



# infra4dev

CONFERENCE

Transformative Infrastructure for the  
Developing World

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## Speakers, Panelists and Moderators

### Aisha Elaine Williams



Aisha Elaine Williams is the Global Director for Infrastructure Finance of the Infrastructure Vice Presidency at the World Bank. Prior to this role, Aisha was the Director for Partnerships and Blended Finance at International Finance Corporation (IFC), where she led the team responsible for IFC's efforts to raise and deploy concessional donor funding to unlock private investment for development. Aisha joined IFC in 2005 and held several positions during her tenure there. Aisha previously worked as a strategy consultant with McKinsey & Co. in Chicago, USA, specializing in financial institutions. Aisha holds an MSc in Development Economics from Oxford University, an MBA from Kellogg School of Management (Northwestern University) and a B.A. from Princeton. Aisha is a dual citizen of the United States and Trinidad & Tobago.

### Almud Weitz



Almud Weitz is currently the World Bank's Regional Practice Director for Infrastructure in the Middle East and North Africa region. A German and Italian national, she joined the World Bank in 2007 as Senior Regional Team Leader of the Water and Sanitation Program in the East Asia and Pacific Region, based in Jakarta. She has since held various positions at the World Bank, including Lead Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist and Transport Practice Manager in the EAP region based in Singapore, and most recently Transport Practice Manager in Eastern Africa based in Nairobi. Before joining, Ms. Weitz worked at the Asian Development Bank in Manila and Jakarta and with the United Nations Development Programme in New York.

### Arti Grover



Arti Grover is a Principal Economist with the Economic Research unit of the International Finance Corporation. Her research encompasses a range of topics covering firm dynamics, trade, productivity, entrepreneurship, and spatial development. She co-authored two of the World Bank's Productivity Project flagship books – High-growth firms and Place, Productivity and Prosperity and three books on trade in services. She has published over fifty articles in top peer-reviewed journals such as Economic Journal, Journal of Urban Economics and PNAS, and in World Bank policy research working paper series and book chapters. In the past, Arti has been affiliated with the Harvard Business School and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Before joining the World Bank in 2009, she was a Doctoral Fulbright fellow at Princeton University and an Assistant Professor at Delhi School of Economics, India.

### Augustin Maria



Augustin Maria is the Global Lead for Cities and Climate Change at the World Bank's Urban, Resilience and Land Global Department. Since joining the World Bank as a Young Professional in 2008, Augustin has held various positions across South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa Regions. He has extensive field experience, having worked in country offices in India and Morocco. Most recently, Augustin has been serving as the Program Manager for the City Climate Finance Gap Fund. He holds a PhD in Economics from Université Paris Dauphine and an Engineering degree from Ecole des Mines de Paris.

### Ayumi Konishi



Ayumi Konishi supports the CEO of Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF) in providing strategic leadership to enable the institution to deliver results aimed at achieving its vision and goals. This includes ensuring effective functioning of the Office of CEO, which is primarily responsible for strategic planning, partnership development and external communication, and coordinating the activities of the MCDF Secretariat's teams and work units. Ayumi was one of the signatories of the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding establishing MCDF while representing the Asian Development Bank (ADB) - where he served for 32 years as an operations staff in education; sector director for governance, finance, and trade sectors in the Southeast Asia region; Country Director for Viet Nam; Deputy Director General for Pacific Department; Director General for East Asia Department; and Special Senior Advisor to the President. While at ADB, Ayumi was directly involved in Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Economic Cooperation Program, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program and the Pacific Islands Forum, led the revival of Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) and Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) as they became inactive after the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997-1998, as well as the establishment of the CAREC Institute. Prior to ADB, he worked for the United Nations (Secretariat) for over 6 years in Baghdad, New York and Addis Ababa. Graduated from Waseda University (Japan) and Oregon State University (US), Ayumi has a Master's Degree in Economics from New York University (US).

### Bing LI



Li Bing is currently Associate Professor at Lingnan College, Sun Yat-sen University, and Head of the economics department. He is also the deputy dean of the National Academy of Development at Sun Yat-sen University. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Jilin University in 2008 and his Ph.D. in social sciences from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2011. The main research areas are international trade and urban economics. He oversees two projects from the National Natural Science Foundation of China. He has finished 2 provincial and ministerial projects, 4 in charge of major national social sciences sub-projects, 1 participated in the Ministry of Education major projects and several government department projects. He supervised more than a dozen projects conducted by his students. He is selected into the first batch of excellent innovative and entrepreneurship tutors in China, the director of intellectual property Sub-Committee of China Technical and Economic Association, and the anonymous reviewer of journals such as Economic Research Journal, World Economy, etc.

### Caglar Ozden



Çağlar Özden is the Deputy Chief Economist for the Middle East and North Africa. Prior, he was a Lead Economist in the Development Research Group and co-director of the 2023 World Development Report, Migrants, Refugees, and Societies. He was the co-author of recent World Bank report Global Skill Partnerships and lead author of the Policy Research Report Moving for Prosperity: Global Migration and Labor Markets. A Turkish national, Çağlar received his undergraduate degrees in economics and industrial engineering from Cornell University and a PhD in economics from Stanford University. He is a fellow of Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), the Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration, and the Economic Research Forum. His research explores the nexus of globalization of product and labor markets, government policies, and economic development. He has edited three books and published numerous papers in leading academic journals such as the American Economic Review and the Economic Journal. His current research projects explore the determinants and patterns of global labor mobility, brain drain, internal migration, ageing and demographic trends, and linkages between labor, trade, and foreign direct investment flows.

