



Full Program and Session Details



	27 th May TUESDAY	28 th May WEDNESDAY	29 th May THURSDAY	30 th May FRIDAY
08:00	Site Visits (see Site Visits section on p.18 for more details)	Opening Ceremony and Plenary "Rethinking Livability: How Do We Achieve a Breakthrough?"		
09:00		Plenary: "Beyond Financing: Strategic Partnership as the Cornerstone of National Development"		
10:00		Plenary: "Building Better Futures: Harnessing Innovation for Efficiency, Equity and Inclusivity"		
11:00		Plenary: "Building Better Futures: Harnessing Innovation for Efficiency, Equity and Inclusivity"		
12:00	Whole Day: The Asia Pacific Youth Symposium	Lunch / Leadership Lunch (by-invitation) Youth Track: Drip and Dine		
13:00		Lunch / Leadership Lunch (by-invitation) Youth Track: Drip and Dine		
14:00		The Asia Pacific Youth Symposium Closing		
15:00		The Asia Pacific Youth Symposium Closing		
16:00	Whole Day: The Asia Pacific Youth Symposium	The Asia Pacific Youth Symposium Closing		
17:00		The Asia Pacific Youth Symposium Closing		
18:00		The Asia Pacific Youth Symposium Closing		
20:00		The Asia Pacific Youth Symposium Closing		

- Legends:**
- Site Visit
 - Plenary
 - Networking/ Break
 - APYS
 - Technical
 - Deep Dive
 - Fireside Chat
 - Shark Tank
 - Debate
 - Project Lab
 - Masterclass

□ Session Group
 NB: Sessions in one shared frame will happen simultaneously.



FULL PROGRAM AND SESSION DETAILS

May 28, Wednesday	
09:00-10:00 AM	
<p>Rethinking Livability: How Do We Achieve a Breakthrough?</p> <p>Auditorium 1-4</p> <p>28 May Wednesday 9:00-10:00 AM</p> <p>Opening Ceremony and Plenary</p>	<p>AWUF 2025 is taking place during a period of geopolitical and economic uncertainty. Yet, for millions living in Asia and the Pacific, their immediate needs remain unchanged. This Forum frames Livability as the challenge – and opportunity – of our time. In this context, development finance institutions and their stakeholders must rethink the power and potential of collective action. The opening panel sets the stage for this critical conversation, highlighting how collaboration, innovation, and strategic investment can shape living environments to make them resilient, equitable, and fit for the future.</p> <p>Aligned with the theme of the AWUF 2025, Valuing Water and Enhancing Livability in Asia and the Pacific, and the focus of this session on ‘Rethinking Livability: How do we achieve a breakthrough’, the interconnected objectives of the session are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reimagining Collective Action for Water and Livability: explore bold, breakthrough strategies to strengthen collaboration among governments, private entities, and civil society for innovative urban and water solutions. 2. Strategic Partnerships for Water Security: leverage ADB’s expertise to redefine how partnerships mobilize finance and technology for transformative water management. 3. Transforming Cities for Resilient Livability: identify disruptive approaches to integrate climate-adaptive infrastructure and urban systems that push beyond conventional sustainability models. 4. Mobilizing Investment for Inclusive Growth: shift investment paradigms to accelerate innovation in water and urban development, ensuring projects are more equitable, scalable, and future-ready. 5. Advancing Regional Goals Through Innovation: reassess traditional methods and embrace breakthrough thinking to align development efforts with ADB’s Strategy 2030 for lasting prosperity. <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Moderator: Norio Saito, Senior Director, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB</p> <p>Opening Remarks: Fatima Yasmin, Vice President, Sectors & Themes, ADB</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henk Ovink, Executive Director, Founding Commissioner, Global Commission on the Economics of Water • Kotchakorn Voraakhom, Chairwoman of Climate Change Working Group, International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA World)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Buhigas San Jose, Chief Architect of Barcelona City Council • Taikan Oki, Professor and Special Advisor to the President, Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo • Roshan Raj Shrestha, Deputy Director, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Gates Foundation <p>Closing remarks: F. Cleo Kawawaki, Director General, Sectors Department 2, ADB</p>
10:30 AM-12:00 PM	
<p><i>The Water Dividend: How Valuing Water Shapes our Future</i></p> <p>Auditorium 2-3</p> <p>28 May Wednesday 10:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>Deep Dive</p>	<p>Ahead of the UN Water Conference in 2026, this session convenes thought leaders to collectively explore the priorities set out in by the Global Commission on the Economics of Water (GCEW). What actions need to be taken when, and by whom?</p> <p>This session explores innovative approaches to valuing water, bringing together expert perspectives and regional applications across Asia and the Pacific. Panelists will examine how GCEW frameworks can guide more sustainable water governance by recognizing water's true value—beyond market price. Discussions will highlight practical examples of applying valuation methods in diverse contexts, including the use of shadow pricing to inform policy and investment decisions. Panelists will set out their respective perspectives on economics, finance and innovation around valuing water.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relevance of GCEW work on valuing water framework 2. Application of valuing water framework in Asia Pacific 3. Role of shadow water pricing in achieving development outcomes <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Moderator: Satoshi Ishii, Director, Strategy and Partnerships, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB</p> <p>Opening Remarks: F. Cleo Kawawaki, Director General, Sectors Department 2, ADB</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henk Ovink, Executive Director, Founding Commissioner, Global Commission on the Economics of Water • Taikan Oki, Professor and Special Advisor to the President, Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo • Alex Money, Founder and CEO, Watermarq • Sanath Ranawana, Director, East Asia, Agriculture, Food, Nature and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Neeta Pokhrel, Director, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB



	<p>Closing Remarks: Norio Saito, Senior Director, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB</p>
<p>Planning and Financing Cities of the Future</p> <p>Auditorium 1</p> <p>28 May Wednesday 10:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>Fireside Chat</p>	<p>This session delves into subnational financing strategies for smart and resilient cities of the future, including regional case studies and lessons learned from financing of smart cities, mobilization of innovative subnational financing of new cities, such as New Tashkent City (NTC) - a new green and smart urban center in Uzbekistan. The project is an ambitious undertaking spearheaded by the President of Uzbekistan to build a new city on 20,000 hectares of Government land to accommodate 500,000 people by 2050. The discussion will focus on the masterplan developed and on new ways of identifying financing sources for the initial infrastructure built-up (roads, water, electricity, public transportation, basic housing, etc.).</p> <p>The session will discuss opportunities for strengthening resilience via subnational climate investment planning and leveraging a combination of private, public and international funding sources and modalities, thereby minimizing the risk of over-reliance on any one form of financing. Challenges and opportunities for some innovative financing and funding modalities such as internal accruals from the sale of its allocated land, property taxes, asset monetization, land value capture, user charges, PPPs, climate finance, green/impact bond issuances, etc. will be covered during the session.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subnational financing strategies for smart and resilient cities of the future, including regional approaches and case studies 2. Government of Uzbekistan's subnational financing approach for New Tashkent' capital expansion 3. Challenges and opportunities in mobilizing funding through new and innovative funding strategies and instruments for subnational urban development <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danis Hidayat Sumadilaga, Deputy for Facilities & Infrastructure, Nusantara Capital Authority • Abbasxanov Maksud Numanovich, Deputy Director, New Tashkent Directorate, Republic of Uzbekistan • Dong Young Kim, Director at Global Business Office, Korea Land and Housing Corporation • Jed Quimpo, CEO of Ayala Land's REIT Program, Ayala Land • Enrico Pinali, Regional Head, Private Sector Development Unit, Central West Regional Department, ADB • Christine Po King Chan, Principal Urban Development Specialist (Finance and Investment), Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Dmitry Kabrelyan, Senior Private Sector Development Specialist, Private Sector Development Unit, Central and West Asia Department, ADB • Peter Marro, Consultant and Former ADB Advisor, Sub-national Finance Expert



<p><i>Laundry's Hidden Power: Where Water, Hygiene, and People Meet</i></p> <p>Auditorium 4</p> <p>28 May Wednesday 10:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>Fireside Chat</p>	<p>Globally, 50% of laundry is done by hand, consuming up to 20% of household active time. Laundry practices are a critical yet underexplored element of many daily lives. This fireside chat addresses the significant burden of laundry practices on water and energy resources, health, and social well-being by promoting sustainable laundry practices to reduce water usage, pollution, and the overall environmental and social impacts. The session will bring together voices from industry, academia, ADB and innovators to explore why laundry has not been leapfrogging in Asia and the Pacific and how reimagining laundry practices can create tangible impacts by improving hygiene standards, enhancing quality of life, and driving water savings and efficiency. By leveraging potential innovative partnerships and real-world examples, this session will highlight how addressing this seemingly simple household task can drive transformative change in water and sanitation systems and the lives of communities in Asia and the Pacific. This session will be a two-way conversation, encouraging participants to share their perspectives while gaining actionable insights into scaling these practices to improve public health and support sustainable urban development.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How laundry, the often-forgotten topic, relates to water, health and hygiene, and women's labor 2. Practical solutions that decrease laundry burden on communities and the environment 3. Possible synergies between development agencies, private sector and academia to enhance laundry practices <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda A. Satterly, Principal Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), Gender Equality Division, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB • Antoinette Taus, Goodwill Ambassador, Founder, UNEP Philippines CORA Philippines • Salma Enan, Program Assistant, Young Professional, MetaMeta • Haidy Seang Ear-Dupuy, Unit Head, NGO and Civil Society Center, Fragility and Engagement Division, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB • Blaire Ng, Health Specialist, Human and Social Sector Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 3, ADB • Jaya Singh Verma, Senior Policy and Programme Manager, Indo-Pacific Regional Department, British High Commission, New Delhi, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom • Kim Patria, Campaigns and Communities of Practice Director, Investing in Women Initiative
<p><i>Nature-Based Solutions Reality Check: What's working, what's not, and what's next</i></p>	<p>Implementing nature-based solutions at scale has proven surprisingly difficult, despite openness from DMCs to try new techniques and their adoption by the private sector. Why is this? Can they really stand up to climate change? ADB's urban team will present some successes, failures, frustrations and we will hear fascinating lessons from government and private sector experts on recent developments.</p>



