

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

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Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific



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THEME 1. Women in the Energy Transition

Veronica Mendizabal Joffre

Senior Gender and Social Development Specialist
Climate Change and Social Development Department
ADB

Veronica is a senior gender and social development specialist at the Asian Development Bank. She leads the gender equality program in Southeast Asia and has previously managed ADB's gender equality initiatives in the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Mongolia. She has authored various publications on gender and labour force dynamics in East Asia, gender and the energy transition, and gender-based violence in Mongolia. Veronica has a master's degree in public policy and management from the University of London, United Kingdom, and a master's degree in management of Agricultural Knowledge Systems from Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

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H.E. Lenny Nurharyanti Rosalin

Deputy Minister for Gender Equality at the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (MOWECP)
Republic of Indonesia

Lenny Nurharyanti Rosalin is the Deputy Minister for Gender Equality at the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (MOWECP), Republic of Indonesia. Prior to this, she was Deputy Minister for Child Development in 2013–2020 and Acting Ministerial Secretary at the MOWECP. Lenny has contributed towards the advancement of gender equality in the region and worldwide. During Indonesia's G20 Presidency in 2022, she played a key role in organizing the G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment. She holds a master's degree in Monetary Economy as well as Financial Investment from University of Illinois and has taught at the University of Indonesia and Atmajaya University.

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Susann Roth

Advisor

Department of Communications and Knowledge

ADB

Susann leads ADB's knowledge management and innovation plan. She developed ADB's first futures and foresight program and she has designed ADB's first technology innovation challenge. Before this role, Susann co-led the preparation of ADB's new Operational Plan for Health. She also managed several ADB trust funds, which piloted innovative health sector interventions for regional health security and pandemic preparedness. Susann launched the first ADB health bond, developed a digital health flagship program and championed health impact assessment across sectors. Susann also led the ADB-UNDP-ESCAP partnership during the preparation of the SDGs. She joined ADB in 2009 as Social Development Specialist in Central and West Asia, where she worked on social development issues across all sectors.

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Cherrie Atilano

AGREA International

Cherrie Atilano, a Filipino social entrepreneur, heads her own company AGREA, an innovative, and inclusive agri-business founded on fair-trade, sustainable agriculture, and a replicable model of an agri-based economy. Her company works with 30,000 farmers in the Philippines. The UN and World Economic Forum is recognizing Cherrie as a champion for Filipino farmers. She studied agriculture in Visayas State University and Food Systems in Wageningen University in the Netherlands. She also finished her Executive Education in Stanford University and Harvard Kennedy School.

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Molly Mengxiao Huang

Secretary General of Women in Renewables Alliance (WiRA)

Molly Mengxiao Huang is the Secretary General of Women in Renewables Alliance (WiRA), a global platform dedicated to empowering women in the clean energy sector. WiRA's mission is to see 30% of senior and middle management roles held by women by 2023. Molly has been instrumental in WiRA since its inception in 2018, leading initiatives in student training, funding, partnerships, and regional dialogues. She has also represented China in the Youth Leaders Forum of the Clean Energy Ministerial. Molly's career is marked by her unwavering commitment to gender diversity and sustainability in clean energy to empower women in energy.

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21–22 Nov
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Winfried Wicklein

Director General
Southeast Asia Department
ADB

Winfried Wicklein is the Director General of ADB's Southeast Asia Department, leading the planning and delivery of ADB's goals and strategies in Southeast Asia. This involves ADB's relationships and public sector work in ASEAN countries, as well as support for sub-regional cooperation initiatives. With ADB for over 23 years, Winfried has wide-ranging experience across Asia and the Pacific in the areas of infrastructure finance, private sector mobilization, sector strategies, and country strategy and program coordination. Prior to joining ADB, Mr. Winfried worked in corporate finance and investment banking advisory (PricewaterhouseCoopers) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Winfried holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of Münster, Germany.

