

SEASON 3, SESSION 2 – THURSDAY, 9 September at 1400 – 1530 PHT (Manila time)

## Leveraging Insurance for Resilient Infrastructure

### Speakers:



**Ekhosuehi Iyahen**

Secretary-General  
Insurance Development Forum

**Ekhosuehi Iyahen** is the Secretary-General of the Insurance Development Forum (IDF), a Public-Private Partnership led by the insurance industry and supported by the World Bank and the United Nations, aiming to enhance the use of insurance to build greater resilience against disasters and to help achieve the United Nations Global 2030 Agenda.

She has extensive experience working with governments, international development agencies, private sector entities and academic institutions on public financial management and strengthening risk management and financing systems and the role of insurance. She has been directly involved in establishing and operationalising a number of pioneering initiatives including regional risk pools in Africa (African Risk Capacity), the Caribbean (Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility) and the structuring of a novel tripartite agreement between the IDF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to increase insurance protection in 20 climate-exposed countries.



**Arunkumar Abraham**

Senior Environment Specialist  
Consultant to ADB and Global  
Environment Facility

**Arunkumar Abraham** is an ADB/GEF Senior Environment Specialist (consultant) with responsibility to secure and blend financial resources from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), with ADB technical assistance, loans and investments. He has considerable experience in financing natural capital management as; owner/director of a Singapore-based boutique consulting firm, Bio-Conservation Ventures Pte Ltd; Chief of Party of the USAID-supported Environmental Governance Program (EcoGov) in the Philippines; senior executive roles in coastal and marine management, sustainable fisheries and private enterprise development programs across South East and East Asia (funded by the International Finance Corporation (IFC)-GEF, UNDP-GEF, Government of Canada and others); Vice-President, Rocky Mountain Arabica Coffee Corporation (Philippines); Director, Eutech Cybernetics Ltd (USA-Singapore) and President of the Boards of Trustees for Canadian chambers of commerce / business associations in Singapore and the Philippines. He is a graduate of the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA), Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada.



**Christian Wertli**

Head, Infrastructure Solutions  
Swiss Re

**Christian Wertli** is Head of Infrastructure Solutions, and part the Swiss Re Public Sector Solutions (PSS) team. The PSS team is dedicated helping governments, government agencies as well as international organizations at all levels to strengthen their resilience strategies. In his role, Christian is working with financial sponsors, including governments, NGOs, multilaterals, investors and financiers, as well as contractors and intermediaries to ensure the resilience of their infrastructure projects. Prior to this, Christian was Global Head Innovative Risk Solutions at Swiss Re Corporate Solutions responsible for new product development and the marketing, structuring and underwriting of bespoke risk and capital management solutions.

Christian worked for Swiss Re in London, Hong Kong, Singapore, the United States and Zurich. Before joining Swiss Re in 1997, Christian worked for Credit Suisse in corporate lending and with Reinsurance Finance Consultants, a joint-venture between Swiss Re, Credit Suisse and Winterthur Reinsurance, in their financial engineering unit. He holds an MBA from the University of Zurich, and a CPCU from the Insurance Institute of America.

**Moderator:**



**Benita Ainabe**

Financial Sector Specialist  
Asian Development Bank

**Benita Ainabe** is a Financial Sector Specialist (Capital Markets) in the Public Management, Financial Sector and Trade Division of the Southeast Asia Department at Asian Development Bank. She specializes in financial sector development, capital markets, innovative financing mechanisms and regulatory governance and reforms in ADB's developing member countries in Southeast Asia. She has 15 years' financial sector experience from commercial financial institutions and multilateral development banks in project (infrastructure and energy) and structured finance for corporate and sovereign debt and equity, securitization and investment management, serving clients in the UK, US, Asia, Middle East, Africa and CIS countries. She has an MSc in Molecular Medicine from Imperial College London and a BSc in Molecular Genetics in Biotechnology from the University of Sussex, UK.

**Discussant:**



**Jane Romero**

Technical Assistance Officer  
Pacific Region Infrastructure

**Jane Romero** is a Technical Assistance Officer in the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF). Jane has engineering and economics background and has worked in various aspects of infrastructure development in many countries in Asia and the Pacific for over 15 years. In her present role in PRIF, she prepares and implements technical assistance in energy, transport, urban and water sectors to help improve the quality and coverage of infrastructure in the Pacific. She also supports Pacific Island countries in developing their national infrastructure investment plans, and was recently involved in the preparation of Cook Islands NIIP 2021.

She is currently preparing a study on infrastructure risk management and insurance that aims to provide recommendations to improve the cost-effective management of infrastructure project lifecycle risks in the Pacific.