

**2019 Social Protection Week: Securing the Future of Asia and the Pacific**  
**ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines**  
**9-12 September 2019**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

<b>DAY 1</b> <b>Monday, 9 September</b> <b>Auditorium Zones A to D</b>	
<b>10:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>Opening Session</b> <b>10:30 – 10:45</b>	<b>Welcome Remarks</b>
<b>Keynote Address</b> <b>10:45 – 11:15</b>	<b>Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b> <p>Despite significant progress in the expansion of social protection in many parts of Asia and the Pacific, social protection is not yet a reality for most of the Asia Pacific's population. According to World Social Protection Report 2017/2019, only less than 45% of global population is effectively covered by at least one social benefit, while remaining 55% - 4 billion people – are left unprotected. The keynote address highlights the need to extend social protection coverage and benefits to population in the informal economy to provide at least basic social protection to all.</p>
<b>Session 1</b> <b>11:15 – 12:30</b>	<b>Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific – Expanding Social Protection for All (Target 1 Point 3)</b> <p>The Asia and Pacific region is increasingly cognizant of the social economic and potential development of social protection. Anchored on strong political commitment, sound policy design and inclusive dialogue, several of the region's countries have successfully expanding social protection coverage and stand out as a global reference. The Panelists will discuss the ability of key stakeholders on striking the balance between economic growth and social inclusiveness in line with the S2030 SDGs agenda.</p>
<b>12:30 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch: ADB Executive Dining Room (EDR)</b>
<b>Session 2</b> <b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Financing the SDG Social Protection Agenda</b> <p>Many countries in Asia and the Pacific have expanded their social protection programs. Yet, despite these gains, many countries still face considerable challenges, particularly in creating the sustainable financing needed for their social welfare programs. Such financing is the bedrock for the success of the social protection agenda of SDGs</p>

	and of ADB's Strategy 2030. Given the importance of social protection for inclusive growth and development, the Panelists will discuss options for financing social protection and explore all possible financing alternatives.
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>The Changing World of Work: Challenges for Social Protection Systems</b>
	As the region of Asia and the Pacific makes the shift to digital work platforms, the increasing use of the teleworking and expanding work opportunities in the platform and gig economies raise important questions about the future of social protection coverage, wages, promotion of labor rights, occupational safety and health regulations. The Panelists will discuss the key challenges and solutions for expanding social protection to workers in digital economy.
<b>Session 3.1 16:00 – 16:30</b>	<b>Technology and the Future Work in Asia</b>
<b>Session 3.2 16:30 – 17:30</b>	<b>Social Protection and New Forms of Employment</b>
<b>Networking Session 17:30 – 19:00</b>	<b>Cocktails</b>
<b>DAY 2</b> <b>Tuesday, 10 September</b> <b>Auditorium Zones A to D</b>	
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Expanding Cash Transfers in Asia: Progress and Challenges</b>
	Cash transfers are part of comprehensive social protection in achieving SDGs. The evidence shows significant impact of cash transfers on human capital outcomes and poverty reduction. However, cash only is not enough. Key challenges are institutional arrangements, capacity to manage programs, affordability, and financial sustainability. Further promoting transformational social protection such as birth registration, child protection, family support service is critical element of ensuring quality and accessibility of basic services.
<b>Session 4.1 09:00 – 09:45</b>	<b>25 Years of Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs): Learning from Latin America's Experience</b>
<b>09:45 – 10:15</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>Session 4.2 10:15 – 11:30</b>	<b>CCTs in Asia: Lessons from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Pakistan</b>
<b>Session 4.3 11:30 – 12:30</b>	<b>Achieving Universal Health Coverage in Asia and the Pacific</b> Developing countries in Asia and the Pacific are far from achieving universal health coverage and universal social protection. Health and social protection face similar challenges around the role of the state in expanding coverage, in who to subsidize, in the composition of the

