

Bouncing Back

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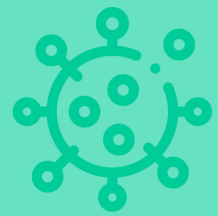
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Policy Actions for COVID-19 Economic Recovery

Dialogues



About the PACER Dialogues

Policy Actions for COVID-19 Economic Recovery (PACER) Dialogues, supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the BIMP-EAGA, IMT-GT, and GMS Capacity Building Program, or B-I-G Program, explores measures that can help B-I-G member countries, Singapore, and Timor-Leste bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerate economic recovery.

Overcoming COVID-19 Together

At a Special ASEAN Summit on COVID-19 on 14 April 2020, leaders called on ASEAN to “act jointly and decisively to control the spread of the disease while mitigating its adverse impact on our people’s livelihood, our societies, and economies.” Leaders also called for sharing best practices between member states and external partners to respond to COVID-19 effectively. Consistent with this call for action, the B-I-G Program convened the PACER Dialogues to share cutting-edge knowledge and best practices, and explore means of strengthening cooperation to mitigate the devastating effects of COVID-19.

Sharing Approaches and Lessons to Accelerate COVID-19 Recovery

Countries in the region and across the world are grappling with balancing policy responses that can mitigate the economic costs of the COVID-19 crisis while also minimizing risks to society. The PACER Dialogues shares global, regional, and country-level good practices and lessons that can provide new ideas and actionable insights for countries as they lay the groundwork for medium and long-term economic recovery. Sharing knowledge and learning from others allows countries to explore a broader range of policy options as they tailor recovery measures to the unique context of their respective nations.

Objectives

PACER Dialogues objectives are: (i) enhancing awareness on policy issues and actions that can facilitate economic recovery; (ii) sharing knowledge, lessons, and experiences on COVID-19 recovery strategies, policies, and plans; (iii) exploring collaborative responses and coordinated actions geared towards increased resilience, preparedness, and effective recovery; and (iv) strengthening connections between policy makers, development planners, and relevant stakeholders tasked with spearheading the COVID-19 crisis recovery.

Format, Process, and Policy Briefs

A series of 90-minute PACER Dialogues were held between June and September 2020 and additional dialogues planned from February to September 2021. The dialogue process includes (i) moderators’ introduction, (ii) experts’ presentation, (iii) reactions from panel discussants, (iv) open discussion with questions and inputs by participating government officials, and (v) moderator synthesis or summary.

The PACER Dialogues are organized to help decision makers broaden their perspectives, appreciate the wider implications of critical policy choices, and identify concrete policy actions. Background papers are provided in advance to facilitate informed discussions. Policy briefs for each dialogue are produced as knowledge products (outputs) and shared on ADB's knowledge platform, [Development Asia](#).

Themes and Topics

Topics of the PACER Dialogues has three main categories: (i) overarching strategic approaches for forging national strategies for COVID-19 economic recovery, (ii) cross-cutting thematic and sector-specific approaches to facilitate economic recovery and mitigate the devastating effects of COVID-19, and (iii) regional cooperation responses to COVID-19 to complement national strategies.

- Overarching strategic approaches for national recovery includes economic and financial measures to tackle COVID-19; good practices in designing, financing, and implementing plans for bouncing back from COVID-19; employing big data and digital technology to enhance COVID-19 responses; and mobilizing finance in the wake of COVID-19.
- Cross-cutting thematic and sector approaches include health measures to enhance resilience to pandemics, interventions for economic reopenings, and readiness for vaccine distribution; supporting SMEs and start-ups to mitigate the negative effects of the crisis; developing effective social protection responses; helping the tourism industry bounce back from COVID-19; harnessing digital technology for education; and transforming TVET systems for greater resilience.
- Regional cooperation responses to complement national strategies and emphasize public goods are also explored, such as multisector interventions in health, tourism, and migration.

Experts

Select ADB staff, government officials, academicians, private sector experts, and development partners are invited to serve as presenters and discussants.

Participants/Audience

Policy makers and planners involved in the various policy domains of the COVID-19 crisis recovery, especially from the ministries of finance and the BIMP-EAGA, IMT-GT, and GMS senior officials and national secretariats. Depending on the themes and topics, participation was extended to other ministries, the private sector, academe, civil society, and international organizations.

Invitation, Dissemination and Repository

The policy dialogues are by invitation and coursed through the BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT Senior Officials, GMS National Coordinators, and Ministries of Finance. Background papers are provided in advance to facilitate informed discussions. A public repository summarizing PACER Dialogues (without attribution) is hosted on [Development Asia](#).