



Across Asia, regional cooperation and integration (RCI) has fostered trade and investment, enhanced cross-border infrastructure, produced regional public goods, responded to financial crises, and opened channels for cross-border policy dialogue. The region's experience with the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of regional coordination and joint approaches for guiding and leveraging national efforts in the fight against the disease, and for planning and commencing the recovery. Promoting RCI is a key component of Multilateral Development Banks' (MDBs') strategy to combat COVID-19 and foster recovery. MDBs play an important role through providing both country-level and regionally focused support that fosters and enlarges collective action among countries, augmenting and reinforcing national development efforts, and aligning regional actions to address global challenges.

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), together with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the World Bank Group (WBG) are preparing a joint MDBs report entitled "Regional Cooperation and Integration: Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Building Back Better in Asia" along with a series of related webinars. The overall aim of both the report and webinars is to highlight how countries' RCI efforts, assisted by MDBs, have fostered and facilitated innovative dialogue and effective joint actions in response to the pandemic and supported continued progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each MDB is organizing and hosting a webinar on its assigned theme.

In this context, IsDB is organizing a webinar on "MDBs as Key Partners in Promoting Regional Cooperation and Integration." The webinar aims to serve as a discussion forum for policymakers and experts to debate and share their experiences on the role of MDBs in promoting RCI and facilitating more efficient, transparent, and effective RCI policy formulation and implementation.

AGENDA

4:00 p.m. – 4:05 p.m.

Welcome Remarks

[Mr. Riad Ragueb](#)

Acting Director, Regional Cooperation and Integration Department

4:05 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.

Highlights from the Draft Paper on "MDBs as Key Partners in Promoting RCI"

[Dr. Kadir Basboga](#)

Senior Regional Integration and Trade Economist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Department

4:20 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion

Moderator

[Ms. En'amulrahman Malkawi](#)

Lead Youth Empowerment Specialist

Panelists

[Dr. Yuefen Li](#)

Senior Advisor, The South Centre

[Mr. Priyanto Rohmattullah](#)

Deputy Director, Directorate of Foreign Policy and Int. Development Cooperation
Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia

[Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev](#)

Deputy Director, CAREC Institute

5:00 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.

Open Discussion

5:20 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Wrap-up