<p>Multifunction Hall 3</p> <p>28 May Wednesday 10:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>Project Lab</p>	<p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Typical application of NBS in urban contexts 2. Obstacles to NBS application 3. How to make design changes to NBS solutions for more successful projects <p>Moderator: My Binh Nguyen, Urban Development Specialist, ADB</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levon Hovhannisyan, Deputy Mayor, Yerevan, Republic of Armenia • Kotchakorn Voraakhom, CEO, Porous City Network • Ngoc Nguyen (Thi Bich Ngoc), Environmental Safeguard Officer, Hue City People's Committee, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam • Maria Pia Ancora, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Pritha Hariam, Head of APAC, Water Infrastructure & Climate Adaptation, Ramboll
<p><i>Regulatory Opportunities to Support Climate-Resilient Sanitation</i></p> <p>Innovation Hub</p> <p>28 May Wednesday 10:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>Project Lab</p>	<p>The session addresses regulation as an entry point to improve climate resilient sanitation infrastructure and services. Flooding, water scarcity, rising sea levels and changing temperatures, are putting additional pressure on already-strained sanitation systems and services. Meanwhile, ADB's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2030 promotes investment in climate resilient sanitation to reduce GHG emissions, protect water resources, improve service chain management, and promote wastewater reuse and energy capture. This session will discuss conducive regulatory frameworks to support climate resilience in citywide sanitation, including consideration on how to align incentives, apply risk-based approaches, evolve technical standards for new and uncertain conditions, promote innovation and private sector involvement, reduce carbon footprints, increase circularity, and regulate relevant sanitation service models. It will include an engaging mix of presentations, and interactive table discussions to apply new ideas to specific country and project contexts.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key considerations for regulation that supports improved climate resilience of urban sanitation services 2. Examples of sanitation regulation advancements in other countries that support climate resilience 3. Application of regulatory entry points in selected country and project contexts to support climate resilient sanitation <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jitendra Singh, Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Prof. Juliet Willetts, Research Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University Technology Sydney • Pushkar Srivastava, Senior Project Management Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohammad Golam Muktadir, Project Director, Department of Public Health Engineering, People's Republic of Bangladesh • Elma Morsheda, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Mai Flor, Executive Director, Water Links • Patrick Ty, Chief Regulator, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Regulatory Office • Isha Basyal / Dr. Sangam Shrestha, Professor, Global Water and Sanitation Center, Asian Institute of Technology • Roshan Shrestha, Deputy Director, Gates Foundation • Ronald Muana, Investment Operations Specialist – Water and Sanitation, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank • Pierre Flamand, Manager of International Affairs, Japan Sanitation Consortium • Katrina Charles, Professor, School of Geography and the Environment, Oxford University
<p>Healthy and Age-Friendly Cities: Building the Case for Inclusive Design</p> <p>Multifunction Hall 2</p> <p>28 May Wednesday 10:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>Debate</p>	<p>Urbanization and population ageing are two global megatrends that together comprise major forces shaping the 21st century. Urbanization is a key determinant of health and welfare and, by 2050, about 68% of humans will live in urban areas. At the same time, rapid aging also in Asia and the Pacific has put the region at the forefront of one of the most important global demographic trends. By 2050, one in four people in Asia and the Pacific will be over 60 years old. Cities need to be fit for the emerging four-generation urban society, age-inclusive for people of all ages including children and older people. This session will focus on how universal design can support the development of active, healthy, and age-friendly cities. Accessibility and safety of public spaces, amenities and services, public transport and appropriate housing can all promote healthy lifestyles for people of all ages in urban communities</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designing cities to ensure accessibility for all, including older people, people with disabilities, children, and the urban poor, benefit all citizens and help to build a sense of community. 2. Multiple approaches to inclusive design and why it is worth the investment. 3. Challenges and opportunities to plan and implement people-centered and universal design in subnational urban development, including through participatory design. <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rasmus Duong Grunnet, Director, Jan Gehl Architects – Making Cities for People, Copenhagen, Denmark • Haifeng Xing, Director General-level Inspector, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, People's Republic of China • Maria Buhigas San Jose, Chief Architect, Barcelona City Council • Pratchaya Sangsab, Plan and Policy Analyst, National Economic and Social Development Board, Kingdom of Thailand • Kristina Katich, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jessie McComb, Senior Tourism Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Gohar Tadevosyan, Senior Social Development Specialist, Human and Social Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 3, ADB
01:30-3:00 PM	
<p>Charting the Course to Water Security: The Asia Water Development Outlook (AWDO) Masterclass Series (day 1)</p> <p>Auditorium 1</p> <p>28 May Wednesday</p> <p>1:30-5:00 PM</p> <p>By invitation only</p> <p>Masterclass (Note: 3 hour-session)</p>	<p>The Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) 2025 Masterclass Series will provide an exclusive preview of early findings from Asia and the Pacific's flagship water security assessment. Spanning two days, this interactive session brings together government officials, technical experts, and development partners to explore key water security challenges and solutions across five dimensions: rural, economic, urban, environmental, and resilience to water-related disasters.</p> <p>Participants will engage with new data and methodologies, reflect on country-specific assessments, and contribute to consultations that will shape the final stages of AWDO 2025. Through breakout discussions, expert panels, and real-time feedback tools, the session aims to foster practical recommendations and collaboration. This is a unique opportunity for countries and stakeholders to co-create pathways toward achieving water security for all in the region.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How to understand AWDO's five Key Dimensions of water security and how countries are assessed How to identify turning points (policy, governance, and financing levers) to improve national water security How to explore regional innovations and collaborative pathways for strengthening resilience <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taikan Oki, Professor and Special Advisor to the President, Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo Norio Saito, Senior Director, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Qingfeng Zhang, Senior Director, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Katrina Charles, Professor School of Geography and the Environment, Oxford University, Oxford University Fulco Ludwing, Strategic Program for Water Data Science, IWMI Steve Kenway, Professor and Research Group Leader, IWC Griffith University, Queensland University Ben Stewart Koster, Research Fellow, IWC Griffith University, Queensland University William Veerbeek, Researcher, UN IHE Colin Herron, Senior Water Resources Specialist, Global Water Partnership Satoshi Ishii, Director, Strategy and Partnerships, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vivek Raman, Principal Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Lachlan Guthrie, ADB Consultant, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sector Development 2, ADB Simran Uppal, ADB Consultant, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sector Development 2, ADB
<p><i>The Bang-for-Buck Dilemma: Rethinking Asia and the Pacific's Infrastructure Strategy</i></p> <p>Auditorium 4</p> <p>28 May Wednesday 1:30-5:00 PM</p> <p>By invitation only</p> <p>Masterclass (Note: 3 hour-session)</p>	<p>ADB's developing member countries are facing a more difficult challenge than today's advanced economies faced as they were industrializing. Not only is Asia facing much faster rates of urbanization, but they are also racing against two other clocks: aging populations and climate change. They do not have the luxury of infrastructure assets which are "ok." Asia's infrastructure has to be as productive as possible – delivering the highest bang for buck that today's technology and engineers can achieve – but how do we determine what that is?</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jingmin Huang, Director, East Asia, Central Asia and West Asia, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Mark Hegnauer, Director, Deltares, Singapore
<p><i>2.2 Billion Reasons for MDBs to Deliver on their Water and Urban Commitments</i></p> <p>Auditorium 2-3</p> <p>28 May Wednesday 1:30-3:00 PM</p> <p>Deep Dive</p>	<p>Representatives from leading MDBs will set out their latest thinking on how MDBs can better coordinate and joint together to accelerate water security under global uncertainties through new tools, modalities and applications that support policy and regulatory reforms as well as increased investment to achieve improved development outcomes, while ensuring climate resilience.</p> <p>Moderated questions will be grouped on three themes: (i) innovation in the utilization of existing bank capital; (ii) mobilizing additional climate finance for inclusive resilience and prosperity; (iii) and the role of technology in unlocking increased impact from development finance.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Latest thinking on development finance innovation from MDBs Opportunities for collaboration on mobilizing finance Role of technology in enhancing MDB engagement and impact <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Moderator: Laxmi Sharma, Unit Head, Project Administration, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB</p> <p>Opening Remarks: Chia-Hsin Hu, Head, Office of Business Intelligence and Operations Coordination, ADB</p> <p>Panelists:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaya Verma Singh, Senior Policy and Programme Manager, Indo-Pacific Regional Department, British High Commission, New Delhi, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom • Nizar Zaied, Manager for Agriculture, Water Resource and Rural Development, Islamic Development Bank • Sanjay Pahuja, Senior Water Resources Specialist, World Bank • Srinivas Sampath, Director, Emerging Areas, Water and Urban Development, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Guoping Zhang, Principal Investment Solutions Specialist (Water, Nature and Climate), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank <p>Closing Reflections: Claus Astrup, Director, Strategy and Policy Department, ADB</p>
<p>The Pipeline Exchange: Financing of Investment-ready Projects</p> <p>K-Hub</p> <p>28 May Wednesday 1:30-3:00 PM</p> <p>By invitation only</p> <p>Shark Tank</p>	<p>Significant investments are essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the climate targets under the Paris Agreement. However, the current investment is significantly below the required level. The State of Cities Climate Finance 2024 suggests that while urban climate finance flows have more than doubled in recent years (reaching \$831 billion in 2021/2022), they must accelerate even further – by at least fivefold – to achieve decarbonization goals and safeguard cities from climate hazards.</p> <p>Closing the massive investment gap requires the effective channeling of climate finance from the national and international levels to the city/local level where project preparation and implementation takes place. In reality, however, cities and local authorities often lack the financial and technical capacity to prepare structured projects on their own, facing challenges such as inadequate project development, fiscal constraints, and institutional gaps, among other challenges. In this context, project preparation facilities (PPFs) can provide critical support in preparing “investment-ready” projects that meet investors' requirements and priorities. Meanwhile, multilateral development banks like the Asian Development Bank (ADB), play a crucial role in advancing urban climate finance. In 2021, ADB announced its ambition to increase its cumulative climate financing to \$100 billion between 2019 and 2030, providing a substantial boost to urban climate investment in the region.</p> <p>To facilitate the financing of investment-ready projects in ADB's developing member countries (DMCs), this event convenes PPF representatives, ADB project officers, and cities to foster meaningful exchange, facilitate partnerships, and enable matchmaking between them. By sharing insights on preparing bankable projects and aligning with investment criteria, and exchanging project pipeline, the event aims to enhance the quality and quantity of projects, mitigate investment risks, improve investment efficiency, and strengthen the coordination of project pipeline toward more impactful development outcomes.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to enhance project preparation, gaining a deeper understanding of structuring projects that meet funding and implementation criteria.



