

Innovation and Learning for a Changing Asia

Seminar Description

9 to 10 September 2014

Innovation and Change in Asia

The purpose of the event will be to explore and facilitate the vital links between evaluation, learning, innovation and change in the context of key development challenges facing Asia and the Pacific—inequality and environmental sustainability.

Evaluation and Results in Asia

This will cover evaluation challenges in an age of complexity and uncertainty, zeroing in on how evaluation can stay relevant and effective, and how processes for transformation and innovation might be adapted to improve development effectiveness. To celebrate 10 years of independent evaluation at ADB, IED will also launch an anniversary book during this session. This book will draw on the experience of leading development practitioners and evaluators from various parts of the world and will highlight the challenges evaluators face.

Inclusive Growth

In Asia and the Pacific, eradicating poverty remains a huge challenge despite stellar economic growth performance. Amid high growth, the region still remains home to about 70%–80% of the world's poor in the late 2000s. If Asia's recent growth experience has taught one important lesson, it is that growth should come with equity. Sustaining growth requires for it to be rapid and equitable—with its benefits accruing to all segments of society particularly the poor. Calls for growth to be inclusive have been by and large driven by the impetus to integrate the poor into the growth process primarily through the generation of productive employment. Among the benefits of growth, employment opportunities provide the usual means for the poor to improve their living standards. In this session, we will examine the conceptual and operational underpinnings of the linkage between employment and inclusive growth, and how inclusive labor market conditions can improve the plight of the working poor.

Natural Hazards and Climate Change

Runaway climate change and continuing environmental degradation are proving to be global game changers. Disasters are costly, affecting the economic growth of countries. They also worsen inequality, as the most vulnerable are the worst affected. Session participants will discuss how climate change concerns can be linked to action on resilience. How can developing countries work with development finance institutions to translate scientific findings (climate change, climate modelling) into actions that will intensify resilience to disasters, mobilize funds, prioritize budgets, enhance social awareness, and increase private sector investment. The particular role of the MDBs to mobilize support for mainstreaming climate change debate in economic growth policy debate will be discussed.

Innovations in Governance

Governments across the globe are experimenting with and applying a wide range of new approaches, instruments, and technologies to strengthen policy making, public service delivery, and many other aspects of governance and government. The concept of innovation in governance has gained significant attention in academic and development circles in recent years. Development finance institutions can play a catalytic role in facilitating and fostering innovation and are paying increasing attention and resources towards this. How can development finance institutions best position themselves to support innovation in governance?