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Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
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H.E. Vivi Yulaswati

Deputy Minister for Maritime Affairs and Natural Resources,
Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS),
Republic of Indonesia (Virtual)

Lenny Nurharyanti Rosalin is the Deputy Minister for Gender Equality at the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (MOWECP), Republic of Indonesia. Prior to this, she was Deputy Minister for Child Development in 2013–2020 and Acting Ministerial Secretary at the MOWECP. Lenny has contributed towards the advancement of gender equality in the region and worldwide. During Indonesia's G20 Presidency in 2022, she played a key role in organizing the G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment. She holds a master's degree in Monetary Economy as well as Financial Investment from University of Illinois and has taught at the University of Indonesia and Atmajaya University.

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Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
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Toru Kubo

Senior Director,
Climate Change, Resilience, and Environment
ADB

Toru is the Senior Director in ADB's Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department. His portfolio covers climate change, disaster risk management, and environmental sustainability. Toru previously served as ADB's focal staff for UNFCCC matters, carbon markets, and climate change technologies. Most recently he was the Energy Director for Southeast Asia overseeing policy dialogue, technical assistance, investment programs and projects, and regional cooperation efforts across ASEAN and was in charge of the Energy Transition Mechanism which is now one of ADB's flagship climate mitigation initiatives.

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21–22 Nov
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Dr. Filda Citra Yusgiantoro

Chairperson of Purnomo Yusgiantoro Center (PYC)

Filda Citra Yusgiantoro is the Chairperson of Purnomo Yusgiantoro Center (PYC). She received her PhD at the Faculty of Business and Economics, Monash University (Australia). She is a Board at Climateworks Centre and an Advisory Board for Chemical Engineering and Petroleum Engineering, Institute Technology Bandung. She recently received the best academic achievement in the regular course for national leaders at LXV Lemhannas RI in 2023. Filda has been involved in numerous research related to energy transition and related areas. Her opinions and reports subject to energy-related issues can be found in several international media.

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Kamia Handayani

Executive Vice President
PT PLN (Persero)

Kamia Handayani is a seasoned professional with 17 years of experience in the fields of energy and climate change. She serves as the Executive Vice President for Energy Transition and Sustainability at the state-owned electricity company, Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PLN). In this role, Kamia plays a key part in formulating PLN's strategies and consolidating its progress in energy transition and sustainability. Some of her notable achievements at PLN include crafting the Net Zero Emissions roadmap, conducting trials and implementing carbon trading for power generation, launching the TCFD (The Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures) report as well as formulating gender mainstreaming policies. She holds a PhD from the University of Twente.

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Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

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Robeliza Halip

Coordinator

Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development,
Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples

Ms. Halip belongs to the Kalanguya and Kankanaey Indigenous Peoples in the Cordillera region in the Philippines. She is the current coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development and the Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples. Her work mainly focuses on the advancement of the recognition and respect of Indigenous Peoples rights in relevant processes in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and in ensuring a Just Transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy for Indigenous Peoples.

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2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
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Nina Kolybashkina

Senior Social Development Specialist
Climate Investment Fund (CIF)

Nina Kolybashkina leads in the mainstreaming of gender and spearheading broader social inclusion agenda through policy and technical assistance, analytical work and capacity-building at the Climate Investment Funds. Nina's career spans over 20 years of experience in development, focusing on gender, social inclusion, labor, rural development, water management, and resilience. Nina joined the World Bank in 2015, leading policy dialogue in Uzbekistan on eradication of child and forced labor in the cotton sector, in partnership with the ILO, and developing gender and citizen engagement activities in agriculture, water and energy sectors. Nina holds a PhD and MSc in Comparative Social Policy from the University of Oxford, and a Specialist Degree in Economics and Finance from Tavrida National University in Ukraine.

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Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
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Simarna Singh

Social Entrepreneur, Sustainability Advocate, Youth Leader
National Youth Council Singapore

Simarna Singh is actively involved in actioning sustainability and the environmental, social, and governance approach ESG in her work with the youth. Simarna was appointed as a United Nations Global Compact Youth Ambassador and became part of MASDAR's Future Sustainability Leader's program to complement her academic studies. She represented the UAE Youth Delegation in Madrid at the COP25 United Nations Climate Change conference and was selected by the Singapore Government as one of the 40 youth to participate in the prestigious Climate Youth Development Program. Simarna is focused on growing her Singapore Social Enterprise, Coco Veda.

