

Regional Meeting (12th-14th December 2023, Changzhou)

Policy Experience Sharing for Green Development Among Asian BRI Partners

Speaker Biography

(In Alphabetical Order)

Rafis Abazov, director of the International Institute for Green & Sustainable Development and visiting professor at Kazakh National Agrarian Research University, is a seasoned professional with diverse roles. He served as a UNDP Project Manager and played key roles in Model UN programs and UNAI initiatives. With over 20 years of consulting experience for organizations like ADB and EU, he has authored 10 books on Central Asia and the Middle East. A regular contributor to publications such as the New York Times and Forbes Magazine, his research interests include development studies, e-governance, and Smart Green Cities. Scopus Index H-7; Google scholar H-17.

Ajaz Ahmed is an accomplished academic with a PhD in Economics from Durham University, UK. He is trained in applied economic policy research and works in areas such as sustainable agriculture, water conservation, climate change, energy, and public transport, among others. Dr Ajaz has a track record of conducting high social-impact research, securing several competitive research grants. While he has peer-reviewed research publications to his credit, Dr Ajaz also contributes to *the Dawn*, one of the most widely read English daily newspapers in Pakistan.

Maria Ahmed is an Economic Affairs Officer within the Division for Globalisation and Development Strategies at UNCTAD where she leads training and outreach activities on behalf of the Division. She previously worked in government relations at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in Beijing and in financial services and financial journalism roles in the UK.

Kanat Akshalov is a researcher and the Head of Soil and Crop Management Department in the Research and Production Center of Grain Farming named after A.I. Barayev, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Shortandy, Astana). His research activity includes drought control, ecology and environmental protection (water and wind erosion control), Carbon sequestration, cropping systems, and soil fertility, with an H index of 12. He is the project manager of "Intensification of Sustainable Agriculture in Kazakhstan".

Shujat Ali is a distinguished public servant and former Secretary of the Statistics Division, a former Special Secretary - Finance, and an Additional Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Pakistan. He is the former Secretary of Industries, Commerce, and Investments and former board member of public and private companies including the National Bank of Pakistan Ltd, United Bank Lt, Saudi-Pak Industrial and Agricultural Development Company, and Saudi-Pak Real Estate Company.

Antonio Andreoni is a Professor of Development Economics of SOAS University of London. He is also a Visiting Professor at the South African Research Chair in Industrial Development, University of Johannesburg, and an Honorary Professor at the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, University College London. He is a SOAS College Convenor for Research and Knowledge Exchange for the Departments of Development Studies, Economics, Finance and Management. Antonio has advised

multilateral organisations including UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNDP, ILO, UN ECA, World Bank and OECD, as well as national governments including the European Commission, the UK, Finland, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Mauritius. Antonio is also an Editor of the European Journal of Development Research.

Ahmet Atıl Aşıcı is an associate professor at the Management Engineering department of Istanbul Technical University since 2009. He holds a BSc degree from Istanbul Technical University, MA degree from Bogazici University in Economics, and a PhD degree in Economics from the Graduate Institute of International Studies, University of Geneva. Aşıcı worked as an associate economic officer at UNCTAD (2005-2006). Aşıcı's research focuses on the relationship between economic growth and sustainability, and green economic transformation. His articles appeared in various journals including *Ecological Indicators* and *Journal of Happiness Studies*. Aşıcı was a climate change fellow in the 2020-2021 IPC-Mercator Fellowship program with a project titled Green New Deal for Turkey to tackle climate change.

Azfar Hanif Azizi is a Research Associate at the Khazanah Research Institute. His research interests include stock-flow consistent macroeconomic modelling, industrial policy, climate change and inequality. He served at Bank Negara Malaysia and the Securities Commission of Malaysia. Azfar is a masters graduate in development economics with distinction from SOAS, University of London. Prior to that, he studied Islamic finance soon after completing an undergraduate degree in marketing and management. Moved by the turmoil in the wake of the GFC, he decided to pursue development economics to better understand the causes of economic crises and the causes of development and underdevelopment.

Birong Dong received his Doctor's Degree from Xiamen University in 2004. He is now the President of Nanjing Audit University as well as a doctoral supervisor, member of the Teaching Steering Committee on Accounting to Majors in Higher Education under The Ministry of Education, executive member of the Council of the Chinese Association of Higher Education, vice president of China Association of Accounting for Foreign Trade and Economics. His research interests include public economy and financial audit.

Aiqing FANG, an economist, who served as Vice Minister of Commerce of China from June 2013 to June 2017, graduated from Heilongjiang Business College majoring in business economics. From March 2018 to March 2023, Mr. FANG served as deputy director of the Economic Committee of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Mr. Fang is now a member of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Piergiuseppe Fortunato leads UNCTAD projects on industrial policy, global value chains and economic integration. He worked in both New York and Geneva offices of the United Nations, and for several universities and research institutes (University of Bologna, Université de Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, etc.). He has published widely in leading academic journals such as *The Economic Journal*, *The Journal of Economic Growth* and *The Journal of Population Economics* and contributes regularly to several newspapers and media outlets. He collaborated with national governments in Asia, Africa and Latin America and is an active part of the dialogue on global governance in various international fora (OECD, WTO, etc.).

Xueming GU, President and chief expert of CAITEC of the Ministry of Commerce, member of the 13th & 14th national committee of CPPCC. He is also a member of the China Economic and Social Council, member of the Strategic Emerging Industry Development Consultative Committee, member of the Top-

level Design Expert Group for National Innovation-Driven Development Strategy, and member of the Advisory Group Expert of Comprehensive Pilot of Expanded Opening-up of the Service Industry for Beijing Municipality. GU's research covers areas including opening-up development strategy, free trade (pilot) zone, multilateral and bilateral economic relation, international trade, international investment, industrial development strategy, regional economics, domestic trade circulation, and brand strategy.

