



# Asia-Pacific Rural Development and Food Security Forum 2022

## Battling Climate Change and Transforming Agri-food Systems

22-24 March 2022

# Speakers' Profiles

## Knowledge Product Showcase

### 24 March 2022



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# Asia-Pacific Rural Development and Food Security Forum 2022

Day 3: 24 March (Thursday)

## Technical Session 4: Financing Green, Resilient and Inclusive Agriculture, and Future

2:20–3:10 p.m.



**Gretchen Daily**  
Bing Professor,  
Environmental Science,  
Stanford University



**Qingfeng Zhang**  
Chief, Rural Development and Food  
Security (Agriculture) Thematic Group,  
concurrently OIC, Environment  
Thematic Group, Sustainable  
Development and Climate  
Change Department,  
Asian Development Bank



**Piet van Asten**  
Head Sustainable  
Production Systems -  
Coffee, Olam Food  
Ingredients



**Joost Zuidberg**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Cardano Development

## Knowledge Product Showcase

4:25–4:55 p.m.



**Shingo Kimura**  
Senior Natural Resources  
and Agriculture Specialist,  
Asian Development Bank



**Takeshi Ueda**  
Principal Natural Resources  
and Agriculture Economist,  
Asian Development Bank

## Actions and Recommendations

5:05–5:50 p.m.



**Yasmin Siddiqi**  
Director,  
Central and West Asia Department,  
Asian Development Bank



**Thomas Panella**  
Director,  
East Asia Department,  
Asian Development Bank



**Mukhtor Khamudkhanov**  
Director,  
Pacific Department,  
Asian Development Bank



**Martin Lemoine**  
Head, Agribusiness Investment Unit,  
Private Sector Operations Department  
Asian Development Bank



**Mio Oka**  
Director,  
South Asia Department,  
Asian Development Bank



**Jiangfeng Zhang**  
Director,  
Southeast Asia Department,  
Asian Development Bank



**Aziz Elbehri**  
Director,  
Senior Economist and Stream Leader,  
Food and Agriculture Organization

## Closing Remarks and Future Direction

5:50–6:05 p.m.



**Sungsup Ra**  
Chief Sector Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change  
Department, Asian Development Bank



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# Sungsup Ra

**Chief Sector Officer, Asian Development Bank**

As the Chief Sector Officer, he leads the planning, implementation, and supervision of the Sector Advisory Service Cluster's (SDSC) vision, goals, and work plan. He joined ADB in 2001 as Economist. Since then, he worked in both Bangladesh and Nepal Resident Missions as Deputy Country Director, Senior Advisor to the Managing Director General, and Director for Pacific Operations Division. Before joining SDCC, he led the establishment and became Director of South Asia Human and Social Development Division, wherein he managed a portfolio of \$7 billion. He was also Chair of the Education Sector Group.

As a strategic and innovative leader, he has led high-level policy dialogue with developing countries and significantly contributed to ADB's recent expansion in the social sector. Prior to joining ADB, he worked with Samsung and Korean National Pension, and taught economics at leading universities—Korea University and International Christian University, Japan.

A national of the Republic of Korea, he holds a Doctorate and Master's degrees in Economics from the University of Illinois, United States, and Bachelor's degree in Economics from Korea University.

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## Shingo Kimura

**Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division, East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank**

Shingo is responsible for ADB's operation on sustainable rural development and food security in East Asia.

Prior to joining ADB, he was Economist and Agricultural Policy Analyst at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, where he conducted a series of policy research for productive, sustainable and resilient food and agricultural sector in Europe, North America and Asia. He also served at Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan in Tokyo, responsible for policy planning and implementation in the areas of rural development, farmland regulations and food safety.

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# Takeshi Ueda

**Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist, Asian Development Bank**

Mr. Takeshi Ueda is a national of Japan. He obtained his Doctorate degree in Agricultural Economics from the Pennsylvania State University; Master's degree in Economics from the Michigan State University, the US, and Soka University, Japan.

