

**PL 1**

**DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITIONS, SOCIAL EQUITY, AND POPULATION  
DIVERSITY**

## | BACKGROUND

The Plenary Session for Sub-theme 1 aims to discuss the complex realities of global demographic transitions and the imperative for an equity-centered approach. Converging demographic and societal transitions - such as the simultaneous rise in youth and older-age cohorts, evolving family and care arrangements, spatial population shifts - are manifesting at varying intensities across countries. These are placing increasing pressures on health and social protection systems as well as posing challenges for how to develop and sustain supportive social, economic, and physical environments.

At the same time, these transitions present important opportunities to harness the demographic dividend by investing in young people's education, skills, and employment prospects, and to unlock the potential of the silver economy by supporting older adults' participation in society and the economy. Realizing these opportunities sustainably and for societies as a whole, also requires understanding and addressing the differentiated impacts of demographic transitions on vulnerable and at-risk groups, such as people with disabilities, migrants, indigenous populations, gender minorities, and informal workers.

Achieving equitable outcomes necessitates integrated and forward-looking policy approaches that are both inclusive and evidence-based, supported by interventions that are attentive to existing gaps in coverage, affordability, and accessibility related to social welfare systems, income security, care provision, and access to essential services across the life course.

## | OBJECTIVES

The Plenary Session will serve as a high-level framing for the sessions under Sub-theme 1 on (1) Social welfare systems, social protection, and fiscal sustainability, (2) Harnessing demographic dividends and silver economy, (3) Role of family, community, and supportive environments alongside demographic shifts, (4) Advancing intergenerational solidarity and equity in an ageing world, and (5) Inclusive policies for vulnerable and at-risk groups.

In particular, the Plenary will highlight cross-cutting themes and priorities. The Plenary will also explore the role of different stakeholders including governments, civil society, communities, the private sector, and development partners in shaping and implementing effective solutions.



Panelist

## Eduardo Banzon

*Director, Health Team*

Asian Development Bank  
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Dr. Eduardo P. Banzon is the Director of the Health Practice Team under the Human and Social Development Sectors Group at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Fondly known as Doc Dodo, he is a leading advocate for universal health coverage, spearheading ADB's health sector initiatives and working closely with various sectors and departments to develop and implement health policies, strategies, and operational plans. His work aligns with ADB's overarching goal of supporting developing member countries across Asia and the Pacific in improving health care delivery to reduce poverty and enhance human capital.

Since November 2021, Doc Dodo has also served as an Honorary Visiting Associate Professor at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore. In this role, he contributes thought leadership and academic insight on topics including universal health coverage, health financing, global and regional health collaboration, comparative health systems and policies, and health policy development.

With over 33 years of experience, Doc Dodo brings deep expertise in public health and health systems, having held leadership and advisory roles in a wide range of organizations. He served as President and Chief Executive Officer in 2011 of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, the country's national health insurer. Prior to joining ADB in 2014, he was Regional Adviser for Health Economics and Health Financing at the World Health Organization (WHO) Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office.

His previous roles also include:

- Health Economist, World Health Organization, Bangladesh;
- Senior Health Specialist, East Asia Pacific, World Bank;
- Special Assistant to the Secretary, Philippine Department of Health (DOH);
- Special Assistant to the Director, Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD); and
- Weekly Columnist, Business Mirror newspaper.

In academia, Doc Dodo has served as a faculty member engaged in teaching, research, and scholarly work in the areas of universal health coverage, health financing, global and regional health, and health policy development at several prestigious Philippine institutions, including the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, the Ateneo Graduate School of Business, and the Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

Doc Dodo holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of the Philippines Diliman, a Doctor of Medicine from the UP College of Medicine, and a Master of Science in Health Policy, Planning, and Financing from the London School of Economics and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.