	<p>2. How to increase investment readiness and risk mitigation, acquiring insights into the opportunities for improving the technical and financial viability of projects while enhancing resource allocation and efficiency.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satoshi Ishii, Director, Strategy and Partnerships, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Lara Arjan, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Hamza Abdullah, Analyst, Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance Asil Abuassba, Advisor/Project Manager, City Climate Finance Gap Fund George Scott, Project Pipeline Manager, Catalytic Finance Foundation Riccardo Maroso, Programme Manager, ASUS Project, UN-Habitat Chencho Dorjee, Program Manager, Smart Green ASEAN Cities, United Nations Capital Development Fund Karishma Kashyap, Associate Director, APAC – Cities, States & Regions, CDP Beatrice Francesca Orante, Regional Engagement Manager, Asia, C40 Cities Finance Facility Olga Chepelianskaia, Senior Urban Specialist, Cities Alliance
<p><i>Who Pays for Tomorrow? Rethinking Resilience in a Shifting World</i></p> <p>Multifunction Hall 3</p> <p>28 May Wednesday 1:30-3:00 PM</p> <p>Fireside Chat</p>	<p>As climate risks intensify, governments of developing countries are facing an urgent need to scale up urban resilience investments. However, shifting global financial priorities, evolving donor strategies, and macroeconomic uncertainties are altering the landscape of urban climate finance. Traditional sources of public climate finance are under pressure. In this context, cities and their partners are being called to do more—with less—and to do it faster.</p> <p>This 90-minute fireside session—led by the Urban Resilience Trust Fund (URTF) and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)—brings together a diverse circle of voices, from city governments and national ministries to MDBs, donors, philanthropic foundations, and private innovators, for a candid, story-driven conversation about the future of urban resilience finance. This session embraces the authenticity of a fireside chat to surface both hard truths and hopeful ideas.</p> <p>Expect personal reflections, provocative prompts, and live audience moments as we explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How power and capital are shifting in the resilience finance landscape; What’s working (and what’s not) in current financing models; What city and community leaders actually need from global financing systems; And the bold ideas that could change everything in the years ahead. <p>This is not just a conversation—it’s a call to rethink the systems, structures, and relationships that will define how we fund our urban future.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Insights into how shifting global financial priorities and macroeconomic uncertainties impact urban resilience investments.



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge on innovative financing approaches and partnerships that go beyond traditional mechanisms Actionable insights into how cities and their allies can future-proof resilience funding amid turbulence, from economic shocks to political pivots <p>Participants will learn:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Insights into how shifting global financial priorities and macroeconomic uncertainties impact urban resilience investments. Knowledge on innovative financing approaches and partnerships that go beyond traditional mechanisms Actionable insights into how cities and their allies can future-proof resilience funding amid turbulence, from economic shocks to political pivots <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shantanu Mitra, Alternative Executive Director for Austria / Germany / Luxembourg / United Kingdom, Board of Directors, ADB Norio Saito, Senior Director, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB John Warburton, Head, Climate Change and Environment, Indo-Pacific Regional Department & Senior Climate and Environment Adviser, British High Commission, New Delhi, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom Yuan Xiao, Senior Specialist in Sustainable Cities, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Michael Lindfield, Director, Urban Infrastructure Services Ltd. Mar-Len Abigail Binay, Mayor, Makati City Satoshi Ishii, Director, Strategy and Partnerships, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Lu Shen, Director, Strategy, Policy and Partnerships, Strategy, Policy and Partnerships Department, ADB Kristina Katich, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Sakshi Gudwani, Senior Program Officer, Gates Foundation
<p><i>Affordable Homes, Resilient Futures for 600 Million People: A near possibility?</i></p> <p>Innovation Hub</p> <p>28 May Wednesday 1:30-3:00 PM</p> <p>Project Lab</p>	<p>The technical session will provide an overview of the key challenges and approaches to enable sustainable urban development through green, resilient, inclusive, and affordable housing initiatives. Focusing on three relevant examples – (i) Green and Resilient Affordable Housing Sector Project in Bhutan, (ii) Sindh Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project in Pakistan, and (iii) The Indonesia Green and Affordable Housing Program – the session will share strategies that integrate environmental sustainability, disaster resilience, social inclusivity, and affordability in affordable housing development.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Green and Resilient Affordable Housing Sector Project in Bhutan Sindh Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project in Pakistan Indonesia Green and Affordable Housing Program



	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hong Soo Lee, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Sonam Zam, Project Officer (Procurement and Implementation), South Asia Regional Department, ADB Ringchen Wangdi, CEO, National Housing Development Corporation Limited, Kingdom of Bhutan Rabia Arif, Associate Project Officer, Central and West Asia Regional Department, ADB Mudassir H. Khan, CEO, Pakistan Mortgage Refinance Company, Islamic Republic of Pakistan Khalid Mehmood Shaikh, CEO, Sindh People's Housing for Flood Affectees, Islamic Republic of Pakistan Vivek Rao, Principal Financial Sector Specialist, Financial Sector Office, Sectors Department 3, ADB Rasmus Duong Grunnet, Director, Gehl – Making Cities for People David Dodman, General Director, Institute for Housing and Urban Development
3:30-5:00 PM	
Continuation of masterclass sessions (1:30-5:00PM)	
<p>Delivering Water to 150,000 People in Emergency and Camp Settings</p> <p>Multifunction Hall 3</p> <p>28 May Wednesday</p> <p>3:30-5:00PM</p> <p>Fireside Chat</p>	<p>Perspectives on the challenges in ensuring WASH services to more than 150,000 people in emergency refugee camp settings will be shared by the EA, a service provider (NGO) and ADB project staff. The ongoing ADB-financed Emergency Assistance Project (additional financing) is a unique undertaking by both the Government of Bangladesh and ADB, noting the complex and protracted situation presented by the influx of more than 1 million displaced people from Myanmar into Bangladesh since 2017. The panelists will share on the lessons learned, and how they are being applied to the next phase of ADB financing.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Government, NGO and ADB perspectives on delivering WASH in an emergency setting Approaches to involving displaced people in WASH services, including livelihoods and skills development How lessons learned from the crisis over the past 7 years are being applied to future interventions <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mohammad Golam Muktadir, Project Director, Department of Public Health Engineering, People's Republic of Bangladesh Md. Toriqul Islam, Head of Programme Operation, NGO Forum for Public Health Bangladesh Humayun Kabir, Senior Project Officer (Transport), Transport Sector Office, Sectors Department 1, ADB Alexandra Conroy, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB



<p>Housing 4 All: Transforming Lives, Economies, and Communities</p> <p>K-Hub</p> <p>28 May Wednesday 3:30-5:00PM</p> <p>Fireside Chat</p>	<p>This session aims to promote adequate housing as a key driver for inclusive economic growth, and a key enabler of other development dimensions, such as living standards, health, and education. The session will present the largest national housing for all program – <i>Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana</i> - launched by the Government of India and discuss experiences of the panelists from UN-Habitat, IIED, UK and UrbanWave, Malaysia. The session will offer a collaborative platform for discussing innovative solutions to green, resilient, inclusive and affordable housing challenges and upgrading informal settlements. The session will also look at experiences from eastern and southern Africa that have lesson for Asia. The session will harness ideas to identify areas for collaboration at the national, region, city and community level.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information regarding delivery of large-scale national programs for housing 2. Design innovations for delivery of affordable housing <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruno Dercon, Officer-in-Charge, Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), UN-Habitat • Kuldip Narayan, Joint Secretary and MD, Housing for All, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY- U), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India • David Dodman, General Director, Institute for Housing and Urban Development • Cha-Ly Koh, Founder, Urbanmetry, Malaysia • Debasis Singh, Joint Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha, India • Srinivas Sampath, Director, Emerging Areas, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Ramola Naik Singru, Principal Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB
<p>Greenfield Innovation: Designing Next-Gen Low-Carbon Cities from Scratch</p> <p>Auditorium 2-3</p> <p>28 May Wednesday 3:30-5:00PM</p> <p>Shark Tank</p>	<p>Rapid urbanization requires managing of urban growth as expanding on greenfields into the outskirts and as retrofitting through rehabilitation and infill development in existing urban areas. It is challenging to navigate the complex stakeholder, commercial and community interests, complying with regulations and optimizing urban planning and design. New greenfield developments have a unique opportunity to get things right. New towns and new cities ought to ensure they are state of the art low-carbon, land- and resource-efficient based on compact city and transit-oriented development principles. They need to be climate-resilient and based on risk-informed planning, applying nature-based solutions through public green and blue infrastructure and open space networks. They need to be livable and inclusive, equitable for women and men, rich and poor, strong and vulnerable, old and young residents and communities. They need to benefit from smart integrated digital platforms and handheld applications. This session will capture lessons from the PRC, India, Indonesia and the Philippines. Amaravati in India, Nusantara in Indonesia, Clark New City in Philippines and examples from the PRC will serve as cases for the session. The discussion will highlight challenges and opportunities of innovative, sustainable urban development including land mobilization and acquisition, securing infrastructure corridors, inclusive urban services, minimizing environmental impacts, stakeholder engagement and innovative and financing,</p>