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Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
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Rosemary Idem

Programme Manager
Gender and Youth
Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL)

Rosemary Idem is responsible for leading efforts on removing current barriers to women and youth participation in the clean energy workforce and supporting next generation energy leaders. Rosemary is an energy expert with extensive experience in the off-grid energy sector, clean energy transition, and energy financing. Her expertise includes off-grid renewable energy development, policy design, power sector reform, risk and business continuity management, infrastructure financing, and gender mainstreaming. She also worked in the Nigerian Rural Electrification Agency and in the Presidential Task Force on Power as part of the team that designed and implemented the Nigerian Energy Sector Reform.

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Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
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THEME 2. Gender-Responsive Climate Change Adaptation

Noelle O'Brien

Director, Climate Change

Climate Change, Resilience, and Environment Cluster (CCRE)

Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department (CCSD)

Veronica is a senior gender and social development specialist at the Asian Development Bank. She leads the gender equality program in Southeast Asia and has previously managed ADB's gender equality initiatives in the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Mongolia. She has authored various publications on gender and labour force dynamics in East Asia, gender and the energy transition, and gender-based violence in Mongolia. Veronica has a master's degree in public policy and management from the University of London, United Kingdom, and a master's degree in management of Agricultural Knowledge Systems from Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
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Yasmin Siddiqi

Director, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development
Sectors Group, ADB

Yasmin Siddiqi joined ADB in 2007 and led project conceptualization, technical assistance processing, and the administration of complex loans. Yasmin continues to drive knowledge solutions on water security, irrigation management, integrated water resources management and innovative financing including private sector participation. She is the lead author in key water publications including the Asian Water Development Outlook 2016. She also plays an active role in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program and in the strategic planning of agriculture and natural resources in the Central and West Asia region. Yasmin is a chartered civil engineer and has a post-graduate degree in irrigation engineering.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

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Azav Nomanov

Project Coordinator

Horticulture Value Chain Development Project

International Strategic Centre for Agri-Food Development

Ministry of Agriculture

Avaz Nomanov was the project coordinator of the ADB-financed Horticulture Value Chain Development Project in Uzbekistan, which was implemented by the International Strategic Centre for Agri-Food Development (ISCAD), Ministry of Agriculture. The project provided financing to 360 small and medium-sized companies in the horticulture sector and created 8,000 new jobs with 3,000 female workers. Currently, Mr. Nomanov works the World Bank-financed Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program in Aral Sea Basin. He holds a bachelor's degree (2008) in International Relations from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
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Clara Park

Senior Gender Officer and Gender Team Leader,
Food and Agriculture Organization

Clara Park leads the Gender Team as the Senior Gender Officer of the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division of Food and Agriculture Organization. Clara has worked on gender equality and human rights with civil society organizations in Asia and the Pacific and other regions. She holds a PhD in Development Studies with a focus on feminist political ecology from the International Institute of Social Studies, the Hague. Clara is an author of technical publications, academic journal articles, and a co-author of book chapters in the “Feminist Contributions to Climate Change Research, Policy and Ethics” in *The Routledge Handbook of Feminist Bioethics* and in “Negotiating Gender Expertise in Environment and Development.”

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
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Warathida Chaiyapa

Assistant Director of Academic Affairs
School of Public Policy
Chiang Mai University

Dr. Warathida Chaiyapa is assistant director and head of the degree program of the School of Public Policy at Chiang Mai University. She received her PhD in Sustainability Science from the University of Tokyo. Her research area and expertise cover a wide range of issues on climate change and energy policy. She has done consultant work for the Ministry of Energy in drafting the first regional energy policy of Thailand. Warathida worked in CHARMS, a project promoting energy efficiency through traditional wooden houses, among others. She was awarded the Green Talent Award by the Federal Ministry of Research and Education, Germany in 2020.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
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Zonibel Woods

Senior Social Development Specialist
(Gender and Development)
Gender Equality Division
ADB

