

HIGHLIGHTS



Southeast Asia Development Symposium

Innovation through Collaboration: Planning for an Inclusive Post-COVID-19 Recovery

17-18 March 2021 | Virtual Symposium

Sharing Knowledge for Development



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President,
Asian Development Bank



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Secretary,
Department of Finance,
Philippines



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Minister in the Prime
Minister's Office; Second
Minister for Finance and
for National Development,
Singapore



BUDI GUNADI SADIKIN
Minister of Health,
Indonesia



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Under-Secretary-General,
United Nations; Executive
Secretary, UNESCAP



JEROME H. KIM
Director General,
International Vaccine
Institute



JACQUELINE FULLER
Vice-President, Google;
President, Google.org



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CEO,
Coalition for Epidemic
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MELATI WIJSEN
Founder,
Bye Bye Plastic Bags and
YOUTHTOPIA Voices



ROBERT GUILD
Chief Sector Officer,
Asian Development Bank



JIN SEON PARK
Vice President for Global
Business Development, SK
Bioscience

[See all speakers](#)

Overview

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) created the annual Southeast Asia Development Symposium (SEADS) to help crystallize thinking on critical development issues, and to support countries in making their economies more prosperous, knowledge-based, and sustainable. Symposium highlights, ADB knowledge products and events, and other innovative initiatives from SEADS private sector and public sector partners are featured on the [ADB Southeast Asia Development Solutions Knowledge and Innovation Platform](#), which was launched in October 2020.

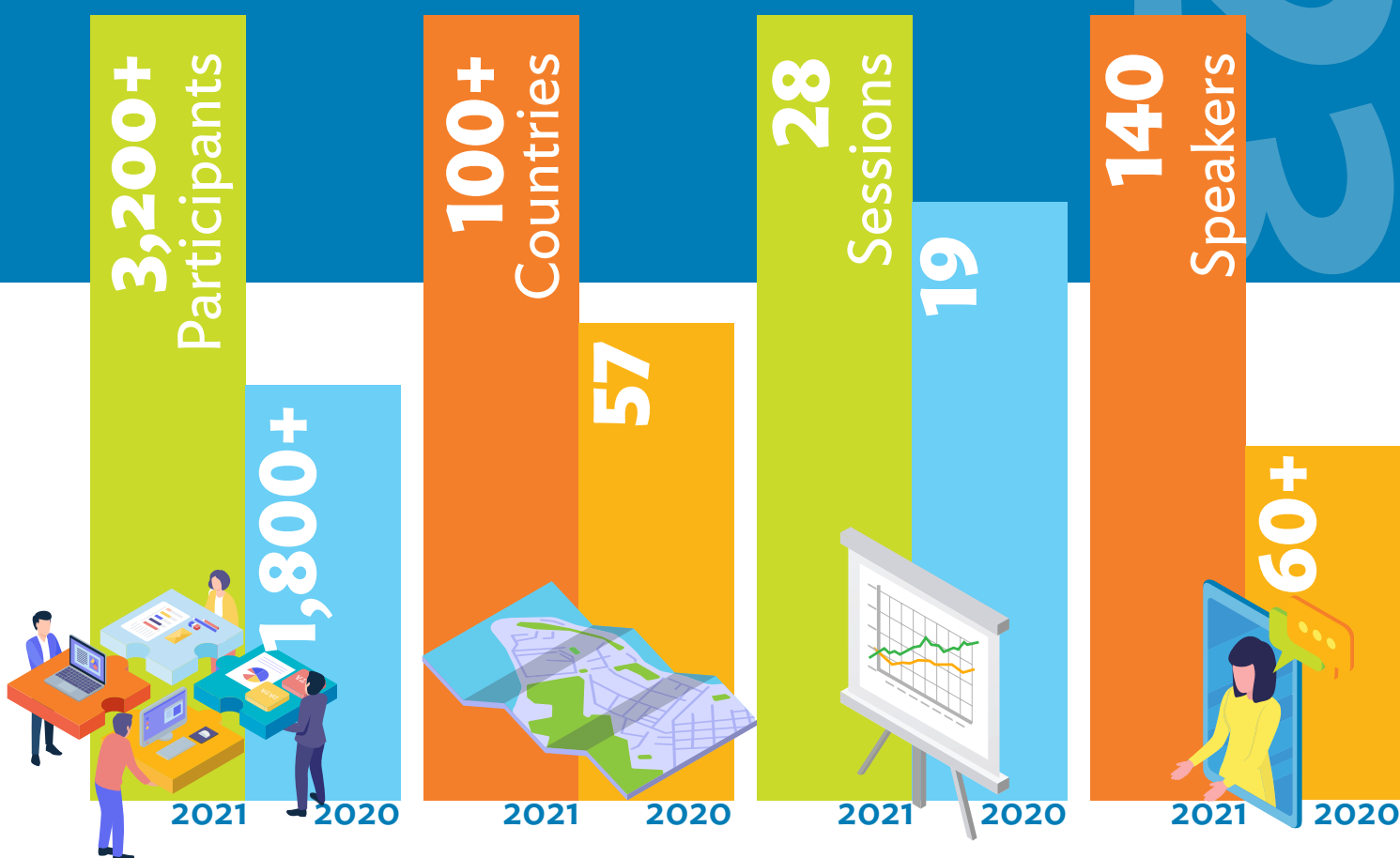
Every year, SEADS will strive to bring together thought leaders from government, industry, academia, and the development world to provide insights on new innovations, technologies, and best practices that can help Southeast Asian countries address pressing development challenges.