	<p>sustainably benefiting from land value capture. Innovative strategies, policy lessons, the importance of adaptive governance and champions driving the process and ADB's support and contributions will be discussed.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. About the complexity of greenfield development challenges: Participants see the complex challenges influencing planning of new towns and cities, i.e. Amaravati and Nusantara, faced challenges on land acquisition, different and opposing interests, communities, geographic, natural, environmental, opportunities, climate risks. 2. How visions and sustainable urban development principles are shaping integrated urban planning and design: Participants will see the importance of an overall vision and multisector principles, using specific location and local cultural opportunities, risk-informed planning, green-blue open space systems, and infrastructure and services development concentration areas, i.e. in the cases of Nusantara and Amaravati, Clark New City and PRC cases. 3. Models of successful phased implementation, arrangements and financing, and how ADB support can enhance sustainability: Participants will understand the different models of implementation from the cases and see what worked well and what didn't and the role of ADB in supporting the sustainability of large-scale new urban developments, like Amaravati and Nusantara, Clark New City and cases from the PRC. <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danis Hidayat Sumadilaga, Deputy for Facilities & Infrastructure, Nusantara Capital Authority • Randy Viacrusis, Vice-President and Head of Strategic Project Management Department, Bases Conversion Development Authority, Republic of the Philippines • Stefan Rau, Principal Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Kristina Katich, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Joris van Etten, Country Operations Head, Southeast Asia Department, ADB • Sanjay Divakar Joshi, Principal Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Ashwin Hosur Viswanath, Senior Project Officer (Urban), Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Yulia Yulia, National ADB Nusantara Coordinator/ Loan Preparation Expert, ADB
<p>Inclusive Sanitation: Solutions for Every Community</p> <p>Innovation Hub</p> <p>28 May Wednesday 3:30-5:00PM</p>	<p>The session will highlight innovative sanitation solutions tailored for diverse communities, from urban areas to remote villages. Using a Shark Tank format, this dynamic event is where innovation meets impact. Sanitation changemakers will present their models, technologies, or pilot programs to a distinguished panel of judges, referred to as our "Sharks."</p> <p>This session is aimed at sharing and refining ideas or concepts that are ready for implementation. The pitches from these changemakers will cover a range of topics, including decentralized treatment solutions, policies, and legislation. The focus of this session is to</p>



Shark Tank	<p>help exceptional ideas with real potential gain momentum and support for growth. It emphasizes solutions, connections, and valuable feedback.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the emphasized need for inclusive, innovative sanitation solutions fit for different communities. 2. innovative and bold ideas to address pressing sanitation concerns, and insights and suggestions on how to improve their potential; and 3. how powerful, solution-focused support can unlock energy, surface fresh thinking, and move ideas forward in developing potential sanitation solutions. <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jitendra K Singh, Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Juliet Willetts, Professor and Research Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University Technology Sydney • Kiyoshi Nakamitsu, Principal Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Kazushi Hashimoto, Consultant, ADB Institute, Tokyo • Yurie Shirakawa, Japan Education Center of Environmental Sanitation, Tokyo • Soner Bekir, Algaesys • Isha Basyal, Global Water and Sanitation Center, Asian Institute of Technology • Jason Cardosi, Lixil
May 29, Thursday	
9:00-10:00 AM	
<p><i>Beyond Financing: Strategic Partnership as the Cornerstone of National Development</i></p> <p>Auditorium 2-3</p> <p>29 May Thursday 9:00-10:00 AM</p> <p>Plenary</p>	<p>Partnerships that go ‘beyond financing’ propel ADB’s Developing Member Countries (DMCs) forward. In this plenary, key DMC officials share experiences of working with ADB to ensure national policy objectives are aligned with investment needs, and discuss their aspirations regarding how these partnerships may be further strengthened in the future.</p> <p>Through knowledge exchange, leaders will share success stories, highlight challenges in aligning policy objectives with investment needs, and discuss innovative approaches for fostering long-term, impactful partnerships. The objectives of this session are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Showcase how strategic partnerships, beyond financial loans, grants and technical assistance, drive national development. 2. Facilitate knowledge exchange among ADB DMCs and explore strategies to strengthen collaboration. 3. Highlight success stories and key challenges in aligning policy objectives with investment needs. Proposed speakers and panelists <p>Speakers:</p>



	<p>Moderator: Neeta Pokhrel, Director, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB</p> <p>Opening Remarks: Scott Morris, Vice President, East and Southeast Asia, and the Pacific, ADB</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Hem Vandy, Minister, Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation, Kingdom of Cambodia • H.E. Anushik Avetyan, Deputy Minister of Economy, Government of Armenia • Danis Hidayat Sumadilaga, Deputy for Facilities & Infrastructure, Nusantara Capital Authority <p>Closing Reflections: Pavit Ramachandran, Deputy Director General, Southeast Asia Department concurrently Country Director, Philippines Country Office, ADB</p>
10:30 AM-12:00 PM	
<p><i>Ushering a New Era of Water Utility Innovation: Utility Leaders Roundtable</i></p> <p>Auditorium 2-3</p> <p>29 May Thursday 10:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>Deep Dive</p>	<p>This 90-minute roundtable will bring together senior leaders from water utilities, the private sector, and ADB to share how they are applying innovation to tackle key challenges and seize emerging opportunities across Asia and the Pacific. Moderated by Dr. Piers Clark, Founder and Director of Isle Group, the open dialogue—held under Chatham House Rule—will invite participants to offer brief, focused insights through stories and examples. Discussions will center around three key themes: (i) technological innovation (e.g., digital water, AI, IoT); (ii) pressing challenges (e.g., climate variability, tariff reform, efficiency); and (iii) leveraging opportunities (e.g., private sector engagement, circular economy, green growth). The session aims to build a deeper understanding of how to strengthen utility capacity for resilient, sustainable growth through collaboration and innovation.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key examples of what to do, and what not to do, when implementing a successful innovation strategy 2. How innovation can address some of the leading challenges facing modern utilities 3. Opportunities for increasing commercial revenues from innovation (through, for example, leverage-breaks) <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Opening Remarks: Bhargav Dasgupta, Vice President, Market Solutions, ADB</p> <p>Moderator: Piers Clark, Founder and Director of Isle Group</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nguyen Thi Hong Hanh, CEO, Gia Lai Water Supply and Drainage Company • Vo Thi Khanh Hoa, Deputy General Director, Khanh Hoa Water Supply and Drainage Company • Li Zhong, Executive Director, China Water Affairs



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ong Tze Ch'in, CEO, PUB Singapore • Daniel Wiedmer, Director, Infrastructure Finance Division 2, Private Sector Operations Department, ADB • Azuan Ahmad Zahdi, Chief Corporate Officer, Indah Water Konsortium • Frank Kyota, CEO, Palau Public Utilities Corporation • Maksat Orazaliyev, Head of the Drinking Water Department of the Public Utilities Department of the City of Arkadag, Turkmenistan • Shobana Srinivasan, Program Management Officer, Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance, UN Habitat • Anand Gautam, Municipal WOP Coordinator, WaterAid Nepal • John Neville Macabinta, Manager, Corporate Planning Department, Metro Cebu Water District • Gustavo da Cruz, President of Bee Timor-Leste Empresa Publiku, Ministry of Public Works • Carla de Conceição Afonso Correia, President, ADP Internacional • Cho Yong Deok, Director General, Global Cooperation Department, K-water and Secretary General, Asia Water Council • Evangeline Mendoza, Financial Planning Specialist, Norzagaray Water District • Neeta Pokhrel, Director, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Srinivas Sampath, Director, Emerging Areas, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB
<p><i>Integrated Green Development and Nature-Based Solutions for Resilience</i></p> <p>Auditorium 1</p> <p>29 May Thursday 10:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>Project Lab</p>	<p>Achieving climate resilience, biodiversity and ecosystem protection, and green development outcomes requires holistic and integrated approaches tailored to the specific needs and contexts of local cities and regions. Increasingly, urbanization and environmental protection priorities demand that project interventions address dual objectives of achieving enhanced ecosystem services (i.e. biodiversity protection, flood risk management provided by natural capital assets, such as the protection of environmentally sensitive areas e.g. wetlands and biodiversity habitat) and economic benefits to urban residents and local communities (i.e. flood risk mitigation, livability benefit from local public green spaces for residents and tourism and increased land value from reduced flooding and the green parks). River catchment-wide functioning blue-green infrastructure networks extending from natural, rural into urban areas generate especially many ecosystem services. Such systems ideally are planned upstream in an integrated manner across sectors and across local government boundaries, including risk-informed planning. This will contribute to sustainable development in rapidly urbanizing DMCs. Recognition of such tangible economic benefits will help to ensure the sustainability of funding to protect and maintain important natural capital assets.</p> <p>There are several examples of projects which have addressed similar co-benefits to urban areas from investments in natural capital. The session will provide an overview of selected project case studies to highlight and explore new areas for AFNR and WUD teams to work together.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrated landscape approach to river basin management



