



The Role of Taxation in the Crisis Response and Recovery Session

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

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on the health of both people and economies, with developing countries hit the hardest. Most countries have been implementing emergency tax relief measures to help keep businesses and households solvent, and tax administrations are playing a crucial role in delivering pandemic responses and trying to maintain revenue collections. Governments have been caught between the need to provide income support and liquidity to individuals and businesses and at the same time trying to strengthen revenue collection to usher in fiscal sustainability. In this environment, tolerance for tax avoidance and evasion is at an all-time low. Helping governments tackle the 'low hanging fruit' in terms of revenue collection has been a priority. But, as the world moves from crisis to recovery and the hope to build back better, tax policymakers will be faced with hard choices, and new approaches to tax policy may be needed to recalibrate their tax bases.

Objectives of the Session and Benefits

This session will examine the way in which tax revenues have been affected by the crisis, how tax policy makers and administrators have responded and what opportunities the future holds.

Agenda

(GMT+8/ Manila Local Time)

Time	Activity
Moderator: Aekapol Chongvilaivan, Economist, ADB	
1:30pm – 2:25pm	Panel Discussion: • Dr. Esther AP Koisin, Director, Department of International Taxation, Inland Revenue Board, Malaysia • Vinit Vissesuwanapoom, Deputy-Director General, Revenue Department, Thailand • Pande Putu Oka Kusumawardani, Director of State Revenue Policy, Fiscal Policy Agency, Indonesia • Andrew Auerbach, Senior Tax Adviser, OECD Jakarta
2:25pm – 2:55pm	Q&A
2:55pm– 3:00pm	Wrap Up and Closing