### Carmen Nonay



Carmen is a seasoned and thought leader in international development with almost three decades in the World Bank Group (WBG) with focus in infrastructure and sustainable development. She has led policy reforms dialogue, fostered public and private investments, and built capacity with strong analytics; leading large teams for impact. Currently, she reports to the WBG's Board of Executive Directors in her role as Director of the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG). She is IEG's Director responsible for the oversight of the development impact for 2/3 of the World Bank's portfolio (Infrastructure, Sustainable Development, Digital, Private Sector Development and Finance) as well as all the portfolio for the private sector arms of the WBG: the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). During FY23, she led technical excellence across the two main departments in IEG delivering a record work program, including over 500 validations of projects and key large evaluations in strategic areas for the WBG to take decisions at the country level, in private capital mobilization, circular economy, transport decarbonization, agrifood crisis or energy efficiency. Carmen is leading managers and teams to move the needle in development with evaluation reports in strategic areas for the three WBG institutions in both the private and public sectors. Carmen holds an MBA (Finance) from Thunderbird in the USA.

### Chang Junhong



Chang Junhong is now working as Director General, Department of International Economic and Financial Cooperation, Ministry of Finance, P. R. China. Chang served as Executive Director for China at the World Bank Group from August 2020 to January 2025. She was Co-Dean of the Board, Vice Chair of Audit Committee and member of COGAM. Chang worked as Director of ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) headquartered in Singapore, from May 2016 to May 2019, leading AMRO in conducting macroeconomic surveillance for ASEAN+3 members and supporting implementation of regional financing arrangements in the East Asia. Previously, Ms. Chang was Deputy Director General of the Department of International Economic Relations in the Ministry of Finance of China, responsible for China's engagement with major multilateral platforms such as G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meetings and ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meetings, and for

bilateral economic and financial dialogues between China and other major economies. Chang joined the Ministry of Finance of China in 1995 and had assumed numerous positions in the Department of the World Bank, the International Department, the Office of External Economic Cooperation, the Department of International Economic Relations, and the Department of International Economic and Financial Cooperation. From June 2019 to June 2020, she served as the Alternate Executive Director for China at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Previously she served as the Alternate Executive Director for China at the World Bank Group (WBG) from 2009 to 2010, and Advisor to the Executive Director for China at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) from 2002 to 2004. Chang possesses rich experience in multilateral and bilateral economic and financial fora and international financial institutions including MDBs. She has profound insights on global economic issues, international finance, development and financing for development, and regional financial cooperation. Chang graduated with a Master of Engineering degree from the Management School of Tianjin University in 1995 and held a Ph.D. in Economics from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in 2012.

### Christine Zhenwei Qiang



Christine Zhenwei Qiang is the Global Director of Digital at the World Bank. She heads a team supporting the establishment of foundations and enablers needed for digital transformation in developing countries to drive shared prosperity and reduce poverty. Her team advises policymakers and regulators, works closely with private sector and development partners, and designs investment and technical assistance programs to improve digital and data connectivity, strengthen digital safeguards such as cybersecurity and data protection, and use AI and new technologies to address development challenges in client countries. The team also works to leverage the potential of digital technologies to enhance environmental sustainability and bridge the digital gender gap.

### Cong Peng



Cong Peng is an Assistant Professor at the National School of Development and the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development at Peking University. He received his PhD from the London School of Economics in September 2019. From 2020 to 2022, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, San Diego, and Harvard Kennedy School. He was also a Fox Fellow at Yale University from 2014 to 2015. Currently, he is the principal investigator of a project sponsored by the International Growth Centre (IGC) that evaluates the economic effects of infrastructure in Zambia. Cong's primary research fields are spatial and environmental economics. His recent work involves using high-resolution satellite imagery and artificial intelligence to track transportation networks and monitor regional economic and environmental changes in Central Asia, Zambia, and Pakistan.

### Daniel Duma



Daniel Duma is a Research Fellow at SEI Headquarters where he leads the Finance for Sustainable Development Programme. FSD focuses on identifying policy solutions that can support investments in sustainable economic activities in developing countries. Daniel's research interests include blended finance and risk mitigation, renewable energy finance (particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa), energy policy, economic regulation in power distribution, carbon pricing, and financing industrial transitions. Before joining SEI, Daniel worked at the international electricity company Enel, in various roles related to sustainability, public affairs, renewable energy development, and finance.

### Demetrios Papathanasiou



Dr Papathanasiou leads more than 100 professionals at the Global Units of the Energy and Extractives Global Practice of the World Bank. He coordinates the overall strategic direction of the Practice, advances the knowledge and learning agenda for the Bank's energy and extractives professionals, and oversees corporate reporting, trust funds, and partnerships for the Practice. Demetrios has worked for more than 25 years with the World Bank Group on Energy and Infrastructure in Africa, Latin America, East Europe and the Balkans, South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific Islands. He has contributed to developing energy policies in several countries and worked on power generation projects using many diverse technologies: thermal, hydropower, solar, wind, and geothermal. He has led large teams on complex utility and sector reforms, as well as sizeable public-private partnership transactions. As the Manager for the World Bank's Energy Practice in South Asia (2016-2020), he was responsible for a portfolio of more than \$10 billion and worked to increase renewable energy projects in the region, expand regional interconnections and exchanges, and modernize networks across the region.