ADB held the first SEADS on 21 October 2020 and the second on 17–18 March 2021. Both focused on helping Southeast Asian countries counter headwinds from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

SEADS 2020, “The New Normal: Driving Economic Recovery through Digital Innovation”, brought together more than 1,800 participants from 57 countries, while SEADS 2021 drew over 3,200 participants from more than 100 countries.

Participants have included high-level government officials, private sector executives, representatives from the development sector and the academe, and other stakeholders.

SEADS by the Numbers



Plenaries

New Solutions for New Challenges

While COVID-19 has exacted an enormous human and economic toll, the rollout of vaccines is showing encouraging signs the pandemic can finally be contained. Nevertheless, countries still face medium-term uncertainty, and require wide-ranging measures to foster a recovery that is inclusive and sustainable.

On Day 1, ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa delivered the opening keynote and stressed the importance of collaboration. “Southeast Asia’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic can best be achieved by all of us—governments from across the region, the private sector, development partners, and other stakeholders—working together and closely collaborating to address the immense challenges before us.”

Philippine Finance Secretary and ADB Governor Carlos Dominguez, United Nations Under-Secretary-General Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Google Vice-President and Google.org President Jacqueline Fuller, International Vaccine Institute Director General Jerome Kim, and Bye Bye Plastic Bags and YOUTHTOPIA Voices founder Melati Wijsen also gave keynote addresses.

ADB Southeast Asia Department Director General Ramesh Subramaniam also launched four new policy briefs that provide a blueprint for Southeast Asia’s medium-term economic recovery in the wake of the pandemic. The policy briefs highlight four cornerstones for recovery: green recovery; shoring up government finances; revitalizing key economic sectors; and harnessing big data to deliver essential services more effectively.



The pandemic is presenting all of us with unprecedented challenges, and we need to forge a new path forward together, one which

taps new ideas and technologies, and leverages our existing platforms for innovation and partnership.

ADB President
Masatsugu Asakawa



A crisis is both a threat and an opportunity. The pandemic seriously threatened our people’s health and our economy’s vigor.

We have gone through a difficult test. From here, we are focused on the opportunities in the horizon.

Philippine Finance Secretary and ADB Governor
Carlos G. Dominguez



The lessons learned from the pandemic is the need to build back better with resilience, inclusiveness, and sustainability.

Technology, innovation, and collaboration, three themes that are particularly relevant to this symposium, provide us all with opportunities to achieve these objectives.

