

ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2026

Empowered Lives, Resilient Futures

6–8 October • ADB Headquarters, Manila



OPENING SESSION & KEYNOTE ADDRESS Next-Generation Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific: What Do We Now Know and Where Do We Need to Go?

SPEAKERS



Wempi Saputra
Vice-President (Sectors and Themes)
Asian Development Bank

VP Saputra oversees the strategy and operations of ADB's eight sectors, important themes, and business intelligence and operations coordination. He brings more than 30 years of professional experiences in development finance, economic governance, public policy, economic diplomacy, and institutional reform across government and multilateral organizations. Prior to ADB, VP Saputra served as Executive Director at the World Bank, representing 11 Asia-Pacific member countries and providing board-level oversight of the institution's operations, strategy, and governance. From 2021 to 2022, he served as the Assistant Minister for Macroeconomic Policy and International Finance in the Ministry of Finance of Indonesia. Concurrently, he served as G20 Finance Deputy during the country's 2022 G20 Presidency and co-chaired the Joint Finance and Health Task Force that established the USD 1.3 billion Pandemic Fund to strengthen global health financing.

VP Saputra holds a PhD in Economics from Nagoya University, Japan, a Master of Public Finance from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Japan, and a Bachelor's degree in Financial Management from the University of Indonesia. He has also completed his post graduate study in AI and Machine Learning from the University of Texas at Austin, USA.



Shamit Chakravarti
Director
Human and Social Development Sector Office
Sectors Department 3
Asian Development Bank

Shamit Chakravarti has been with ADB since June 2003. He has worked across multiple departments and regions. He was Country Director, Bhutan Resident Mission, from 2021 to 2024 before taking over in the current role.

Shamit has over 30 years' experience in international development, public policy, and economics. Prior to joining ADB, he worked at the Fiscal Affairs Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from 2000 to 2003 and the Operations Evaluation Department of the World Bank from 1998 to 2000.

Shamit holds a Masters' degrees in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics and George Washington University, and a Masters' in Public Policy from the University of Maryland, College Park.



Rohini Pande
Henry J. Heinz II Professor of Economics and
Director, Economic Growth Center, Yale University
Faculty Director, Economic Inclusion, Yale University

Rohini Pande received the 2018 Carolyn Bell Shaw Award from the American Economic Association for promoting the success of women in the economics profession and the 2022 Infosys Prize in Social Sciences. Formerly, Rohini was the Rafik Hariri Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard Kennedy School.

Rohini's research examines how institutions shape power relationships and patterns of economic, political, and environmental advantage in low- and middle-income countries. Her work focuses on institutional design as a key technology for improving human welfare, and asks how notions of economic justice and human rights, along with efficiency gains, can legitimize and enable institutional change.

With Inclusion Economics India Center, she is working with Indian state governments on gender-inclusive rural development, on payments for ecosystem services, and on

digital innovations to improve governance. With Inclusion Economics Nepal she is evaluating innovations to strengthen quality of policy-making by elected local governments.

Recently, she led the sub-committee on carbon markets for the COP30 presidency, presenting a report on the case for a unified global carbon market. Rohini received a PhD in economics from the London School of Economics, a BA/MA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics from Oxford University, and a BA in Economics from Delhi University.



Albert Park
Chief Economist and Director General
Economic Research and Development Impact
Department
Asian Development Bank

Albert Park is ADB's chief spokesperson on economic and development trends and leads the production of the Bank's flagship knowledge products and support for regional cooperation fora.

Albert has more than two decades of experience as a development economist and is a well-known expert on the economy of the People's Republic of China. He has worked on a broad range of development issues including poverty and inequality, intergenerational mobility, microfinance, migration and labor markets, the future of work, and foreign investment.

Albert is Chair Professor of Economics, Social Science, and Public Policy at HKUST (on leave). He served as a founding director of HKUST's Institute for Emerging Market Studies and Center for Economic Policy, and previously held faculty positions at the University of Oxford and University of Michigan.

A national of the United States, he received his bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard University and his doctorate in applied economics from Stanford University.