



Professor Arsenio M. Balisacan

Plenary session: Transformation and Competition in Asian Agriculture

Professor Balisacan is the first Chairman and CEO of the Philippine Competition Commission, the country's antitrust agency enforcing prohibitions against anti-competitive acts and business practices. Prior to his appointment in the Commission, he was the Economic Planning Secretary in the Cabinet of President Benigno S. Aquino III and, concurrently, Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA, May 2012-January 2016). Previous to his Cabinet appointment, he was Dean and Professor of the University of the Philippines (UP) School of Economics and Executive Director of the Philippine Center for Economic Development. He also served as Director-Chief Executive of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA, 2003-2009) and as Undersecretary for Policy and Planning of the Philippine Department of Agriculture (2000-2001 and 2003). Before joining the faculty of the UP in 1987, he was Research Fellow at the East-West Center in Honolulu and Economist at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. He has also held leadership positions in various professional associations, including serving as President of the Philippine Economic Society and the Asian Society of Agricultural Economists. A lifetime member of the National Academy of Science and Technology (Philippines), he has authored or co-edited seven books and published over 100 academic papers and book chapters on various development issues, particularly on the Philippines and East Asia. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Hawaii, an MS degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of the Philippines Los Baños, and a BS degree in Agriculture from the Mariano Marcos State University.