

**KGID  
2025**
**Green Growth:  
The Path to  
Sustainable Jobs**
**Korea Green Innovation Days  
October 20–22, 2025  
Washington, D.C., USA**

## Day 1. Plenary Session

### Session 2. Talking Green Growth: The Path to Sustainable Jobs

#### Speaker Bios



#### **Richard Damania, Chief Economist of the Planet Vice Presidency, The World Bank**

Richard Damania is the Chief Economist of the Planet Vice Presidency Group at The World Bank, effective March 1, 2020. He has held several positions in the World Bank including as Senior Economic Advisor in the Water Practice, Lead Economist in the Africa Region's Sustainable Development Department, in the South Asia and Latin America and Caribbean Regions of the World Bank. His work has spanned across multiple sectors and has helped the World Bank become an acknowledged thought-leader on matters relating to the environment, water, and the economy. Prior to joining the World Bank, he was a Professor of Economics at the University of Adelaide. He has published extensively with over 100 papers in scientific journals, has held numerous advisory positions with governments and international organizations, and serves on the Editorial Board of several prestigious scientific journals.



#### **Young-Hun OH, Governor of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province**

Young Hun served as a member of the Jeju Special Self-Governing Provincial Council from 2006 to 2011. In 2016, he won the general election and became a member of the 20th and 21st National Assembly. During his term, he served as the deputy floor leader and floor spokesperson of the Democratic Party, chairperson of the Democratic Party Jeju Chapter, deputy speaker of the Democratic Party Policy Committee, and chief of staff at the Office of the Democratic Party Leader Lee Nak-yeon. Governor OH, during this time, is remembered as a person with daring yet soft charisma who was dedicated to resolving local problems.

He was elected as the 39th Governor of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province in 2022 and is currently committed to increasing the quality of life for Jeju people and ultimately, making Jeju a place of happiness for nature and people.

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**Dong Soo Kang, Executive Director, Global Knowledge Exchange & Development Center (GKEDC), Korea Development Institute (KDI)**

Dr. Dong Soo Kang is the Executive Director of the Global Knowledge Exchange and Development Center (GKEDC) at the Korea Development Institute (KDI). Since joining KDI in 2000, he has held key leadership roles, including Senior Vice President, Chief Research Officer, and Director of the Department of Macroeconomic and Financial Policy, and served as Senior Counselor to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Strategy and Finance. His previous experience includes teaching macroeconomics at SUNY Binghamton and working with the OECD, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and Korea's Financial Supervisory Service. At GKEDC, he leads knowledge-sharing programs with global partners through exhibitions, seminars, and capacity-building initiatives. Dr. Kang holds a B.A. in International Economics from Seoul National University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago.

**Phillemon Mathebula, Chief Director, Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, South Africa**

Phillemon Mathebula is Chief Director for Planning, Policy and Climate Change Services at Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs. He leads provincial strategy on climate-smart agriculture, adaptation planning, and policy coordination across rural development and environmental portfolios. Mathebula's work focuses on strengthening resilience, unlocking green jobs, and aligning public investment with national and provincial climate commitments.