

ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2026

Empowered Lives, Resilient Futures

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ADB

SESSION 13

Beyond this Budget Cycle: Making Social Protection Sustainable

MODERATOR



Laisiasa Tora
Principal Public Sector Specialist
Public Sector Management and
Governance Sector Cluster
Sectors Department 3
Asian Development Bank

Lai is a Principal Public Sector Specialist in ADB and has over 25 years of experience in public sector management, including with the Fijian Ministry of Finance, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (a regional organization), and the Asian Development Bank.

He leads the Emerging Areas Team of ADB's Public Sector Management and Governance Sector Office and serves as a project mentor on various operations in Central and West Asia and the Pacific. Lai has extensive strategic and operational experience and has led project operations in support of fiscal management, social protection, public financial management, state-owned enterprise reform, tax administration and compliance, and public investment management in the Asia and Pacific region.

Lai is an alumnus of Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, and the Harvard Kennedy School, United States.

SPEAKERS and PANELIST



Dinar Dana Kharisma
Director of Social and Economic Independence
Ministry of National Development Planning
Government of Indonesia

Since 2008, Dinar Dana Kharisma has helped design national social protection programs, including the conditional cash transfer Program Keluarga Harapan, the Integrated Social Service and Referral System (SLRT), and the National Social Security System (SJSN). He is currently developing the Affirmative Empowerment Card to expand equal economic opportunity for the poor and vulnerable. He is also formulating the Grand Design of Community Empowerment to integrate Indonesia's various social and economic empowerment programs, to further enhance economic independence, social agency, and community resilience in the face of risks and transitions. His previous policy products include Desa Cemara, a capacity-building model for local and village governments to support a more affirmative planning process, and the award-winning Integrated Older People Care in five cities in Indonesia. As an academic, Dinar is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Padjadjaran, focusing on social policy analysis. He received his BA in Economics from the University of Indonesia, MA in Law and Diplomacy from Tufts University, USA, and MA and PhD in Social Policy from Brandeis University, USA.



K. A. P. Damayanthie
Director, Department of National Planning
Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic
Development
Government of Sri Lanka

Kasthuri Arachchilage Pushpa Damayanthie currently serves as a Director at the Department of National Planning, where she is responsible for the Department's social protection sector activities. During the past five years, she has been actively involved in advancing social protection initiatives, with a focus on project appraisal, policy development, and programme implementation.

Prior to her current position, she worked as a Deputy Director at the Department of Fiscal Policy. Furthermore, served as an Assistant Director at a Divisional

Secretariat, gaining valuable experience in project implementation.

She holds a Bachelor of Science (BSc) Special Degree in Botany from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. In addition, she completed a Master of Business Administration (MBA), further strengthening her expertise.

Her professional interests encompass social protection, public policy, and development planning, with a particular emphasis on project appraisal and evidence-based policymaking. Committed to continuous learning and excellence in public service, she strives to contribute to sustainable development, effective policymaking, and institutional improvement through evidence-based planning and collaboration.



Salote Latu Biukoto
Principal Welfare Officer
Disability and Older Persons Unit
Department of Social Protection
Government of Fiji

A strong disability inclusion advocate that co-authored 5 disability programs with its national disability specific budget lines in Fiji.

She oversees operations in 3 state aged care facilities as well as administers 3 government budget lines for older persons and its activities.



Jil Taige
Advisor, GLZ / Task Force on Linking Adaptive Social Protection and Climate Finance

Jil Taige is an Advisor at GLZ's Social Protection Sector Initiative, working at the intersection of social protection and climate action. In her role, she contributes to the Task Force on Linking Adaptive Social Protection and Climate Financing, where she leads the development banks workstream.

Prior to this position, she held roles at KfW Development Bank, with the World Food Programme and served at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and

Development (BMZ) in the Pakistan Division. Her international experience spans work in Cambodia and Malawi.

Having studied in Marburg and Tokyo, Jil Taige holds a master's degree in political science with a focus on comparative politics and development cooperation.



Navendu Karan
Director
Public Sector Management and
Governance Sector Cluster
Sectors Department 3
Asian Development Bank

Navendu Karan leads PSMG in Central and West and East Asia teams; and the Strategy, Emerging Areas, and Knowledge (SEEK) team.

Prior to joining ADB in 2016, Navendu has worked with organizations such as the Reserve Bank of India and various consultancy firms. Navendu has a doctorate in economics, a master's degree in financial management, and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He has more than 25 years of experience in public sector management, including expenditure reforms, domestic resource mobilization, debt management and sustainability, fiscal decentralization, macroeconomic modelling, and economic analysis. He has also structured complex public-private partnership transactions across various sectors, including urban development, transport, health, education, agriculture, tourism, and energy.