	overall systems (contributory and non-contributory programs), and funding arrangements (general revenue, payroll taxes). While country trajectory are seldom linear, recent progress and challenges on universal health coverage may offer relevant insight for social protection.
<b>12:30 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch:</b> ADB Executive Dining Room (EDR)
<b>Session 5</b>	<b>Social Security for Asia and the Pacific</b>
<b>Session 5.1</b> <b>14:00 – 14:45</b>	<b>10 Challenges for Social Security</b> Global levels of social security protection are uneven although the coverage trend continue to increase. ISSA spotlights ten of the most important challenges that confront social security systems. Speaker will share current and future challenges that require further development, sharing of innovations, good practices and solutions by all stakeholders.
<b>Session 5.2</b> <b>14:45 – 15:00</b>	<b>Closing the Social Security Coverage Gap</b> Effective access to social security coverage remains a challenge to most of the population in Asia and the Pacific. To enhance social security coverage in line with S2030 SDGs Agenda, it is incumbent on the region's policy-makers and social security administration to implement innovative policies and strategies to improve the coverage of social security. The Panelists will discuss country experience in closing coverage gaps for social security.
<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>Session 6</b>	<b>Monitoring Social Protection at Country, Regional and Global Levels</b>
<b>15:30 – 17:00</b>	Monitoring and evaluation are important tools to improve the quality of social protection programs and systems, by ensuring accountability and transparency, providing important feedback on the performance of a program, and identifying possible shortcomings and gaps.
<b>DAY 3</b> <b>Wednesday, 11 September</b> <b>Auditorium Zones A to D</b>	
<b>Session 7</b>	<b>Adaptive Social Protection and Strengthening Resilience</b>
<b>9:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>Strengthening Climate and Disaster Resilience through Social Protection</b> When designed with climate and disaster risk considerations in mind, social protection programs can help ensure that people can anticipate and absorb the adverse impacts of hazards without taking unnecessary actions that put their lives at risk. This session will discuss why it is important to strengthen climate and disaster resilience through social protection programs, and how social protection programs can introduce

	ex ante measures to reduce risk and strengthen adaptive capacity of poor households and vulnerable
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>Session 8 11:00 – 12:30</b>	<p><b>Addressing Inequalities Across the Life Cycle</b></p> <p>Social Protection systems support social cohesion and tackle inequalities in society. In this regard, tackling income inequality is just one, albeit very important, objective. Social protection systems also help address inequalities between genders, in access to labor market opportunities, or access to health care and health services, and enable people to mitigate risks and realize their potential across life course.</p>
<b>Session 8.1 Zone B</b>	<p><b>Child Grants in Mongolia, Georgia, and Indonesia</b></p> <p>Child benefits are an essential part of social protection system and one of the most effective ways to combat child poverty and vulnerability. Research findings show that caregivers who are entrusted with the grant – mostly women – are investing the grant in good nutrition, schooling, care and other essentials. And in the context of widespread poverty and unemployment, the grant often benefits the entire household. The Panelists will discuss country experiences in implementing child grant programs</p>
<b>Session 8.2 Zone C</b>	<p><b>Social Pensions in Nepal, Thailand and Timor-Leste</b></p> <p>The growing aging population in developing Asia and the Pacific has significant consequences for providing social protection to the elderly. Social Protection in the region has historically been weak and fragmented and has mainly supported small segments of the population in the formal sector. Many governments in the region are setting non-contributory programs to assist elderly people, most of whom are not covered by formal pension schemes. The Panelists will discuss their experiences on the challenges of designing and implementing social pension schemes.</p>
<b>Session 8.3 Zone D</b>	<p><b>Mainstreaming Disability in Social Protection</b></p> <p>Given the strong linkages between disability and poverty, there has been a growing interest in mainstreaming disability in social protection interventions. Evidence clearly indicates that persons with disabilities are more likely to live in poor households, have limited access to employment opportunities, and have lower education enrolment and attendance rates. People with disabilities may share several experiences that reduce their access and/or demand for services: discrimination and stigma, traditional social norms preventing use of services, limited resources, visibility, inaccessible programs etc. Alongside an adequate supply of services, social protection can help address these causes of exclusion thereby preventing the generation of secondary impairments. Mainstreaming disability into social protection implies adjusting in the design and implementation of</p>