### Dina Azhgaliyeva



Dina joined EREA on Monday (September 30th) as Senior Economist. She is an expert on energy economics. Prior to joining ADB, she was Senior Research Fellow in the Asian Development Bank Institute (Japan). Previously she worked at the University College London, the National University of Singapore, the University of Reading (United Kingdom) and the Ministry of Finance of Kazakhstan. She earned her PhD in economics from the University of Essex (United Kingdom). In the recent years, much of her research analyzes original firm-level data to understand decisions affecting carbon emissions. Just in the past several years, she has published articles in World Development, Energy Economics, Journal of Risk and Financial Management, Journal of Cleaner Production, and Climate Policy. She served as guest editor of Applied Energy and Energy Economics journals.

### Ede Ijjasz



Ede Ijjasz has over 30 years of experience in international development, consulting, and academia, in the areas of sustainable development, infrastructure, financing, and climate change. He is currently a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. He is a Senior Advisor to several international organizations and IFIs, including the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), the Global Center on Climate Adaptation (GCA), ADB, AIIB, UNESCO, WMO, and the World Bank, with a focus on climate change adaptation. He worked for 23 years at the World Bank, in more than 90 developing and emerging economies in all regions of the world – from fragile and conflict-affected countries to high-middle-income countries. He oversaw a portfolio of more than \$80B of investments and close to 800 policy reports on infrastructure, sustainable development, and climate change. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Miyamoto International, a disaster response company; Cadasta, a foundation that leverages technology to provide land right titles to indigenous peoples; the Global Reporting Initiative, an organization that develops ESG standards currently used by more than 10,000 companies in more than 100 countries; and the Water Integrity Network, the leading global organization focused on integrity and anti-corruption in the water sector. He has a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Hydrology and Water Resources. He is a lecturer on climate change adaptation at Georgetown University (Washington, DC), and has lectured at Johns Hopkins University (DC), George Washington University (DC), Tsinghua University in Beijing, and the National University of Singapore.

### Erik Berglof



Erik Berglof sets the vision and strategy for the Economics Department and leads the planning, implementation and supervision of its work plan in support of the Bank's mandate. He is the Bank's inaugural Chief Economist. Prior to joining AIIB in September 2020, he was Director of the Institute of Global Affairs, London School of Economics, and Chief Economist of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development from 2006 to 2015, where he was part of creating and co-led the Vienna Initiative, a European crisis response team credited with mitigating the impact of the 2008 Global Financial Crisis. He is an expert in transition economics and institutional transformation through private sector development. He holds a PhD in Financial Economics and an MA in Business and Economics, both from the Stockholm School of Economics. Berglof is a national of Sweden.

### Estefania Vergara Cobos



Estefania Vergara Cobos is an economist in the Chief Economist's Office for the Infrastructure Vice Presidency at the World Bank, where she leads research on the economic and developmental impacts of digitalization in developing countries. Prior to joining the World Bank, she held academic positions, as an economics Lecturer at institutions such as Santa Clara University, Universidad de las Americas, and Stony Brook University. She holds a PhD in Economics and a master's degree in game theory from Stony Brook University, along with advanced studies in computer science, which she integrates into her research on the economics of digital transformation.

### Franz Richard Drees-Gross



Franz Richard Drees-Gross is the Regional Director for Infrastructure in the West and Central Africa region at the World Bank. Franz grew up in the Washington DC area and graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with masters degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Management in 1991. After 2 years as a US Peace Corps volunteer (1991-93, Cote d'Ivoire), Franz worked in Peru (1994-95) and Yemen (1996-97) for a German engineering consulting company before joining the World Bank in 1997. His most recent positions in the World Bank include Country Director for the Pacific (2013-16), Director of Strategy and Operations for the Managing Director of Operations (2016/17), Practice Director of Transport (2017-19) and Regional Director for Infrastructure in Latin America (2019-22) and Regional Director for Infrastructure in West and Central Africa (since 2022).

### Gilles Duranton



Gilles Duranton is a professor of real estate and holds the Dean's Chair in Real Estate. He joined Wharton in 2012 after holding academic positions at the University of Toronto and the London School of Economics. A graduate of HEC Paris and Sorbonne University, he obtained his PhD in economics from the London School of Economics and the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. His current work focuses on land use and urban growth in emerging cities, the measurement of urban transportation and congestion, land development and land use over the long run, technology in real estate, and the geography of innovation and technology. He is also interested in the evaluation of the effects of infrastructure and place-based policies. He serves as a co-editor for the Journal of Urban Economics and sits on the editorial board of several other academic journals. He is a fellow of the National Bureau of Economic Research and the Centre for Economic Policy Research. He regularly works as a consultant on regional and urban policy for national governments and international organizations. He was also the 2011 president of the North American Regional Science Association, the 2016-2017 president of the Urban Economics Association, and the 2013-2019 chair of the Wharton Real Estate Department. He is on sabbatical at CEMFI in Madrid for the 2024-2025 academic year. Program (ERP), that helps developing countries to engage strategically with global carbon markets.

