

ADB-IBMG Partnership: Virtual Seminars on *Sanitation and Development*

Organized by: Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), UK

16 August 2021

09:00-10:30 Japan Standard Time


(15 August 2021, 20:00-21:30 EDT)

[\[Registration link for audience\]](#)

Time	Description
08:45 - 09:00 (JST) 19:45 - 20:00 (EDT)	Login opens and pre-event chat
09:00 - 09:05 (JST) 20:00 - 20:05 (EDT)	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p><i>by Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean and CEO, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo, Japan</i></p>
09:05 - 09:50 (JST) 20:05 - 20:50 (EDT)	<p>Presentation</p> <p>Strategies to Increase Adoption of Welfare-Improving Technologies (like Toilets)</p> <p><i>by Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak Professor of Economics, School of Management and Department of Economics, Yale University</i></p> <p>Abstract: Solutions to many of today’s key development challenges hinge not on creating new technologies and solutions, but in understanding why people do not adopt seemingly beneficial technologies that already exist. Throughout the developing world, there are countless examples of technologies that appear to be welfare enhancing but are adopted by the poor at very low rates. Examples span health, finance and agriculture sectors, and include cleaner cook-stoves, anti-malarial bednets, toilets, fertilizer, weather insurance or improved seed varieties. To make progress on these problems, we need to understand the sources of behavioral or structural barriers to new technology adoption, in order to devise policies and marketing strategies to address those barriers. The talk will highlight economic analysis and randomized-controlled-trial based field experimental methods applied in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and in Sub-Saharan Africa to make progress on these questions. The sanitation sector is an important example, and an even more contemporary example is the current struggle to ensure consistent mask-wearing to control COVID transmission. We will therefore discuss the speaker’s current work distributing masks to 100 million people in South Asia and Latin America, based on a large-scale randomized controlled trial conducted in rural Bangladesh.</p>

09:50 - 10:25 (JST) 20:50 - 21:25 (EDT)	Questions & Answers and Discussions
10:25 - 10:30 (JST) 21:25 - 21:30 (EDT)	Closing Remarks and Wrap-up <i>by Peter Morgan, Senior Consulting Economist and Vice Chair for Research, ADBI</i>

Biography of Speaker

	<i>Last Name</i>	Mobarak	<i>First Name</i>	Ahmed Mushfiq
	<i>Institution</i>	Yale University		
	<i>Department</i>	School of Management and Department of Economics		
	<i>Position</i>	Professor of Economics		
Short Bio				
<p>Mobarak is the founder and faculty director of the Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE). He holds other appointments at <i>Innovations for Poverty Action</i>, the <i>Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)</i> at MIT, the <i>International Growth Centre (IGC)</i> at LSE.</p> <p>Mobarak has several ongoing research projects in Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Kenya, Malawi and Sierra Leone. He conducts field experiments exploring ways to induce people in developing countries to adopt technologies or behaviors that are likely to be welfare improving. He also examines the complexities of scaling up development interventions that are proven effective in such trials. For example, he is scaling and testing strategies to address seasonal poverty using migration subsidies or consumption loans in Bangladesh, Nepal and Indonesia. His research has been published in journals across disciplines, including <i>Econometrica</i>, <i>Science</i>, <i>The Review of Economic Studies</i>, <i>the American Political Science Review</i>, <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i>, and <i>Demography</i>, and covered by the New York Times, The Economist, Science, NPR, BBC, Wall Street Journal, the Times of London, and other media outlets around the world. He received a Carnegie Fellowship in 2017.</p> <p>https://faculty.som.yale.edu/mushfiqmobarak/</p>				

NOTE

- To participate in the webinar, we request you to download and install [Zoom-US](#).
- All participants are requested to test and pre-configure the software on your computers.
- To configure your computer's Audio-Video, please see the instructions [here](#).
- During the webinar, participants are requested to be seated in a quiet environment.
- During the webinar, participants are requested to mute their microphones. Participants may unmute their microphones to interact when required.
- For asking any question to the speakers/panellists during the webinar, participants are requested to use [Q&A](#) option.
- If you wish to give any feedback during the webinar, participants are requested to use [chat](#) option during the session.
- For any other queries, please email us at mlrevilla@adbi.org and msato@adbi.org.