



Call for Papers

“Addressing Financing Gaps Through Technology” Conference: September 2020, Singapore

Selected papers will be invited to the 33rd Australasian Finance and Banking Conference (AFBC) “FinTech, Innovation, Financial Stability, and Prosperity” December 2020, Sydney

The Asian Development Bank’s (ADB) Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, the Asian Development Bank Institute, the Institute of Global Finance–University of New South Wales (IGF-UNSW), the Asian Bureau of Finance and Economic Research (ABFER) and the National University of Singapore (NUS) are organizing (1) an international conference to be held in Singapore in September 2020, and (2) the 33rd Australasian Finance and Banking Conference (AFBC) in Sydney, Australia in December 2020.

Background

Rapid advances in technologies offer a way to bridge long-term investment gaps. For example, the estimated infrastructure investment gap—the difference between investment needs and current investment levels to maintain strong, inclusive growth and reduce climate change risks—equals around \$26 trillion between 2016 and 2030, equivalent to \$1.7 trillion per year in the Asia and Pacific region. Amid vast excess savings, these huge investment gaps persist. Technological advances offer opportunities to help reduce this gap, lead to a more efficient allocation of financial resources in the region, and thus promote economic development.

To that end, technology and innovation are critical, as they can help facilitate project identification, design, financing, implementation, and insurance, thereby attracting private investors and minimizing project-related risks. This in turn could increase the overall efficiency of long-term finance and related projects, for example through public-private partnerships.

Financial technologies and digital financial systems—encompassing peer-to-peer based lending, blockchain technologies, big data, tokenization, cryptocurrencies, and crowdsourced financing, among others—also offer promising ways to mobilize the long-term finance that is needed for sustainable and inclusive economic development. However, there are also challenges associated with rapid advances in (financial) technology, such as their possible implications on financial stability, cyber security, and data protection, which need to be considered by policy makers.

Objectives

The conference will bring together policy makers and researchers to explore opportunities, issues, and challenges embedded in (financial) technologies and identify possible policy considerations at national and regional levels to narrow existing financing gaps.

The organizers encourage both empirical and theoretical policy-relevant papers. Specific examples of relevant topics include, but are not limited to:



- How can (financial) technology help improve the mobilization, distribution, and allocation of available financial resources, both within a country and across countries to address development gaps and long-term investment needs?
- How can technology help facilitate project identification, design, financing, implementation, and insurance?
- What policies and regulations are needed to create an ecosystem that helps maximize the benefits offered by technology and fintech, while minimizing the potential challenges and risks, such as assuring consumer protection, data privacy, or financial stability?

Outputs

- A conference highlights publication summarizing key findings
- Selected papers will be invited for submission to a related special issue of the Journal of Banking and Finance.

The Selection Committee for the conference program consists of ADB, IGF-UNSW, and ABFER senior researchers, including:

- Cyn-Young Park (Asian Development Bank)
- Fariborz Moshirian (Institute of Global Finance–University of New South Wales)
- Bernard Yeung (Asian Bureau of Finance and Economic Research)

KEY DATES

Deadline for Submission of Draft Papers	30 June 2020
Notification of Acceptance	24 July 2020
Pre-conference	September 2020 (Singapore)
Final Conference	December 2020 (Sydney)

PAPER SUBMISSION PROCEDURE: Please send your draft papers to:

Peter Rosenkranz (Email: prosenkranz@adb.org)
Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department
Asian Development Bank

and

Paulo Halili (Email: phalili@adb.org)
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All submissions should be sent via email with the subject line “ADBfintech_{your last name}_{paper title}”. Only authors of selected manuscripts will be notified. For each accepted manuscript, the ADB will cover the cost of one round trip, economy class airfare, hotel accommodation, and daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the conference. Selected papers presented in the pre-conference will be considered to be presented in the final conference. Selected papers presented in the final conference may be considered for publication in a related special issue of the Journal of Banking and Finance based on the interest of the author/s.