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Urban and coastal linkages for achieving climate resilient ecosystem and biodiversity protection Application of nature-based solutions for integrated green development <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanath Ranawana, Director, East Asia, Agriculture, Food, Nature and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Jingmin Huang, Director, East, Central and West Asia, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Haifeng Xing, Director General-level Inspector, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, People's Republic of China Carlos Primo David, Undersecretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Republic of the Philippines Kotchchakorn Voraarkhom, CEO, Porous Cities Network Au Shion Yee, Principal Water Resources Specialist, Agriculture, Food, Nature and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Stefan Rau, Principal Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Duncan Lang, Senior Environment Specialist, Climate Change, Resilience and Environment Cluster, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB Deborah Robertson, Environment Specialist, Agriculture, Food, Nature and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Geoff Wilson, Senior Water Resources Specialist, Agriculture, Food, Nature and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Xueliang Cai, Senior Water Resources Specialist, Agriculture, Food, Nature and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Eric Quincieu, Principal Water Resources Specialist, Agriculture, Food, Nature and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Zhe Yuan, Natural Resources Economist, Agriculture, Food, Nature and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Sugar M. Gonzales, Senior Climate Change Officer (Climate Change Adaptation), Climate Change, Resilience, and Environment Cluster, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, ADB
<p><i>Power in Waste, Power in Women: Cities that Thrive</i></p> <p>Auditorium 4</p> <p>29 May Thursday 10:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>Fireside Chat</p>	<p>In a world racing to meet its climate goals, cities sit at the frontlines of both risk and opportunity. Yet in many urban centers, outdated waste systems continue to leak methane, pollute neighborhoods, and strain already vulnerable communities. At the same time, women—often hardest hit by climate impacts—remain underrepresented in designing solutions. What if we could flip that equation?</p> <p>This session presents two future-forward initiatives under the Urban Resilience Trust Fund (URTF)—supported by the UK Government—that aims to transform how we think about waste and who leads transformative changes.</p>



The Resilient Urban Methane Initiative (RUMI) aims to be a game-changing effort to help cities turn climate liability into climate action. It will support ADB developing member countries (DMCs) to retire or upgrade environmentally harmful waste and wastewater facilities and replace them with climate-smart infrastructure that drastically reduces methane emissions. More than just a tech fix, RUMI will unlock financing, build institutional capacity, and provide policy and project support to reimagine waste as a catalyst for cleaner, safer, and more resilient urban futures.

Running parallel is ASPIRE or Asia-Pacific Scholarships Promoting Innovation and Resilience in Environmental Leadership, is about backing women as leaders in climate resilience. Through graduate scholarships, mentorship, and leadership development, ASPIRE will help women grow their skills, boost their careers, and take the lead in shaping greener, more inclusive and resilient cities—from local governments, planning institutions to NGOs and utilities.

This session will spotlight RUMI and ASPIRE through a high-energy mix of lightning talks, candid dialogue, and real-world stories. It will explore opportunities for co-financing, collaboration, and replication—because scaling these game changers will require new alliances and investment.

By the end of the session, participants will have learned...

1. An understanding of how RUMI and ASPIRE tackle methane emissions and gender inequality as levers for resilience.
2. Best practices, emerging technologies, and financing models for implementing climate-safe waste management practices and gender-inclusive urban resilience strategies.
3. Opportunities for collaboration with ADB and other development financing partners to expand these programs across cities in the region.

Speakers:

- Shantanu Mitra, Alternate Executive Director for Austria / Germany / Luxembourg / Türkiye / United Kingdom, Board of Directors, ADB
- Keiko Takahashi, Alternate Executive Director for Japan, Board of Directors, ADB
- John Warburton, Head, Climate Change and Environment, Indo-Pacific Regional Department & Senior Climate and Environment Adviser, British High Commission, New Delhi, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom
- Jaya Verma Singh, Senior Policy and Programme Manager, Indo-Pacific Regional Department, British High Commission, New Delhi, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom
- Satoshi Ishii, Director, Strategy and Partnerships, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB
- Kiyoshi Nakamitsu, Principal Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB
- Kristina Katich, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aimee Hampel Milagrosa, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Syed Umar Ali Sha, Principal Project Officer, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Alexei Sankovski, RUMI Technical Feasibility Expert (Consultant), Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB
<p><i>Rubbish to Riches: Building Willingness-To-Pay and Sustainable Behaviors for Solid Waste Management</i></p> <p>Multifunction Hall 2</p> <p>29 May Thursday 10:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>Project Lab</p>	<p>The low-service, low-revenue trap is a classic chicken-and-egg problem. Turning this “vicious” circle into a “virtuous” one is the key to unlocking the services which most ADB urban development projects seek to deliver, and successfully turning that key requires time, money, work and a bit of luck. In this session, we will explain how ADB has successfully supported revenue raising for solid waste management which has doubled (or more than doubled) revenues available to fund the service, contributing to cleaner cities, rivers, oceans and air.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How to deploy digital tools for solid waste service monitoring Breaking the low-revenue-low-service trap Tools for communication and engagement <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antoinette Taus, UNEP Philippines Goodwill Ambassador; Founder, CORA Philippines David Dodman, General Director, Institute for Housing and Urban Development Borey Chum, CEO, Luma System Alexander Nash, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Aimee Hampel Milagrosa, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Halston deBum, CEO, Majuro Atoll Waste Company
<p><i>Rethinking Water: Performance-Driven Water Service Delivery</i></p> <p>Multifunction Hall 3</p> <p>29 May Thursday 10:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>Project Lab</p>	<p>This high-impact session will deliberate need for transformative shift from infrastructure creation to performance-driven water service delivery, focusing on aligning policies, investments, and innovations to deliver reliable and efficient water services. Key Performance Indicators—such as reliability, quality, leakage control, consumption efficiency, NRW reduction, and customer satisfaction—will be emphasized as the foundation of accountability across the water supply value chain.</p> <p>The panel will delve into rethinking system design, digital/AI integration, contracting, and operations, while also reimagining processes, policy, and governance to create an inclusive, resilient, and assured water ecosystem. Through interactive discussions, presentations, and Q&A, the session will offer actionable strategies for smarter, safer, and sustainable water systems driven by strong governance and efficiency.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding on aligning best practices in water supply value chain with performance driven service delivery.



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying innovations in hydraulic and hydraulic system About adoption of emerging tools- IoT-based sensors, AI, analytics Procurement and contracting modalities encouraging performance centric infra. Importance of unified strategy for data-driven decision making Significance of moving towards performance driven service delivery model <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shyam S. Mehndiratta, Senior Procurement Officer, Procurement, Portfolio, and Financial Management Department, ADB Kala Vairamoorthy, Executive Director, International Water Association Eun Her Shin, Principal Researcher, K-Water Anand Jalakam, Director, Jalakam Solutions Padam Vijayvergiya, Urban Digital Expert Mischa F. Lentz, Principal Investment Specialist (Climate Finance), Private Sector Operations Department, ADB Dharmesh M. Dawda, Senior Procurement Specialist, Procurement, Portfolio, and Financial Management Department, ADB Raj Kumari, Director Digital Policy, Solinas Integrity
<p>The Great Water Debate: Water Wars or Water Wins?</p> <p>Innovation Hub</p> <p>29 May Thursday 10:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>Debate</p>	<p>Dive into the heart of the water crisis with our dynamic session, tackling the urgent challenges faced by rural and urban areas. We'll explore the tangled web of aging infrastructure, climate change, clean water access, rising costs, and governance. Discover cutting-edge solutions and the pivotal roles that youth can play in driving change. Join us as we debate the complexities of water management and uncover pathways to ensure safe and sustainable water for all. We'll emphasize the human right to water, crucial for promoting social equity. This session will spotlight the accountability of policymakers, local communities, and private entities in managing water resources effectively. Innovative solutions and the proactive roles that youth can play in addressing these challenges will be highlighted.</p> <p>Expect a lively discussion on the potential consequences of inaction, from public health crises to environmental disasters. By examining both opportunities and risks, we'll foster a comprehensive understanding of the urgent need for integrated and innovative water management strategies. Your voice matters in this critical conversation!</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced awareness of the sources and impacts of water challenges in rural and urban areas and increased recognition of the human right to water and sanitation as a critical component of water security. Identification of innovative strategies for improving water management through youth-led initiatives and technological solutions. Strengthened collaboration between young professionals and senior experts in the water sector. <p>Speakers:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanya Huizer, Senior Water Resilience Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Eka Meñez, Youth Engagement Specialist, Fragility and Engagement Division, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB • Jevelyn-Ann Tobio, (Young) Water Engineer, ARUP • Neeta Pokrel, Director, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Joshua Bon Roco, Philippine Young Water Professionals • Tama Heather, Assistant Engineer, To Tatou Vai Authority • Juliet Willetts, Professor and Research Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University Technology Sydney
1:30-3:00 PM	
<p>Charting the Course to Water Security: The AWDO Masterclass Series (day 2)</p> <p>Auditorium 1</p> <p>29 May Thursday 1:30-5:00 PM</p> <p>By invitation only</p> <p>Masterclass (Note: 3 hour-session)</p>	<p>The Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) 2025 Masterclass Series will provide an exclusive preview of early findings from Asia and the Pacific's flagship water security assessment. Spanning two days, this interactive session brings together government officials, technical experts, and development partners to explore key water security challenges and solutions across five dimensions: rural, economic, urban, environmental, and resilience to water-related disasters.</p> <p>Participants will engage with new data and methodologies, reflect on country-specific assessments, and contribute to consultations that will shape the final stages of AWDO 2025. Through breakout discussions, expert panels, and real-time feedback tools, the session aims to foster practical recommendations and collaboration. This is a unique opportunity for countries and stakeholders to co-create pathways toward achieving water security for all in the region.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to understand AWDO's five Key Dimensions of water security and how countries are assessed 2. How to identify turning points (policy, governance, and financing levers) to improve national water security 3. How to explore regional innovations and collaborative pathways for strengthening resilience <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taikan Oki, Professor and Special Advisor to the President, Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo • Norio Saito, Senior Director, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Qingfeng Zhang, Senior Director, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Katrina Charles, Professor, School of Geography and the Environment, Oxford University • Fulco Ludwing, Strategic Program for Water Data Science, International Water Management Institute