### Guangzhe Chen



Guangzhe Chen is the Vice President for Infrastructure at the World Bank from 2023. In this position he leads the World Bank's global efforts to build sustainable infrastructure in developing and emerging economies and supports the World Bank Group's strategic priorities such as job creation, climate change adaptation, private capital mobilization. He oversees the Bank's work across energy and transport sectors, urban development and livable cities, disaster risk and land management, as well as efforts to promote energy transition, low-carbon transportation, and quality infrastructure services through public-private partnerships. Infrastructure accounts for around \$110 billion of the Bank's portfolio. Prior to his current position, Mr. Chen served as the Regional Director for Infrastructure in the South Asia Region at the World Bank. He was the World Bank's Global Director for the Transport Global Practice from 2018 to 2020 and prior to that was Senior Director for the World Bank's Water Global Practice. He has also served as World Bank Country Director for Ethiopia, in Addis Ababa, and subsequently for Southern Africa, based in Pretoria.

Mr. Chen's earlier career positions at the World Bank include roles as team lead and manager in the transport and urban, water and disaster risk management units. Mr. Chen has over 30 years of international experience in the field of sustainable development, infrastructure finance and management with the World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank. He holds an M.A. degree in Economics from Harvard University, USA, and B.A. in Economics from Zhongshan (Sun Yat-Sen) University, Guangzhou, China.

### He He



He is an Economist in the Infrastructure Chief Economist's Office focusing on the transport sector. His areas of expertise include transport demand modelling, land use-transport interactions, accessibility, and agglomeration economies. His current work additionally explores transport sector decarbonization, vehicle and fuel taxation for transport demand management, and applied urban models. He holds a BSc in Engineering Science (Infrastructure) from the University of Toronto, and a PhD in Transportation from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

### Henri Pierre Francis Blas



Henri is leading the Global Infrastructure Hub (GIHub) program under the WBG Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility. He is a Senior Infrastructure Specialist and is based in Singapore. Prior to joining the WBG, he was the Chief Content Officer at the GIHub (then an independent organization). He is leading the strategy and delivery of GIHub initiatives as well as being the GIHub representative at the G20 Infrastructure Working Group. Prior to joining GIHub, Henri was the COO and Resilience Finance Lead for the Resilient Cities Network – an initiative across 100 cities pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation. He had previously been leading AECOM transport and economics advisory practice in Asia, advising on asset valuations and sale/acquisitions for Macquarie Funds in North America, and developing transport solutions across Europe and APAC for Systra. Aisha Elaine Williams is the Global Director of the Infrastructure Finance Global Department at the World Bank. In this capacity, Aisha oversees a team of experts dedicated to increasing private sector participation in infrastructure. The Infrastructure Global Department advises client countries on policies and regulations that help governments build stronger investment environments, prepare infrastructure projects, and structure financial solutions that bring these projects to market.

### Hogeun Park



Hogeun Park is an Urban Specialist with the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region of the World Bank's Urban, Resilience, and Land Global Practice. His work focuses on the intersection of urban planning and spatial analytics, enabling him to deliver projects with empirical and rigorous evidence. He leveraged innovative analytics and data into country programs in Yemen, Jordan, and Egypt. Hogeun has authored three flagship reports regarding urban form, urban economy, and land issues in MENA. Prior to joining the Bank, Hogeun was a Big Pixel postdoctoral fellow at UC San Diego. He completed his PhD in Planning from Michigan State University with a fellowship from the Korean government. He has published widely in leading peer-reviewed journals on urban development, spatial analytics, and remote sensing.

### Hossein Tohidimehr



Hossein is a doctoral researcher in Economics at the Geneva Graduate Institute. His research focuses on digital development, with an emphasis on digital platforms, financial inclusion, and telecom industry in emerging markets. In his research, he examines the high cost of mobile services in Africa, using structural modeling to differentiate between fundamental market constraints and regulatory inefficiencies. His work also explores how marketplace platforms expand credit access for small businesses, analyzing how virtual space on these platforms functions as intangible collateral. Additionally, he investigates the impact of ride-sharing platforms on employment, income, and labor market dynamics. Alongside his research, Hossein has worked as a consultant for the ILO and CompNet and as a research assistant at LSE.

### Jacques Cremer



Jacques Cr mer received his PhD from MIT in 1977 and has held appointments at the University of Pennsylvania and Virginia Tech University. Since 1991 he has been Professor at the Toulouse School of Economics, where he has held many administrative appointments, most recently being the first director of its Digital Centre. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society and of the European Economic Association. He has done fundamental work on planning theory, auctions, incentive theory, organization economics, and more recently the digital economy. From April 2018 to March 2019, he was a Special Adviser to European Commissioner for Competition Margrethe Vestager, and in that capacity co-authored the report "Competition Policy for the Digital Era". He is an active participant in the debates on the regulation of "Big Tech".