Imdad Hussain is a scholar-activist in the field of policy studies. He specializes in policy design, policy analysis, and policy experiments. He has published in the field of public policies: education policy, urban policy, water and sanitation policies, climate policy, and local governments. His recent area of interest lies in the intersection of technology and public policy, and the potential of artificial intelligence, gamification, and communication technologies in bringing about policy innovations in the Pakistani public sector. He has been associated with the Forman Christian College University, Lahore University of Management Sciences, University of the Punjab, Institute of Business Administration, and International Organizations such as UNDP, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, and Department for International Development.

Özge İzdeş is a full-time faculty member at the International Trade Department of İstanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, a faculty member of the Women's Studies Center at İstanbul University, and an affiliated instructor in the Gender Studies program. She received her PhD in Economics from the University of Utah, USA. She specializes in development economics, feminist economics, and labour economics, with a focus on economic crises and gendered employment outcomes, the relationship between unpaid-paid labour, employment-oriented inclusive growth, and decent work. Recently, İzdeş's research project with Emel Memiş titled "*Elderly Care in a Non-caring Economy: How Far is a Caring Society*" is awarded the *Routledge Inclusive Economics Prize* in 2023. İzdeş consults on projects supported by UNDP, UN Women, and the EU.

Kejun Jiang is a Senior Researcher at the Energy Research Institute in China, specializing in climate change and energy policy analysis since 1993. He leads the Integrated Policy Assessment Model for China (IPAC) team, focusing on energy, environment, and climate change policy assessments. Jiang has been actively involved with the IPCC since 1997, contributing to various reports and serving as a lead author. His recent research projects cover energy and emission scenarios, low-carbon scenarios, air pollution control roadmaps, and assessments on energy and fuel taxes in China. Jiang completed his Ph.D. at the Social Engineering Department of Tokyo Institute of Technology.

Sun Jin is the deputy director of the Department of Commerce of Jiangsu Province, in charge of the Foreign Investment Management Office, the Foreign Cooperation and Exchange Office, the Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation Office, and the International Investment Promotion Center of Jiangsu Province.

Nurlan Kapenov is a prominent figure in Kazakhstan's energy sector. Holding various roles, he notably served as the General Director of Samruk Kazyna-United Green LLP, overseeing significant renewable energy projects. Under his leadership, the "Burnoye Solar" project received global recognition, winning the EBRD's Sustainable Development award. Kapenov facilitated foreign direct investment of over \$110 million, contributing to the development of green energy in Kazakhstan. He is the founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Renewable Energy Association "Qazaq Green," which publishes the acclaimed magazine "QAZAQ GREEN." Kapenov has received multiple awards for his contributions to the green economy and the energy sector in Kazakhstan.

Wei Yang Khoo is a Research associate at Khazanah Research Institute (KRI), Malaysia. His ongoing research focuses on climate policy and climate equity, primarily from the developing country's perspective.

Richard Kozul-Wright is the director of UNCTAD's globalization and development strategies division. He has worked at the UN in both New York and Geneva and published widely on economic issues, including in the *Economic Journal*, the *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, the *Journal of Development Studies*, and the *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*. He has co-written books such as *The Case for A new Bretton Woods* with Kevin P. Gallagher, *The Resistible Rise of Market Fundamentalism* with Paul Rayment and co-edited volumes of *Transnational Corporations and the Global Economy*, *Economic Insecurity and Development*, *Securing Peace, Climate Protection and Development* and *Industrial Policy*. He also co-edited *Transforming Economies: Making Industrial Policy Work for Growth, Jobs and Development with the International Labour Organization*. He holds a PhD degree in economics from the University of Cambridge in the UK.

Peng Li is the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Commerce of Changzhou, leading industrial policies in the city.

Lei Sheng is the mayor of Changzhou. She was appointed to the position in February of 2022. Ms. Sheng also serves as the Deputy Secretary of the Changzhou Municipal Party Committee, and Secretary of the Party Leadership Group.

Safdar Sohail, former Special Secretary Cabinet, belongs to the 1984 batch of Commerce and Trade Service and carries a Ph. D. in Sociology from France. He established Social Protection Resource Centre in 2020. Dr. Sohail is the principal author of *Draft National Sustainable Strategy of Pakistan* in 2009 and *Strategic Trade Policy Framework 2009-12 & 2012-2015*. He has served as DG Trade Policy, Ministry of Commerce and Economic Minister to EU in Brussels. He is the Convenor of CPEC Joint Working Group on Industrial Cooperation and Pakistan's lead negotiator on CPEC Long Term Plan. He volunteers his time for the joint initiative of Ministries of Health and Human Rights to make Islamabad Capital Territory a better place to live for the persons with disabilities and elderly.

Dawei Wang is currently an economic affairs officer at UNCTAD, where he works on issues of South-South economic cooperation and integration, trade, investment and industrial policies, China's development strategies, and global economic governance. Prior to joining the UNCTAD, he served in the Ministry of Commerce of China for over a decade with the portfolio focused on multilateral economic and development policy dialogue and negotiations. He holds advanced degrees in international relations, public administration, and development studies from Peking University, Harvard Kennedy School and the Graduate Institute Geneva (IHEID).

Ling Yao, an economist dedicated to European studies, holds a master degree of international politics from Peking University of China, is the director of the Institute of European Studies of Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, which ranks in one of China's top 24 think-tanks. Ms. Yao's has long dedicated herself in research of economic and trade relationship between China and the EU, of which member states are included as well. As Director and Senior Research Fellow, Ms. Yao recently focuses her research in among others the subjects of digital economy and green economy, China's opening-up policy and reform.