



ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2026

Empowered Lives, Resilient Futures



International
Labour
Organization

Session 5: Is it Working for Our Workforce? Rethinking Social Insurance

Overview of Policy Agenda and Reform

Kenichi Hirose

Senior Social Protection Specialist

ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team for East and South-East Asia and the Pacific

Email: hirose@ilo.org

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this presentation are the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), or its Board of Governors, or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this presentation and accepts no responsibility for any consequence of their use. Terminology used may not necessarily be consistent with ADB official terms.

World Social Protection Report 2024-26: Universal Social Protection for Climate Action and a Just Transition

Key findings

- ▶ **A milestone achieved:** over half the world's population (52.4%) is now covered (Asia-Pacific **53.6%**).
- ▶ Significant progress, but still substantial **coverage gaps** remain. Globally 3.8 billion people have no protection (Asia-Pacific **2.1 billion**).
- ▶ A large **financing gap** in social protection. Asia-Pacific region spent 11.8% of GDP, well below the global average of 19.3%. Additional 3.3% of GDP needed to fill the gap for social protection floors. (Asia-Pacific **2.0% of GDP**)
- ▶ Universal Social Protection is the key for achieving SDG (Target 1.3) and the Paris Agreement on climate change.



Social Insurance – strengths and limitations

- ▶ Ability to provide a higher-level protection (e.g. Social Security Minimum Standards Convention No.102).
- ▶ Contributory – benefits in return for contributions.
- ▶ Cost shared by employers + State subsidies.
- ▶ Administrative efficiency – compulsory deduction from payroll.
- ▶ Exclude the population with weak contributory capacity.
- ▶ Universal basic social security guarantees (Social Protection Floors), e.g. Universal Health Coverage.

New and persistent challenges facing the social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific

AGEING

A rapid rise in the demand of income security, long-term care and healthcare for the elderly.

INFORMALITY

A large and persistent informal economy represents the most significant barrier to extending social protection coverage.