### Jade Shu Yu Wong



Jade Wong is an infrastructure finance professional with a wide range of experience in the public and private sectors. She has over 10 years of experience in financial and project structuring as well as in assessing public policies for infrastructure development. She covers the Asia Pacific region for the Global Infrastructure Facility of the World Bank and her current portfolio entails project preparation and structuring in the energy, transport, municipal solid waste, water and sanitation, and social infrastructure sectors. Earlier she was with the International Finance Corporation Infrastructure group focusing on investments in the Asia Pacific. Jade started her career as an investment analyst at a global macro hedge fund where she was responsible for investment strategies in the global commodities and energy sectors.

### Jang Ping Thia



Jang Ping Thia joined the AIIB in 2016 and is currently the Lead Economist and the Manager of the Economics Department. The department is responsible for economic analysis at AIIB, covering country macroeconomics, debt sustainability analysis, review of project economics, to support investment operations. The department is also responsible for AIIB's flagship publication, the Asian Infrastructure Finance report, which highlights infrastructure development and financing issues. For 2024, the report is about "Nature as Infrastructure" documenting the contributions of nature to global GDP, and how nature-based solutions and financing should be seen as part of overall infrastructure development.

Jang was previously with the Singapore Ministry of Finance, covering expenditures on security, sports, community and telecommunication infrastructure. With a PhD from the London School of Economics, he also held a stint as the Economics Director at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, overseeing economic forecasting, research and the development of the Economist Service. Working on trade and geography, infrastructure development and finance related issues, his research has been published in Structural Change and Economic Dynamics, The World Economy, Economic Change and Restructuring, Journal of International Trade and Economic Development, Journal of Financial Services Research, Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance, and Sustainable Development.

### Jeanne Sorin



Jeanne Sorin is an applied microeconomist who studies the challenges faced by cities in developing countries, with a focus on transportation infrastructure, environmental hazards such as air pollution, and their interactions. Jeanne's research leverages a broad range of methodological tools, from quantitative spatial models to randomized controlled trials. She frequently collaborates with local governments and policy stakeholders, as seen in her ongoing projects in Uganda, India, and Indonesia. Jeanne will receive her PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago in June 2025. In July 2026, she will join the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California Berkeley after a one year postdoc.

### Jevgenijs Steinbuks



Dr. Jevgenijs Steinbuks is a Senior Economist in the Office of Chief Economist for Infrastructure Practice. His areas of expertise are in economic development, energy and extractives, and urban and regional development. His current knowledge and operational work focuses on sustainable resource use, electric power, and infrastructure and economic development. He has extensive experience in academia, the public sector, and international institutions. Before joining the office of Chief Economist for Infrastructure Practice, he worked as a research economist at the Development Research Group, the World Bank, the Center for Global Trade Analysis, the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University; the Electricity Policy Research Group, University of Cambridge; the Enterprise Analysis Unit at the World Bank, and Credit Research Center at Georgetown University. He also spent several years with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, working on Latvian economic integration in the EU and WTO. He taught graduate and undergraduate courses in economics at the University of Cambridge, Miami University, George Washington University, and the University of Latvia. His research is published in peer-reviewed academic journals and is regularly presented at international conferences and workshops. He has a Ph.D. in Economics from George Washington University.

### Jin-Won Noh



Jin-Won Noh, MA, MPH, MBA, PhD, USCPA is Chair of the Division of Health Administration at Yonsei University and the founding Director of Korea's first Institute for Planetary Health (IPH), established in 13 January 2025. She led interdisciplinary research and policy initiatives that global health, health promotion, and digital health to address the interconnected challenges of climate change and health inequality. The institute has since signed MOUs with Korea International Development Cooperation Center (KIDC), Hwasung Medi-Science University (HSMU), and the HSMU Medical Research Instituteto expand its partnerships.

Jin-Won is an expert in the field of monitoring and evaluation, received a Ph.D. specializing in performance evaluation within the field of global health. She also completed additional training in “Monitoring and Evaluation in a Dynamic Health Environment” from the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. In particular, she cooperated with international organizations such as WHO, ELRHA, KOFIH, KOICA and the Export-Import Bank of Korea to manage ODA projects in Africa, Central and South America, Asia, and Pacific countries. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she led the MSNA Data Analysis Team for an ELRHA-funded project that evaluated the multisectoral impacts of COVID-19 in conflict-affected areas such as Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Iraq, Central African Republic, Ukraine, and Libya. She is a board member of the Korean Society of Global Health, academic director of the Association of Healthcare for Korean Unification, and chair of the Evaluation Division at Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation (KAIDEC). Her ongoing work centers on advancing planetary health equity and contributing to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through research, education, and policy innovation.

### John S. Ji



John S. Ji is a consultant for the World Health Organization's Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health in the Western Pacific Region. He is a tenured Associate Professor at Tsinghua University's Vanke School of Public Health. He earned a B.A. in Neuroscience from Johns Hopkins University (2008), and an Sc.M. in Epidemiology and Sc.D. in Environmental Health from Harvard School of Public Health (2013). John's research is in climate change and health adaptation, including using cohort studies to study impacts of air pollution, green space, and non-optimal temperatures.

### Jon Kher Kaw



Jon Kher Kaw is a senior urban development specialist, with over 20 years of professional experience in climate and cities, spatial planning, integrated urban development, governance, and finance. At the World Bank, he leads strategic policy dialogue, business development, structures and implements investments and financing, and engages in analytical and advisory services with national and subnational governments, particularly in countries in the South Asia, Middle East, and North Africa regions. He is also the author of several global reports including, most recently, the World Bank's “Vibrant Cities” and “The Hidden Wealth of Cities” publications. Jon Kher previously served with the Government of Singapore and holds a master's degree specializing in housing, real estate and urbanization from Harvard University, and a master's in architecture from Columbia University.

