

ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2026

Empowered Lives, Resilient Futures

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SESSION 16

**From Community Evidence to Financed Commitments:
Partnering to Build Adaptive Social Protection Systems**

MODERATOR



Digvijay Singh
**Senior Social Protection and Climate Change
Specialist**
**Climate Change and Sustainable
Development Department**
Asian Development Bank

Digvijay is on secondment from Expertise France. He works closely with the Climate Resilience Financing Partnership Facility (CRFPF) through the CRPP team, ADB's Adaptation team, and relevant sector groups (including HSD) to support the identification, preparation, and implementation of TA and loans or grant projects that promote adaptive social protection. This includes reviewing financing proposals and contributing to the development of guidelines for the CRPP team when considering adaptive social protection projects.

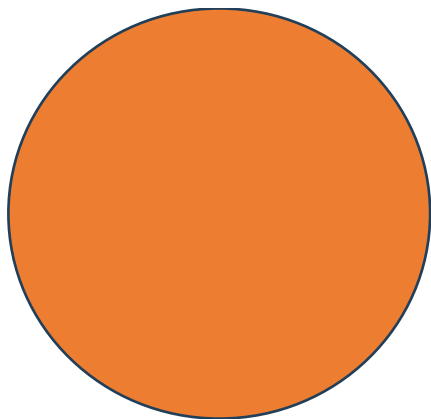
He has 15 years of experience in working across various levels of the development sector ranging from the grassroots level to working in national ministries and the UN at the regional level. His focus areas are social protection and its governance structures with a strong focus on linking it with the climate resilience objectives.

SPEAKERS and PANELIST



Anosack Phengthimmavong
Deputy Director General
Department of Rural Development and
Poverty Reduction
Ministry of Agriculture and Environment
Government of Lao PDR

Mr. Anosack Phengthimmavong is Deputy Director General of the Department of Rural Development and Poverty Reduction at the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, a role he has held since 2022. He has more than 20 years of experience in the Lao public service, working across national and provincial government in planning, finance, and international cooperation. Before his current post, he was Deputy Director General of the Department of Planning and Cooperation at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (2019–2022) and Deputy Head of the Permanent Secretary's Office at the Ministry of Finance (2014–2019). Earlier, he held senior roles in Xayaboury Province, including Deputy Head of the Provincial Governor's Office and Deputy Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs. He began his career at the Ministry of Planning and Investment and holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the People's Republic of China."



Ramona Calin
Locally-led Climate Action Specialist
Green Climate Fund

<Bio to follow>



Sarah Love
Regional Director
Climate, Energy & Nature, SE Asia
UK Foreign, Commonwealth
and Development Office

As the UK's Regional Director for Climate, Energy and Nature in Southeast Asia, Sarah leads a small team of thematic experts covering green finance and carbon markets, clean energy and industrial decarbonisation, nature, biodiversity and marine ecosystems. Together, they support a network of around 70 climate, energy and nature experts in our Embassies and High Commissions across Southeast Asia who are partnering with their host countries to achieve net zero targets, deliver the green energy transition and reverse nature loss.



Suranjana Gupta
Senior Advisor for Community Resilience
Huairou Commission

Suranjana is currently the India-based Senior Advisor for Community Resilience at the Huairou Commission (HC) – a coalition of grassroots women's organisations and partners focused on women's leadership in resilient, sustainable, gender-just communities.

Suranjana has worked for more than 25 years on disaster and climate resilience from a women's empowerment perspective.

She worked on developing HC's Community Resilience Fund, facilitated learning exchanges and has supported dialogue and collaboration with policy institutions to increase recognition and resources for grassroots women's initiatives.

Suranjana grew up in Mumbai and completed her BA and MA in Sociology at the University of Mumbai before she went on to study Development Studies at the London School of Economics.



Thomas Gonnet
Regional Task Manager
Health and Social Protection
Agence Française de Développement

Graduated with a master's degree in strategic management and Economic Intelligence, Thomas Gonnet has more than 30 years of professional experience as an emergency and development practitioner in fragile states and emerging countries.

Since 2018, at Agence française de développement (French Development Agency – AFD), he has been responsible for the design, financing, and implementation of public health and social protection programs. He has served as Regional Task Team Leader for Asia and Southeast Asia since September 2023.



Arghya Sinha Roy
Director, Adaptation and Resilience Division
Climate Change and Sustainable
Development Department
Asian Development Bank

Arghya Sinha Roy supports the implementation of ADB's climate adaptation and resilience priorities and targets by supporting client governments in strengthening policies, plans and investments. Arghya has more than twenty years of international experience in the field of climate and disaster resilience, especially in the context of supporting national and local governments in advancing inclusive resilience considerations into development policy; spatial, socioeconomic and fiscal planning; infrastructure planning and design; and social development and livelihood interventions. Arghya holds a bachelor's degree in engineering and a master's degree in urban and regional planning.