



GDN 14th Annual Global Development Conference
Inequality, Social Protection and Inclusive Growth
June 19-21, 2013

**Venue: Asian Development Bank Headquarters, Manila,
The Philippines**

**Local Partners: Asian Development Bank (ADB), the East Asian
Development Network (EADN) and the Philippine Institute for
Development Studies (PIDS)**

The Global Development Network is very pleased to announce its 14th Annual Global Development Conference on “**Inequality, Social Protection and Inclusive Growth**” which will be held in Manila on **June 19-21, 2013**, in partnership with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, the **East Asian Development Network (EADN)** and the **Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS)**. About 400 participants are expected to attend the conference from all over the world including of course many participants from the East Asia region and the Philippines.

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Issues related to social protection are becoming very crucial in the aftermath of the global financial crisis but also in view of growing inequality in the developing world (although recent trends and experience on inequality vary substantially among regions and countries). Indeed, there is a growing consciousness of the benefits of social protection as a measure to protect people from becoming trapped in poverty, to empower them to seize opportunities, to help workers to adjust to changes and to deal with unemployment and thus support productivity. Therefore, the importance of social policies and social protection systems that address and reduce inequality and social exclusion for long-term sustainable and inclusive growth should be taken into consideration in development policy. Social protection can also support the achievement of poverty reduction, rising the income in the short run, allowing people to build their assets (such in the case of the Brazilian *Bolsa Familia* Program and the

Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program of conditional cash transfers in the Philippines) and therefore accelerating growth, with positive spillovers at the community level (such in the case of the Mexican *PROGRESA/Oportunidades* Program). Promoting inclusive growth via social protection policies can also help on the political stability front in developing countries. Yet, we need to know more about the mechanisms and the channels through which social protection and social policy more general affect the most vulnerable in the developing world (and beyond). Furthermore, social protection policies are absolutely essential in countries suffering from “structural economic vulnerability”. Finally, conceptual as well as measurement issues regarding inequality and inclusive growth require further attention and a fresh look in order to delve deeper into these issues and go beyond mainstream approaches in defining the various forms of inequality and inclusive growth (and thus the need to adopt multidisciplinary approaches on that front).

Since its inception in 1999, GDN has organized conferences in almost every region of the world. GDN conferences are also unique, not just in sheer numbers of people who attend, but also in the range of issues they discuss and the regions they represent. Another important feature of GDN conferences is that they provide promising young researchers from developing countries with an opportunity to showcase their research in an international forum and benefit from interaction with world renowned academics and policymakers. This has important positive implications for capacity building, a central element of the GDN mission.

Topics to be covered at the Conference will include (but not limited to):

- Inequality: conceptual and measurement issues
- Multidisciplinary dimensions of inequality
- Global perspectives on inequality
- The determinants of inclusive growth
- Regional perspectives on inequality and inclusive growth
- Gender, inequality and social protection
- Structural vulnerability issues
- Mechanisms to promote social protection for inclusive growth
- Lessons learnt from social protection policies
- Sectoral experiences in the area of social protection and inclusive growth
- Key challenges for social protection policies
- Inequality, social protection and inclusive growth in the context of the post-2015 development agenda

Further conference updates will be provided on the GDN website on a regular basis. Please note that this is NOT a Call for Papers. For any queries please contact Ms. Niharika Verma, GDN Conference Assistant, Email: nverma@gdni.int