



Enhancing Social Protection and Gender Equality in the Gig Economy



The rapid growth of the gig economy, driven by advancements in communication technologies, the global internet boom, and accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, has created flexible work opportunities for millions, particularly benefiting women and youth. However, this expansion has exposed significant challenges, especially regarding social protection, as gig workers often lack access to health insurance, income security, and retirement savings. Additionally, many face unsafe work environments, unstable incomes, and limited grievance mechanisms. In Asia and the Pacific, gaps in regulatory frameworks leave gig workers vulnerable to financial and health risks. This webinar will address these issues, showcasing innovative strategies and lessons from countries that have successfully implemented social insurance schemes for gig workers.



DATE | 13 February 2025
Thursday

TIME | 14:00–15:30
Japan Standard Time



AGENDA



13:55 – 14:00 Introduction to the Webinar—Group Photo

14:00 – 14:10 Opening Remarks

Tetsushi Sonobe
Dean and CEO,
Asian Development Bank Institute

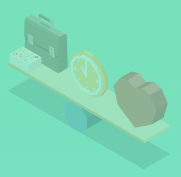
Gi Soon Song
Director, Human and Social Development, Sector Office,
Asian Development Bank



14:10 – 14:55 Moderator

Dil Rahut
Vice-Chair of Research and Senior Research Fellow, Asian Development Bank Institute

Speakers



Raja Rajendra Timilsina
Economist-Consultant, Asian Development Bank Institute
Presentation: *Physical and psychological distress among lower-skilled gig vs. nongig workers in India, Exploring Economic Challenges and Coping Strategies During COVID-19, Comparative Insights into Wages of Low-Skilled Platform and Non-Platform Workers in India*



Joseph Han
Research Fellow, Korea Development Institute
Presentation: *Policy Responses in Korea and lessons—Prerequisite and Policy considerations for extension of Social Insurance for Platform Workers*



Stephanie Dimatulac Santos
Visiting Fellow, University of Cambridge
Presentation: *Gig Economy Through a Gender Lens—Insights from Southeast Asia*

14:55 – 15:10 Discussants

Alex (Oleksiy) Ivaschenko
Senior Social Protection and Jobs Specialist,
Human and Social Development,
Sector Office, Asian Development Bank

Representative from the Ministry of Labour and Employment, India

15:10 – 15:25 Open Discussion (Q&A)

15:25 – 15:30 Closing Remark

Dr. Byungsik Jung
Deputy Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute

