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Thia is Lead Economist/Manager of the Economics Department. The department is responsible for economic analysis, which includes macroeconomics monitoring, country and sectoral infrastructure needs, debt sustainability analysis, review of project economics, as well as supporting sector and investment strategies at the Bank. Prior to joining the Bank, Thia was the director responsible for national security and community budgets in the Ministry of Finance (Singapore), overseeing fiscal spending on security, sports, community and telecommunication infrastructure. Having graduated with an Economics PhD degree from London School of Economics, Thia was also previously the Director for Economics at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, responsible for macroeconomic analysis, research, policy evaluation, as well as the development of the Economist Service in Singapore.