



INFORMALITY AND DEVELOPMENT

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RESEARCH AGENDA-SETTING CONFERENCE ON
THE INFORMAL ECONOMY
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POST-CRISIS DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

- ❑ **Economic recovery not matched by labour market recovery**
- ❑ **“Rebalancing” towards new sustainable development trajectory**
 - **Public sector consolidation and private-sector led growth**
 - **Domestic-led instead of export-led growth**
 - **Environmental sustainability and green jobs**
 - **Regional integration and trade**
- ❑ **Impact and implications for informal enterprises and informal employment: some research issues**

POST-CRISIS LABOUR MARKET CONTEXT

❑ *Trends in Asia:*

- Asia leading world in strong economic recovery
- But persistent high unemployment, vulnerable employment, working poverty, gender inequalities
- Employment growth in services not manufacturing

❑ *Research Issues:*

- Lessons learned from crisis and tracking informal employment post-crisis
- Flexibilization and informalization in formal enterprises
- Informal employment in services – types and quality compared to manufacturing, agriculture
- New growth sectors and informality

PRIVATE-SECTOR, DOMESTIC-LED GROWTH

□ *Trends in Asia:*

- From fiscal stimulus to consolidation and private-sector led growth
- Strengthening domestic investment and consumption, reducing reliance on exports
- Expanding Asian middle class

□ *Research Issues:*

- Support for private investments: deregulation, support to SMEs
- Differential impact of domestic consumption versus exports on informal employment
- “Middle-class affluence”: demand for personalized services including paid domestic help

GREEN JOBS

□ *Trends:*

- **Setting economies along low-carbon, climate-resilient paths: adaptation and mitigation measures**
- **Climate change finance mechanisms do not address informality or gender issues**
- **Changing patterns of production, consumption and employment**

□ *Research Issues:*

- **Job losses: who and where**
- **Green job opportunities in informal economy – ensuring just transition for enterprises and workers**
- **Green jobs not necessarily decent jobs**

REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND TRADE

❑ *Trends in Asia:*

- Trade, investments, financial flows increasingly intra-Asian
- Regional integration: expanded markets but intensified competition, winners and losers
- ASEAN Community by 2015 but free labour mobility only for business people and skilled labour

❑ *Research Issues:*

- Effects of (sub)regional versus more global trade on informal employment
- Insertion/exclusion of informal workers in regional value chains
- Implications for labour migration and the working poor