



## Post-COVID-19 Policy Responses to Support Recovery Session

*17 March, 1:30pm to 3:00pm (GMT+8/ Manila Local Time)*

### Background

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has created devastating health, social, economic and financial impacts. Imposition of social distancing and border closures have impaired economic activity in key consumer-driven sectors such as tourism and retail trade. Manufacturing output has been badly affected by both demand and supply side challenges. The region suffered a sharp contraction in economic activity as a result. While economic growth is expected to rebound in 2021, the recurrence of COVID-19 infections will continue to complicate the recovery process.

Governments have responded quickly to mitigate some of the economic fallout from COVID-19. Monetary policies have been accommodative and fiscal support has been rolled out. While these immediate responses have been crucial, a key question is what comes next to help countries support post-COVID economic recovery. As countries gradually move into recovery, they should seize the opportunity to rethink core economic structures and strive for a more resilient, inclusive, innovative, and sustainable post-COVID-19 future. Governments will have to introduce structural reforms that can support the transformation of the economy. Digitalization can improve the delivery of government services and speed up the post-COVID-19 recovery. However, considerable gaps and risks exist in promoting new technologies and applications. Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises are struggling to survive and more so to cope with new ways of doing business.

### Objectives of the Session and Benefits

The session aims to:

- Inspire governments to lay the groundwork to access opportunities that will accelerate and ensure a sustainable and inclusive recovery underpinned by more resilient economies.
- Share best practices and learn from the experiences of neighboring countries facing common set of challenges and constraints to government's financial and administrative resources.
- Bring together government and private sector to plan for recovery and future growth targets.

## Agenda

*(GMT+8/ Manila Local Time)*

| Time                                                                                                                                           | Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>Moderator:</b> Thiam Hee Ng, Principal Economist, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>1:30pm – 2:25pm</b>                                                                                                                         | <b>Panel Discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Aladdin Rillo, Deputy Secretary General, ASEAN Economic Community, ASEAN Secretariat</li><li>• Dr. Rafaelita M. Aldaba, Undersecretary, Competitiveness and Innovation Group, Department of Trade and Industry, Philippines</li><li>• Dr. Deborah Elms, Founder and Executive Director, Asian Trade Centre</li></ul> |
| <b>2:25pm – 2:55pm</b>                                                                                                                         | <b>Q&amp;A</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>2:55pm – 3:00pm</b>                                                                                                                         | <b>Wrap Up and Closing</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |