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வெளிநாட்டு வளங்கள் திணைக்களம்

Department of External Resources

මුදල්, ආර්ථික ස්ථායීකරණ සහ ජාතික ප්‍රතිපත්ති අමාත්‍යාංශය
මහලේකම් කාර්යාලය (3 වැනි මහල), තැ.පෙ. 277, කොළඹ 00100, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
நிதி, பொருளாதார உறுதிப்படுத்துதலை மற்றும் தேசியக் கொள்கைகள் அமைச்சு
செயலகம் (3 ஆம் மாடி), த. பெ. இல. 277, கொழும்பு 00100, இலங்கை
Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies
The Secretariat (3rd Floor), P.O. Box 277, Colombo 00100, Sri Lanka

Web Site: www.erd.gov.lk

e-mail: info@erd.gov.lk

මගේ අංකය
எனது இல
My No

TA/ADB/S/29/22

ඔබේ අංකය
உமது இல
Your No

දිනය
நிகதி
Date

17 October 2022

URGENT

Secretary
Ministry of Health



Attn: Officer In-Charge Foreign Trainings

JCTA
3rd Nov For

Dear Sir

Conference on Strengthening Health and Social Protection Systems in Asia: Challenges and Policies

- 08th November 2022, (via Zoom) 15:00-18:00 Tokyo time / 13:00-15:00 Bangkok time

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has invited nominations from the eligible Government officials for the above online programme. The Programme Details are enclosed.

We would highly appreciate, if you could instruct the relevant officials to circulate this programme among the relevant Departments/Divisions/Institutes under your purview and submit nominations to the Department of External Resources (ERD) with following documents;

- (i) Nomination letter (from the relevant Ministry)
- (ii) Duly filled ERD form (Can be downloaded from www.erd.gov.lk)

Applicants are strongly advised to register as early as possible via the following link.
https://adbiorg.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dA6I_uYPSra8MiYTB1O3IQ

Please note that only the duly completed applications received by ERD before 2.00 p.m. on 04th November 2022, with the line ministry covering letter and other relevant documents as stipulated above, will be processed.

Yours faithfully

W.W.S. Mangala
Director (TA Division)
for Director General

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பணிப்பாளர் நாயகம்
Director General

