



Asia-Pacific Rural Development and Food Security Forum 2022

Battling Climate Change and Transforming Agri-food Systems

22-24 March 2022

Speakers' Profiles

Leaders' Roundtable: The Future of Food and Agriculture

22 March 2022



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Asia-Pacific Rural Development and Food Security Forum 2022

22–24 March (Virtual)

Leaders' Roundtable: The Future of Food and Agriculture

Join leaders from public and private sectors, development organizations, and academia to discuss strategies for COVID-19 recovery, identify effective policy interventions and financing instruments and promote emerging innovations.



Yutaka Arai
Vice-Minister,
for International Affairs,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries,
Government of Japan



Shiulie Ghosh
Director,
Aero Productions Ltd.



Donal Brown
Associate Vice-President,
Programme Management
Department, International
Fund for Agricultural
Development



Zafar Khashimov
Chief Executive Officer,
Korzinka Supermarket Chain,
Uzbekistan



Roberta Casali
Vice-President (Finance
and Risk Management),
Asian Development Bank



Cao Đức Phát
Vice-Chair,
Board of Trustees,
International Rice
Research Institute



Shenggen Fan
Chair Professor,
China Agricultural University



Qingfeng Zhang
Chief of Rural Development
and Food Security (Agriculture)
Thematic Group,
concurrently OIC, Environment
Thematic Group,
Asian Development Bank



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Shiulie Ghosh

Director, Aero Productions Ltd.

Shiulie Ghosh is an award-winning journalist and TV anchor and has worked for some of the best-known names in the news industry including the BBC, ITV, TRT World and Aljazeera. As one of the main faces of Aljazeera English, she launched the international channel in Qatar in 2006, and over the next decade helped it expand to over 100 countries.

In a career spanning more than thirty years, Shiulie has covered some of the world's top stories and interviewed decision-makers and global leaders. She is also the owner and director of a media services company, Aero Productions Ltd. As a professional moderator, Shiulie has chaired high-level events for organisations including the UN and the WHO, and hosted conferences for industries as diverse as pharmaceuticals, health, agriculture, construction and finance.

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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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Roberta Casali

Vice President, Finance and Risk Management, Asian Development Bank

Roberta Casali is the Vice President, Finance and Risk Management at the Asian Development Bank. She has more than 30 years of executive experience in central banking and the financial sector. She held senior positions in the area of payment systems at the Bank of Italy, in both national and international roles. She also had significant private sector banking experience, including more than 10 years at leading Italian international banking group Intesa Sanpaolo SpA.

From 2017 to 2021 she served on a number of boards of listed and private companies as an independent chair and non-executive director.

She has a degree in Economics and Business Administration from La Sapienza University of Rome, a Master in Business Administration from University of Rochester (USA) and a Certificate in Corporate Governance from INSEAD (France).

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Donal Brown

**Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department,
International Fund for Agricultural Development**

He is responsible for developing and managing the operations that IFAD supports through its loans and grants. He oversees the programme of work of the department, which is undertaken by five Regional Divisions and the Operational Policy and Results Division.

Brown previously worked at the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) in a number of senior positions, lastly as the Africa Director, managing 550 staff across the continent. In 2014-2015, he led the UK's task force to Sierra Leone in support of the government's efforts to fight Ebola. Brown worked at DFID headquarters and in field offices in Africa, Asia and Latin America, covering all of DFID's areas of interest.

Brown holds a Master's degree in Tropical Animal Health and Production from the University of Edinburgh, a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Leadership and Management from the University of Warwick and a Bachelor's in Veterinary Science from the University of Bristol, as well as an Honorary Doctorate in Social Justice from the University of Winchester.

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Shenggen Fan

Former Director General of International Food Policy Research Institute, Currently Chair Professor, China Agricultural University

Dr. Shenggen Fan is currently Chair Professor and Dean of Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy (AGFEP) at China Agricultural University (CAU). Prior to joining CAU, Dr. Fan served as director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) from 2009 to 2019.

He currently serves as a member of the United Nations' Lead Group for the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. He was a member, vice chair and chair of food and nutrition council of the World Economic Forum.

He is a Fellow of Agricultural and Applied Economics Association(AAEA), and a Honorary Life Member, International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE).

Dr. Fan received a PhD in applied economics from the University of Minnesota and bachelor's and master's degrees from Nanjing Agricultural University in China.

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Yutaka Arai

Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan

Aria Yutaka was born on September 14, 1962, from Saitama Prefecture.

She graduated from the University of Tokyo, Faculty of Law.

Since July 2021, Ms. Arai is the Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan. But her involvement in the government started in April 1987 when she joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

Before her current position, Ms. Arai assumed roles from Director, Vice-Governor, and Director-General from 2006 to 2019 with different government and private entities.



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Cao Đức Phát

Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, International Rice Research Institute

Cao Duc Phat is a graduate from Agricultural Academy of Belorussia (1973-1982), and Harvard university (1992-1995).

Mr. Cao was the Director General of the Department of Policy, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam (1995-1998), and the Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam (1999-2002).

He served as a Deputy Secretary of An Giang Provincial Committee of CPV 2003; then appointed as Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam (2004-2016), and became the Permanent Deputy Chair of the Central Economic Commission (2016-2021)

He is a Member of the Central Council for Theoretic Studies; Vice Chair of the BOT of Vietnam Agriculture University; Vice Chair of the BOT of IRRI.

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