

# SOLUTIONS TO MITIGATE LEARNING LOSSES DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ECONOMIC CRISIS



10 JUNE 2022

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

MANILA TIME

10.30 AM - 12:00 PM

COLOMBO TIME

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## ABOUT THE EVENT

Serendipity Knowledge Program is an ADB platform dedicated to identifying knowledge solutions for Sri Lanka's development challenges. Serendib is one of Sri Lanka's ancient names and serendipity refers to a fortunate finding, which is a common occurrence throughout the history of product invention and scientific discovery. ADB established this new knowledge program in 2021 in line with its vision as a knowledge solutions bank.

Due to the long school closures imposed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Asia and the Pacific region, including Sri Lanka, is faced with substantial learning and earning losses. Schooling in Sri Lanka is also disrupted by the ongoing economic crisis. The country needs to explore ways to mitigate these losses and transform the delivery of education services. This Serendipity Knowledge Program will provide a platform to start exploring effective ways to enhance human capital in Sri Lanka by presenting the latest estimates of COVID-19 impact on education. It will discuss effective solutions for mitigating learning losses, capitalizing on online education and scaling up innovative practices to mitigate the learning crisis.



**H.D. KARUNARATNE**  
*Vice Chancellor  
University of Colombo  
Sri Lanka*



**SUSANN ROTH**  
*Advisor of Sustainable  
Development and Climate  
Change Department  
and Chief of Knowledge  
Management, ADB*



**ALBERT PARK**  
*Chief Economist and Director  
General, Economic Research  
and Regional Cooperation  
Department, ADB*



**SAVITHRI RODRIGO**  
*Moderator*



**RHEA MOLATO**  
*Economist  
ADB*



**RYOTARO HAYASHI**  
*Social Sector Economist  
ADB*



**YASUYUKI SAWADA**  
*University of Tokyo  
(Former ADB Chief  
Economist)  
Japan*



**SUNIL JAYANTHA NAWARATHNA**  
*Director General  
National Institute  
of Education, Sri Lanka*



**BANI CHANDRASENA**  
*Board of Diversity  
Collective Lanka  
Sri Lanka*



**PAULINA PANNEN**  
*Chairman, Indonesia  
Cyber Education  
Institute, Indonesia*



**LEENA KROKFORS**  
*University of Helsinki  
Finland*



**A. KUMARASIRI**  
*Director General,  
National Planning  
Department, Sri Lanka*



**BRAJESH PANTH**  
*Chief of Education Sector  
Group, ADB*



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**Program** Moderator: Savithri Rodrigo

**10:30am** **Welcome Remarks**  
Susann Roth, Advisor of Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department and Chief of Knowledge Management, ADB

**10:35am** **Opening Remarks**  
Albert Park, Chief Economist and Director General, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, ADB

**10:40 am** **Keynote Address**  
H.D. Karunaratne, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

**10:50am** **COVID-19 Impact on Education – Female and the Poor**  
Rhea M. Molato, Economist, ADB  
Ryotaro Hayashi, Social Sector Economist, ADB

**11:10am** **Panel discussion on solutions to mitigate learning losses**

- Sunil Jayantha Nawarathna, Director General, National Institute of Education, Sri Lanka
- Bani Chandrasena, Board of Diversity Collective Lanka, Sri Lanka
- Yasuyuki Sawada, University of Tokyo (Former ADB Chief Economist), Japan
- Paulina Pannen, Chairman, Indonesia Cyber Education Institute, Indonesia
- Leena Krokfors, University of Helsinki, Finland

**11:40 am** **Question & Answer**

**12:00nn** **Closing Remarks**  
A. Kumarasiri, Director General, National Planning Department, Sri Lanka

**12:05pm** Brajesh Panth, Chief of Education Sector Group, ADB