	programs and policies in order to address the specific vulnerabilities associated with disability.
<b>12:30 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch:</b> ADB Executive Dining Room (EDR)
<b>Session 9 14:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Aging and Elderly Care</b>
	Asia is undergoing one of the most profound demographic shifts in the world. By 2050, the number of people over the age of 65 is expected to exceed 1 billion. The speed and scale of change in the region is creating, and will continue to create, significant social and economic challenges. Traditional family care systems are increasingly stressed and new comprehensive elderly care systems that address the risks of the substantial fiscal and negative social consequences of aging must be developed. Governments, the public and private sectors, and civil society all need to be prepared to work together to address these challenges.
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>Session 10 16:00 – 17:30</b>	<b>Social Protection for Economic Inclusion</b>
<b>Session 10.1 Zone B</b>	<p><b>Cash, Coaching, and Confidence: How the Graduation Approach Achieves Sustainable Livelihoods</b></p> <p>The graduation approach—also called cash plus programming, productive inclusion, and social protection for employment— is an innovative, holistic approach to poverty reduction that combines targeted social assistance (cash and asset transfers) with technical and life skills training, financial inclusion, and coaching &amp; mentoring. The comprehensive set of sequenced interventions includes a productive asset transfer, temporary cash transfers, technical training, home visits for coaching and support, access to a savings account, behavior change communication, and referral to health services. This session will discuss how the graduation approach—based on nearly 100 examples from 43 countries —promotes economic opportunities and social inclusion to give the poor and vulnerable a big push toward sustainable livelihoods, building their income, assets, and resilience.</p>
<b>Session 10.2 Zone C</b>	<p><b>Youth Employment and Social Protection</b></p> <p>Asia and the Pacific has over 700 million of young people aged 15-24, comprising 60 percent of the world's youth. Many younger workers have great difficulty in entering formal stable employment and remain excluded from social security programs. The challenge is how to extend social security coverage and expand formal labor markets for the youth.</p>
<b>Session 10.3 Zone D</b>	<b>Macroeconomic Stability of the Era of Aging Population</b>

<b>DAY 4</b> <b>Thursday, 12 September</b> <b>Auditorium Zones A to D</b>	
<b>Session 11</b>	<b>Using Innovative Technology to Deliver Social Protection</b>
<b>09:00 – 10:30</b>	Evidence has shown that using ICT to deliver social protection increases project efficiency and cost-effectiveness, increases flexibility and broader access to banking facilities for beneficiaries, and can especially empower women. Effective strategies to address risks such as information regulation and data security enhance opportunities of ICT use can significantly outweigh the risks.
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>Session 12</b> <b>11:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Capacity Development and Cross Cutting Issues in Social Protection Systems</b>
<b>Session 12.1</b> Zone B	<b>Learning from South-South Cooperation: Innovative Approach for Capacity Development in Developing Countries</b>  The South-South Cooperation on Social Protection is a collaborative platform for policy dialogue and knowledge-sharing amongst social protection practitioners in the Global South aiming to expand the knowledge base and capacities of developing countries to design and implement nationally-owned poverty reduction strategies, bridging the gaps between theory, policy and practice with accessible and diverse social protection information, as well as providing a space where practitioners can share ideas, experiences and resources. The panel will discuss experience, challenge, and opportunities to strengthen The South-South Cooperation on Social Protection.
<b>Session 12.2</b> Zone C	<b>Strengthening Social Protection Governance</b>  Many countries in the Asia-Pacific region have already implemented a wide variety of social protection programs. Nevertheless, they remain fragmented, inadequate and inequitable. While social protection schemes are developed in response to specific country needs and contexts and are greatly different in terms of scope and sectoral focus, there are areas where countries can learn from one another. One such area pertains to the governance and institutional set-up for effective implementation of social protection, particularly at the local level.
<b>Session 12.3</b> Zone D	<b>Gender Dimensions of Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific</b>  Women face different risks in their daily lives than men do. Many women have difficulty accessing social protection programs, which are not devised with women in mind. Programs can be designed to reach women, however. Features that help women gain access include allowing more flexibility in requirements for official documents, like birth and marriage certificates; providing services close to women's homes;

	accommodating women's family care responsibilities; and allowing small contributions and payments at flexible intervals.
<b>12:30 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch:</b> ADB Executive Dining Room (EDR)
<b>Session 13</b> <b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Social Protection and Labor Market Programs and Policies</b> Social protection and labor systems, programs and policies buffer individuals from shocks and equip them to improve their livelihoods and create opportunities to build a better life for themselves and their families. social protection and labor programs contribute to growth by building and protecting human capital, providing the security, promoting greater labor market mobility, enhancing productive assets and infrastructure, and reducing inequality in society.
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>Session 14</b>	<b>Social Protection – The Way Forward</b>
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>