### Jordan Rosenthal-Kay



Jordan Rosenthal-Kay is a PhD Candidate in Economics at the University of Chicago. His research focuses on urban and spatial economics, examining global constraints on urbanization and the roles of urbanization, trade, and migration in climate change adaptation. He will join the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco as a research economist in the fall.

### Jose Luis Bonifaz Fernandez



A civil engineer from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, he holds a master's degree in economics from the Universidad del Pacifico and a Master of Arts in Economics from Georgetown University. He has over 30 years of professional experience, primarily in teaching, research, and consulting, both nationally and internationally.

### Julio Cesar Aguirre Montoya



I am Associate Professor in the Department of Economics, and Vice Dean of Politics, Philosophy and Economics in the Economics and Finance Faculty at Universidad del Pacifico (Lima, Peru). I obtained a PhD in Economics at Universidad de San Andres (Argentina) and a Master of Arts in Economics at Georgetown University (USA). My research focuses on infrastructure, regulation and antitrust, and environmental economics. I currently teach Principles of Microeconomics and Industrial Organization at the undergraduate level and Impact Evaluation Methods Applied to Infrastructures, and different topics on Regulation at the graduate level.

### Junzhong Chen

Junzhong Chen is the Chief planner of Low Carbon and Eco Research Center, Guangzhou Urban Planning & Design Survey Research Institute (GZPI). As a dedicated urbanist specializing in water-sensitive urban design and landscape infrastructure planning, Chen brings over a decade of experience and practices in shaping ecologically resilient cities across China, has conducted 50+ projects as project leader in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Beijing, and beyond, focusing on green infrastructure deployment, sustainable urban systems, and climate adaptation strategies. Chen also has active participation in global knowledge exchange platforms, such as the World Bank Expert Meeting in Istanbul, 2024, as well as collaborative academic research initiatives in UK and NL in the scope of the landscape infrastructure planning methodology and regional circular economy.

### Justin Yifu Lin



Professor Justin Yifu Lin is a professor and dean of the Institute of New Structural Economics, honorary dean of the National School of Development and honorary dean of the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development at Peking University. In 1994, he founded the China Center for Economic Research at Peking University (now the National School of Development at Peking University) and served as its director. In 2008, he was appointed as the chief economist of the World Bank and senior vice president in charge of development economics, becoming the first person from a developing country to hold this important position. In 2012, after his tenure at the World Bank ended, he returned to Peking University and continued his teaching and research work. He is currently a member of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and deputy director of its Economic Committee. He previously served as a counselor of the State Council and vice chairman of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce.

He was a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference from the 7th to the 10th terms, deputy director of the Economic Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in the 10th term, a deputy to the 11th National People's Congress, a member of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and deputy director of the Economic Committee in the 12th and 13th terms, and member of the expert committee for the 11th and 12th Five-Year Plan, deputy chairman of the expert committee for the 13th, 14th and 15th Five-Year Plan. He holds concurrent positions in multiple committees and leading groups related to development policies, agriculture, and poverty reduction at home and abroad. He was elected as a fellow of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and a corresponding fellow of the British Academy. Professor Justin has received honorary doctorate degrees from ten universities in Britain, France, the United States, Canada, and Hong Kong. His major works include more than 20 volumes such as "On China's Economy," "Beating the Odds," "Going Beyond Aid," "Quest for Prosperity," "Demystifying the Chinese Economy," "New Structural Economics," "Against the Consensus," "Benti and Changwu," "Sufficient Information and State-owned Enterprises Reform," and "The China Miracle." He has published more than 300 papers in academic journals at home and abroad.

### Kangning Zhao



Senior Research Fellow at the International Hydrogen Fuel Cell Association and Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences. His primary research areas include energy materials, hydrogen storage materials, electron microscopy characterization of energy materials, and research on hydrogen energy industry policies and standards. He has led several projects, including sub-projects under the National Key R&D Program, the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) Youth Science Fund Project, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Hydrogen Storage Technology Guidelines Project, the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) Internationalization of Group Standards Project, and the CAST Decision-Making Expert Group Project. He also serves as a hydrogen energy expert for the UNIDO Global Hydrogen Program.

### Kanyadibya Cendana Prasetyo



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### Karim Fahssis



Karim Fahssis is heading decarbonization for Maersk in China.

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### Manuel García-Santana



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### Mark Roberts



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### Martino Pelli



Dr Martino Pelli is a Senior Economist in the Economic Research and Development Impact Department of the Asian Development Bank, and an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics of the Université de Sherbrooke, a Research Fellow at CIREQ, and a Researcher at CIRANO. He is an applied economist with interests in environment, energy, and development economics. His work focuses on the impact of rural energy use, of large transport infrastructure investments, on the economic consequences of natural disasters and on the valuation of nature. His research has been published in journals such as the Journal of Development Economics, the Journal of International Economics and the European Economic Review.