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Kenway, Professor and Research Group Leader, International Water Center Griffith University, Queensland University • Ben Stewart Koster, Research Fellow, IWC Griffith University, Queensland University • William Veerbeek, Researcher, UN IHE • Colin Herron, Senior Water Resources Specialist, Global Water Partnership • Satoshi Ishii, Director, Strategy and Partnerships, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Vivek Raman, Principal Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Lachlan Guthrie, Consultant, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sector Development 2, ADB • Simran Uppal, Consultant, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sector Development 2, ADB
<p>Municipal Finance Mastery: Unlocking the Future of Urban Development</p> <p>Multifunction Hall 3</p> <p>29 May Thursday 1:30-5:00 PM</p> <p>By invitation only</p> <p>Masterclass (Note: 3 hour-session)</p>	<p>A session to help navigate the various options available to municipalities and subnational governments for financing infrastructure and other development projects and how to sequence these options over the course of their development path.</p> <p>Knowledge sharing by experts on experiences of subnational financing of infrastructure and other development projects in mature and developing markets.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financing & Funding mechanisms for Sub-national municipal entities 2. Tapping private & commercial finance for municipalities - Why? How? 3. Good practices; Creating implementation pathways for scaling up municipal finance sustainably <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anand Madhavan, PPP Expert and Consultant • Ahmad Faris Bin Rabidin, Principal Financial Sector Specialist, Finance Sector Office, Sectors Department 3, ADB
<p>The Water-Energy Nexus: Decarbonizing the water sector in the Pacific</p> <p>Auditorium 4</p> <p>29 May Thursday 1:30-3:00 PM</p> <p>Fireside Chat</p>	<p>The Pacific Islands face a unique set of challenges when it comes to sustainable development, particularly in the sectors of water and energy. The integration of water and energy systems—commonly referred to as the water-energy nexus—presents a critical opportunity to address these challenges and accelerate the transition towards a low-carbon, resilient future. In this context, utilities play a pivotal role in harnessing the synergies between water and energy to enhance resource efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen water and energy security via diversification, reducing vulnerability to external shocks. This session will explore the water-energy nexus and its potential to decarbonize the water sector in the Pacific.</p> <p>Pacific Island countries rely heavily on imported fossil fuels, often exceeding 80% of their total energy supply. This dependence presents significant economic and environmental challenges. High fuel costs and vulnerability to oil price fluctuations make transitioning to renewable energy crucial. All Pacific Island countries have Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets, with some aiming for 100% renewable energy by 2030.</p>



	<p>Water utilities are among the largest energy consumers in many regions, water pumping, treatment, and distribution requires significant energy. This dependence not only contributes to carbon emissions but also exposes water services to the volatility of energy markets. By adopting clean energy solutions, such as solar and wind power, water utilities can decarbonize their operations, reduce operational costs, and improve the reliability of water services.</p> <p>In Solomon Islands and FSM, this cross-sectoral partnership is being explored through various initiatives that will test a water-energy nexus solution to the sectoral challenges. A strategic partnership between the water and energy sectors can yield significant benefits for both. Integrating renewable energy solutions into water utilities can enhance sustainability and resilience, promoting environmental stewardship, strengthening energy security, and ensuring reliable water supply.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. About 2 case studies and lessons learned from government representatives and utilities that have harnessed the water-energy nexus in their operations already. 2. Gained insights into approaches, solutions and pilots for integrating renewable energy solutions into water utilities. 3. About actionable pathways for cross-sector partnerships in the water and energy space that are working or could be explored further in the Pacific region. <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rafayil Abbasov, Senior Energy Specialist, Energy Sector Office, Sectors Department 1, ADB • Kembo Mida, CEO, Chuuk Public Utility Corporation • Frank Kyota, CEO, Palau Public Utilities Corporation
<p>Catalyzing Creative Redevelopment of Cities</p> <p>Auditorium 2-3</p> <p>29 May Thursday</p> <p>1:30-3:00 PM</p> <p>Fireside Chat</p>	<p>In recent years, cities in Asia have undergone transformations to address growing expansion and needs of increasing population. Some cities have grown horizontally without any urban planning while others have taken measures to address urban form and density in a more systematic way through planned urbanization. Barcelona has led urban transformation and regeneration with its @22Barcelona Plan and superblocks. Other countries like Japan have taken an institutional approach through the Urban Renaissance Agency to bring about urban transformation and testing innovative schemes. In India, the Government of India has taken a proactive approach by requesting the ADB and the World Bank Group to rethink the future trajectory of cities in India. The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and the Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) joined hands with ADB-WB to develop a knowledge framework for Creative Redevelopment of Cities and Cities as Growth Hubs. The Session will share the key lessons from Barcelona, Japan and India along with ADB on the building blocks, enablers and strategies for transformation of cities for inclusive and green growth. Creative Redevelopment covers urban planning, inclusive housing, tourism, transport, economic growth and other cross-cutting sectors.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p>



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is creative redevelopment of cities? Innovative ideas on urban transformation of cities 2. Building blocks for undertaking creative redevelopment of cities 3. Enablers for urban transformations and lessons learned – thought leadership on city management and institutional structures. <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Buhigas San Jose, Chief Architect of Barcelona, City of Barcelona • Junkichi Kano, Chief Representative, Representative Office in Jakarta, Department for Global Affairs, Japan Urban Renaissance Agency • Srinivas Sampath, Director, Emerging Areas, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Ramola Naik Singru, Principal Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Tomoo Ueda, Principal Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Kanupriya Gupta, Public Sector Economist, Public Sector Management and Governance Sector Office, Sectors Department 3, ADB
<p>Sustainable Solid Waste Management in Small Islands and Fragile Contexts</p> <p>Multifunction Hall 2</p> <p>29 May Thursday 1:30-3:00 PM</p> <p>Project Lab</p>	<p>This session will discuss challenges and opportunities for sustainable solid waste management (SWM) and circular economy in small islands and fragile contexts. These areas face specific issues, such as high imports, scattered waste generation, limited space for processing and disposal, low capacity and skills, lack of economies of scale, and vulnerable environments, which make SWM particularly difficult. Regional SWM solutions will be analyzed as possible way forward to address these challenges.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key challenges for solid waste management (SWM) in SIDS 2. Key opportunities for sustainable SWM in SIDS 3. Perspective on collective and regional approaches to SWM <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masayuki Tachiiri, Deputy Director General, Pacific Regional Department, ADB • Justus Denni, City Clerk, Honiara City Council, Government of Solomon Islands • Rosy Yashmin Lata, Manager Human Resources and Administration, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Republic of Fiji • Ghufuran Shafi, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Aimee Hampel, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Luca Di Mario, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB
<p>750 Million Youth on the Front Line: Pitching Digital Innovations for a Livable Future</p>	<p>This session will leverage the potential of digital technologies to reimagine resilient urban spaces, showcasing youth-led digital innovations. Young people have high levels of digital fluency and are now to act as technical innovators in the climate resilience space, with the ability to bridge science and action to generate new solutions. Digital technology solutions in</p>



<p>Innovation Hub</p> <p>29 May Thursday 1:30-3:00 PM</p> <p>Shark Tank</p>	<p>urban areas include scenario planning, risk mapping, resilience benchmarking, early warning systems, awareness raising and civic engagement platforms, all of which can be used to improve urban services, facilitate participatory and evidence-based urban planning, and develop crisis management systems. This session will see three young people propose digital solutions for how technological innovations can build urban resilience in the context of the climate crisis, presenting a variety of potential pipeline investments to ADB staff, private sector and DMC attendees. A panel of ADB judges will offer rapid fire reactions on the project's strategic value, feasibility, potential impact and investability. Judges can invest in projects they find promising in three ways: time, connections, or visibility. The session will spotlight the value of meaningful youth engagement in generating solutions, and illustrate the nexus of inclusion, digital and more effective urban development.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Practical tips on how to tailor their urban development projects and ideas to increase the likelihood of investment, impact and scale 2. How participatory civic technology and digital mapping strengthens local-level resilience 3. How digital solutions can boost private sector development and investment opportunities in developing member countries <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alanna Inserra, Senior Social Development Specialist, Fragility and Engagement Division, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, ADB • David Dodman, General Director, Institute for Housing and Urban Development • Paolo Manunta, Senior Digital Technology Specialist (Earth Observation), Digital Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Jussi Ahonen, Head of ADB Ventures, Principal Investment Specialist, Equity Investments Unit, Private Sector Operations Department, ADB • Jingmin Huang, Director, East, Central and West Asia, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Luis Almeida, Public Management Specialist, Public Sector Management and Governance Sector Office, Sectors Department 3, ADB • Harry Machmud, Senior Programme Manager, Dhaka Thrive: Open Mapping for Resilience • Prithvi J. Khadka, Business Development Lead, Baato Maps Vehicle Routing System • Lei Motilla, Co-Founder and Social Innovation Lead, AI4Gov
<p>3:30-5:00 PM</p>	
<p>Continuation of masterclass sessions (1:30-5:00PM)</p>	
<p>Bridging Boundaries, Driving Resilience: Rethinking Climate Action Planning for Cities</p>	<p>A City Climate Action Plan (C-CAP) is a tool that helps a city to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change and disasters, which are becoming increasingly complex and intense. A C-CAP is an integral part of a city's urbanization strategy and sustainable development pathway. It is grounded in robust data—both local and international—and shaped by input from diverse stakeholders.</p>



Auditorium 4

29 May Thursday
3:30-5:00 PM

Project Lab

This session will explore how cities and government stakeholders can rethink and strengthen their climate action planning to respond more effectively to today's challenges and seize emerging opportunities. These include leveraging climate data (e.g., GHG emissions and climate projections), GIS, and digital technologies; and making C-CAPs more evidence-based, implementation- and financing-ready, and aligned with spatial planning as well as national and global climate commitments.

