Climate resilience and development in the Indo-pacific

The Indo-Pacific region is more susceptible to climate change than other regions. Countries in the Indo-Pacific are more populated and have a high incidence of poverty, and weak institutions and governance are much more prevalent. Frequent adverse climatic conditions and disasters have repeatedly impacted the regional economies and people. Therefore, adaptation to climate change by people and organisations – changing the social and economic systems, needing to exploit new or renewed opportunities becomes a key strategy to become climate resilient or to sustain economic growth. This unique capability to adapt to this challenge entails organisations changing economic behaviour, shifting priorities, and implementing innovative approaches to mitigate the climatic impact on their way of life.

This session presents and analyses various frameworks based on multilateral mindsets and sustainable development in the wake of COP27 and shares responses from organisations (government, non-profit and private sector) in the Indo-Pacific region towards climate resilience. Based on a review of country or sector-specific experiences, it will discuss the key dimensions and challenges these organisations face and suggest possible interventions and sectoral planning tools for building institutional collaboration to equip them with the inevitable challenges of climate change.

Moderator

Dr. Neville Hewage obtained his B.Sc. (General Science) from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, M.Sc. (Industrial Environmental management) from the University of Abertay Dundee, United Kingdom, M.Sc. (Biology) and Ph.D. (Human Sciences) from Laurentian University, Canada. Dr. Hewage is an Adjunct Professor and Research Fellow at the International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Law, Laurentian University, Canada. He is also a Program Director of the Ontario International Development Agency, which provides sustainable development programs and research in human development, international security and governance. Dr. Hewage also serves as a Senior Policy Analyst at the Ontario Centre for Policy Research, Canada. In addition, Dr. Hewage also obtained MIPIS (Infrastructure Protection and International Security) from the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University, Canada. Dr. Hewage is a member of the Law Society Ontario and is licensed to provide legal services in Ontario, Canada.
Masudur Rahman, Ph.D, Emeritus, Nord University, Norway, has a long academic carrier as a teacher and researcher, at various universities in Norway. Educated as a sociologist and an economist, Dr. Rahman has an eclectic range of research interests, embracing economy and society relations, both at micro and macro-levels.

Dr. Rahman’s research works are diverse and multifaceted. Those include macroscopic studies of the structures of power as well as interpersonal network relations, at a variety of levels. Divers, yet, Dr. Rahman’s research works fit broadly under the umbrella of development process, including economic and social organizations and political mobilization, in Bangladesh and South Asian countries. Dr. Rahman’s recent studies include the sustainability of the Norwegian welfare mode.

Mohshin is the Policy and Strategy Adviser at ASA Philippines Foundation, large Microfinance Institution in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. He has extensive experience working in several countries in Asia and the Pacific in Development cooperation and Microfinance in UNDP and INGOs. Mohshin’s academic career spans 20 years across Monash, ANU, Deakin and Swinburne University of Technology in Australia. During his time at Swinburne, he held positions as the Director and program coordinator of the International Business Program and Discipline Leader, Management. In 2018, Mohshin led an international consortium and conducted the largest sample refugee study on primary data. He was the lead author of “Forced Migration of Rohingya: The Untold Experience” published by OIDA, Canada. He has received over AUD 890,000 industry research grants on transnational research projects involving multiple stakeholders. He was the lead researcher in several research projects, including Poverty Alleviation Measurement Tool (Cambodia & Timor Leste), Intergenerational Poverty and Resilience and Disaster risk- Philippines, Railway Resettlement-Cambodia and TVET sector reform- Bangladesh. He has supervised 5 PhD students to completion and several Masters projects. Currently, a member of the editorial board for the OIDA Journal of Sustainable development, Indonesian Treasury Review and Skillman.eu and an Adjunct Professor at Laurentian University, Canada. He holds a PhD in International Development from Deakin University, MBA from the University of Santo Tomas, Philippines.
Dr. Steven Cheah holds a Malaysian M Econ, a British Ph.D., an American MBA, a Canadian teaching diploma, and is an Australian Certified Management Accountant. His research interests are wide-ranging, including financial regulation and innovation, financial reporting, corporate governance, industrial technology transfer, open and distance education. Steven has published a number of academic books and book chapters, over 25 journal articles, and sat on journal editorial boards. He worked closely with industry, and has undertaken consultancy projects for United Nations and other international agencies, multinational corporations, central and commercial banks.