### Ming Zhang



Ming Zhang, a Chinese National, is Global Director for Urban, Resilience and Land Global Department (URL) at the World Bank starting July 2024. In this position, he leads the Bank's global efforts on sustainable urban development, disaster risk management, and land under the Infrastructure Vice Presidency. He is responsible for spearheading global knowledge programs, fostering innovative thought leadership, and ensuring client impact and global partnership in these sectors which together represent around \$36 billion of the Bank's investment portfolio. Mr. Zhang has been working at the World Bank for 27 years. Prior to his current position, he served as the Practice Managers for Urban, Resilience and Land in three different regions (South Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, and East Asia and Pacific) where he oversaw the formulation and implementation of the knowledge and financing programs in these regions. His earlier career positions at the World Bank included roles as team leaders on urban development, infrastructure, and local government. Mr. Zhang holds a PhD in City and Regional Planning and an M.A. in Economics, both from the University of California, Berkeley, USA. He also holds a B.A. in Geography from East China Normal University, Shanghai, China.

### Murtaza Husain Syed



Murtaza Husain Syed is the Head of Ecosystem in the Economics Department at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Beijing. He has 25+ years of experience in macroeconomic research and policy making. Recently, he served as Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) during 2020-2023. Here he oversaw monetary policy, research and human resources. He also served as Acting Governor during May-August 2022. Prior to this, he worked with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for 16 years. He reviewed IMF programs and surveillance of emerging markets and advanced economies—including Australia, Canada, Colombia, Euro Area, Germany, Greece, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. He also served as IMF Deputy Resident Representative in China during 2010-2014 and as IMF mission chief to Macao. He began his career in the late 1990s as a Senior Policy Analyst at the Islamabad-based Human Development Center under former Finance Minister of Pakistan, Mahbub ul Haq. Later, he worked for the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), a London-based public policy think tank, where he conducted research projects on business investment and employment behavior, as well as evaluations of Latin American antipoverty programs. He has a PhD in economics from Oxford University (Nuffield College). He has published papers on a variety of macroeconomic issues, including fiscal and monetary policy, financial stability, economic crises, investment, demographics, poverty and inequality. He has also delivered lectures on public policy at Cambridge and Oxford.

### Niclas Moneke



Niclas Moneke is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Oxford, and a Tutorial Fellow at University College Oxford. His research interests center on Energy & Environmental Economics, Development Economics and International Trade. His work focuses on how access to energy in low income countries affects economic development, with particular attention to collecting new, geo-identified data on the large-scale electricity expansions in Ethiopia, Myanmar and Zambia. In ongoing work, he analyses the economic effects of electricity outages on firms in Ethiopia, Ghana and Zambia. Niclas' research combines reduced-form causal analysis with structural estimation, and has a strong focus on the spatial effects of energy infrastructure.

### Nicolas Peltier



Nicolas Peltier-Thiberge is the Global Director for the Transport Sector in the Infrastructure Practice Group of the World Bank. Mr. Peltier-Thiberge joined the World Bank in 2002 as a Young Professional and he has since held various positions in the Transport Global Practice, managing World Bank-financed transport investments in multiple regions, including North Africa and the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa. Between 2012 and 2015, Mr. Peltier-Thiberge was a Portfolio Assistant in the Office of the World Bank Group President. From 2015 to 2022, Mr. Peltier-Thiberge has been a Practice Manager in charge of the World Bank's Transport business in North Africa and the Middle East, West and Central Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. In May 2022, he became the Global Director for the Transport Sector. Prior to joining the World Bank, Mr. Peltier-Thiberge worked in the French Ministry of Economy and Industry and in the French Treasury. Mr. Peltier-Thiberge holds graduate diplomas in science and civil engineering, as well as technology and policy from Ecole Polytechnique (France), Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (France), and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (United States).

### Qing Wu



Dr. Qing Wu joined Google in 2006 and has worked on a wide range of projects that covered business intelligence, prediction and forecast, market design, macroeconomics, and impact studies. He is currently director of Econometrics, whose team serves as a consulting group and provides tools and services across Alphabet. Qing holds a Ph.D. in the field of operations research and management science from Stanford. Prior to Google he worked in startups and enterprise software companies developing algorithms for supply chain planning.

### Ralf Martin



Ralf is the Principal Economist for Environment and Sustainability at the IFC Economic Research Department. He is also a Professor of Economics at Imperial College Business, London. In his research he is interested in issues related to the transition to a Net Zero Economy and how it can be achieved with minimal harm to economic prospects. He conducted research on the impact of key climate policies such as the EU ETS, Industrial policy and the relationship between growth, climate change and innovation. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the London School of Economics.

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### Robert Marty



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### Sebastian-A Molineus



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Prior to joining the World Bank Group, Sebastian worked at the OECD in the Financial, Fiscal, and Enterprise Affairs Division. Sebastian holds an MBA from the HEC School of Management in France, and a Masters from the University of Passau's School of Law in Germany. He is married with four children.