Jointly organized by the Climate Change, Resilience, and Environment Cluster (CCRE) and the Water and Urban Development (WUD) Sector Office of ADB, the session will feature insights and experiences from DMC participants, development partners, and ADB staff. It is supported by ADB's Technical Assistance projects, the Republic of Korea e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund, and the Urban Resilience Trust Fund under the Urban Financing Partnership Facility.

By the end of the session, participants will have learned...

1. A deeper understanding of the enabling factors, implementation challenges, and the critical role of City Climate Action Plans (C-CAP) in localizing national climate commitments.
2. Knowledge of innovative technologies and approaches, and how these can be effectively integrated into future-ready climate plans.
3. Insights into the key elements that make city climate plans implementable, actionable, and attractive for investment.

Speakers:

- Jingmin Huang, Director, East, Central, and West Asia, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB
- Arghya Sinha Roy, Director for Climate Change, Resilience and Environment Cluster, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, ADB
- Okju Jeong, Climate Change Specialist, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB
- Mae Valdez-Irong, Regional Program Manager, ICLEI Southeast Asia
- Kristina Katich, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB
- Niranjana Kapil, Project Manager, Project Management Unit, Proposed Sikkim Integrated Urban Development Project, Urban Development Department, Government of Sikkim, India
- Kristine Lea S. Gaon, Chief of the Climate Change and Environmental Education Division, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Department, Government of Quezon City, Philippines
- Martin Okata, Senior Climate Change and Disaster Risk Specialist, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB
- Brendan Coleman, Climate Change Specialist, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, ADB



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherzodbek Otaboev, Head of the Department of Coordinating of Land reforms and Development Masterplans of Regions, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Republic of Uzbekistan • Soukphaphone Soodpharavong, Deputy Director of Division, Water Resources Assessment Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao People's Democratic Republic • Christina Teokari, Principal, Climate Strategy and Delivery, Green Cities, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development • Mischa F. Lentz, Principal Investment Specialist (Climate Finance), Private Sector Operations Department, ADB • Sunghoon Kris Moon, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Stefan Rau, Principal Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB
<p>Feeding the Future: Food System Transformation through the Water-Food-Nature Nexus</p> <p>Multifunction Hall 2</p> <p>29 May Thursday 3:30-5:00 PM</p> <p>Fireside Chat</p>	<p>In the face of ever-increasing demand for food and water, the need to transform agrifood systems in harmony with sustainable water management has never been more urgent. This session will explore the critical nexus between agrifood transformation and water sustainability, emphasizing integrated approaches that can deliver resilient, efficient, and inclusive outcomes for both sectors. Drawing on policy insights, innovative practices, and regional case studies, the session will bring together experts, practitioners, and policymakers to discuss actionable strategies for optimizing water use across the food value chain, promoting climate-smart agriculture and natural capital investment to ensure food and water security.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The need for an integrated, cross-sectoral approach to achieving long-term food and water security 2. To explore innovative solutions and best practices for transforming agrifood systems while conserving water 3. To identify opportunities for cross-sectoral and regional collaboration to build sustainable agrifood systems and water resources <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changhua Wu, China Director, Office of Jeremy Rifkin • Nazik Jzmachyan, Chief Specialist, Water Resources Management Department • Lifeng Li, Director Land and Water Division, FAO • Arjan Budding, Head, Sustainable Water Management Environment Programme, Environmental Sciences Group, Wageningen University and Research • Taikan Oki, Professor and Special Advisor to the President, Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo • Fulco Ludwig, Director, Strategic Program for Water Data Science, International Water Management Institute • F. Cleo Kawawaki, Director General, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Qingfeng Zhang, Senior Director, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development, Sectors Department 2, ADB



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanath Ranawana, Director, East Asia, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development, Sectors Department 2, ADB
<p>Connecting People and Place: Managing Tourism Demand through Digital Innovation</p> <p>Auditorium 2-3</p> <p>29 May Thursday 3:30-5:00 PM</p> <p>Fireside Chat</p>	<p>Digital technologies are revolutionizing how cities interact with and manage tourists, fostering deeper connections between people and place. This fireside chat will explore how urban and tourism managers can leverage digital tools to enhance visitor experiences and efficiently mobilize resources to address tourism-related challenges. Join our discussion to uncover strategies for smartly managing surging tourism demand to underpin inclusive and resilient urban development across Asia and the Pacific.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How digital technologies can be used to make tourism experiences positively engaging for residents and visitors, protect heritage resources, and create inclusive economic opportunities for residents. How digital technologies can be used to efficiently collect and allocate tourism taxes and fees to better manage challenges like congestion and increased solid waste and wastewater generation caused by tourism growth. <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steven Schipani, Principal Tourism Industry Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Panchali Ellepola, Senior Project Officer (Urban Development), Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Yeong-Hyeon Hwang, Head, Department of Integrated Business Management, Dong-A University Trevor Weltman, Partner, Clickable Impact Anita Roth, Alternative Accommodations Expert, Clickable Impact
<p>Mainstreaming Circular Economy and Digitization of Solid Waste Management</p> <p>Innovation Hub</p> <p>29 May Thursday 3:30-5:00 PM</p> <p>Shark Tank</p>	<p>This session will provide a detailed review of the current landscape of circular economy (CE) policies in the Asia-Pacific region and the maturity of all the policies. The discussion will focus on the challenges and lessons learned in design and implementation of policies intended to support CE activities. Financing mechanisms to support solid waste management (SWM) and CE initiatives will be discussed (i.e., extended producer responsibility (EPR), green procurement policies, sustainability-linked bonds, taxes, plastic credits, etc.). Case studies from various countries in the Asia-Pacific region will be presented, i.e. PRC and PHI.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight the enabling factors and/or barriers for use of AI/digitalization in SWM At different value chain (collection, recycling, disposal), what's role of AI may help to improve the SWM at community, government, and operator's aspects How to make the AI/digital design more inclusive for all different stakeholders? <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muhammad Ehsan Khan, Director General, East Asia Department, ADB Jingmin Huang, Director, East, Central, and West Asia, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takahashi Gen, Deputy General Manager, JFE Engineering Corporation • Zhang Xiaofeng, Executive Vice-President, Ningbo Dabashou Ecological Digital Technology Co., LTD • Surbhi Jore, CEO, ASM Global • Sing Cho (Terry), Senior Urban Development Specialist (Waste Management), Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB
May 30, Friday	
9:00-10:00 AM	
<p><i>Building Better Futures: Harnessing Innovation for Efficiency, Equity and Inclusivity</i></p> <p>Auditorium 2-3</p> <p>30 May Friday 9:00-10:00 AM</p> <p>Plenary</p>	<p>Innovation promises to accelerate progress, but how can innovation support efficient, equitable and inclusive outcomes? This plenary session highlights cutting-edge innovations in water and urban development. A particular focus for the session is meaningful youth engagement: are we leveraging innovation to enhance, amplify and tap into the energy and creativity of Asia's burgeoning youth population?</p> <p>Objectives of the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This session aims to inspire forward-thinking strategies and foster collaboration to ensure that innovation is harnessed effectively for a more equitable and inclusive future. • Showcase transformative innovations in water and urban development that drive efficiency, equity, and inclusivity across Asia and the Pacific region, particularly in response to rapid urbanization and climate change • Highlight meaningful youth engagement by exploring how innovation can amplify the voices, creativity, and energy of Asia's youth in shaping urban and water-related solutions • Facilitate cross-sector collaboration among government leaders, development partners, technical experts, and private sector stakeholders to accelerate impactful and scalable solutions. • Announce key partnerships and initiatives that support innovation-driven progress, including the launch of new approaches and agreements that strengthen regional cooperation. <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Moderator: Vivek Raman, Principal Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB</p> <p>Opening remarks: F. Cleo Kawawaki, Director General, Sectors Department 2, ADB</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Duncan, Senior Advisor, Sustainable WASH Innovation Hub, UNICEF • Tanya Huizer, Senior Water Resilience Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin Moore, Director, Procurement Division, Procurement, Portfolio and Financial Management Department, ADB Shobana Srinivasan, Program Management Officer, Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance, UN Habitat <p>Special remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pai-Chi Li, President, Asian Institute of Technology Norio Saito, Senior Director, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB
10:15-11:45 AM	
<p><i>From Pilots to Progress: Closing the Housing Gap for 600 Million People with Private Sector Leadership</i></p> <p>Auditorium 2-3</p> <p>30 May Friday 10:15-11:45 AM</p> <p>Shark Tank</p>	<p>This session will explore how innovative pilots and private sector solutions can address the pressing need for affordable housing in developing Asia and the Pacific. The session will feature insights from policy makers, PPP Center, mortgage refinancing company, private sector, industry experts, who are engaged in the delivery of affordable housing solutions through the private sector.</p> <p>Additionally, Castalia, who has been advising ADB to develop actionable recommendations for engaging the private sector in delivering inclusive, affordable, and climate-resilient housing ecosystems in Central and West Asian countries, will present key findings, highlighting innovative housing solutions and the critical issues identified for each DMC country. This interactive session aims to foster peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, collaborative ideation to generate practical private sector-led housing solutions that can be implemented across the region.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Issues / challenges in developing I3ARCH housing projects in DMC countries Options / solutions to address such issues / challenges, including roles of various stakeholders – government, private sponsors, lenders, multilateral agencies / development partners Key criteria to encourage private sector participation in developing such projects <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pavit Ramachandran, Deputy Director General Southeast Asia Department concurrently Philippines Country Director, ADB Christine Po King Chan, Principal Urban Development Specialist (Finance and Investment), Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Dmitry Kabrelyan, Senior Private Sector Development Specialist, Private Sector Development Unit, Central and West Asia Department, ADB Shokhrukh Ganiev, Senior Specialist, Department of Housing Construction and Mortgage Market Development, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Republic of Uzbekistan Murod Farmanov, CEO, Mortgage Refinancing Company of Uzbekistan Dong Young Kim, Director & General Manager, Global Business Office, Korea Land & Housing Corporation