NEW FORMS OF EMPLOYMENT & MOBILITY

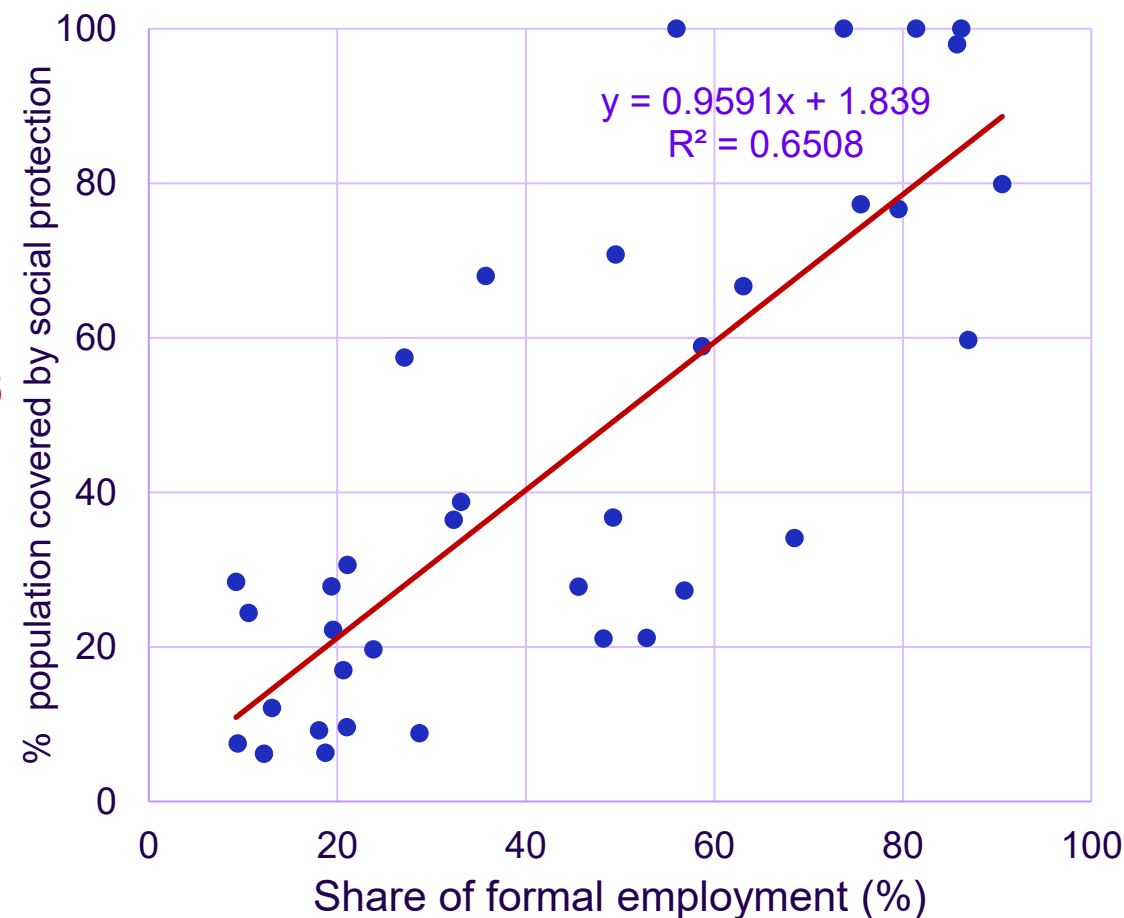
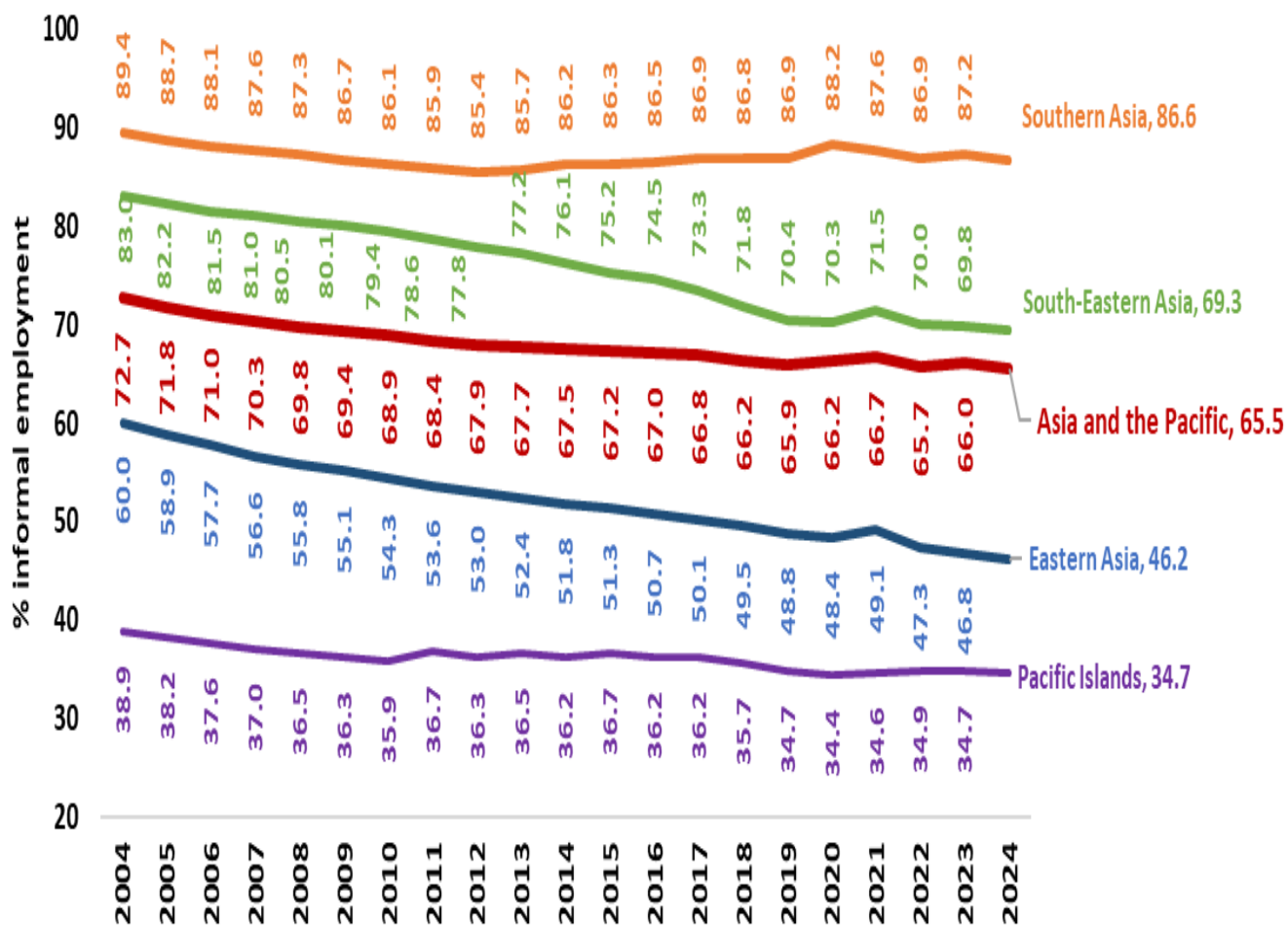
Adopting the systems to the labour market transformation, particularly digital platform work.
Ensuring equal treatment for migrant workers

CLIMATE CHANGE & SHOCKS

Enhance resilience, support climate change adaptation and mitigation, and facilitate a just transition.

*The policy must address how to **expand coverage** and **improve adequacy** while ensuring **financial sustainability**, improving **compliance and efficiency**, and further enhancing **shock-responsiveness**, through integrated interventions.*

Informal employment and social protection coverage in Asia and the Pacific



Policy and Digital Solutions to Extend Social Insurance to Platform Workers – Republic of Korea

