



**Asian Development Outlook April 2026:
The Middle East Conflict Challenges Resilience
in Asia and the Pacific**

MATTEO LANZAFAME
(Asian Development Bank)

Rome, May 5th 2026

10.00-12.00

**Sala del Consiglio
School of Economics, Building B, II floor**

Abstract:

The report's key assumptions, finalized on 10 March, envisage an early stabilization scenario, with disruptions gradually easing from April 2026. Under this scenario, growth in developing Asia and the Pacific is projected to moderate in 2026–2027, with inflation rising this year and easing slightly next year. Economic activity would be supported by resilient domestic demand, steady labor markets, and public infrastructure investment. However, uncertainty remains high, with the risk that tensions in the Middle East could persist longer than anticipated. Other risks include renewed tariff increases and an abrupt tightening in global financial conditions.

Matteo Lanzafame is Director of the Macroeconomics Research Division at the Asian Development Bank. He leads the team that produces the Asian Development Outlook report and conducts macroeconomic surveillance and monitoring. His research centers on applied macroeconomics, with a particular focus on growth and development issues. He has published in several peer-reviewed academic journals. Prior to joining ADB in 2019, he was Associate Professor of Political Economy at the University of Messina, in Italy. An Italian national, he holds an MA in Development Economics and a PhD in Economics from the University of Kent (UK).

Programme:

Welcome address: **Alberto Iozzi** (DEF Head of department, University of Rome Tor Vergata),
Marianna Brunetti (CEIS Coordinator, University of Rome Tor Vergata)

Keynote Speech

Chair: **Pasquale Scaramozzino** (University of Rome Tor Vergata)

Matteo Lanzafame (Asian Development Bank): Asian Development Outlook, April 2026: Trade Uncertainty Challenges Asia's Resilience

Discussants:

Sara Savastano (University of Rome Tor Vergata)

Furio Camillo Rosati (University of Rome Tor Vergata)