

The logo for Social Protection Week 2023, featuring a stylized umbrella with a blue and orange canopy. Inside the umbrella are icons of a person in a wheelchair, a family of four, a person with a cane, and a person with a shopping cart.

ASIA-PACIFIC
SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2023
Social Protection in a Changing World

26–28 September • ADB headquarters, Manila, Philippines

Plenary Panel Discussion: Integrated Solutions - Social Protection as an Enabler Across Sectors

Moderator



Michael Samson

Research Director
Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI)

Michael Samson is the Research Director of the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI), a global research institute with offices in Bangkok, Cape Town, and San Juan. He has 36 years of experience working in social protection, and specializes in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating integrated social protection programs, policies, and systems; and his project experience in these areas includes work in 58 countries in Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific as well as many related publications. He has conducted integrated social protection and public finance reviews in Cambodia, Indonesia and the Kyrgyz Republic.

He led the international team supporting the evaluation of Thailand's Child Support Grant, designed a long-term social protection training-of-trainer capacity development program in Viet Nam, and supported 32 other social protection policy and program-related projects over the past 15 years in Asia and the Pacific. His current work explores the role of social protection as the vital social dimension of integrated climate, development, and equity strategies. He is also on the economics faculty at the Williams College Center for Development Economics in the United States, and he has a Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University.

Panelists



Veronica das Dores

Minister, Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, Timor-Leste

The Minister has been working in the area of social protection since 2004 and has significant experiences and technical knowledge on Social Pension Schemes especially for mothers and children including children with disabilities. She also has extensive knowledge and experience in public management of disability inclusion services



Md. Mahmudul Hossain Khan

Secretary Cabinet Division, Bangladesh

Mr. MD Mahmudul Hossain Khan is the Secretary, Coordination and Reforms at Cabinet Division of Bangladesh. The main responsibility of Mr. Mahmudul at Cabinet Division is Coordination and administrative development, civil registration and social security, performance implementation monitoring, administrative reforms, conflict resolution and so on.

Prior to that, Mr. Mahmudul has served as Director General at Anti-Corruption Commission, in Bangladesh. He also served at different capacities in the field of administration, different government organizations, and in different Ministries of Bangladesh.

Mr. Mahmudul has obtained B.Sc (Hons.) and M.Sc from Department of Mathematics, Dhaka University, Bangladesh.



Muhammad Cholifihani

Director of Population and Social Security, Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) Indonesia

Muhammad Cholifihani is Director at Ministry of National Development Planning/ National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS). From 2019, he worked as Director of Population and Social Security at the same Institution, BAPPENAS. He obtained his Ph.D degree from Nagoya University Japan, in 2009. His research focused on Population, Social Insurances, SDGs, and circular economy.



Pavit Ramachandran, Country Director, Philippines Country Office, Southeast Asia Department, ADB

Pavit Ramachandran serves as ADB's Country Director for the Philippines. He oversees the implementation of ADB's current [country partnership strategy](#) (CPS) for the Philippines, which identified up to \$4 billion worth of sovereign loans for 2023. He will supervise the preparation of ADB's CPS covering 2024–2029, which aims to advance and enhance ADB's efforts to intensify climate action; improve climate smart connectivity through transport, digital technology, and energy; and invest in Filipinos' welfare.

Prior to his appointment to the Philippine Country Office, Mr. Ramachandran was ADB's Country Director for Mongolia