

Session: Keynote (1B)
1 Mar (11:00-12:30)

Speaker: Kavim V Bhatnagar
Advisor to Bangladesh and Cambodia
Session Chair: Omprakash Gupta, University of Houston–Downtown

Public Policy Innovation - Ideation to Implementation

The presentation focuses on how need-based small ideas can be conceptualized and converted into designing and developing public policy in social protection and public financial management for developing nations. It discusses how needs originating from the grassroots trenches and the actual potential users of products as the ‘demand side’ can be addressed by the ‘supply side’ using different research-based tools. It shows real-life examples as to how social safety net products and associated potential public services can be conceptualized, designed, developed, piloted and implemented by establishing proper governance structures in the government. It shows how real-life situational research can be useful in developing government policies that can help transform people’s lives. It shall also provide live examples where the author himself has been involved in developing such public policy innovations in the area of pension, insurance, financial inclusion, cash transfers (DBT/G2P), Social Registries etc.

Kavim V Bhatnagar, currently an Advisor to the Government of Bangladesh and Kingdom of Cambodia has advised Governments of more than a dozen countries in Asia, Africa and Europe on Public Policy and Governance in the field of Social Protection and Public Financial Management. He holds a PhD in Management in the area of Pension Economics and has designed, developed and implemented Pension Policies and Pension Reforms in half a dozen countries. In Indian context he is credited with designing National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Micropension, Pradhanmantri Jandhan Yojana (PMJDY) of financial inclusion and Sumrudhi model of Madhya Pradesh to name a few.

He has been a Guest Faculty at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Indore and has delivered capacity development and training at the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI), which is ranked number four public policy thinktank globally in its category. At EPRI, he has trained senior officials of the governments and non-government organizations of more than 40 countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. He has provided consulting services to the Manila based Asian Development Bank (ADB), UK based Foreign Commonwealth Development (FCDO), European Union, World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF, World Food programme etc. in India and abroad.