ICIMOD SANDEE



SANDEE-ICIMOD

Karl-Göran Mäler Memorial Lecture

WINTER 2026

16 November 2026 | 09:15–11:35 (Nepal Standard Time) (UTC+5:45)
Hybrid (Nepal, and Zoom)

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LECTURE 1

Clean Energy Adoption in South Asian Firms: From Global Knowledge to Local Constraints

Atonu Rabbani



About the Speaker

Atonu Rabbani is the Research Director of the General Economics Division at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and a Professor of Economics at Dhaka University. He is also a Lead Academic at the International Growth Centre (IGC) and a Technical Committee Member of the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE). He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago. His research interests lie broadly in applied microeconomics, development economics, health and environmental economics, labour and energy economics, with a particular focus on technology adoption, behavioural change, public health, firm productivity, and environmental and climate-related issues. His work employs experimental and quasi-experimental methods to examine economic and policy outcomes.

Abstract

Renewable energy knowledge flows globally through cross-border trade and technology imports, making solar widely accessible. Rooftop solar is technically proven and financially viable for firms. Yet adoption remains slow—a puzzling paradox. This lecture explores why through three papers. First, international trade successfully diffuses renewable energy knowledge to South Asia. Second, financial analysis demonstrates solar profitability for factories. Third, adoption lags despite these conditions. The explanation lies in policy design. Prepaid metering systems enable behavioral energy savings for residential customers, making renewables attractive to households. But firms operate differently: their energy demand is production-derived, determined by output and efficiency levels, not by metering feedback. This institutional misalignment means household-focused policy may not support firm renewable adoption. Differentiated policy levers are essential.



LECTURE 2

When it rains, it pours! Revisiting the Hidden Costs of Natural Disasters in India

Pranab Mukhopadhyay



About the Speaker

Pranab Mukhopadhyay is Senior Professor of Economics at the Goa Business School, Goa University, India. He holds a PhD in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He is also a Technical Committee Member of the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) and a SANDEE Fellow. He was President of Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) in 2016-2018, and is currently a co-editor of Ecology, Economy, and Society – the INSEE Journal. His research interests lie at the intersection of environmental and ecological economics, institutional economics, and development economics. He was a recipient of the Karl-Göran Mäler fellowship in 2009.

Abstract

Climate change is expected to cause intense precipitation with more extreme weather events. India is one of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters and the adverse impacts of climate change. How badly will it affect human welfare, namely, assets, household consumption and educational attainment? No surprises, losses are unequal: schooling declines significantly for women, the poorest households, and marginal groups, affecting not only the current generation but also intergenerational mobility. Household assets, health insurance and social capital play a key role as buffers to smoothen consumption. Case studies of urban floods suggest floods could reduce rents by about 4.4 per cent. However, affected people could be willing to cover costs for climate proofing, and there could be scope for public-private partnerships.

MODERATOR



David Thomas Potter

David Thomas Potter has been serving as the Head of Regional Action and Global Advocacy since July 2024.

David joined ICIMOD from UK central government, where he spent 17 years in a range of technical and leadership roles. Most recently, he was Head of the Climate and Environment Profession at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), where he led that department's 120 climate and environment experts and provided strategic advice to its senior team.

David is a Fellow of the UK Royal Geographical Society and a Chartered Geographer. He holds a PhD in geography and a master's degree in environmental management from the University of Nottingham, UK. His studies focused on mountain explorers and the cultural and historical geography of mountains.

For more information
Contact the **SANDEE Secretariat** at **sandee@icimod.org**

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