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frank Lloyd Gonzaga, Assistant Secretary, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, Republic of the Philippines Raphael M. Badillo, Director, PPP Center, Republic of the Philippines Ronaldo Averion, Head of Program Management Department II (PMD II) under the National Development Lending Sector (NDLS), Land Bank of the Philippines Nonito Bernardo, Principal, Castalia Advisors
<p><i>Bringing the Water Learning Weeks to HQ</i></p> <p>Innovation Hub</p> <p>30 May Friday 10:15-11:45 AM</p> <p>Shark Tank</p>	<p>For many years, a select group of ADB project teams participate in Water Learning Weeks—in 2025, the program took place in Portugal, Spain, and the Netherlands—gaining firsthand experience with cutting-edge innovations in water resilience, digital transformation, and circular economy solutions. Previous Water Learning Weeks were also held in the Netherlands and Australia. To ensure these valuable insights benefit the broader ADB community, this Shark Tank-style session will explore ways to bring the Water Learning Week experience back to ADB Headquarters.</p> <p>In this dynamic session, participants will pitch their most transformative takeaways to a panel of "investors"—leading private sector companies from Portugal, Spain, and the Netherlands. The panel will assess each idea's relevance, scalability, and potential impact in the Asia-Pacific region. This session fosters stronger public-private collaboration and helps translate European best practices into innovative, bankable solutions for ADB's water and urban projects.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the learning week concept, including its objectives, structure, and relevance for them. Through interactive discussions and brainstorming sessions, participants will develop new ideas and innovative approaches to enhance the learning week concept: potential improvements and strategies to maximize the impact. Engagement and creating awareness and interest of financing partners and companies/organisations to contribute to the learning week concept enhancing local capacities, fostering international cooperation and creating opportunities. <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silvia Torices de la Varga, Economic and Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of Spain in Manila Antonio Ventura and Carla Correia, Member of the Board and President of the Board, Águas de Portugal Internacional Nazik Jzmachyan, Chief Specialist in the Water Resources Management Division, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Armenia Tanya Huizer, Senior Water Resilience Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Johan Van Dijk, Account Manager, IHE Delft Tama Heather, Assistant Engineer, To Tatou Vai Authority
<p><i>The SWM Cookbook: Ingredients for</i></p>	<p>This session will analyze past and ongoing SWM projects supported by ADB to derive lessons learned and distil key successful and less successful factors. Practitioners from developing</p>



<p>Successful Solid Waste Management at Scale</p> <p>Auditorium 4</p> <p>30 May Friday 10:15-11:45 AM</p> <p>By invitation only</p> <p>Project Lab</p>	<p>member countries and ADB staff will share their firsthand experience and engage with the audience in a lively conversation and debate.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Importance of integrated solid waste management - avoid piece meal approach <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luca Di Mario, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Laxmi Sharma, Unit Head, Project Administration, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB
<p>Local Leadership in Action: Gender-Responsive and Climate-Resilient Cities in Asia</p> <p>Multifunction Hall 3</p> <p>30 May Friday 10:15-11:45 AM</p> <p>Fireside Chat</p>	<p>Cities in Asia and the Pacific are grappling with climate change and social inequality, often compounded by limited resources and gender-blind urban planning. This session highlights innovative, city-led strategies for gender-responsive and climate-resilient urban development. In a dynamic fireside chat, local leaders and experts will share practical approaches, tools, and solutions—from heritage-led revitalization and resilience to women-focused services—that support inclusive, scalable progress aligned with global goals.</p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have learned...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How inclusive local governance advances climate goals 2. Replicable approaches and tools for resilient, gender-sensitive urban development 3. How to better align with ADB's Strategy 2030 and the Paris Agreement objectives <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olga Chepelianskaia, Senior Urban Specialist , Cities Alliance • Santosh Lal Shrestha, Mayor, Tansen Municipality, Palpa District, Lumbini Province, Nepal • Mohan Maya Bhandari, Mayor, Birendranagar Municipality, Karnali Province, Nepal • Ymeng Lim, Director, One Window Service Unit, Battambang Provincial Government, Kingdom of Cambodia • Panya Manivong, Deputy Director, Vientiane City Office for Management and Service (VCOMS), Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic • Sidxay Makvilay, Deputy Director, Policy Division, Department of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao People's Democratic Republic • Karishma Kashyap, Associate Director, APAC – Cities, States & Regions, CDP • Bill Ho, Program Lead, ADPC Academy, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center • Satoshi Ishii, Director, Strategy and Partnerships, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Lara Arjan, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB
<p>From Risk to Resilience: Strengthening Asia's River Basins</p>	<p>This session explores climate impacts on Asia's river basins, focusing on integrated water resources management. Participants will discuss regional challenges and how varied climate impacts require tailored responses. They'll identify short-term "quick wins" and shape</p>



<p>Auditorium 1</p> <p>30 May Friday 10:15-11:45 AM</p> <p>Project Lab</p>	<p>longer-term solutions to strengthen water security, protect livelihoods, and foster resilient growth, fostering sustainable development.</p> <p>Participants will collectively identify short-term “quick wins” to address urgent vulnerabilities—such as bridging gaps in knowledge, innovation, governance, financing, and human resources—that currently affect responses to water scarcity and extreme weather events. They will exchange insights, learn from best practices, and actively shape solutions adaptable across Asia. In parallel, the workshop will illuminate longer-term measures essential for sustained resilience, underscoring the importance of early strategic planning for long-term horizons. By showcasing successful examples of integrated river basin governance, climate adaptation, and coordinated investments, the session empowers participants both to contribute their expertise and to gain new knowledge, thus laying the groundwork for regional policy and investment roadmaps to bolster resilience in Asia’s river basins.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jiangfeng Zhang, Director, Southeast and the Pacific, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Lance Gore, Principal Water Resources Specialist, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Eric Quincieu, Principal Water Resources Specialist, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Au Shion Yee, Principal Water Resources Specialist, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Duncan Lang, Senior Environmental Specialist, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB • Eelco van Beek, Senior Water Resources Consultant, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB • Lifeng Li, Director of Land and Water Division, FAO • Fulco Ludwig, Strategic Program for Water Data Science, International Water Management Institute • Catharien Terwisscha, Senior Researcher Water Management in Deltas, Water and Food Team, Wageningen University and Research • William Veerbeek, Researcher, UN IHE • Tomoyuki Okada, Chief Researcher, ICHARM • Deborah Backus, CEO, Clean Rivers • Ben Stewart Koster, Research Fellow, IWC/Griffith/Queensland University • Colin Herron, Senior Water Resources Specialist, Global Water Partnership • Junhan Yun, K-Water • Alex Money, Founder and CEO, Watermarq • Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director, PEMSEA
<p>Revolutionizing Water: Digital Innovations to Improve Performance</p>	<p>This session will explore how digital solutions, IT systems, effective data and asset information management are revolutionizing water company operations and efficiency. We will delve into the critical collaboration between Operational Technology (OT) and Information Technology (IT) in enabling data-driven decision-making and fostering a holistic</p>



and Efficiency of Water Companies

Multifunction Hall 2

**30 May Friday
10:15-11:45 AM**

Project Lab

business view for water utilities. The session will feature insights and experiences from water companies and experts in Central Asia, Europe, the USA, and Australia, highlighting successful implementations, challenges, and future opportunities in the digital transformation journey.

By the end of the session, participants will have learned...

This structured session aims to provide a comprehensive overview of digital transformation in the water sector, combining expert presentations with a dynamic panel discussion to share diverse experiences and foster valuable insights for all attendees.

1. Use of digital twin and integration of IT and OT
2. Experience in developed countries
3. Experience and challenges in developing countries to implement a digital transformation

Speakers:

- Jahongir Khalikov, Deputy Head of the Project Development and Investments Department, JSC “Uzsutaminot”
- Michael Samuel, CEO, Nobel Systems
- Martin Shaw, Business development Manager, Xylem-Ildrica
- Nimesh Modak, Managing Director, Imagine H2O Asia