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## Session 3C: Social Health Protection: Extending Coverage and Improving Access in Asia and the Pacific

### Moderators



**Eduardo P. Banzon,**  
Principal Health Specialist, Human and Social Development Sector Office, Sectors Group (SG-HSD), ADB

Eduardo (Dodo) P. Banzon is a Principal Health Specialist at ADB, and Honorary Visiting Associate Professor in the National University of Singapore Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health. Before joining ADB in 2014, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation; World Health Organization (WHO) regional adviser for health financing for the Eastern Mediterranean region and WHO health economist in Bangladesh; and World Bank senior health specialist in East Asia and the Pacific. He completed his medical studies at the University of the Philippines and MSc in Health Policy, Planning and Financing at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the London School of Economics. He is also a former faculty member of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine and the Ateneo Graduate School of Business.



**Dai-Ling Chen**  
Health Specialist, SG-HSD  
ADB

Dai-Ling Chen oversees the bank's health sector operations in Sri Lanka and Maldives, and is involved in operations in India and Bhutan. Dai-Ling also leads ADB's One Health initiative in South Asia.

Dai-Ling joined ADB as a Young Professional in 2018. Prior to joining ADB, he worked for the Commerce Development Research Institute of Taipei, China as a researcher. He used to work for the Ministry of Health of Saint Lucia as a Public Health Promoter, leading the development of the first local maternal and child health education materials and community and school health interventions. He also used to work for nongovernmental organizations in India and Malawi for HIV control and prevention and the empowerment of socially-excluded vulnerable communities. Dai-Ling holds a Master of Science degree in Public Health, a Bachelor of Science in Public Health, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology.

## Panelists



**Seetha Arambepola**  
State Minister of Health  
Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka

Seetha Arambepola is the current Health State Minister of Sri Lanka and was also the former State Minister for Skills Development Vocational Education, research and innovation and former Governor of the Western Province of Sri Lanka. She finished her bachelor's degree in surgery from Sri Jayawardenepura University.

Seetha is also an active member of various committees such as the committee to make recommendations on suitable government hospitals, committee to combat the spread of COVID-19 and dengue, among others.



**Ismail Azzam Wajeeh**  
Managing Director  
Aasandha Company Limited  
Maldives

Ismail Azzam Wajeeh oversees the administration and reform of the National Social Healthcare Financing Scheme of Maldives. Prior to his current position, Mr. Azzam served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Social Protection Agency (NSPA) of Maldives from 2017 to 2022, providing strategic, financial, and operational leadership and technical support to the Agency in implementing its mandate under the National Social Health Insurance Act and Social Protection Act. As CEO of the Agency, he had actively worked with donor agencies like World Bank, WHO, UNICEF and other UN agencies to introduce and implement major reforms to the social protection sector of Maldives. Mr. Azzam holds a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honors) degree in Business Management and a Master of Human Science degree in Sociology and Anthropology. The Social Protection Information System used by NSPA, the introduction of the National Social Protection Framework, the establishment of the National Disability Registry, and overseeing the drafting and implementation of the guidelines for the social protection programs are some key reforms that Mr. Azzam spearheaded.



**Clementine Bautista**  
Acting Senior Vice President  
Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth)

Clementine Bautista is a medical doctor and a career officer of PhilHealth. Currently she is the Acting Senior Vice President and Lead of the Universal Health Coverage Surge team working on new health policies in relation to the implementation of the Universal Health Care Act. She was in the forefront of initiatives on development of standards on health care providers, health technology assessment, policy research and development, quality management, organization development and corporate planning.

Dr. Clem holds a Medical Degree and a post-graduate expertise on Organization Development. She participated in various courses here and abroad to gain skills and knowledge on social health insurance and quality assurance in healthcare.