Mr. Ueda has 20 years of professional experience. He joined ADB in 2008 as a Natural Resources Economist, Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division, East Asia Department, then progressed to Senior Natural Resources Economist, same division and has managed various projects of the agriculture and natural resources (ANR) sector for the People's Republic of China and Mongolia.

He was appointed as Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist, Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division, Southeast Asia Department in May 2017 and has been handling the ANR sector projects with a particular focus on agriculture value chain development for Southeast Asian countries.

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**Actions and Recommendations**

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**Thomas Panella**  
Director,  
East Asia Department,  
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**Mukhtor Khamudkhanov**  
Director,  
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**Martin Lemoine**  
Head, Agribusiness Investment Unit,  
Private Sector Operations Department  
Asian Development Bank



**Mio Oka**  
Director,  
South Asia Department,  
Asian Development Bank



**Jiangfeng Zhang**  
Director,  
Southeast Asia Department,  
Asian Development Bank



**Aziz Elbehri**  
Director,  
Senior Economist and Stream Leader,  
Food and Agriculture Organization

## Closing Remarks and Future Direction

5:50–6:05 p.m.



**Sungsup Ra**  
Chief Sector Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change  
Department, Asian Development Bank



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## Qingfeng Zhang

**Chief of Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture)  
Thematic Group, concurrently, Officer-in-Charge,  
Chief, Environment Thematic Group, Asian Development Bank**

Mr. Zhang is providing leadership to the formulation and implementation of the Bank's strategy and knowledge in agriculture, natural resources and food, oversees the operationalization of the Bank's vision on agriculture, natural resources and food in regional and country programs.

During his last 16 years with the Bank, Mr. Zhang processes and administers loan and technical assistance projects in green agricultural value chain, efficient use of natural resources (land, soil, water as well as agricultural wastes), climate resilient agriculture, rural renewable biomass energy, healthy agriculture-ecosystems, food safety, and internet plus agriculture.

Mr. Zhang holds a doctoral degree in environmental engineering from the Tsinghua University; and a master's degree in water resources management, and a bachelor's degree in hydrology from the Sichuan University. He was also trained at the Harvard Business School through its Executive Development Program.

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# Yasmin Siddiqi

**Director, CWER, Asian Development Bank**

Ms. Yasmin Siddiqi is a chartered civil engineer (UK) and has a post graduate degree in irrigation engineering (UK).

She has over 25 years of experience in natural resources management, including integrated water resources management, irrigation, knowledge solutions and leading teams at Asian Development Bank (ADB). She is currently the operational director for agriculture and natural resources in the Central and West Asia Department of ADB.

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## Thomas Panella

**Director, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division  
– East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank**

As Director in East Asia, he is responsible for managing operations including strategy; project development, management, and programming; policy dialogue; and knowledge management.

As Chair of the Water Sector Committee, he provides oversight for the ADB-wide Water Sector Group for policy development, institutional engagement in water issues, and strategic direction of lending and non-lending water operations. He served as ADB's Chief of Water Sector Group from 2017-20, Afghanistan Country Director from 2014-17, and joined ADB in 2003. He led water operations in Central, South, and Southeast Asia including postings in Indonesia directing the water and climate change programs and in Uzbekistan as operations head.

He worked at World Bank from 2000 to 2002 as a Water Resources Management Specialist. He was the Southern California Regional Director for Tabors, Caramanis and Associates from 1989 to 1993 and served as the Convener of the California Urban Water Conservation Council in 1997 (now the California Water Efficiency Partnership).

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# Mukhtor Khamudkhanov

**Director, Energy Division, Pacific Department, Asian Development Bank**

Mr. Mukhtor Khamudkhanov as Director of Energy Division, Pacific Department and is responsible for coordination of ADB's energy sector operations in the Pacific developing member countries.