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### Stephane Hallegatte



Stéphane Hallegatte is the Chief Climate Economist of the World Bank Climate Change Group. He joined the World Bank in 2012 after 10 years of academic research. His research interests include the economics of natural disasters and risk management, climate change adaptation, urban policy and economics, climate change mitigation, and green growth. Stéphane is Chief Climate Economist at the World Bank. He joined the World Bank in 2012 after 10 years of academic research in environmental economics and climate science for Météo-France, the Centre International de Recherche sur l'Environnement et le Développement, and Stanford University. His research interests include the economics of resilient low-emission development, the monitoring and measurement of climate policies on jobs, incomes, poverty, and quality of life; the inclusion of climate change and natural disasters in macroeconomic models and poverty assessments; and exploring the political economy of policies and their robustness to uncertainty. He was a lead author of the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He is the author of dozens of articles published in international journals in multiple disciplines and of several books, including *Green Economy and the Crisis: 30 Proposals for a More Sustainable France*, *Risk Management: Lessons from the Storm Xynthia*, and *Natural Disasters and Climate Change: An Economic Perspective*. He also led or co-led numerous World Bank reports including *Inclusive Green Growth: The Pathway to Sustainable Development*, *Decarbonizing Development*, *Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty*, *Unbreakable: Building the Resilience of the Poor in the Face of Natural Disasters*, *Lifelines: the Resilient Infrastructure Opportunity* and *Rising to the Challenge: Success Stories and Strategies for Achieving Climate Adaptation and Resilience*. He supervises the new World Bank Group diagnostic, the Country Climate and Development Reports, and has co-led the CCDRs for Türkiye and Brazil. He holds engineering degrees from the Ecole Polytechnique (Paris) and the Ecole Nationale de la Météorologie (Toulouse), a master's degree in meteorology and climatology from the Université Paul Sabatier (Toulouse) and a Ph.D in economics from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris).

### Stéphane Straub



Stéphane Straub is the Chief Economist for the Infrastructure Vice-Presidency, where he brings his wealth of knowledge and expertise to drive forward the economic dimensions of transformative infrastructure projects. Previously, he was professor at the Toulouse School of Economics, where he remains an associate member. He has held academic and teaching positions in Latin America, the United States, United Kingdom, and France, worked as a Lead Economist with the World Bank's Sustainable Development Practice Group in 2016-17, and as a consultant for several international institutions such as the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, European Union, and the Asian Development Bank, among others. His focus on infrastructure, procurement, and institutions in developing nations highlights his commitment to sustainable and equitable development. Research into infrastructure's societal impact, public-private partnerships, and corruption underscores Stéphane's multidimensional approach. As a former President of the European Development Network and Secretary of the Jean-Jacques Laffont association, he champions academic excellence and positive global change.

### Sudeshna Ghosh Banerjee



Sudeshna Ghosh-Banerjee is the Regional Director for Infrastructure for the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) Region at the World Bank – a position she assumed in mid-2023. In this capacity she manages the World Bank's energy and transport programs that focus on accelerating the clean energy transition, delivering green logistics and urban mobility solutions, ensuring access to resilient transport and energy services, and expanding regional integration and connectivity – with a team of about 100 professionals based in a dozen countries in the region who implement and oversee loan commitments over US\$10 billion. Previously, Sudeshna was the appointed Practice Manager for Europe and Central Asia (2021-2023) and for East Africa (2017-2021) in the Energy and Extractives Global Practice, where she was responsible for managing wide range of energy operations and policy engagements. An Economist by training, her thematic focus is on project economics, monitoring and evaluation, and on a broad range of energy issues including energy transition policies, energy access, renewable energy, subsidy delivery, and economic assessments. She holds a Ph.D in Public Policy from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA) and MA in Economics from Delhi School of Economics (India).

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### Tang Cheng Keat



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### Timo Tapani Valila



Having completed his PhD in economics in 1996, Timo Väilä embarked on a career in international financial institutions, spending first 7 years with the International Monetary Fund and joining subsequently the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg. At the EIB, Timo headed the economic research as well as project impact measurement divisions. In parallel, Timo has held visiting and honorary professorships at UCL's Bartlett School of Sustainable Construction in London; he is a member of the advisory board of the EDHEC infrastructure institute in Singapore; and he also holds a senior research fellowship at the University of Luxembourg. At UCL, Timo has taught infrastructure economics, policy and finance. Timo's research interests include the roles of the public and private sectors in infrastructure provision; the measurement and performance of infrastructure investment; and the role of transport infrastructure in structural change.

### Vanessa Alexandra Velasco Bernal



Vanessa is the Habitat Chief Secretary of Bogota. Architect, Urban Planner and Land Management Expert. Urban Specialist of the World Bank. Technical Manager and Advisor of urban projects for public and private agencies. Researcher in studies about urban planning, public services, land-based finance instruments, urban regeneration and housing policies for Latin-American and Caribbean, Spain, and Asia.

### Vera Siesjö



Vera Siesjö has over a decade of international experience in global health, planetary health, health systems, quality and process improvement, digital health and health financing. Prior to joining AIIB she has served in many different organizations including as an Advisor to the Swedish Development Corporation Agency, as the Senior program officer at UNOPS and The Defeat-NCD Partnership in Geneva, as the Country Director of ACCESS Health International in the Philippines and Indonesia, and as health system consultant to the Asian Development Bank. In these organizations she has led work on health financing, healthcare quality improvement, digital Health, climate and health, health system integration, healthcare management and health policy and system research. She was also part in building and managing the Centre for Health Market Innovations, an international network that acts to Universal Health Coverage, a network of practitioners and policymakers from over thirty countries around the globe that focuses on advancing UHC in low- and middle-income countries.

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### Zhang Qi



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