

**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 6: Jobs and Technology

#### Speaker Bios



**Richard Damania**, Chief Economist, Planet VP, World Bank Group

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 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 in international organizations, and serves on the Editorial Board of several prestigious scientific journals.



**Gaurav Nayyar**, Economic Adviser, DECWD, World Bank Group

Gaurav Nayyar is Director of the World Development Report 2026 on Artificial Intelligence for Development and an Economic Adviser in the Development Economics Vice Presidency at the World Bank, which he joined as a Young Professional in 2013. Previously, he was an Economics Affairs Officer in the Economic Research Division of the World Trade Organization, where he co-led the World Trade Report 2013 on Factors Shaping the Future of World Trade. Gaurav's research interests lie primarily in the areas of economic growth, structural transformation, trade, technological change, industrialization, and firm productivity, and he has published in a variety of academic journals on these issues. His latest book is *At Your Service? The Promise of Services-Led Development*. Gaurav holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Oxford, where he was a Dorothy Hodgkin Scholar. His other alma maters include the London School of Economics and Political Science, the University of Cambridge, and St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi.

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**Omar Arias**, Deputy Chief Economist, EAPCE, World Bank Group

Omar Arias is currently the Deputy Chief Economist in the World Bank East Asia and Pacific region. Previously, he was the Manager and Lead Economist for Global Knowledge and Innovation for Education, Practice Lead Economist of the Social Protection and Labor Global Practice and Global Lead for skills, Sector Manager and Lead Economist in the Human Development Economics Unit for the Europe and Central Asia region; Sector Leader of Human Development for Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela; Senior Economist in the Poverty Group of the Latin American region; and Research Economist at the Inter-American Development Bank.

In his publications, he has been a co-author of various flagship policy research studies, including regional studies on skills (The Skills Balancing Act in Sub-Saharan Africa), pensions ("The Inverting Pyramid: Pension Systems Facing Demographic Challenges in Europe and Central Asia"), jobs ("Back to Work: Growing with Jobs in Europe and Central Asia"); labor markets, poverty and inequality ("Informality: Exit and Exclusion" and "Poverty Reduction and Growth: Virtuous and Vicious Circles"); as well as numerous country studies on skills, informality and labor markets including in Argentina, Bolivia, China, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Peru, Poland, and Romania. He has peer-reviewed publications in various topics, including estimation of returns to schooling and skills, socio-emotional skills, labor market dynamics, determinants of income mobility, growth, poverty and inequality, human capital accumulation, tax evasion, and in applied econometrics.

He was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he obtained his master's degree and doctorate in economics.



**Hyungna Oh**, Professor, Department of International Studies, Kyung Hee University

Dr. Hyungna Oh is a Professor of Economics in the College of International Studies at Kyung Hee University, specializing in climate change and behavioral economics. Before joining Kyung Hee, she was a Fellow at the Korea Development Institute (KDI) and an Assistant Professor of Economics at West Virginia University in the United States.

She has served as a division chair or member on numerous advisory bodies, including the National Economic Advisory Council, the Carbon Neutrality Committee, the Climate Response Fund Committee, Korea's Green New Deal Committee, and the Allocation Committee of the Korea Emissions Trading Scheme (K-ETS). Through these roles, Dr. Oh has supported the Korean government in designing and implementing environmental policy as well as related industrial and fiscal policies.

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Her research has appeared in journals such as *Energy Economics*, *Climate Policy*, *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, and *Economics Letters*. Dr. Oh holds a B.A. and M.A. from Korea University and a Ph.D. from Cornell University.



**Etienne Raffi Kechichian**, Senior Financial Sector Economist, ELCFN, World Bank Group

Etienne Kechichian is a Senior Economist at the World Bank Group (LAC) with over a decade of experience advancing eco-industrial parks (EIPs) globally. He has played a key role in developing and promoting sustainable, climate-friendly industrial policies that enhance competitiveness while minimizing environmental impact. A co-author of the internationally recognized "International Framework for Eco-Industrial Parks," Etienne has collaborated with UNIDO and GIZ to establish performance criteria for EIPs. He has also helped develop the World Bank's approach to bioeconomy and circular economy. Prior to this, he focused on special economic zones at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), advising on regulatory frameworks to attract private investment.



**Jae Hyung Kwon**, Representative, IFC Korea, World Bank Group

Jae Hyung Kwon is the Representative of the Korea Office of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. He works closely with Korean private sector partners to develop projects and investment opportunities in emerging markets. Before joining IFC, Jae spent over 12 years at the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), leading business development and deal execution across North and South Asia. He also worked at Standard Chartered Bank in Singapore and Seoul, providing project and export finance solutions, and at Samsung C&T in project development. Jae holds an MBA from INSEAD and a BA in Political Science and Economics from Yonsei University.