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May 27, 2020

**Casting Wider Safety Nets to Reach Asia's Most Vulnerable:
Real-time Policy Recommendations during the Covid-19 Pandemic**

Three-part Webinar Series
2, 4 & 10 June 2020

Dear Participants,

We are pleased to inform you that the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) will organize a three-part webinar series, "**Casting Wider Safety Nets to Reach Asia's Most Vulnerable: Real-time Policy Recommendations during the Covid-19 Pandemic**" in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank and the International Labour Organization. This event will be held online from **15:00-17:00 (Tokyo time) on 2, 4 & 10 June 2020**.

Background: Having spread to over 185 countries and infecting over 3 million people, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a global health emergency and unprecedented economic shock. The Asia and Pacific region is one of the hardest-hit due to high population density, poverty, and large numbers of informal and migrant workers in vulnerable sectors. Millions may return to poverty if incomes and livelihoods are not protected during the crisis.

As a response to the pandemic, safety net programs are being rolled out in most Asian economies, which include cash transfers, in-kind food support, wage subsidies, utility waivers, social insurance, social pension support, and other mechanisms. The most prevalent has been cash transfers, which gained traction before the current crisis as an effective tool to support the poor. But existing cash transfer systems have not been tested in a crisis of the current magnitude. The speed and scale of the response required for the pandemic is unprecedented, thus governments and development practitioners need to learn lessons in real time.

Senior government officials directly engaged in the design and implementation of Covid-19 safety net responses, as well as social protection experts have been invited to participate in the webinar series. ADBI will distribute a questionnaire to government officials beforehand about the scale of the pandemic in their respective countries, its economic impact, the most vulnerable segments of the population, and implementation obstacles they may be facing. Development practitioners and researchers will be invited to respond and share ideas about reaching the most vulnerable.

In order to register for the event, please visit the following links by **01 June 2020**.

Webinar 1: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LEkXdn07QJas75ljXc7AGg

Webinar 2: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4-5cjbhsQeu2z82DBJcyyQ

Webinar 3: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uzxfseqFSBaM8tuCdf6s5g

Once you submit the registration form, you will receive details on joining the webinar series.

Should you require any further information on the proposed event, please feel free to contact the coordinators, Dr. Linda Arthur (larthur@adbi.org), Dr. Yong Jun Baek (ybaek@adbi.org) or Mr. Lingfeng Zheng (lzheng1@adbi.org).

Thank you for your kind attention, and we look forward to seeing you during the webinar series.

Yours sincerely,

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