Steven was professor of economics at several public and private universities in Malaysia and Canada, and was a visiting professor at an American state university. During his long and distinguished academic career, he supervised a number of masters and doctoral candidates, and was appointed external Ph.D. examiner for Malaysian, Australian, and Indian universities (including Indian Institute of Technology). He has served in various leadership and management capacities, such as economics chair, director of continuing education, dean of business school, and dean of graduate school at various universities. He recently retired as economics professor at a Canadian public university.

Prof. Muhammad Zilal Hamzah, PhD was born in Padang, West Sumatera Province, July 11, 1964. He is currently the Head of the Doctoral Program of Public Policy Studies and Head and founder member of Centre for Financial Inclusion (CFI), Magister in Economics Program, and Doctoral of Public Policy Studies at Trisakti University. He got Ph.D. in Economics Doctoral Program, from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (2005).

Currently, Prof. Muhammad works as an External Examiner at the University of Malaya, University of Malaysia Terengganu, Swinburne Technology University, UiTM, Universitas Indonesia, Universitas Airlangga, and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. He also worked as a guest Lecturer at some Universities in Indonesia and is currently a member of The Indonesian Association of Islamic Economist (IAEI), The Indonesian Economic Scholar Association (ISEI), The Indonesian Lecturer Association (ADI) and the Association of Muslim Intellectuals (ICMI). Furthermore, he is a reviewer of some journals, including JSSD and JBSD (University of Malaysia, Terengganu), JPI (University of Malaya), JEM (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia), AIJIEF (Universitas Airlangga), MANAR, and

His expertise and study area in Public Policy, Fiscal Decentralization, and Islamic Economic and Finance. He is former commissioner at Indonesian Waqf Board, and right now as a member of OJK’s Fit and Proper Revi. He is also ae as project member from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Law and Human Rights. More than 100 articles are already published in some reputable journals indexed such as: Scopus, WoS, Ebsco, Google Scholar, and Sinta. Furthermore, he wrote some books on Fiscal Decentralization and Economic Growth, The Introduction of Fiscal Decentralization, The Success Factor of Sustainable Development, Readings in Islamic Economics, Development of Sustainable Development Policy in Indonesia, Fiscal Decentralization: Present and Future, and Unraveling the Paradox of Airline Business in Indonesia.
Eleonora Sofilda, was born in Jakarta, August 14, 1972. She completed her Doctoral program at Trisakti University, in 2012. Currently she is Secretary of the Public Policy Concentration, Doctoral Program in Economics and Secretary of the Center for Financial Inclusion (CFI) Faculty of Economics and Business at Trisakti University. Her expertise and research area is in the field of Fiscal Policy and Public Policy. She has written more than 20 scientific articles and has been published in various journals such as: Banks and Banks System Journal, International Journal of Sustainable Development/IJSD, ICEESE, JEM-UKM Malaysia, Review of Islamic Economics-UK, EJEM- UII, ITrev, Media Ekonomi and others. In addition, she has also written several books (including collaborations) such as: Introduction to Macroeconomics, Mathematics for Economics and Business, and The Success Factor of Sustainable Development. She is also as a journal reviewer at Public Finance Journal (STAN). She has also served as a Guest Lecturer at Arsyad Ayub Graduate Business School and anEvaluator and Reviewer of the Poster Contest at Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia.

Mr. Jikiri is the Executive Vice President for Finance, MIS, IT, and Accounts at ASA Philippines Foundation, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO). He also serves as the Foundation's current Corporate Secretary.

In 2010, he provided technical assistance to the Metta Development Foundation in Myanmar to evaluate and ensure the sustainability of community-led credit and savings. He also provided technical assistance to the microfinance organizations of the Southern Provincial Unions and the Vietnamese-Belgian Credit Project Credit Support Fund in Vietnam in 2014.

He studied Islamic finance at MBK (Mitra Bisnis Keluarga), Bank Muamalat, and Universitas Islam Negeri Sharif Hidayatullah Jakarta in Indonesia.

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He took his Master of Applied Business Economics from the University of Asia and the Pacific. He completed his undergraduate studies at Notre Dame of Jolo College, where he also served as President of the college's student government, earning two degrees: a Bachelor of Science in Commerce with a major in Management Accounting and a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy.

He was born in Jolo, Sulu, and is a proud father of Tausug and Moro.