Zonibel Woods has dedicated over 30 years to address barriers to gender equality and create opportunities for women and girls to live healthy, productive lives free from discrimination and violence. She has extensive and diverse expertise in gender and development and sustainable development, including in the areas of gender mainstreaming, strategic planning, policy analysis and development, training, technical assistance, and capacity building.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

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Bushra Afreen

Chief Heat Officer
Dhaka North

Bushra Afreen is the Chief Heat Officer for Dhaka North. Committed to building a cooler and safer city, her distinct position enables strategic collaborations to prioritize and enhance heat resilience. This role was initiated by the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center (Arsht-Rock), dedicated to increasing city-level adaptability in the face of climate-related urban challenges. Trained in global development and experienced in management strategy and policy advocacy, Bushra is passionate about climate justice, gender-responsive interventions and nature-based solutions. Her appointment as the first CHO in Asia posits an important precedence of inclusion and leadership, inviting the most climate-vulnerable nations to shape global discourse.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

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Dr. Ana Bonell

Assistant Professor
Medical Research Council Unit
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Dr. Ana Bonell is an assistant professor at the Medical Research Council Unit, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She is an academic clinician with a sound understanding of clinical medicine, physiology, maternal health and epidemiology, focusing on the nexus between climate change and maternal and child health. Her research spans the direct health impacts of heat on vulnerable adult populations in West Africa and the development of sustainable interventions to reduce the health risk of heat in vulnerable populations in low to middle-income countries.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

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Laxmi Sharma

Senior Urban Development Specialist
ADB

Laxmi Sharma works with the Water and Urban Development Sector Group, South Asia, at ADB. She is an engineer with over 20 years of experience in integrated urban planning and development, water and sanitation, solid waste management, inclusive city development, urban transport, and infrastructure and service financing models. She is skilled in multistakeholder-driven development, project design, processing, and management. Sharma holds a master of engineering degree from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok. Sharma has extensive multicultural work experience in Bangladesh, Georgia, India, Kyrgyz Republic, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, and Thailand.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

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THEME 3. Women in the Green Economy

Malika Shagzatova

Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development)
Gender Equality Division
ADB

Malika Shagzatova is a Senior Social Development Specialist (gender and development) in CCSD, ADB. She has more than 26 years of professional experience, including 17 years across ADB's operations. Before joining ADB she worked as a regional and international consultant with various international organizations, in Central Asia, Mongolia, and the People's Republic of China. Her professional experience and research interests include gender and climate change, labor market needs and women's participation in the labor force, and GBV and SEAH. She has provided consultancy and research services and has led and conducted complex and strategic projects for various international organizations. She has an MBA from the Graduate School of Management of the University of Western Australia and a PhD from Tashkent State Economic University.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

ADB



Rebecca Razavi

Head of Public Policy and Economic Graph
Regional Director, Asia-Pacific
[LinkedIn](#)

Rebecca Razavi is LinkedIn's Regional Director of Public Policy and Economic Graph for Asia- Pacific. She leads a multi-disciplinary team working in partnership with governments, multilateral organizations, and economic institutions to advance LinkedIn's vision to create economic opportunity for every member of the global workforce. Rebecca was a former executive general manager and acting commissioner overseeing Australia's federal online safety regulator. She also served as a senior leader and diplomat of the United Kingdom public sector for 15 years, and deputy ambassador and consul general to Indonesia, ASEAN, and Timor-Leste.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

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Samantha Hung

Director, Gender Equality Division
Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department
ADB

Samantha Hung is Director of ADB's Gender Equality Division where she provides leadership for advancing gender equality across all aspects of ADB operations and knowledge work. Samantha has over 20 years of experience in gender equality at project, program and policy levels. Previously, she held various gender specialist roles, including for the New Zealand Agency for International Development, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and UK Institute of Development Studies.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

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Alexander Tsironis

Education Specialist
Human and Social Development Sector Group
ADB

Alexander Tsironis is an education specialist at ADB specializing in technical and vocational education and training (TVET). His current work areas include skills development, green jobs, and integrated solutions supporting initiatives in Fiji, India, Mongolia, and Pakistan. Prior to ADB, he was a project manager at the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) in Viet Nam and project officer at the German Public-Private Partnerships agency in Berlin. Alexander holds a master's degree in political economy from the University of Sussex as well as in management of development projects from the University of Manchester.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

