

Bouncing Back

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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 (B-I-G) Capacity Building Program, will explore 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.” The Leaders also called for sharing of best practices between member states and external partners to effectively respond to COVID-19. Consistent with this call for action, the B-I-G Program will convene 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 how to balance policy responses that can mitigate the economic costs of the COVID-19 crisis while also minimizing risks to society. The PACER Dialogues will share 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-term economic recovery. Sharing knowledge and learning from others will allow 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 include: (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 1.5-hour (90 minute) PACER Dialogues will be held between June and July. The PACER Dialogues are being provided to help decision makers broaden their perspectives, appreciate the wider implications of critical policy choices, and identify concrete policy actions. Policy briefs for each Dialogue will be produced as knowledge products (outputs) that will be shared on ADB’s knowledge platform, [Development Asia](#).

Time Allotment	Activity
5 mins	Moderator's introductory remarks, highlighting objectives
20 mins	Presentation by expert(s)
15 mins	Short panel discussion with other featured experts
45 mins	Open discussion and fielding of questions
5 minutes	Moderator synthesis/summary
<b>90 mins</b>	<b>Total</b>

## Proposed Themes and Topics

Topics for the PACER Dialogues will fall into three main categories: (1) over-arching strategic approaches for forging national strategies for COVID-19 economic recovery; (2) cross-cutting thematic and sector-specific approaches to facilitate economic recovery and mitigate the devastating effects of COVID-19; and (3) regional cooperation responses to COVID-19 to complement national strategies.

- Over-arching strategic approaches for national recovery may include monetary, fiscal 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; policies to strengthen the role of the private sector in COVID-19 recovery; and mobilizing finance in the wake of COVID-19.
- Cross-cutting thematic and sector approaches may include anticipating future health trends to enhance resilience to pandemics; supporting SMEs to mitigate the negative effects of the crisis; developing effective social protection responses; helping the tourism industry bounce back from COVID-19; ensuring sustainable food security ; and harnessing digital technology for education.
- Regional cooperation responses to complement national strategies and emphasize public goods may also be explored, such as multi-sector interventions in health, tourism, migration, trade, and environment.

## Experts

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

## Participants/Audience

Participants/audience will include 24-36 policy makers and planners involved in the various policy domains of the COVID-19 economic recovery, particularly: (1) Senior Officials from BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT, and GMS National Coordinators; (2) Senior Officials from Ministries of Finance; and (3) experts from other relevant ministries (tourism, health, agriculture) depending on the particular topic. Participating government officials will be at the Director General level.

## Invitation, Dissemination and Repository

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