

ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2026

Empowered Lives, Resilient Futures

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SESSION 14 Bringing Business to the Table: The Role of the Private Sector in Social Protection

MODERATOR



Christine Engstrom
Director General
Sectors Department 3
Asian Development Bank

Christine Engstrom leads the Finance Sector Office, Human and Social Development Sector Office and Public Sector Management and Governance Sector Office.

Christine was previously the Senior Director of ADB's Financial Sector Office (2023–2025) leading ADB's sovereign operations to develop financial sectors across developing member countries. Prior to this, she was the Director of Private Sector Financial Institutions Division for approximately ten years managing a team supporting financial institutions through loans, equity, guarantees, and technical assistance.

Prior to ADB, Christine worked at Fannie Mae, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the International Finance Corporation in Washington, D.C. She has an MBA from Georgetown University and a master's degree in international affairs from the University of Virginia.

SPEAKERS and PANELIST



Ashutosh Pednekar
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Labour and Employment
Government of India

Shri Ashutosh A.T. Pednekar, IAS (Rajasthan: 2002), is a senior civil servant with over two decades of experience in public administration, governance and development. Born on 28 June 1977, he has been serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Labor & Employment, Government of India, since 28 May 2025. In his present role, he handles key areas including Labour Welfare, Building and Other Construction Workers (BoCW), Rural Welfare, Gig and Platform Workers, Social Security, Industrial Relation and ESIC. His responsibilities encompass policy formulation and implementation, worker welfare measures, social security coverage, and initiatives aimed at strengthening protection and support for workers across formal and emerging sectors of the workforce.

Throughout his career, Shri Pednekar has held several senior positions, including Secretary to Government, Chairman & Managing Director, Director & Managing Director, Chief Executive Officer, Commissioner, and District Collector & District Magistrate. These assignments have provided him with extensive experience in policy implementation, institutional management, public service delivery, and development administration.

His contributions have been recognized through the IT Innovation Award, Best Collector Award, and the Dr. Subhash Dua Gold Medal for Best Probationer at LBSNAA, Mussoorie. He holds graduate and postgraduate diploma qualifications and is proficient in English, Hindi, Marathi and Konkani.



Brendan Chia
Head of Regional Public Affairs (Policy)
Grab

Brendan Chia is Head, Regional Public Affairs (Policy) at Grab. He focuses on emerging policy topics at the intersection of technology and public policy - including the digital platform economy, AI governance, and mobility - to advance Grab's economic and social impact. With a career spanning the private, public, and multilateral sectors, he brings diverse experience and perspectives from roles at the Boston Consulting Group, World Bank, and Singapore Economic Development Board.



Jose Roland Moya
Director General
Employers Confederation of the Philippines

Jose Roland Moya is presently the Director-General of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP). He served as Secretary-General of the ASEAN Confederation of the Employers (ACE) in 2017-2019. He is ACE's representative in the ASEAN TVET Council (ATC) and its Focal Point on Skills, Voctech Education and Emerging Economies. He currently represents employers in the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board- National Capital Region (RTWPB-NCR), National Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (NTIPC), Technical Executive Committee of the National Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (TEC-TIPC), and Regional Technical Education and Skills Development Council (RTESDC) – National Capital Region (NCR). He is also President/CEO of Liceo De San Jacinto Foundation Inc., a family-owned academic institution based in his hometown in San Jacinto, Masbate with a student population of 3000 students. which offers complete education from grade school to degree/techvoc programs.



Martha Sazon
Chief Executive Officer
Mynt (Parent Company of Gcash)

Appointed CEO during the COVID-19 pandemic, she led GCash through a defining period, growing it into the country's first and only \$5B unicorn and a platform now embedded in everyday Filipino life.

Martha built a 30-year career spanning various industries like food, consumer pharma, personal care, telco, and now, fintech. Prior to Mynt, she spent 12 years at Globe Telecom, where she pioneered many breakthroughs and achievements as head of Mobile Postpaid, SME and Broadband.

Martha finished her undergraduate studies in Business Administration and Accountancy, cum laude, at the University of the Philippines Diliman, and later completed postgraduate programs at IMD, INSEAD, and Harvard Business School.