SPEAKER PROFILE

Samantha Cook

Director, Disaster Risk Management
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Samantha Cook, Director of Disaster Risk Management, leads the development and implementation of ADB's DRM policy, focused on advancing the integration of disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness, and disaster risk financing components into ADB's projects and country programs. Samantha is a financial economist and a recognized leader in risk finance and insurance. Her work has informed policy reforms and operations to improve the financial resilience of governments, businesses, and households against climate shocks and disasters. During her time at the World Bank, she pioneered and implemented innovative risk finance solutions and public private insurance partnerships, such as sovereign catastrophe risk insurance pools, and sovereign contingent credit, in collaboration with governments, development partners and the private sector. Samantha holds an MSc in Economics from University of Nottingham and an MA (hons) on Economics and Finance from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh.