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**CSIS-GRIPS-RSIS Policy Research Network on
Contemporary Southeast Asia (PRN-SEA) Webinar**

**“Pandemic Fallout, Disruptive Technologies,
and Divergent Demographics:
Policy Challenges Facing Countries in the Indo Pacific”**

By

Dr Jayant Menon

Visiting Senior Fellow,

ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore

Discussants

Professor Shujiro Urata

Professor Emeritus,

Waseda University, Japan

Dr Yose Rizal Damuri

Head of the Department of Economics,

Center for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia

Chairperson

Mr Kwa Chong Guan

Senior Fellow,

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Opening Remarks by Ambassador Ong Keng Yong,
Executive Deputy Chairman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

**Tuesday, 13 July 2021
3.30 – 5.00 pm (Singapore time, UTC+8)**

Note: The webinar will be conducted via Zoom. You will receive a confirmation email with a unique link to join the webinar. Please do not circulate the link..

Registration: Click [here](#) to register online.

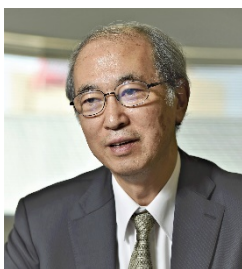
Abstract

New variants of the coronavirus are producing the worst outbreaks in many countries in the Indo Pacific. Progress with vaccine rollouts has been uneven, further contributing to inequality of outcomes. The pandemic could have lasting effects by reinforcing nationalism, protectionism, and other trends that are already undermining globalisation. The most serious challenge posed by a pandemic induced acceleration towards a digital economy is the disruption to labour markets, made worse by divergent demographic trends in the region. Policies that increase factor mobility can narrow differences in capital-labour ratios and assist in productivity catch-up to promote more inclusive growth. Since commodity movements can substitute for factor movements, regional initiatives that liberalise trade can also reduce adjustment costs. Investing in a skilled and flexible workforce remains the long-term remedy.

About the Panellists



Jayant Menon works on trade and investment issues and economic development in the Asian region. His last post was at ADB as Lead Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist. He was also at the ADB Institute in Tokyo from 2005 to 2008. He started work as an academic in Australia, spending almost a decade at the Centre of Policy Studies at Monash University at its original campus in Clayton, Melbourne. He has also worked at the University of Melbourne, Victoria University, and the American University in Washington, DC. He holds adjunct appointments with the Australian National University, University of Nottingham, UK and IDEAS, Malaysia. He has authored/edited 15 books, 40 chapters in books and 80 articles in peer-reviewed journals.



Shujiro Urata is Professor Emeritus, Waseda University, and Senior Research Advisor at Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Faculty Fellow at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI), Specially Appointed Fellow at Japanese Centre for Economic Research (JCER), Distinguished Senior Fellow at Institute of Developing Economies (IDE), and Visiting Researcher at Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI). Professor Urata received his Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University. He is a former Research Associate at the Brookings Institution,

an Economist at the World Bank. He specializes in international economics and has published a number of books and articles on international economic issues.

His recent co-edited books include *Emerging Global Trade Governance: Mega Free Trade Agreements and Implications for ASEAN*, Routledge, 2018, *East Asian Integration: Goods, Services, and Investment*, Routledge, 2019



Yose Rizal Damur is the Head of the Department of Economics, Center for Strategic and International Studies. His research activities focus on international trade, regional integration and globalization of value chain. He is active in several research and advisory networks both in Indonesia and in East Asia, such as Indonesia Service Dialogue (ISD) and Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT).

Yose also teaches International Economics courses at the Faculty of Economics University of Indonesia. In addition, he occasionally writes in local and national newspapers. He received his Bachelor of Economics from the Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia. He continued his study at the National Centre for Development Studies, Australian National University (ANU), Canberra and got his Master of Economics of Development (MEcDev). He received his PhD in International Economics from the Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI), Geneva, Switzerland.

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Kindly disseminate this invitation to those who might be interested in this event.

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