ADB



Dimitra Xynou

Policy Analyst

Finance, Investment and Global Relations Division, Environment Directorate
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Dimitra Xynou is a policy analyst and the focal point on gender at OECD's Environment Directorate. Her work focuses on the gender-environment nexus, and on mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment in environmental policies including sustainable infrastructure. Prior to the OECD, Dimitra held senior advisory positions in the Greek public administration as counsellor at the Permanent Delegation of Greece to the OECD, and as advisor to the Ministers of Economy, Development and Transport. She has worked as a policy advisor in the European Parliament and in the private sector.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

ADB



Nalini Singh

Executive Director
Fiji Women's Rights Movement

Nalini Singh is a feminist and social development specialist from Nausori, Fiji, with over 20 years of experience in the design, implementation, and management of women's rights and development programs in Asia and the Pacific. Nalini heads the Fiji Women's Rights Movement as the executive director after working in regional feminist organizations for 12 years. Singh is also an electoral commissioner, a board member of the International Women's Rights Action Watch - Asia Pacific, and an active member of the Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

ADB



Natavan Mammadova

Secretary General

National Confederation of Entrepreneurs Organizations

Republic of Azerbaijan

Natavan Mammadova, born in Azerbaijan, has been working in the public and private sectors, nongovernment organizations, and in international organizations for the past 20 years. She is the secretary general of the National Confederation of Entrepreneurs (Employers) Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Natavan has extensive career experience in women's empowerment, gender equality, and building an inclusive society. To promote the country's business development, she has been actively representing and advocating for businesses in local and international events and organizing events for enterprises in Azerbaijan, in partnership with local and international experts.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

ADB



Tsolmon Begzsuren

Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development)
Gender Equality Division
ADB

Tsolmon Begzsuren leads gender-related operations across the East Asia department in ADB with over 15 years of professional experience in planning gender and development in policy and operations. This includes gender mainstreaming of programming; processing and implementation monitoring of lending on technical assistance projects in the People's Republic of China, Mongolia, and the region. She worked with the ADB Mongolia Resident Mission as a Senior Social Development and Gender Officer for 8 years. Prior to ADB, she worked for UNFPA and the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation Program for Mongolia and did consultancies for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and International Finance Corporation. She was recognized as a gender champion by the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation in 2012 and as the national gender expert by Mongolia's National Committee on Gender Equality in 2014.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

ADB



Chen Chao

Procurement Chief, Provincial Project Management Office
Fujian Farmland Sustainable Utilization and Demonstration Project

Chen Chao is the Procurement Chief of the Provincial Project Management Office of the Fujian Farmland Sustainable Utilization and Demonstration Project and a member of the Fujian Soil Conservation and Rural Development ADB Loan Project Management Office. She has over 30 years of experience managing agricultural development projects with principles and practices underpinning gender mainstreaming. This project has supported women through green skills training providing them with gainful employment.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

ADB



Choikhand Janchivlamdan

Project Coordinator and M&E Specialist

Regional Technical Assistance: Accelerating Gender Equality in East Asia for an Inclusive and Green Recovery

Choikhand Janchivlamdan has worked as a national consultant for several regional technical assistance, loan, and grant projects of ADB focusing on natural resources management, environmental pollution, and climate change. She has a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted issues surrounding environmental sustainability and the importance of preserving natural resources for future generations. Janchivlamdan has worked in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, local and international civil society organizations, and academia. Choikhand has a PhD in Geography from the University of Leicester.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

ADB



Faumuina Shaunalee Katafono

Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer
TraSeable Solutions

Shaunalee Katafono is the co-founder of TraSeable Solutions, a data company that specializes in digitalization and traceability. Shauna is an advocate for enhancing the visibility, empowerment, and skills development of women in the blue and green economies. Over the past six years, she has collaborated with grassroots farming organizations, stakeholders in the fishing industry, and female entrepreneurs in the informal sectors, contributing to their economic empowerment through capacity building and digital skills training. She holds a degree in marine science from the University of the South Pacific.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

ADB



**THEME 4. Gender-Responsive Private
Sector-led Climate Action**

Anne Valko Celestino

Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development)
Gender Equality Division, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department
ADB

Anne Valko Celestino is responsible for integrating gender analysis and measures into investment projects for strategic and operational initiatives to promote gender inclusive solutions in private sector financing. Prior to joining the ADB, Anne has been working with other development finance institutions including the African Development Bank. She is an experienced professional in social development, investment finance and private sector development, with experience across sectorial operations and stakeholder and strategy engagement. She has managed several institutional initiatives including a major multi-partner flagship program promoting women in business, access to finance and gender equality in economic development.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

ADB



Kathy Mulville

Gender and Partnership Expert (Consultant)
Gender Equality Division
ADB

Kathy Mulville is engaged as a gender and partnership expert at the ADB. She is responsible for increasing collaboration amongst development partners and the private sector toward advancing gender equality and women's economic empowerment. Prior to ADB, she was engaged as the Business Partnerships Director at Investing in Women for 6 years, responsible for the establishment of private sector Business Coalitions and workplace gender equality technical advisory services in the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and Myanmar. She has over 25 years' experience providing technical expertise and building networks and coalitions in Africa, Asia and Latin America to advance women's rights and economic empowerment.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

ADB

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters



Sabrina Tan

Co-founder and Vice President of People and Impact
Lhoopa

Sabrina Tan is the co-founder and Vice President of People and Impact at Lhoopa, a proptech venture that aims to solve the affordable housing crisis in the Philippines. With over 12 years of professional experience as an entrepreneur and co-founder, Sabrina leads the company's Human Resources and People and Culture teams, as well as its social impact and Environmental, Social and Governance projects. Sabrina graduated with a BA in Psychology from the Ateneo de Manila University, and she obtained a Master of Science degree in Education and a PhD in Psychology from Fordham University in New York.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

ADB



Devendra Chawal

CEO and Managing Director
GreenCell Mobility

Devendra Chawal is the CEO and Managing Director of GreenCell Mobility with over 26 years of diverse experience as an intrapreneurial leader, scaling up startups, working with India's foremost entrepreneurs and global corporate leaders, and holding pivotal roles as Director at The Coca-Cola Company; COO & EVP at Walmart; CEO at Spencer's Group, and Future Group, India. Devendra, who is a gold-medalist and a university rank-holder, has a strong academic foundation which includes a BE in Production Engineering, a master's in business administration, and an Advanced Management Program from Harvard Business School.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters

ADB



Amanda Satterly

Principal Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development)
Gender Equality Division
ADB

Amanda Satterly is leading the efforts of ADB's private sector operations to integrate gender into its investment projects and operations. She is responsible for overseeing and providing advice on ADB-financed private sector investment projects across a broad range of sectors and countries. Prior to ADB, Amanda worked for over 15 years with the private sector to empower women and drive inclusive growth in developing markets across Africa and the Asia Pacific. Amanda has a Master of Science in Poverty Reduction from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

2023 ADB GENDER FORUM

2 Billion Changemakers

Women Leading on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

ADB

21–22 Nov
ADB Headquarters



Neeti Katoch

Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development)
Gender Equality Division
ADB

Neeti Katoch is a Gender Specialist with ADB where she works on mainstreaming gender equality in private sector operations. Prior to joining ADB, Neeti worked on strengthening sustainability practices and gender mainstreaming in agriculture supply chains and entrepreneurship development across Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Neeti's 15 years of experience spans working as a banker, a management consultant and a researcher for prominent public and private sector organizations. Neeti holds a bachelor's in economics and LLB from Delhi University, and a master's in public administration in International Development from Harvard University.

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Erdenedelger Degi Bavlai

First Deputy CEO
Khan Bank of Mongolia

Erdenedelger Degi Bavlai serves as the First Deputy CEO at Khan Bank of Mongolia, the largest bank in the country. She manages retail, small and medium enterprises, and corporate banking business lines, investor relations, and the bank's digital and business strategy. She actively participates in sustainable and responsible banking development initiatives. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Indiana University, USA.

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Bharat Joshi

Chief Financial Officer and Investor Relations Director
Cimory

Bharat Joshi is the Chief Financial Officer and Investor Relations Director of Cimory Group, overseeing corporate finance, investments, and the group strategy. He is passionate about integrating environmental, social, and governance framework (ESG) into the company's business management and processes. Prior to joining Cimory, he spent over 15 years with Aberdeen Standard Investments as Investment Director and Chief Investment Officer overseeing the group's assets in Indonesia. He graduated with a bachelor's in mathematics, operational research, statistics and economics from the University of Warwick.

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Enkhbold Khaliun

Chief Administration Officer
Sky Hypermarket LLC

Enkhbold Khaliun is the chief administration officer at Sky Hypermarket LLC. She is responsible for the departments of Human Resources (HR); Legal; Quality Control; Operational Internal Audit, and she leads the Sustainable Development and the Health and Safety team. Prior to joining Sky Hypermarket, Enkhbold served as acting division head of the Government Implementing Agency - Petroleum Authority of Mongolia, and HR Director at MT Group. Enkhbold has a master's degree in public policy from the Australian National University.

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Xianshuang Zhang

Consultant
Central and West Asia Department
ADB

Xianshuang (Edwina) Zhang is a Private Sector Gender Specialist consultant at ADB, supporting gender mainstreaming for non-sovereign projects. Prior to ADB, she worked in Kenya, Tanzania, and the Philippines for international organizations, including UNDP, Save the Children, and WWF, focusing on gender equality and youth development. She also served as a faculty member at Barwaaqo University, an all-women's university in Somaliland, training future female teachers and promoting girls' education in the country. Xianshuang received her MA degree in Education, Gender, and International Development from University College London.

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Gisela Garzon De La Roza

Senior International Gender in Private Sector Operations Consultant
Gender Equality Division
ADB

Gisela Garzon De La Roza is a senior international consultant with ADB where she focuses on integrating a gender inclusive approach in private sector investments and operations, with emphasis on gender finance. Prior to ADB, Gisela led gender and social impact research and implemented gender inclusive solutions in access to micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and climate finance programs for women and youth-led businesses in the South Caucasus, Central Asia, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America & the Caribbean regions. Gisela holds an M. A. in Policy & Development Management from Georgetown University and a Master of Leadership in Development Finance from the Frankfurt School of Finance.

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Shami Nissan

Partner, Head of Sustainability
ACTIS

Shami Nissan has over 23 years of professional experience in sustainable investment. She leads Actis' approach to sustainability and impact, working closely with investment colleagues and portfolio company management to build world-class and sustainable businesses. Prior to Actis, Shami was a senior consultant at PwC's Sustainability and Climate Change team for ten years. She has also worked with the United Nations Development Programme in Central America. Shami holds a master's in science in Environmental Technology, with Distinction, from the Imperial College London and a bachelor's in science in Biological Sciences from Durham University.

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Nuka Mshvidobaze

CFO

Georgian Renewable Power Holding

Nuka Mshvidobadze serves as chief financial officer for more than 6 years at the Georgian Renewable Power Holding (GRPH), the leading renewable energy platform in the country owned by Georgia Capital. GRPH owns and operates 71 MWs in Georgia and has up to 300 MWs in the pipeline. Nuka has participated in all of the major milestones accomplished by the group, including the issuance of two green bonds. Before joining GRPH, Nuka worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers and managed audit teams for various clients in Tbilisi and Brussels offices.

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Sabine Spohn

Principal Investment Specialist
Private Sector Operations Department
ADB

Sabine Spohn is responsible for managing the Women's Finance Exchange of ADB's Private Sector Operations Department (PSOD). She also remains active in the implementation of PSOD's Microfinance Program, expanding it in the Caucasus and Central West Asia region. Prior to ADB, she worked as Deputy Head in Frankfurt School of Finance and Management and was responsible for its Asian project portfolio. She has a commercial banking background and holds a PhD in Development Studies from the University of Melbourne.

