



COVID-19 Pandemic and Inequality in Asia

Discussant Plenary 1

**“Achieving SDG-10 Post-Covid-19 Pandemic and a Book
Launch: Implications of Covid-19 on Inequality in Asia”**

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- Appreciation to Oxfam that have been consistently documenting the inequality stories in Asia. Not only the stories and condition from big economies such as China, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, and India but also the stories from other countries.
- The impact is wide, it is beyond monetary/economic measures.
- Uneven losses, uneven recovery (within country and across countries).

- Some groups of population are left behind. Need to monitor not only the poor but also the vulnerable
 - Children
 - Women (especially female-headed households)
 - Elderly
 - People with disability
 - Lower education
 - Informal sectors
 - People live in rural area
 - Other marginalized/minority groups (ethnic minority, LGBT, etc.)
- Long-lasting impact of the pandemic on future human development and well-being (health outcomes, learning loss), poverty, as well as inequality

- World Bank (2022) highlight lessons from countries' responds to COVID-19: fiscal space , reaching out who are on needs especially in the informal sector, and the delivery system.
- Enhance shared experience, assistance, and collaboration between countries.

Development continue, the challenges remain

- Conflict and war
- Inflation (especially food inflation)
- Digitalization (technological change, automation) and digital divide
- Natural Disaster
- Future pandemic
- Children's learning loss during pandemic
- Etc.

On shared experience and collaboration

Reducing inequality, improving human capital, and increasing well-being post-Covid-19 pandemic

Making the economy more inclusive and people-centered

Establishing a comprehensive, inclusive, and innovative social protection system to prepare for future shocks

Developing a shock-responsive, inclusive, and resilient social protection system

Leveraging digital system for delivering social assistance and financial inclusion

Enabling accelerated and inclusive learning & skilling to achieve resilient education systems and reap demographic dividends

Preparing resilient education systems for learning recovery and stronger collective futures

Investing in skills to reap dividends from demographic transition

Moving beyond GDP as a prosperity measurement

Integrating the well-being framework & multidimensional poverty into policy design and objectives



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