United Nations Under-Secretary-General
Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana



Looking to the future, we will continue to find opportunities to work with governments to help workers and business owners to adapt and

to create and connect to meaningful jobs. We also believe that technology can be a big part of the solution.

Google Vice-President and Google.org President
Jacqueline Fuller



Vaccines are a global public good and need to be distributed to the countries that need them in order to save lives.

International Vaccine Institute Director General
Jerome H. Kim



Us kids may only be 25% of the world’s population, but we are 100% of the future.

Bye Bye Plastic Bags and YOUTHTOPIA Voices founder
Melati Wijsen

COVID-19 Health Response and Recovery

Fully recognizing that widespread vaccine access is essential for sustainable pandemic recovery, Southeast Asian countries are scrambling to immunize their citizens against COVID-19.

On Day 2, ADB Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development Bambang Susantono welcomed participants and highlighted ADB's commitment to helping Southeast Asian countries in their post-recovery efforts.

Indonesia Minister of Health Budi Gunadi Sadikin, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations CEO Richard J. Hatchett, and ADDO AI co-founder and CEO Ayesha Khanna also gave keynote addresses.



We just hope that widespread vaccine distribution will happen soon to help 'steady the ship' and bring the pandemic under control. Once vaccination is underway, countries can then intensify their focus on a post-pandemic recovery.

ADB Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development
Bambang Susantono



We strongly believe that vaccination is one of the critical steps that we have to overcome to erase this pandemic, but it is not the only one.

Indonesia Minister of Health
Budi Gunadi Sadikin



COVID-19 represents the greatest global public health threat in more than a century and the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations CEO
Richard J. Hatchett



I believe and see that more than anything else, artificial intelligence has the potential to democratize access and make growth inclusive. But as always, it must be governed carefully and responsibly.

ADD0 AI co-founder and CEO
Ayesha Khanna



Plenaries

Solutions for an Inclusive Post-COVID-19 World

To recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, Southeast Asia needs to roll out effective immunization programs and make sure the recovery path is equitable and inclusive.

In the panel session, “New Solutions for a Post-COVID-19 World,” ADB Vice-President (Operations 2) Ahmed M. Saeed, Singapore Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister for Finance and National Development Indraneel Thurai Rajah, Grab Group President Ming Maa, and Morgan Stanley Chief Sustainability Officer Audrey Choi discussed innovative solutions that can pave Southeast Asia’s road to inclusive, sustainable recovery. CNBC Senior Correspondent Sri Jegarajah moderated.

In the session, “Immunization for All: Providing COVID-19 Vaccines across Southeast Asia,” ADB Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department Health Sector Group Chief Patrick L. Osewe, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health professor Ruth Karron, Serum Institute of India Executive Director Suresh Jadhav, Philippine Department of Health Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje, and SK Bioscience Vice-President for Global Business Development Jin Seon Park exchanged insights on activating effective vaccination programs across Southeast Asian countries, addressing issues on vaccine stock and acceptance. CNBC Catalyst’s Lisa Oake moderated.

In the panel session, “Recovery for All: A Human-Centered COVID-19 Response,” ADB Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department Chief Sector Officer Robert Guild, Thailand International Economic Advisor at the Ministry of Finance Ketsuda Supradit, Lazada Group Co-Founder and Chief Strategy Officer Magnus Ekblom, and Save the Children US President and CEO Janti Soeripto shared their vision for an equitable and effective recovery in a panel also moderated by Oake.



For the markets, the optimal path is the path of climate resiliency and adaptation.

ADB Vice-President (Operations 2)
Ahmed M. Saeed



We do have the technology, we do have the capability, and we’re trying to position ourselves to come out of that stronger.

Singapore Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister for Finance and National Development
Indraneel Thurai Rajah



From a moral or social perspective, it is frankly irresponsible business practices and irresponsible investment processes today to not think about climate risks as a fundamental part of your business continuity.