94-11-2484693

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அலுவலகம்
Office

94-11-2484500
94-11-2484600

ෆැක්ස් අංකය
தொலை நகல்
Fax

94-11-2447633
94-11-2387153
94-11-2434876

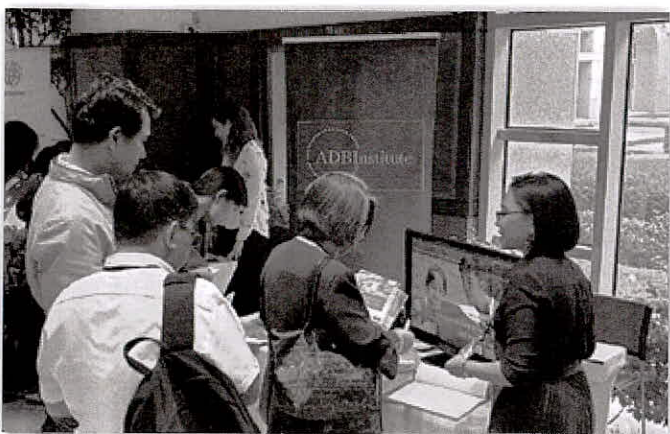
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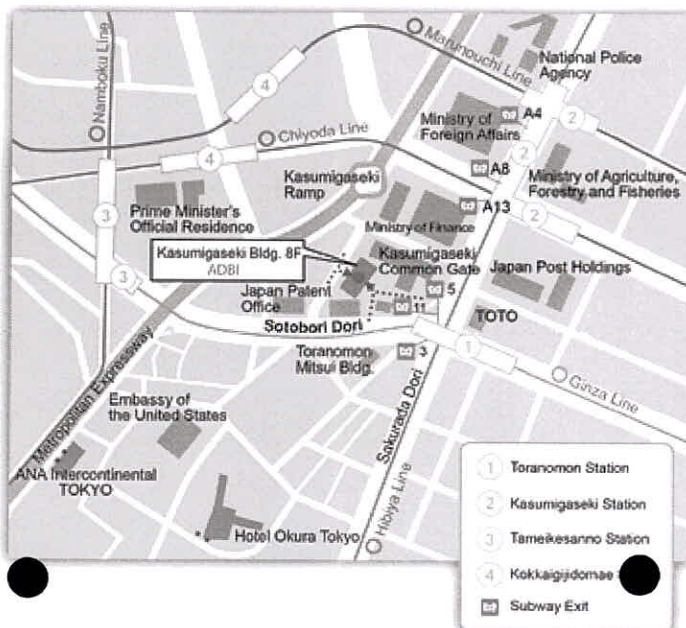
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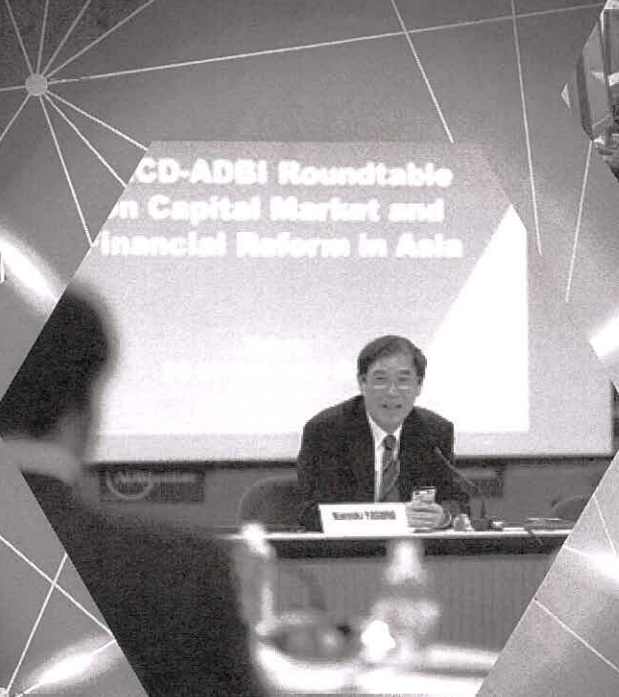
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Policy Priorities

- Eliminating Poverty
- Rural Development
- Gender Equality
- Governance
- Regional Cooperation
- Climate Change
- Liveable Cities



Conference on Strengthening Health and Social Protection Systems in Asia: Challenges and Policies

Jointly organized by:

Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and

Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University

8 November 2022, online (via Zoom)

15:00-18:00 Tokyo time / 13:00-16:00 Bangkok time

Background

Despite tremendous stimulus packages implemented by many governments in Asia, COVID-19 has regressed equality and inclusiveness made in the region in the past decades. The pandemic has greatly discriminated people and societies through its disproportionate impacts on different groups of people. The poor, women, elderly, and children are among the most vulnerable groups that got hit hardest. COVID-19 is thus a wake-up call to all government for the imperative of comprehensive frameworks and action plans for resilient and inclusive health and social protection systems. Both public health emergency capabilities and achievement of universal health coverage (UHC) ensure that no one will get left behind.

To address this issue, countries need to accelerate investment in national health and social protection systems to improve core healthcare facilities and capacities, surveillance and monitoring mechanisms, access to healthcare for all groups of people as well as to ensure availability of medical supplies and medicines and preparedness for future pandemics or health crisis. According to ADB (2022)¹, an increase to approximately 4.8% of GDP in countries' health investment would stimulate a 1.5% percentage point increase in economic growth. A comprehensive health system will deliver healthy workers and reduce disease burden, resulting in higher labor participation and potential productivity boost in workplace while an inclusive social protection will provide basic protection to all individual. For example, UHC framework will ensure access to healthcare services and medical suppliers for all.

