



**54th ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**
VIRTUAL, 3-5 MAY 2021

CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAM

**Monday
3 May 2021**

Meeting Between Civil Society Organization and ADB Management

3 May 2021, 14:00-15:00 GMT+8

Open to all



Masatsugu Asakawa
Principal of the Asian
Development Bank (ADB)
and the Chairperson of
ADB's Board of Directors



Christopher Morris
Principal Social
Development Specialist,
NGO and Civil Society
Center
ADB

ADB senior management, represented by the ADB President, will address representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and nongovernment organizations (NGOs). This will be followed by questions and answers covering topics related to ADB's support to development across Asia and the Pacific and ADB's continuing engagement with civil society.

Collaboration for Resilient & Green Recovery: Realizing the Potential of a Sustainable Blue Economy

3 May 2021, 15:30-17:00 GMT+8

Open to all



Ingrid van Wees
Vice-President for Finance
and Risk Management
ADB

with **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**

WWF leads this session to explore, using examples from the coastal and marine sector of how to use COVID-19 recovery investments to ensure a more sustainable, inclusive, resilient post-pandemic economy. The "blue economy" has been particularly hard hit by supply chain disruptions and coastal tourism's collapse. Rebuilding it to function sustainably can support livelihoods and a greener and more resilient future across the region. Consistent with ADB's Healthy Oceans Action Plan, the session will involve civil society organizations as key partners along with a panel of experts who will explore policy and investment opportunities, current barriers to their implementation, and approaches to overcoming negative impacts on the blue economy.

**Tuesday
4 May 2021**

Civil Society Reflections on ADB's COVID-19 Operations

4 May 2021, 16:30-18:00 GMT+8

Open to all



Rayyan Hassan
Executive Director
NGO Forum on ADB



Wuohong Lim
Managing Director General
ADB



Rene E. Ofenso
President,
Freedom from Debt
Coalition



Hadeen Madbouh
Sulphuric Policy
Coordinator
NGO Forum on ADB



Vidya Decker
Indian Social Action
Forum/IndoSouthAsia

with **NGO Forum on ADB**

ADB has pledged US\$29.0 billion in COVID-19 assistance, the vast majority of which is public sector support. While the NGO Forum on ADB and its members are pleased to see a proactive approach from ADB in supporting member countries' roadmaps to recovery, concerns have been raised over account ability, transparency, and efficacy of the COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program. The Forum will share key findings of its studies in Bangladesh, India, and the Philippines to understand the function and impact of these loans on the public expenditures and debt. Discussions will account for climate change impacts, particularly in climate-vulnerable states.

Advancing the Progress toward Achieving the SDGs Post-COVID-19

4 May 2021, 20:00-21:30 GMT+8

Open to all



Bruno Carrasco
Director General,
Sustainable Development
and Climate Change
Department
ADB



Georgi Kitzabashvili
Executive Director
Institute for Development
of Freedom of Information
(IDFI) - Georgia



Yvonne Tukaloze
SDG National Coordinator
Planning and Coordination
Department - Georgia



Highlow Massagan
Director Emerita,
Caucasian Research
Resource Center (CIRC)
Armenia



Nico Harberich-Fisher
Senior Lecturer
Institute for Development
of Freedom of Information
(IDFI) - Georgia



Elin Schindjan
Public Policy Innovation
Task Lead
SDG Innovation Lab
(Armenia)

with **Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)**

IDFI, a Georgian civil society organization (CSO), will lead a panel discussion with government and CSO leaders from the Caucasus region on their experiences in institutionalizing and localizing the SDGs and the importance of adopting a participatory approach. The panelists will reflect on the impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic on the process of achieving the SDGs at the national levels, and how they can learn from each other's experiences.

**Wednesday
5 May 2021**

Meaningful Youth Engagement for an Inclusive Recovery

5 May 2021, 10:00-11:30 GMT+8

Open to all



Wai Ching
Meaningful Youth
Participation Specialist
ADB Youth for Asia



Neville Deakin
Youth Deakin - Coordinator
ADB Youth for Asia
Against Poverty



Djo Derry
Global President
AIESEC



M. Anshari Indrawati
Governor for Indonesia,
ADB, and Member of
Parliament - Indonesia



Ariya Chinnakorn
Regional Head of
Planning and Policy
Program - Thailand
ADB

with **Plan International and AIESEC**

Plan International, AIESEC, and ADB's Youth for Asia initiative will discuss what meaningful youth engagement is all about, and how stakeholders can work with young people to promote an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable recovery from COVID-19. Bringing together theoretical and practical perspectives, the session will feature a keynote address from a government stakeholder on how to effectively engage young people during the decision-making process. A mixed intergenerational panel will discuss meaningful youth engagement in practice. A call for papers will be launched on developing knowledge that will aid public and private development practitioners in building accessible and scalable models for such engagement.

Reviewing ADB's Energy Policy to Meet the Paris Goal of 1.5 Degrees Celsius

5 May 2021, 14:00-15:30 GMT+8

Open to all



Andriya Yermak
Lead Advisor, Policy and
Lead for Energy Strategy
and Sustainable Energy
Department
ADB



Agnieszka Brzezinska
Senior Director
Energy Policy
Department
ADB



Saphie Polchonnou
EU Liaison
Climate Action Network



Theodoros
Senior Advisor
Energy Policy
Department
ADB



Roger Pichler
Senior Advisor for
Energy Policy
and
Energy Efficiency
Department
ADB



Helen Marshall
Chief Executive
International and
Regional
Network (CIARAN)



Giles Watts
Energy Strategy
Department
ADB

with **NGO Forum on ADB**

While climate disasters are plaguing the world, ADB has spent roughly US\$10 billion on fossil fuels under its 2009 Energy Policy. Considering ADB's historical responsibility to the climate, the current Energy Policy review provides the opportunity to significantly shift its role as an Asian climate finance bank and help borrowing governments meet the Paris Agreement on Climate Change goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C. The NGO Forum on ADB will explore on the political appetite among donor countries for a fossil-free ADB and developing Asia, and unpack the pitfalls of false solutions in climate finance.