Morgan Stanley Chief Sustainability Officer
Audrey Choi



There is a saying that standing still is the fastest way of moving backwards. That really resonates with me. This will all go down to innovation in serving our customers in the best way possible.

Grab Group President
Ming Maa

SIDE EVENTS



At the sidelines of SEADS 2021, Save the Children International launched its Global Centre of Excellence for Innovation. The Centre will support Save the Children’s drive for impactful innovations at scale in an uncertain and complex world.



ADB also held the final pitches for its hackathon, Re-Establishing Tourism Confidence through Innovative Digital Solutions. WeavAir, a company that developed a technology to detect contaminants including the virus that causes COVID-19 in air distribution systems of hotels and resorts, won the challenge.

Sessions and Workshops

Cross-Sectoral Solutions

Collaboration across a range of sectors and stakeholders is needed to address the challenges posed by COVID-19. At SEADS 2021, ADB convened experts from a wide range of fields to offer cross-sectoral solutions to the pandemic and other development challenges in Southeast Asia.

Partner Sessions

- Post-COVID-19 Policy Responses to Support Recovery Session (ADB)
- The Role of Taxation in Crisis Response and Recovery Session (ADB and OECD)
- Reinventing Smart Cities after COVID-19 Session (ADB)
- An Ecosystem Approach for Economic Recovery in Southeast Asia Session (Google)
- Leave No One Behind: Harnessing Technology for Post-Pandemic Recovery and Resilience Session (ADB & UNESCAP)
- Road to Recovery with Tech: Building the Foundation for Resilient Growth (Grab)
- Financing Post-Pandemic Green Growth and Green Recovery Session (ADB, OECD, EU SWITCH-Asia Programme)

Partner Deep-Dive Workshops

- Applying Futures Thinking and Foresight to Transport (ADB)
- Clean Energy Transition as an Engine for Green Recovery (ADB)
- Invitation Only: Reimagining the Future: COVID-19's Impact on Youth Jobs and Livelihood Aspirations (ADB's Youth for Asia)
- Scaling up SMEs Sustainable Consumption and Production Actions (EU SWITCH-Asia Programme)
- Open Source and Government Digital Transformation—Perfect Storm of Opportunity (Amazon Web Services Institute)

Invitation-Only Deep Dive Workshops for ADB Developing Member Country Government Counterparts

- Post-COVID-19 Policy Responses to Support Recovery
- Digital Technology for Better Public Services
- Policy Actions for Post-Pandemic Green Growth and Green Recovery
- Enhancing Revenue Flows to Support Recovery
- Reinventing Smart Cities after COVID-19

Co-sponsored by ADB B-I-G Capacity Building Program: Brunei Darussalam–Indonesia–Malaysia–Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA); Indonesia–Malaysia–Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT); and Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)



Just go out there, take the first steps, fail, retry, and keep going and it will get better.

Ashoka Innovators Global Partnerships Director
Sumitra Pasupathy



All the technology in the world cannot and will not be useful if people don't know how to use it.

Google Government Affairs and Public Policy Director for Southeast Asia
Tenzin Norbhu



It's always good to have proper rules and regulations in place before a crisis, so that during a crisis you have a buffer, you have room to maneuver.

National Bank of Cambodia
Director General
Chea Serey



The challenge is, countries have been investing a lot in recovery measures, but most of them are actually mirroring the existing economy.

It is kind of encouraging the status quo. They are protecting existing businesses, existing industries, existing investments, which means that if we go on like that we'll miss the opportunity to really shift the investments in the infrastructure we need.

OECD Senior Programme Manager
Virginie Marchal



We think technology can provide some solutions and some opportunities [for SMEs] but it really does require working closely with government

and local businesses around the world.

Alibaba Group Senior Director at the Globalization Office
Sami Farhad



We really have to embrace and figure out how to make this as inclusive as possible so that everyone has an opportunity in the

digital economy.

ADB Principal IT Specialist for Digital Adoption and Outreach
Carolyn Cabrera

Save the Dates
Southeast Asia Development
Symposium 2022
16-17 March



SEADS 2021 Partners



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