

# GOOD ECONOMICS FOR COVID-19 TIMES: THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF EVIDENCE-BASED POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> September     **Time:** 5:00 – 6:30 pm Tashkent time (GMT +5)  
**Register here:** <http://q-r.to/Good-Economics>

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the World with its toll of devastating health, economic and social effects which remain yet to be fully apprehended. Most of IsDB's Member countries, given their socio-economic status, have suffered unprecedented economic downturns and risk seeing their efforts to reach SDGs undermined by supply chain disruptions, labour dislocation, and financial pressures on businesses and households amongst others. It is now the ideal time to explore economic policies from a more scientific lens and rethink our efficiency in terms of impact in order to not only face the effects of the COVID-19 but also pave the way for a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive way forward.

The deliberations at this side event, which will be led by the 2019 Economic Nobel Prize Winner Professor Abhijit Banerjee, will help illustrate how we can maximize the benefits of the Bank's business model to optimally support SDG achievement by making markets work for development. The event will introduce evidence-based policymaking, experiences, and real examples in understanding and addressing cutting edge macroeconomic challenges.

## KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

- a) The impact of COVID-19 in developing countries and how to tailor resilient responses post-COVID.
- b) How poorly informed policy and project design can lead to misallocation of resources, adverse and unintended consequence.
- c) The need for capacity development in evidence-based policy and project design in development.
- d) The distortions that non-evidence-based economics bring to public policies.

**Prof. Abhijit Banerjee** is the 2019 Nobel Prize for Economics winner. He is a Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Co-founder of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL).



**Prof. Peter C. Smith** is the Emeritus Professor of Health Policy, Imperial College Business School. His main research interests are in the finance and efficiency of health systems, with a special emphasis on the link between research evidence and policy.



**Dr. Michael Borowitz** is the Chief Economist of the Global Fund to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria. He has a Master's in Public Policy and a PhD in Health Economics from the University of Chicago and a medical degree and Masters in Public Health and Tropical Medicine from Tulane University.



**Dr. Albert G. Zeufack**, is the World Bank's Chief Economist for Africa. He was also the Director of Research and Investment Strategy/Chief Economist for Khazanah Nasional Berhad, a Malaysian Sovereign Wealth Fund.



**Dr. Ahmed EIKhodary** is the IsDB Director for Strategy and Transformation. He has been leading the Bank's business reorientation towards enabling member countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by making markets work for development.

