national park system—She founded Yunjoy Nature to develop market-based nature tourism solutions that align conservation goals with community livelihoods, and currently serves as Secretary-General of the Ecotourism Branch of the China Tourism Association, where she leads industry strategy, capacity-building programs, and high-level policy dialogues.



Duncan Lang

Principal Environment Specialist

Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department Asian Development Bank

Duncan Lang is part of ADB's Nature and Environment Division within the Climate Change Department. Duncan is ADB's lead for the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Pillar under ADB's Environment Action Plan and he also leads the Regional Flyway Initiative (RFI) which covers the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

As part of this work he co-lead the recently approved Fujian Coastal Cities and Biodiversity Project in 2025 and he has been involved with a number of other loan projects and technical assistance projects focused on biodiversity. Duncan was the technical lead for the team that launched ADB's inaugural Biodiversity and Nature Theme Bond in 2024 and led the biodiversity component of the recently approved Environmental and Social Framework. Duncan also led ADB's support for the recently developed avian sensitivity tool for energy planning (AVISTEP) which includes eight ADB member countries and he is also ADB's focal for Sustainability Reporting.

Duncan joined ADB in 2017 and has worked in the environment sector for over 20+ years. Duncan has a wide variety of experience across a range of sectors as well as having a specialism in biodiversity. He has worked in Central and West Asia as the country focal for Armenia and Georgia and he has also worked in many other countries including Uzbekistan,

Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Nepal amongst others. He also worked as a bat researcher at the Prince of Songkla University in Hat Yai for a year.



Natthiya Kongphuthorn,
Director, Knowledge Management and Development Division
Biodiversity-based Economy Development Office
Thailand

Natthiya Kongphuthorn is the Director of the Research Development and Knowledge Management Division at the Biodiversity-based Economy Development Office (BEDO), Thailand. She is an experienced scientist and innovation strategist with more than 20 years of expertise in intellectual property management, biodiversity policy, and bioeconomy development.

Since joining BEDO in 2014, she has contributed to several key national initiatives related to biodiversity databases, biodiversity and business sustainability, community biobanks, and biodiversity assessment frameworks. Her current responsibilities focus on advancing biodiversity conservation through research management, innovation development, and the integration of biodiversity into sustainable economic approaches, including biodiversity footprint and biodiversity credit.



Mustafa Murshed
Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division
Ministry of Finance
Bangladesh

Mustafa Murshed is a senior civil servant and economist currently serving as Joint Secretary at the Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh. With extensive experience in macroeconomic policy, public finance, and development coordination, he has played key roles in national budgeting, Medium-Term Macroeconomic Framework preparation, and donor-funded project management. His career spans grassroots administration as Upazila Nirbahi Officer to senior policy positions, reflecting a strong commitment to public service.

Academically trained in economics, including Master's degree in the USA and UK, he integrates quantitative analysis with policy practice to promote evidence-based, inclusive economic development.



Yalaltbayar Baatar

Director

**Galba-Uush-Dolood Gobi River Basin Administration
Mongolia**

Mr. Yalaltbayar Baatar has been serving as the Director of the Galba-Uush-Dolood Gobi River Basin Administration since 2018. Prior to this position, he worked as a specialist at the same organization and as an environmental officer at the Governor's Office of Dornogovi Province.

He has over 20 years of experience in the environmental and water sector.

He graduated from the Mongolian University of Science and Technology with a degree in Industrial Ecology and holds a Master's degree.



Yong Ye

Deputy Director General

**Central and West Asia Department
Asian Development Bank**

Mr. Ye has over 29 years of professional experience in international development finance and the public sector. He worked as Section Chief at the PRC's Ministry of Finance before joining ADB in 2000. At ADB, he held various senior positions, including roles in the Central and West Asia Department and the Budget, Personnel, and Management Systems Department. Mr. Ye was the Director of the Central and West Asia Urban and Water Operations 2016 to 2021, Country Director for Pakistan from 2021 to 2024, and Senior Advisor Director General of the Central and West Asia Department since 2024.

Mr. Ye received the Hilal e Quaid e Azam, a top Pakistani civil award, for his COVID-19 pandemic and post-flood response, and for ADB's support of development priorities. Under his guidance, ADB improved portfolio performance, development, and expanded coordination with development partners and the private address the country's challenges effectively.

Mr. Ye is a strategic leader who can effectively manage both sovereign and private with in-depth operational experience in country programming and project processing implementation. He is highly focused on innovation and use of new products in operations.

Mr. Ye holds a doctorate in environmental economics, a master's degree in bachelor's degree in physics from Tsinghua University in the PRC.



Au Shion Yee

**Principal Water Resources Specialist
Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office
Asian Development Bank**

Shion has over 25 years of experience leading the design and implementation of water and natural resources management projects which have cross-cutting climate, environment, and agri-food sector impacts. He has led policy dialogue with government and civil society, and delivered sector programs across a range of DMCs in the Asia and the Pacific region, notably on innovative nature financing mechanisms and natural capital assessments under the flagship Yangtze River Economic Belt and Yellow River Ecological Corridor river basin management programs in the People's Republic of China, and coastal resilience and blue economy programs in India and Indonesia.

In his previous assignment, he served as the urban and water sector focal point in ADB's Independent Evaluation Department responsible for project and thematic evaluations across all regions of ADB's operations. He holds a PhD and Master's in Natural Resource Economics, and a double Bachelor's majoring in Civil Engineering and Business Management from the University of Queensland, Australia.