Prior to joining the Pacific Department in January 2021, he was a Country Director of ADB's Nepal Resident Mission (2017-2021) where he demonstrated knowledge and experience in policy dialogue, strategic and country operations planning, and worked on significant infrastructure projects, including hydropower and renewable energy, in Nepal. He served as Principal Energy Specialist, South Asia Energy Division (SAEN, 2011-2017), Senior Energy Specialist (SAEN, 2007-2011), Senior Planning and Policy Specialist (Strategy and Policy Department), and Portfolio Management Specialist in former Central Operations Services Office.

Mr. Khamudkhanov holds a Doctorate Degree in Technology (Electrical Engineering) from State Technical University, Uzbekistan, and Master's degrees in Financial Management from the University of London, United Kingdom, and in International Affairs (Economic Policy Management) from Columbia University, USA.

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# Martin Lemoine

**Unit Head, Agribusiness Investment Team, Private Sector Operations Department, Asian Development Bank**

Martin Lemoine is the Unit Head, Agribusiness at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Martin has 20 years of professional experience, including 15 years of impact-oriented investment in Asia. Martin has led more than 50 equity and debt investments of a total value of around \$10 billion in the agribusiness and infrastructure sectors.

Martin joined ADB in 2009 as an Investment Specialist in the Private Sector Infrastructure Finance Division 1. Martin was promoted to Senior Investment Specialist in 2013 and Principal Investment Specialist in 2015. In the same year, Martin led the creation of the Agribusiness Investment Team to provide dedicated focus and expertise to agribusiness investing at ADB. As of 2021, Martin is leading a team of 15 bankers and analysts who deliver 5 to 8 loans and investments amounting to \$150 million to \$200 million every year. With his team, Martin has built an agribusiness portfolio of around \$670 million including companies involved in agricultural input distribution, greenhouse farming, livestock farming, food and beverage processing and distribution. These companies have positively impacted around 8 million smallholder farmers in 22 developing countries of Asia and the Pacific.

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## Mio Oka

**Director, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture  
Division, South Asia Department, Asian Development Bank**

Mio Oka is currently the Director of the Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division in the South Asia Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Since 2015, she has been responsible in administering several climate adaptation projects including flood and coastal management, water use efficiency, rural connectivity improvement and agriculture value chain projects in the following ADB developing member countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Mio has over 20 years of experience in research, planning, designing, and implementing agriculture and rural development projects in South America, Southeast and South Asia, gained through her work with development organizations and ADB. She obtained her master's degree in Social Policy and Planning in Developing Countries and bachelor's degree in Development Studies and Politics from the University of London (London, UK).

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# Jiangfeng Zhang

**Director, Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank**

Jiangfeng Zhang is the Director of Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division, Southeast Asia Department, concurrently Co-Chair, Environment Thematic Group, of Asian Development Bank (ADB). Since 2002 to date, he has been leading and supporting the development, design, and implementation of agriculture, natural resources, and rural development sector projects covering countries in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Central and West Asia.

His current focus is on policy, institutional, financing, and technological supports to inclusive, climate resilient, and environmentally sustainable agriculture and rural development for enhanced agriculture competitiveness and food security in Southeast Asia countries.

He holds a Doctorate in Agricultural and Resource Economics and a Master's degree in Statistics from the University of California, Berkeley, USA.

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## **Aziz Elbehri**

**Senior Economist and Stream Leader, Agri-food, Rural Development and Socio-economic Policies, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

Aziz Elbehri is a senior economist at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) since 2008. Currently, he leads the socio-economic development and policy group at the FAO Asia-Pacific Regional office in Bangkok. Aziz specializes in climate and food systems interactions, agricultural policy and development, trade and markets, water policy, and digital agriculture.

Before FAO, Aziz was an agricultural economist specializing in trade policy and modeling at the USDA Economic Research Service from 1999 to 2008 before joining FAO.

Aziz has a Ph.D. from Purdue University, a master's degree from the University of Minnesota in agricultural economics and two master degrees in agronomy from the University of Minnesota and from the Institute Agronomique Hassan II, Morocco.

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# Sungsup Ra

**Chief Sector Officer, Asian Development Bank**

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