

EVENT SNAPSHOT



URBAN CLIMATE
CHANGE RESILIENCE
TRUST FUND

Asian Development Bank

ADB and Green Recovery in Practice



EVENT DETAILS

World Environment Day Webinar: **ADB and Green Recovery in Practice**

Friday, 05 June 2020. Microsoft Teams

KEY NOTE:

- **Bruce Dunn**, Chief, Environment Thematic Group

PANELISTS:

- **Thomas Panella**, Chief, Water Sector Group
- **Yongping Zhai**, Chief, Energy Sector Group
- **Pamela Chiang**, Senior Transport Specialist, Transport Sector Group
- **Virinder Sharma**, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Urban Sector Group

MODERATOR:

- **Karma Yangzom**, Principal Environmental Specialist, SDSS

GREEN RECOVERY IS AN INTEGRATED AND HOLISTIC APPROACH FOCUSED ON BUILD BACK BETTER AND GREENER

As part of the commemoration of the World Environment Day (5 June) and the World Oceans Day (8 June), the Environment Thematic Group (ETG) held a webinar to discuss challenges and opportunities to scale up investments needed for a Green recovery in Asia and the Pacific, including how to align sector operations with COVID-19 response and integrate green recovery interventions into ADB's operations.

As governments reprioritize their development needs and weigh options to build back better from the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), there is a need for 'green recovery' that aims to stimulate economies, protect public health, and sustainably manage our planet's natural resources in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Virinder Sharma, Senior Urban Climate

Change Specialist, and lead of the Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund (UCCRTF) represented the Urban Sector Group and joined chiefs and specialists in the panel discussion including Tom Panella, Chief of Water Sector Group; Yongping Zhai, Chief of Energy Sector Group; and Pamela Chiang, Senior Transport Specialist of the Transport Sector Group.

He highlighted that COVID-19 pandemic has a substantial urban footprint that is largely hinged on the provision of basic urban services such as water and sanitation systems coupled with hygiene practices. Cities should be empowered to undertake immediate preventive and long-term recovery steps to build back better so they can face future pandemics and shocks. The Urban Sector Group is also producing a guidance note on Responding to COVID-19 for DMCs.

URBAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE LESSONS

DMCs can take immediate and short-term actions that can set the foundation for systemic and longer-term changes in key areas including improvement of access to water, sanitation and hygiene; investing in green sectors providing livelihoods such as renewable energy; promoting low-carbon and sustainable public transport; promoting nature-based solutions for watershed and flood management; use of innovative financing mechanisms to help meet large financing needs for a green recovery; protection of

wildlife and ecosystem restoration; and building climate and disaster resilience.

Aside from basic urban services such as water, sanitation, hygiene and housing, other important areas of action in the urban sector include upscaling of digital technologies, addressing issues of migrants, ensuring livelihoods and supply chains are not disrupted, effective biomedical waste management, and strengthening government institutions to better manage future pandemics and shocks, among others.

Green recovery through investing in nature costs relatively less than the amount required to prepare and react to future pandemics and crises. It will also generate more long-term benefits that create positive impacts for people, health, and economies. ADB should continue engaging with DMCs and building partnerships with key stakeholders to prioritize innovative and integrated solutions for green recovery.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Virinder Sharma, Senior Urban Development Specialist, vsharma@adb.org

UCCRTF Financing Partners