To achieve resilient healthcare scheme and inclusive social protection, public and private finance must be mobilized. For the public finance side, strengthening fiscal framework will not only raise fiscal revenue, but also encourage effective spendings through expenditure reviews; thus, create fiscal space. The comprehensive reforms are also required to provide inclusive social protection systems for all groups of people. This would ensure that no one in a society got left behind and everyone has basic access to public services for their health and social wellbeing.

Objectives

This conference aims to serve as a platform that gathers policymakers, scholars, and experts from public sector, international organizations, and academia to explore and assess policy strategies and designs to strengthen healthcare and social protection systems in the post-COVID-19 environment. It will also build a network between public sector and academics through the policy dialogues. The tentative program is enclosed.

¹ Asian Development Bank. Report on Southeast Asia Rising from the Pandemic, March 2022
<https://www.adb.org/publications/southeast-asia-rising-from-pandemic>

Program Agenda

<p>15:00 – 15:10 (JP) 13:00 – 13:10 (TH)</p>	<p>Welcoming Remarks</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean & CEO, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) • Sittidaj Pongkijvorasin, Dean, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University (CU)
<p>15:10 – 15:25 (JP) 13:10 – 13:25 (TH)</p>	<p>Special Talk on Building Comprehensive Framework for Health and Social Protection Systems in the Post-Pandemic</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nidhiya Menon, Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, Brandeis University
<p>15:25 – 16:05 (JP) 13:25 – 14:05 (TH)</p>	<p>Session 1: Strengthening Health Systems in Asia</p>
	<p><i>This session addresses the COVID-19-related challenges on the development of resilient and inclusive health systems that will cover all groups of people. The session also aims to provide policy solutions/ recommendations in preparation for a future pandemic for developing Asia.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Chantal Herberholz, Faculty of Economics, CU</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eduardo P. Banzon, Principal Health Specialist, ADB • Siripen Supakankunti, Faculty Member, Faculty of Economics, CU <p>Q&As (10 minutes)</p>
<p>16:05 – 16:45 (JP) 14:05 – 14:45 (TH)</p>	<p>Session 2: Promoting Inclusive Social Welfare and Social Protection Systems for All</p>
	<p><i>This session focuses on how to leverage domestic resources and mobilize financial resources to support the development of comprehensive and inclusive social welfare and social protections for all in a society and an economy. The discussion includes strengthening fiscal framework, social protection schemes for vulnerable groups, and international cooperation.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Yixin Yao, Senior Research Fellow, ADBI</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worawet Suwanrada, Faculty Member, Faculty of Economics, CU • Upalat Korwatanasakul, Faculty Member, School of Social Sciences, Waseda University <p>Q&As (10 minutes)</p>
<p>16:45 – 16:50 (JP) 14:45 – 15:50 (TH)</p>	<p>5-minute Session Break</p>

<p>16:50 – 17:50 (JP) 14:50 – 15:50 (TH)</p>	<p>Panel Discussion: Building Resilient Health and Social Protection Systems in Asia: Challenges and Policies</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Pitchaya Sirivunnabood, Deputy Head and Senior Economist, Capacity Building and Training, ADBI</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dil B. Rahut, Vice Chair and Senior Research Fellow, Research Department, ADBI • Nopphol Witvorapong, Faculty Member, Faculty of Economics, CU • Panelist 3 – Indonesia representative (TBC) • Panelist 4 – KDI (TBC)
<p>17:50 – 18:00 (JP) 17:50 – 16:00 (TH)</p>	<p>Closing Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danupon Ariyasajakorn, Faculty Member, Faculty of Economics, CU • Pitchaya Sirivunnabood, Deputy Head and Senior Economist, Capacity Building and Training, ADBI