

## PaRD Annual Forum on Religion and Sustainable Development 2026

*Beyond Partnership: Faith in Action  
for the Next Decade*

## Faith Matters! In Development Financing

*High-level convening by PaRD  
in cooperation with the World Bank*

**Bangkok, 12 - 13 October 2026**

**Location:** Buddhist Temple [Wat Saket Ratchawora Mahawihan](#)

Programme as of 7 October 2026

### Key objectives:

1. Discuss the potential of collective knowledge and AI to make insights on religion and global affairs more accessible, connected and actionable.
2. Strengthen collaboration between faith-based organisations and development actors, including development finance institutions.
3. Share practical experiences, innovative approaches and scalable solutions that demonstrate the added value of religious actors in development.

| PaRD Annual Forum   Monday, 12 October 2026                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| Master of Ceremonies: Maria Lucia Uribe, Arigatou International |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 08:15–<br>08:45<br><br>GMT+05.00                                | Arrival and Registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 08:45–<br>08:50                                                 | Welcome<br><br>Logistical Remarks: Nadine Girard, PaRD Secretariat                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 08:50 –<br>09:20                                                | Opening Plenary of Annual Forum<br>Interfaith Opening, PaRD members<br><br>Welcome Address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Khushwant Singh, PaRD Head of Secretariat</li> </ul> Introductory Talks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mairead McGuinness, EU Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief (video message) (tbc)</li> <li>• Pojanat Panyasilp, Deputy Director-General, Department of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Culture, Thailand</li> </ul> |
| 09:20–<br>09:30                                                 | Group Photo                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 09:30 –<br>10:00                                                | Tea & Networking                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| 10:00 – 11:30              | <p><b>Session 1: Who Knows What? Rethinking Knowledge Management in Religion and Global Affairs</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Rose Campion, PaRD Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maurice Bloem, Joint Learning Initiative</li> <li>• Melissa Nozell, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs</li> </ul> <p><b>Format:</b> Panel Discussion</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Networks generate vast amounts of knowledge, but this knowledge is often fragmented and difficult to access and use effectively. This session explores how AI and innovative knowledge-management approaches can help MAPs turn collective knowledge into more accessible, connected and actionable insights. It will also address questions of quality, ownership, trust and responsible use of AI. PaRD will showcase its RelBot, a chatbot on religion and sustainable development, as a practical example.</p> |
| 11:30 – 13:00              | <p><i>Bus transfer to the venue of the World Bank Group/IMF Annual Meetings: <a href="#">Queen Sirikit National Convention Center</a></i></p> <p><b>OR</b> <i>Lunch &amp; Networking at Wat Saket</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 13:00 – 14:00              | <p><b>Civil Society Townhall with World Bank Group President Ajay Banga</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In person at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center for participants registered for the WBG/IMF Annual Meetings</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live screening at Wat Saket for all other participants – <a href="#">Link to Stream</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 14:00 – 15:30              | <p><i>Bus transfer back to Wat Saket (leaving at 14:30)</i></p> <p><b>OR</b> <i>Tea &amp; Networking at Wat Saket</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 15:30 – 17:00              | <p><b>Session 2: Faith Matters! in Development Financing</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Rose Campion, PaRD Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shahira Johan, World Bank</li> <li>• Martin Palmer, FaithInvest</li> <li>• Dr Jubril Adejo, SMEFUNDS Capital</li> </ul> <p><b>Format:</b> Panel Discussion</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> The session aims to prepare attendees for the planned side event with the World Bank on the following day. The panelists will introduce core principles of faith-aligned investing, blended finance using charitable giving, and religious asset management, and illustrate how these financing models connect to development work. Participants will workshop questions to pose at the Tuesday event.</p>                                                                                                                                                             |
| 17:00 – 17:30              | <p><b>Feedback for the Annual Forum</b></p> <p><b>Closing Remarks, Next Steps and Farewell</b></p> <p>MC: Maria Lucia Uribe, Arigatou International</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>End of Annual Forum</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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| <p>High-level convening by PaRD in cooperation with the World Bank 2026   Tuesday, 13 October 2026</p> <p>Faith Matters! in Development Financing</p> <p>Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Rose Campion, PaRD Secretariat and Asian Development Bank Institute</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 11:30 – 11:35                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Khushwant Singh, PaRD Head of Secretariat</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 11:35 – 12:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>Session 1: Lessons from Practice</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Peter Prove, World Council of Churches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Jubril Adejo, SMEFUNDS Capital</li> <li>• Osai Ojigho, Christian Aid</li> <li>• Dr. Bambang Brodjonegoro, ADB Institute</li> </ul> <p><b>Format:</b> Panel discussion</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> This session showcases concrete instruments and experiences, including models from the ADBI project, the Nigerian Sukuk and interfaith finance, and lessons on what has and has not worked in collaboration between faith actors and DFIs.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 12:30 – 13:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <i>Lunch Break</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 13:30 – 14:25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>Session 2: Closing the Gap and Moving Forward</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Roya Rahmani, World Bank Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Bambang Brodjonegoro, ADB Institute</li> <li>• Prof. Atul K. Shah, Bayes Business School, City St George's, University of London (online)</li> <li>• Representative from World Bank Group Treasury (tbc)</li> <li>• Shahin Ashraf, Islamic Relief Worldwide</li> </ul> <p><b>Format:</b> Panel discussion</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Building on the examples from the first session, this session aims to narrow the mutual literacy gap between development finance institutions and faith-based organisations and to identify what is needed to use faith-aligned capital more systematically in capital mobilisation efforts. It looks at how faith actors mobilise and channel funds, where faith-based institutional investing aligns with DFI treasury products, and what enabling policy looks like.</p> |
| 14:25 – 14:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>Session Close</b></p> <p>Key takeaways and next steps</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p><i>End of High-level convening by PaRD in cooperation with the World Bank</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |