



# Social Protection for Economic Inclusion

Adapting the Graduation Approach in Asia and the Pacific

16-17 March 2021 | 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (GMT+8)

Online Event



ultra-poor graduation

with support from  
socialprotection.org

## EVENT AGENDA

### Day 1, Tuesday, 16 March 2021

*Breaking the Poverty Trap: Learning from Graduation Programs in the Philippines and Across Asia*

Time	Session
9:00 a.m.–9:10 a.m.	<b>ADB Opening Remarks</b> Bambang Susantono, Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, ADB
9:10 a.m.–9:35 a.m.	<b>Keynote Speech</b> Abhijit Banerjee Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and recipient of the 2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel
9:35 a.m.–10:15 a.m.	<b>Road to Resilience: The Graduation Approach in Asia and the Pacific</b> Moderator: Wendy Walker, Chief of Social Development Thematic Group, ADB Panelists: Dean Karlan, Founder and President, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) Shameran Abed, Senior Director, Microfinance and Ultra-Poor Graduation Programs, BRAC Yasuyuki Sawada, Chief Economist and Director General, ADB Karin Schelzig, Principal Social Sector Specialist, ADB
10:15 a.m.–10:25 a.m.	Break
	<b>Engaging Governments on Graduation and Economic Inclusion</b>
10:25 a.m.–11:00 a.m.	<b>Graduation Approach: Building Blocks of Success</b> Karin Schelzig, Principal Social Sector Specialist, ADB Lauren Whitehead, Director of Technical Assistance, BRAC Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative (UPGI)
11:00 a.m.–11:10 a.m.	<i>Video of the Graduation program in the Philippines</i>
11:10 a.m.–11:25 a.m.	<b>Lessons from adapting Graduation in the Philippines</b> Alex Avila, Assistant Secretary for Labor Relations, Social Protection and Policy Support, Department of Labor and Employment, Government of the Philippines
11:25 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	<b>Implementation insights from Graduation in the Philippines</b> Marlowe Popes, Field Manager, BRAC UPGI Dristy Shrestha, Technical Advisor, BRAC UPGI
11:45 a.m.–11:50 a.m.	Break
11:50 a.m.–12:20 p.m.	<b>Preliminary Evidence from Impact Evaluation of Graduation in the Philippines</b> Moderator: Yasuyuki Sawada, Chief Economist and Director General, ADB Speaker: Emily Beam, Researcher, IPA
12:20 p.m.–12:30 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Mr. Bruno Carrasco, Director General, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB



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### Day 2, Wednesday, 17 March 2021

*What do Governments Need to Know to Support People Living in Extreme Poverty Across Diverse Contexts?*

Time	Session
9:00 a.m.–9:10 a.m.	<b>ADB Introduction to Day 2</b> Lainie Thomas, Senior Social Development Specialist, ADB
9:10 a.m.–9:30 a.m.	<b>Framing Questions for Day 2</b> Moderator: Karin Schelzig, Principal Social Sector Specialist, ADB <b>Roundtable with Government Panelists</b>
9:30 a.m.–9:40 a.m.	<i>Government Participants Introductions</i> Lainie Thomas, Senior Social Development Specialist, ADB
9:40 a.m.–9:55 a.m.	<b>Scaling up Graduation in Bihar, India</b> Ajit Ranjan, State Project Manager, Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society, Department of Rural Development, Government of Bihar, India
9:55 a.m.–10:35 a.m.	<b>Discussion: Adapting Graduation to the COVID-19 Context</b> Moderator: Amir Jilani, Young Professional, ADB Introduction to topic: Yukiko Ito, Senior Social Development Specialist, ADB Discussants: Rhea Peñaflor, Assistant Secretary for Specialized Programs, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Government of the Philippines Marlowe Popes, Field Manager, BRAC UPGI Nassreena Sampaco-Baddiri, Country Director, IPA Philippines
10:35 a.m.–10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.–11:25 a.m.	<b>Discussion: Adapting Graduation for Resettled Populations in the Urban Context</b> Moderator: Michiko Suga, Senior Social Development Specialist, ADB Introduction to topic: Ricardo Carlos Barba, Principal Safeguards Specialist, ADB Discussants: Timothy John Batan, Undersecretary for Railways, Department of Transportation, Government of the Philippines James Neil Devasahayam DK, Head – Technical Programs, World Vision India Julie Kedroske, Technical Advisor, BRAC UPGI
11:25 a.m.–12:10 p.m.	<b>Discussion: Graduation Challenges and Solutions</b> Moderator: Yukiko Ito, Senior Social Development Specialist, ADB Introduction to topic: Lauren Whitehead, Director of Technical Assistance, BRAC UPGI Discussants: Alex Avila, Assistant Secretary for Labor Relations, Social Protection and Policy Support, Department of Labor and Employment, Government of the Philippines Ajit Ranjan, State Project Manager, Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society, Department of Rural Development, Government of Bihar, India Nassreena Sampaco-Baddiri, Country Director, IPA Philippines
12:10 p.m.–12:20 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Lainie Thomas, Senior Social Development Specialist, ADB