

ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2026

Empowered Lives, Resilient Futures

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SESSION 8

Generation Employed: Creating Youth Jobs through Labor Market Programs

MODERATOR



Helen Osborne
Labour Market Specialist - Consultant
Asian Development Bank

Helen Osborne has experience across research, policy and practice spanning the public, private and non-profit sectors. Through various publications, Helen has led new knowledge development on youth employment at ADB. As a consultant, Helen has also worked with The World Bank, ILO, UNICEF and GIZ as well as Foundation and INGO clients. Her portfolio includes program and policy design; primary and secondary research; and strategy development. She has worked in Bhutan, Myanmar and Mongolia as well as East Africa. Helen holds a first class degree from Oxford University (MA Oxon) and a Masters degree from Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Paris, and King's College, London.

SPEAKERS and PANELIST



Atty. Sarah Buena S. Mirasol
Regional Director of Regional Office No. III,
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
Government of the Philippines

Sarah Buena Mirasol has led the DOLE regional offices in advancing labor and employment programs, strengthening workers' protection, promoting decent and productive employment, and fostering harmonious labor-management relations across the regions.

Under her leadership, the Department continues to deliver responsive, inclusive and people centered services for workers, employers and job seekers in the Central Luzon.

Prior to her current assignment, she was the Regional Director of DOLE National Capital Region and Cagayan Valley.



Tashi Tenzin
Assistant Program Officer
Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Employment
Royal Government of Bhutan

Tashi Tenzin works on works on entrepreneurship policy, startup development, financing, incubation, and ecosystem development.

He has led the management and operation of the Startup Centre, Changzamtog, coordinating the incubation journey from admission to graduation. He co-led the development of the National Entrepreneurship Strategy 2026 and the Startup Acceleration Playbook, translating national policy priorities into practical implementation frameworks.

Under the UNDP-GEF ECRUL Project, he co-led entrepreneurship and nature-based solutions (NbS) interventions, including programme design, implementation, budgeting, and donor reporting.

His work also includes designing and facilitating startup training, accelerator programmes, entrepreneurship bootcamps, and ecosystem-building initiatives for entrepreneurs, MSMEs, youth, and TVET institutions. He supports policy development, programme implementation, procurement, grants management, and partnerships across government, academia, development partners, and the private sector.



Nice I. Estopia
JobStart Youth representative
Process Architect Associate
Goldilocks Bakeshop Inc., Philippines

Nice Estopia graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting Information Systems from Bestlink College of the Philippines in July 2024. Shortly after graduation, she became a beneficiary of JobStart Philippines, a program that equips young jobseekers with career guidance, life skills, technical training, and workplace exposure to support their transition into employment.

Through the program, Nice strengthened her workplace readiness, gained practical skills, and built the confidence needed to enter the workforce. Upon completing JobStart Philippines, she successfully secured employment with Goldilocks Bakeshop Inc., one of the program's partner companies.

Nice currently serves as a Process Architect Associate at Goldilocks Bakeshop Inc., where she applies the knowledge and competencies she developed through both her academic training and JobStart experience.

Her journey from fresh graduate to young professional highlights the positive impact of employment facilitation, skills development, and industry partnerships in helping Filipino youth successfully transition from education to meaningful employment.



Vergel Cadeliño Lamberte
JobStart Youth representative
Housekeeping (Public Area Attendant)
Astoria Plaza Hotel, Philippines

Vergel Lamberte is a Senior High School graduate from Pasig City and a 2025 beneficiary of the JobStart Philippines Program. Through the program, he was able to gain valuable workplace experience and is now employed as a Housekeeping Attendant at Astoria Hotels and Resorts. In his current role, he helps maintain the cleanliness, orderliness, and welcoming environment of the hotel's common areas, including the lobby, lounge, function rooms, and guest restrooms.



Carlos Coca Gamito
Employment, Future of Work, Jobs Consultant
Asian Development Bank

Carlos Alberto Coca Gamito is an economist with more than ten years of experience advising governments and international organizations on economic and social policy, with expertise spanning public financial management, health and social protection, labour market analysis and employment policies. Most recently, as an international consultant with the Asian Development Bank, he has worked on assignments related to maternity protection, youth employment, social insurance reform, and occupational safety and health in Timor-Leste, Bhutan, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan. Carlos has also advised the ILO, UNDP, Oxfam, WTO, and national governments across Asia, Africa, and Europe. His work combines applied economic analysis with hands-on experience supporting the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policies and institutional reforms. He holds a PhD in Economics and Business Management and a Master's degree in Economic and Public Policy Analysis from the College of Europe.