

AMRO-HKMA-ADB-SEACEN Financial Leadership Training Program

August 19-22, 2025 | Hong Kong, China



AMRO, in partnership with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), and the South-East Asian Central Banks Research and Training Centre (SEACEN), successfully hosted the 3rd Financial Leadership Training program in Hong Kong, China, on August 19-22, 2025.

Supported by the China Technical Assistance Trust Fund at AMRO and ADBI, this year's program marked SEACEN's debut as a co-host and also saw a record cohort of 40 senior officials from the central banks, ministries of finance, and regulatory institutions in ASEAN+3 economies as well as India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Opening remarks by HKMA Executive Director (External) Kenneth Hui, AMRO Director Yasuto Watanabe and ADBI Deputy Dean Byungsik Jung underscored the significance of enhancing leadership among financial officials amid today's volatile environment. Mr. Watanabe highlighted that while the region faces economic challenges from evolving US tariffs, it can also benefit from opportunities in intra-regional trade, technological advancement, and artificial intelligence (AI). He stressed the importance of strong leadership for policymakers to maintain economic and financial stability as well as seizing growth prospects.

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The training included an overview of the macroeconomic outlook, with a focus on the impact of US tariffs on the region and an assessment of fiscal space amid rising long-end bond yields. It also included a series of panel sessions discussing the latest developments in sustainability, carbon markets, and disaster risk finance; local currency payment and settlement systems; and challenges presented by Fintech, AI, and financial digitalization. Participants were introduced to SEACEN's Leadership Competency Framework and engaged in interactive sessions to hone leadership skills including change management and communication. A tour to the Hong Kong Palace Museum concluded the program and allowed for networking opportunities.

Since its launch in 2023, the Financial Leadership Training program has become AMRO's flagship training program. It is a cornerstone of AMRO's Technical Assistance Strategy 2030 and aims to strengthen regional collaboration and leadership growth.