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Suzanne C. Gaboury

Director General
Private Sector Operations Department
ADB

Suzanne Gaboury is Director General for ADB's Private Sector Operations Department and leads ADB's private sector operations throughout Asia and the Pacific. This covers all funding spectrums (equity, debt, guarantees, and co-financing) across all sectors including sustainable infrastructure, financial institutions and micro-finance, agribusiness, healthcare, education as well as funds, trade, and supply chain finance. She is responsible for driving private strategic investments, innovation and partnerships focused on climate. Suzanne has more than 30 years of professional experience in emerging market finance with the private sector with extensive international networks and stakeholder relationships.

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Joana Pedro

Social and Human Rights Lead
UNEP FI

Joana Pedro is a social and environmental specialist with a career that spans 17 years. She currently leads the Social and Human Rights team at United Nations Environmental Programme Finance Initiative, where she manages work on just transition, gender equality and financial health and inclusion. Joana started her career conducting environmental and social impact assessments in the Southern Africa region. She is an environmental engineer with a master's in science in International Development and a post-graduation in Human Rights.

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Anshukant Taneja

Principal Investment Specialist
ADB

Anshukant Taneja is Principal Investment Specialist at Private Sector Operations Department at ADB. He leads the PSOD Microfinance Program that focuses on financial inclusion and helps microfinance institutions deepen their access to commercial finance. Before joining ADB, he worked as regional director of ratings at Standard & Poor's in Singapore, and with ABN AMRO Bank in India.

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Kamrul Hasan Tarafder

President-CEO and Founder
ASA Philippines Foundation

Kamrul Hasan Tarafder is the President-CEO and Founder of the ASA Philippines Foundation, one of the largest non-profit micro-finance institutions in the Philippines and in the ASEAN region, serving over 2.2 million borrowers. He sits on the boards of MiDAS Credit Bureau and RestartME, and is the chairperson and founder of A.M.E.N.A. Foundation in Bangladesh. Prior ASA Philippines, Tarafder was seconded to UNDP Philippines in 1998, where he handled three major projects as a Chief Consultant for the MicroStart program. In 2020, he was conferred with the prestigious Asia Institute of Management Alumni Achievement Award.

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Gema Perez

Senior Investment Specialist
Private Sector Operations Department
ADB

Gema Perez is a Unit Head in the Private Sector Operations Department at ADB, where she works with financial intermediaries in the Asia-Pacific region to promote socially inclusive and environmentally friendly investments. Gema has 20 years of experience in international development finance applying private sector solutions to the sustainable development of Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Prior to ADB, she worked in a private equity firm in Paris investing in African small and medium enterprises, at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington DC, in an investment fund providing local currency hedging solutions. Gema graduated from Georgetown University and is a Chartered Financial Analyst charter holder.

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Maya Kobalia

Maya Kobalia

Head, Environmental and Social Department

JSC MFO Crystal

Maya Kobalia is the Head of the Environmental and Social Department in the largest financial inclusion organization in Georgia, JSC MFO Crystal. She is the first UN Global Compact Young SDG Pioneer from Georgia, a mentee of Vital Voices, Poland's Leadership and Mentoring Program for Women Leaders, and an Open World Leadership Program alumna. Maya received her master's at the University of Tartu and the Humboldt University of Berlin. She graduated with honors with a BA in International Relations from Ilia State University.

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Biao Huang

Principal Investment Specialist
Private Sector Operations Department
ADB

Biao Huang leads the private-sector financial institutions funding for East Asia in ADB's Private Sector Operations Department. Prior to joining ADB, he was a senior consultant at a UK-based consultancy firm and a researcher at the University of Oxford. He received his PhD in Economics from the University of London and is a Chartered Financial Analyst charter holder.

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Asif Cheema

Director
Private Sector Operations Department
ADB

Asif Cheema is the Director of the Private Sector Operations Department at ADB. Before joining ADB, he worked in various financial institutions including J.P. Morgan Securities, New York; HSBC Investment Bank, Dubai and London; Nomura International, Dubai as Executive Director, Corporate Finance and Investment Banking. He also has worked at Alpen Capital, Dubai, and the UAE. Asif holds a master's in business administration from Yale University and course work in International Affairs from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Science in accounting and finance from New York Institute of Technology.