H. E. Dr. Heng Chanthoeun

Deputy Director General, General Directorate of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Environment Cambodia

H.E. Dr. Heng Chanthoeun serves as the Deputy Director General for the General Directorate of Policy and Strategy at Cambodia’s Ministry of Environment. He holds a Doctor of Business Administration specializing in climate change strategy and forestry management.

Since 1993, his extensive career has focused on environmental protection and climate change activities, including vulnerability assessments and leading Green Climate Fund readiness programs.

Dr. Heng Chanthoeun has served as National Project Director for major national roadmaps on methane reduction and marine plastic litter. A widely published expert, his key achievements include establishing Cambodia’s updated Nationally Determined Contributions and Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality.



Vagi Leke Rei

Senior Manager for Marine Ecosystem Conservation and Environment Protection Authority Papua New Guinea

Mr. Vagi Leke Rei is a seasoned environmental scientist and marine biologist with over three decades of leadership in marine ecosystem management and conservation across Papua New Guinea and the Asia-Pacific region. He currently serves as PNG’s Focal Point for threatened species under the Coral Triangle Initiative and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Marine Plastic Pollution. With an extensive background spanning the Conservation Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) and the UN-FAO, Mr. Rei specializes in migratory species protection, marine plastic mitigation, and regional governance, driving collaborative policies for sustainable marine resources.



Vinayagan Dharmarajah
Regional Director (Asia)
BirdLife International

Vinayagan Dharmarajah (Vina) is the Regional Director (Asia) of BirdLife International. He oversees the delivery of BirdLife’s Strategy in Asia which includes the conservation of migratory birds along the East Asian-Australasian and Central Asian Flyways, the development of safe havens for Southeast Asia’s threatened forest birds and the promotion of the role played by bird habitats in Asia in addressing the climate emergency and sustaining livelihoods.

In particular, he oversaw BirdLife’s delivery of a technical advisory relating to ADB’s Regional Flyway Initiative, which promotes sustainable investment in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) to achieve climate resilience and green growth. He also serves as Vice Chairperson of the EAAF Partnership and sits on the board of Saving Asia’s Vultures from Extinction, a consortium addressing the threats faced by Asia’s vultures. Vina graduated with a degree in law (LLB) from the University of Bristol and has an LLM in International Business Law from Sorbonne-Assas International Law School. He concurrently serves as BirdLife’s Head of Governance.



Yoon Kyung Lee
Deputy Chief Executive
East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership

Yoon Kyung Lee serves in an executive leadership role at EAAFP, overseeing strategic operations for an intergovernmental partnership spanning 18 countries and 42 partners dedicated to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats. She is a senior international development and biodiversity professional with over 15 years of experience leading institutional strategy, resource mobilization, and high-level government and multilateral partnerships. At EAAFP, she leads strategic engagement for the Regional Flyway Initiative (RFI), facilitating country engagement and regional partnerships that connect biodiversity priorities with development planning and sustainable financing.

Prior to joining EAAFP, she managed climate change, biodiversity, and green growth portfolios and policy frameworks at UNDP Rwanda, and shaped SDG knowledge initiatives at the World Bank. Ms. Lee holds a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Arts in International Relations from Syracuse University, New York, United States.



Ye Wang

**Acting Director of the Division of Biodiversity Convention
Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center
The Ministry of Ecology and Environment
The People's Republic of China**

Ye Wang has been extensively engaged in international negotiations and domestic implementation under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), with a focus on resource mobilization, business engagement, Access and Benefit Sharing issues. She is a member of Advisory Committee of Resource Mobilisation of CBD. She also serves as the Secretariat Director of the China Partnership of Business and Biodiversity (CPBB).



Terry Townshend

**Advisor
Paulson Institute**

Terry Townshend is an Advisor to the Paulson Institute, where he focuses on communications for the Conservation program's work. In this role, Terry works closely with the Conservation and Communications teams at the Institute to support the development and implementation of outreach strategies for our critical studies and initiatives.

With a background in environmental law and wildlife conservation, Terry has held leadership positions at Globe International as well as the UK government (Defra). He was lead author of the inaugural, now annual, Globe Climate Legislation Study, examining climate-related legislation in 100 countries. Since 2010, he has been based in Beijing, initially as an advisor to the Chinese government on the drafting of a General Law on Climate Change.

In recent years, Terry has focused on his passion, wildlife conservation creating the “Birding Beijing” website and an innovative community-based program which tracks many of Beijing’s iconic birds. He has worked on projects to help save some of China’s most endangered birds from extinction, as well as wildlife conservation projects focusing on the Snow Leopard.

Terry holds a Masters degree in Environmental Economics from the University of Essex.



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).



Guy Williams

International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Advisor ADB External Expert

Guy Williams works across Asia-Pacific at the intersection of nature, finance, and community resilience, with a focus on biodiversity and ecosystem credit markets, nature finance, and investment pathways that connect ecological outcomes with viable economic systems and livelihoods. He was a lead author of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures framework and co-led the work of UNDP Biodiversity Credit Alliance's High Integrity Principles.

He is the founder of **ziranjiti**, a nature-first advisory firm supporting governments, multilateral development banks, investors, corporates, and communities on nature-positive development pathways across Australia, China, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific, and previously served as Global Head of Nature for Deloitte.

Guy is currently supporting the Asian Development Bank on a range of nature finance initiatives, including the development of nature credit mechanisms linked to the Regional Flyways Initiative and the Chishui River program in China. He is currently supporting the International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits on demand-side analysis and market sizing for biodiversity credit markets, with a focus on the policy and financial conditions required to scale credible nature-positive investment pathways across Asia.